



HOWZAT!



ROTARY CLUB OF NEWLANDS

“The club that appeals”



President: Chris Beech
Secretary: Bill Meyer



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Newlands Rotary website: www.newlands.org.za

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20 March 2017

WEEKLY UPDATE

P O Box 44735
CLAREMONT
7735

MEETINGS: Western Province Cricket Club Sports Centre, Ave De Mist, Rondebosch, every Monday at 18h00 for 18h15.

ATTENDANCE: Notice of apologies and guests and/or meal specifics to email Melinda Stapleton at mjstapleton@webafrica.org.za and copy to Bill Meyer at meyport@iafrica.com before 10h30 on Monday mornings please.

Comment

Daphne Lyell

Philosophical Musings

In light of the good response to some good poetry and philosophical musings a few weeks ago, I thought to share three more pieces of writing for this week's comment. All three by John O'Donohue (1956-2008). He was an Irish poet/philosopher. For more on his life, go to <http://www.johnodonohue.com/>

COURAGE

In our day to day lives, we often show courage without realizing it. However, it is only when we are afraid that courage becomes a question. Courage is amazing because it can tap in to the heart of fear, taking that frightened energy and turning it towards initiative, creativity, action and hope. When courage comes alive, imprisoning walls become frontiers of new possibility, difficulty becomes invitation and the heart comes into a new rhythm of trust and sureness. There are secret sources of courage inside every human heart; yet courage needs to be awakened in us. Courage is the spark that can become the flame of hope, lighting new and exciting pathways in what seemed to be dead, dark landscapes.

John O'Donohue
Excerpt from *BEAUTY*

Our time is hungry in spirit. In some unnoticed way we have managed to inflict severe surgery on ourselves. We have separated soul from experience, become utterly taken up with the outside world and allowed the interior life to shrink. Like a stream that disappears underground, there remains on the surface only the slightest trickle. When we devote no time to the inner life, we lose the habit of soul. We become accustomed to keeping things at surface level. The deeper questions about who we are and what we are here for visit us less and less. If we allow time for soul, we will come to sense its dark and luminous depth. If we fail to acquaint ourselves with soul, we will remain strangers in our own lives.

John O'Donohue
Excerpt from *BEAUTY*

YOUR TRUE HOME

Each one of us is alone in the world. It takes great courage to meet the full force of your aloneness. Most of the activity in society is subconsciously designed to quell the voice crying in the wilderness within you. The mystic Thomas a Kempis said that when you go out into the world, you return having lost some of yourself. Until you learn to inhabit your aloneness, the lonely distraction and noise of society will seduce you into false belonging, with which you will only become empty and weary. When you face your aloneness, something begins to happen. Gradually, the sense of bleakness changes into a sense of true belonging. This is a slow and open-ended transition but it is utterly vital in order to come into rhythm with your own individuality. In a sense this is the endless task of finding your true home within your life. It is not narcissistic, for as soon as you rest in the house of your own heart, doors and windows begin to open outwards to the world. No longer on the run from your aloneness, your connections with others become real and creative. You no longer need to covertly scrape affirmation from others or from projects outside yourself. This is slow work; it takes years to bring your mind home.

John O'Donohue
Excerpt from *ETERNAL ECHOES*

Previous Meeting

Minutes of the War Stories meeting on 13 March 2017 Scribe: Jenny Howard

Sergeant Paul spiller opened the meeting by telling us to shut up.

Pres Chris gave a special thanks to the Club for the special job done yesterday, and to Terry and his team. He then welcomed the guests:

Meredith Keegan
Justin Tuck,
Susan Winkler, Graham Fs sister
Mike Shelley
Eion Brown, Paul de Groot, Ian Robertson from RC Claremont
Don Peters from RC Hout Bay
Alison Lund

And partner, Phil Calothi.

Rochelle did the 4-way test
Graham F said the grace and toast
Spoon is with Richard Burnett who is overseas
Swindle was won by Melinda Stapleton

The sergeant announced the **War Stories**

Menno started by saying he will never offer to help Ian P again by helping on sector 1. He thanked Geraldine and Anne Meyer, Henry and Billy. The vehicles came in thick and fast and there was no labour to help unpack.

Graham L - started the bridges at 4 am in windless conditions at Queens Rd. But windy in Camps Bay, but you couldn't stand on it for the wind. He was about to hand in the certificates, when he got told by Andy and Mike to take them down!

Paul Spiller forced himself over OKW with that wind pumping, (he said pumping,) to see the elite ladies at Glencairn. Only 5 ladies arrived. But were then told they were now starting at the Start. And there wasn't time to get them back. Some had strange accents, from Ireland and Canada.

Pippa had a Turkish - speaking driver of her mini sweep, and as they approached OKW, they saw fire engines and a riot vehicle, so stopped on the side of road. Driver then yelled in perfect English, WTF is going On!

Chris Beech said he was getting organized when he got the cancellation of race message, so he started reloading his van and saw people coming towards him giving him amazed looks whilst picking up the cones, and suddenly saw the van following him, and realized he hadn't put the handbrake on.

Eion Brown was in the container at the start, with braai grids over the windows. They all rattled so loudly they couldn't hear each other. The wind was so strong it made Paul de Groot's hair stand up like Einstein's.

Shân reported early to Simon's town because The Lovely John was ill. Alison Lund came to help and they both got assistance from a hunk who turned out to be Toks van der Linde.

Bill Holland: Linnell joined him on the course for the first time, and they headed off to Soetwater at 3.30 am and found their way blocked by the chaos at Masi, so they had to go round the long way.

Then it was back to **discussing IY:**

Corinne: IY assistance: 950 homes burned out, 2500 adults, 1200 children and 200 babies. Ambleside primary is the collection point, or any Shoprite or Checkers shops will collect. Toiletries like soap, toothpaste, bedding, boxes and zip up bags are hugely needed. She mentioned that her budget has R40 k spare. She handed over to Chris for the club discussion.

Chris is responding to the WhatsApp group discussion on Saturday as to how our Club can get involved. We have already started collecting clothing. He initially thought we should send a R5k challenge but that's not available and against the challenge rules. Of the R40 k left, it is proposed we give R15 k to RC Hout Bay and let them disburse it as they see fit, as they are on the ground there.

Bill said we can do more than this, and we should get hands on with this. He will lead this. Ian P said District would support clubs but not start a fund. Graham L had a different perspective and said these things happen all the time and we should take a step back, and consider all the donation options that are already open which is where we should respond emotionally. Within Rotary we should be looking at a longer term role and spend the money we have there. There was lot of support for his point of view.

Don P pointed out the RC Hout Bay is the only RC that has engaged with locals as marshals, 7 of whom had lost their homes.

Geraldine said they'd discussed at an ECD meeting this morning both sustainability and impact issues, and heard from the City that fire-retardant paint would perhaps be an idea to support as there will be more fires, and this could make a difference.

Jana suggested getting the community leader who was on the radio today to speak to us about the resurrection of a decent place to live.

Graham F supported the long-term approach, and also pointed out that the emergency services are slow to respond because they are afraid to go in. He also said that the township needs to be properly organized so that fires are not so devastating.

Dinner was served to allow more table discussion on the matter, so that we can take a decision on the proposal, which has a seconder, Johan Beukman, straight after dinner.

There was some hilarity after dinner concerning motions on the floor by the President, before the IY discussion recommenced

Don Peters said emotion brings out the best in people. Fires have happened before and will happen again. He explained the townships are laid out with wide enough roads which get encroached very quickly. He said this fire spread very fast and there is no given cause yet. Residents don't understand why helicopters can't always come and they don't understand why sea water can't be used where there are electric cables (short circuits). Rotarian Mhinti is from IY, and wants to address NRC on what the problems are in IY. She was inducted into Rotary this year.

Lucian suggested we attend to the immediate crisis then plan a long-term engagement. Janey Ball proposed we spend R25k. This went to the vote, and did not succeed. The proposal for R15 k was accepted.

Back to **war stories**:

Garnett confessed he was happy to hear the race had been shortened as his training had been sub optimal, but then he saw some tandems followed by a sea of cyclists coming towards him, and was even more relieved to find the race was cancelled.

Mike Walwyn: paid tribute to Corinne for not ringing his doorbell before the agreed time!

Peter Henshilwood: told a story about 20 runners who would be running over Chappies, ending up as 4, and wondered why they get this special attention each year. Tollgate had 100 km winds but top of Chappies was 29 km.

Rochelle: Justin was riding with the elite and for the first time he managed to send her messages, and it was to say he was terrified, not as a Jana thought, a proposal. Justin thanked us all for our input in the race and felt that all told it was a success. The wind in the Civic Centre was terrifying, and they hid behind a bus stop until it was time to sing the anthem. He related how difficult it was to try and ride at the front of the elite group.

Jenny I: she and Lucian were on the mini sweep, worried all night about their route, and then when they were about to leave, their mini sweep buses were nowhere to be found, so they had a coffee.

Ian P: did his jobs, he fired the gun and dropped off some chops. Wanted to know if the rest of us did our jobs. He had breakfast and a hostess and a private parking place. And no one made sure he wouldn't be blown off the podium, but they were very protective of Raymond Ackerman when he fired the gun. He then fired the gun for the wrong start group. His second attempt, involving his finger, was even less successful, as it didn't go off, and the group had already gone off.

Ian Robertson, President Claremont RC, thanked us all, and asked us to convey their thanks to all that helped us.

Paul de Groot also recognized the invaluable amount of hours we spend, together with other Rotary clubs, and told us the CTT is evaluating all responses received over social media and on radio shows. He asked for patience.

Jana: thanked Jenny H for the baptism of fire in the JOC, and Willie for helping- he was the only sweep to pick up any cyclists!

Kenny: wants the stirrers spoon given to Tony v d Lith who asked for divine intervention to cancel the race due to weather.

Wybe: related that 3 cars were parked in the middle of the False Bay Rugby club bus area

Graham Lowden mentioned the calamari shop which had thawed half a ton of calamari which due to the cancellation would now not be sold

Graham F had calls from relatives as far away as Doha to ask if it was true the race had been cancelled. Live streaming much more effective than tv broadcasting it seems.

Ian Robertson said the prize money is going to IY.

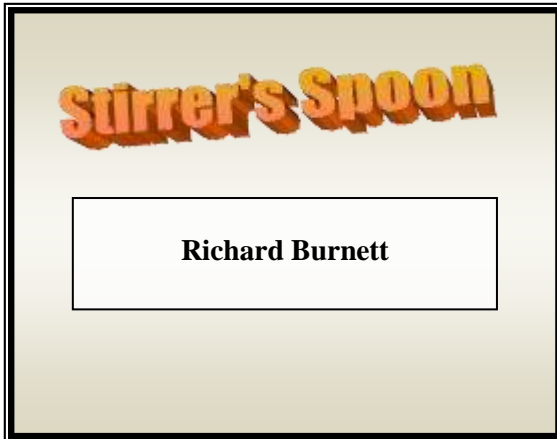
Spots: 3 April is vocational awards meeting, a partners evening. Pippa volunteered to take photos, and Janey or Mike W offered to write a press release.

Terry: thanked us all and it was a success. Please wait for the press release for the official reasons and don't speculate.

Menno: Lucky Star (John Stephenson) donated 30 000 tins of pilchards to IY

Pieter van Aswegen asked whether next year's race is 40 or 41? It will be 40.

President Chris said the Argus word to loud approbation and after doing birthdays and anniversaries, asking for someone to organize a 6 a side cricket team for 26 April, closed the meeting. Happy rands of R230 was collected for IY but these minutes are too long already to go into detail.



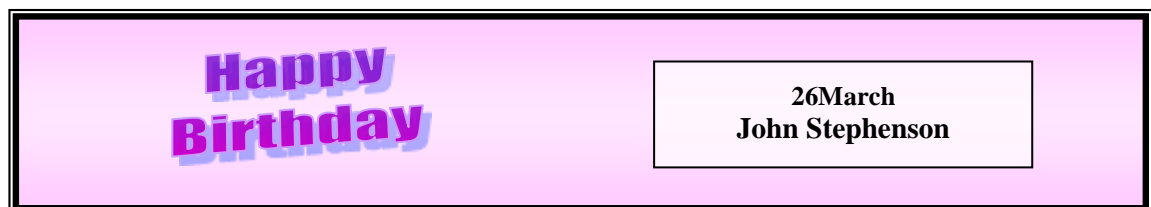
[Newlands Rotary Club Runner Calendar](#)

FUTURE FIXTURES
Year Planner
Please advise the secretary promptly of any additions or changes

March 2017
Mon 20 Ordinary
Mon 27 Business

April 2017
Mon 3 Partners – Vocational Evening
Mon 10 Ordinary
Mon 17 No meeting (Family Day)
Mon 24 Business

May 2017
Mon 1 No meeting (Workers Day)
Mon 8 Partners
Mon 15 Ordinary
Mon 22 Ordinary
Mon 29 Business



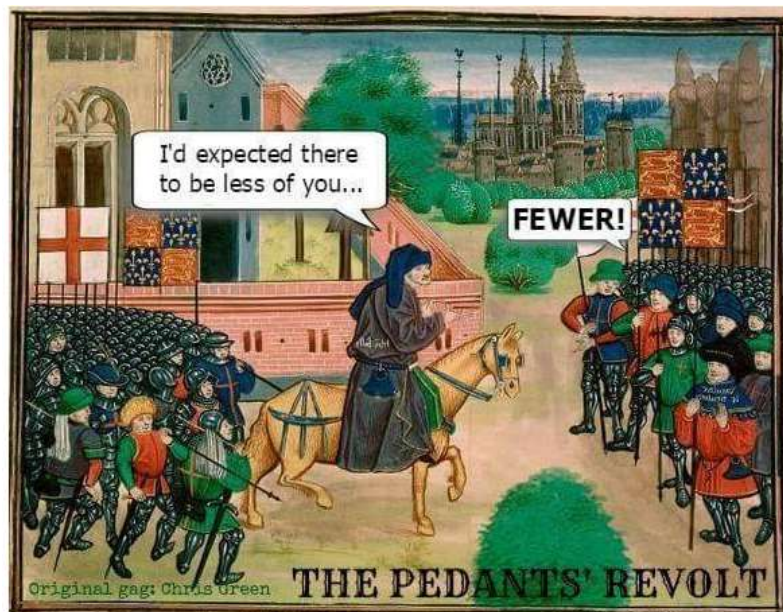
UMPIRES AND SCORERS

DATE	20 March	27 March	3 April	10 April
MEETING	Ordinary	Business	Partners	Ordinary
SERGEANT	TBA	Nora See	John Stephenson	Michael Walwyn
4 WAY TEST/ OBJECT	Abe Oliver	John Stephenson	Tinus de Jongh	Lucian Pitt
GRACE & TOAST	Lew Botha	Richard House	Bill Holland	Rochelle Malherbe
ATTENDANCE	Paul Spiller	Richard Burnett	Menno de Wet	Garnet Carr
FELLOWSHIP	Geraldine Nicol	Shân Biesman-Simons	Brian Pickup	Anthony Galloway
MINUTES	Wybe Meinesz	Peter Henshilwood	Heidi Andersson	Terry Lancaster
COMMENT	Melinda Stapleton	Graham Lowden	Tony van der Lith	Bill Meyer
THANK SPEAKER	Pippa McLeod		Jenny Ibbotson	Johan Beukman
INTRO SPEAKER	Henry Campbell		Jenny Ibbotson	Jenny Howard

**Invited
GUEST SPEAKERS**

20Mar **Rob Erasmus** – *Wild fire forensics*

If you cannot do your job on the day, please find someone who can do it instead of you, then contact the Sergeant on the day to update the roster. Please don't leave this until the Monday afternoon – let the Sergeant know in advance if you have not been able to arrange a swap. If you are going to be away for particular future meetings let Peter Ennis know.



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Books for the World

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