



HOWZAT!



ROTARY CLUB OF NEWLANDS "The club that appeals"



President: Chris Beech
Secretary: Bill Meyer



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Rotary District 9350 website: www.rotary9350.co.za

6 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

Via Chris Beech

The Great Escape

Untouched for almost seven decades, the tunnel used in the Great Escape has finally been unearthed. The 111-yard passage nicknamed 'Harry' by Allied prisoners was sealed by the Germans after the audacious break-out from the POW camp Stalag Luft III in western Poland.

Despite huge interest in the subject, encouraged by the film starring Steve McQueen, the tunnel remained undisturbed over the decades because it was behind the Iron Curtain and the Soviet authorities had no interest in its significance.

But at last British archaeologists have excavated it, and discovered its remarkable secrets.

Many of the bed boards which had been joined together to stop it collapsing were still in position. And the ventilation shaft, ingeniously crafted from used powdered milk containers known as Klim Tins, remained in working order.

Scattered throughout the tunnel, which is 30ft below ground, were bits of old metal buckets, hammers and crowbars which were used to hollow out the route.

A total of 600 prisoners worked on three tunnels at the same time. They were nicknamed Tom, Dick and Harry and were just 2ft square for most of their length. It was on the night of March 24 and 25, 1944, that 76 Allied airmen escaped through Harry.



Unearthed: The entrance to the original 'Harry' tunnel, which lay untouched for almost seven decades.

Barely a third of the 200 prisoners many in fake German uniforms and civilian outfits and carrying false identity papers, who were meant to slip away managed to leave before the alarm was raised when escapee number 77 was spotted.

Only three made it back to Britain. Another 50 were executed by firing squad on the orders of Adolf Hitler, who was furious after learning of the breach of security. In all, 90 boards from bunk beds, 62 tables, 34 chairs and 76 benches, as well as thousands of items including knives, spoons, forks, towels and blankets,

were squirreled away by the Allied prisoners to aid the escape plan under the noses of their captors.



Tunnel vision: A tunnel reconstruction showing the trolley system.

Although the Hollywood movie suggested otherwise, no Americans were involved in the operation. Most were British, and the others were from Canada, (all the tunnelers were Canadian personnel with backgrounds in mining) Poland, New Zealand, Australia, and South Africa.

The latest dig, over three weeks in August, located the entrance to Harry, which was originally concealed under a stove in Hut 104.

The team also found another tunnel, called George, whose exact position had not been charted. It was never used as the 2,000 prisoners were forced to march to other camps as the Red Army approached in January 1945.

Watching the excavation was Gordie King, 91, an RAF radio operator, who was 140th in line to use Harry and therefore missed out. 'This brings back such bitter-sweet memories,' he said as he wiped away tears. 'I'm amazed by what they've found.'

Previous Meeting

Minutes of the Business Meeting on 27 February 2017 Scribe: Richard House

Sergeant Daphne opened the meeting by sharing a poem by David Whyte (Beginning).

President Chris welcomed the members (there were no visitors).

Object of Rotary was said by Mike Walwyn and Andrew Peile said grace and toasted RI.

Rochelle won the wine swindle and Colin handed over the wooden spoon to Richard B for organising a successful wine tasting meeting.

President Chris then started the Business Meeting:

Membership (Menno): Reported that there would shortly be three returning members (Willie, Eric and Regine). Some potential members had been identified. Jenna had resigned and Abe had recently joined. Billy had been requested to supply attendance stats for review and concern was expressed regarding the members' general contribution to the club.

Community Services (Corrine): Projects recently approved for the Presidents Discretionary Fund included Richard H (SA-Yes workshop R4415), Jana (wheel chair R1750), Daphne (further R5000 had been donated to a soccer club). £150 000 donation of sports equipment from the UK had been loaded into a container and was ready for shipment. Books of the world had spent R18 500 on a container, labour and shipping. Overall R185 000 had been spent by Community Services, R100 000 allocated to ECD. A further R40 000 is still available for this year.

Youth Services (Vanessa): On 24 January all four ECD units in Khayelitsha had been visited to present the books that had been donated from the Christmas Dinner meeting last year. 8 students had attended the RYLA Camp. It had been agreed to add Sobombasana as a new Early Act club. The Groot Schuur High School assembly had been attended by Johan and Vanessa, where badges were handed out to the new ESCo. Assistance at other Leap Schools had been requested by a teacher for Interact Clubs – have agreed to take on Philippi. Hoping to bring together all Newlands Interact Clubs to interact and plan a combined project.

International and Vocational (Jenny I): Names of sponsored students would be released in the next few weeks – there have been delays due to pending expenses and fees must fall protests. Recent Oregon Rotary Friendship Exchange had been a success and President Chris and Colin were thanked for their help. It was agreed that stays with members of the club would be limited to 3 days in future. Help was needed with hosting members of a forthcoming tour from Tanzania and Uganda. It was suggested that a function be arranged for the club to meet the group.

Entrepreneurship (Andy I): The Pocket Money Market was recently presented to the Waterfront Club - committees were keen to get involved. District was currently considering matched funding for PPC and FBC projects. 5 members attended a mentor workshop at False Bay College. The forthcoming Rotary Family Fun Day on 9 April would have an Entrepreneurial Stall – assistance was requested from members.

After dinner Sergeant Daphne recited a poem – The Sweetness of Dogs.

Club Services (President Chris standing in for Melinda): Members were again requested to deliver any club regalia to Richard B's facility for storage. Looking for more social ideas and assistance with organising. The Induction Dinner would be held at the Wild Fig on 15 June. Proposed that 27 March meeting should be a social for the group from Tanzania and Uganda.

Treasurer (Peter): Announced that "everything was fine so far". Spending has been to budget. The Board had agreed to underwrite immediate expenses for the Vukani project. This was a short-term measure whilst overseas funding becomes available, in the interests of keeping the project progressing. Pen Bev have been asked for more funding for the Steenberg Music project. Richard B commended Peter for doing the work that he does.

President Chris also commended all Board Members for work they were doing.

SPOTS:

Terry – Cycle Tour was less than 2 weeks away. On 28 Feb there would be a Mega-sweep meeting focusing on radio training. An email has been sent out correcting a previous mail regarding marshals. Critical that Sector Marshals and Refreshment Station Managers attend a meeting on 3 March to meet sponsors and the BMW bike riders. Looking for members, who decide not to ride the race, for assistance with the event. Sponsors for some RS's are still required. Assistance from Club members was requested.

Rochelle: Appealed to Sector Marshals to confirm numbers required for allocation. Marshals to be contacted by Sector Marshals ASAP after being allocated, re start times, positions, comms etc. Invoicing for marshals would be based on forms that the marshal co-ordinators would complete.

Jenny I: Looking for 5 hosts for the forthcoming Tanzanian and Uganda visit. Members were urged to help. She would contact member's wives if necessary!

Johan: Recalled a recent pleasant experience at Groot Schuur School. Vanessa spoke brilliantly and Johan was very proud of her.

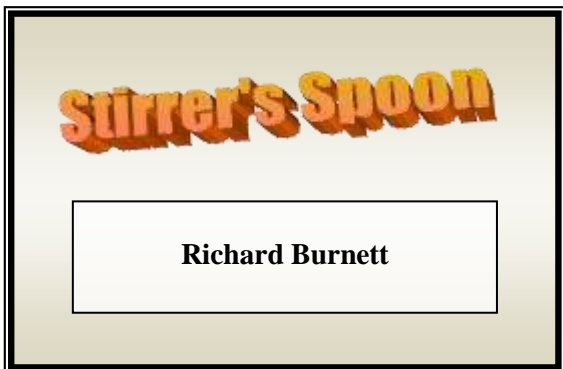
President's Slot: A request had been sent out for good cooks to attend a potjie completion to be held by the Somerset West Club on 19 March. Knysna Club had requested Newlands for a matching grant for a Red Cross Children's project. The request had been declined due to the club's focus on ECD. Reminder about meeting for RSM's and SM's on Thursday 3 March at 18:30. Pippa's birthday today and Colin's birthday on 3 March.

Rochelle collected Happy Rand's - but the bowl was missing?

Before closing the meeting Sergeant Daphne read a poem by David Whyte – Sometimes.



www.facebook.com/newlandsrotary



[Newlands Rotary Club Runner Calendar](#)

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

March 2017
Mon 6 Partners
Sun 12 Cape Town Cycle Tour
Mon 13 Ordinary – War Stories
Mon 20 Ordinary
Mon 27 Business

April 2017
Mon 3 Partners – Vocational Evening
Mon 10 Ordinary
Mon 17 No meeting – Easter Monday
Mon 24 Business

Happy Birthday

9 March Phil Calothi	6 March Heidi Andersson
	10 March Garnet Carr

UMPIRES AND SCORERS

DATE	6 March	13 March	20 March	27 March
MEETING	Partners	War Stories	Ordinary	Business
SERGEANT	Lew Botha	Paul Spiller	Christine Calothi	Nora See
4 WAY TEST/ OBJECT	Jenny Ibbotson	Rochelle Malherbe	Abe Oliver	John Stephenson
GRACE & TOAST	Pieter van Aswegen	Graham Finlayson	Bill Holland	Richard House
ATTENDANCE	Corinne Hudson	Johan Beukman	Paul Spiller	Richard Burnett
FELLOWSHIP	Tony van der Lith	Bill Meyer	Geraldine Nicol	Shân Biesman- Simons
MINUTES	Jana Forrester	Jenny Howard	Wybe Meinesz	Peter Henshilwood
COMMENT	Colin Burke	Daphne Lyell	Melinda Stapleton	Graham Lowden
THANK SPEAKER	Menno de Wet		Pippa McLeod	
INTRO SPEAKER	Anthony Galloway		Henry Campbell	

**Invited
GUEST SPEAKERS**

6 Mar **Tessa Oliver** – *Living with fire*
 20 Mar **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.

Name's Bond, James Bond.
 And you are...?



Rotary Club of Newlands Office Bearers

Chris Beech	President	chris@aaam.co.za
Bill Meyer	Secretary	meyport@iafrica.com
Peter Ennis	Treasurer	treasurer@newlands.org.za
Graham Finlayson	President Elect	graham@gfinarch.co.za
Corinne Hudson	Community Service	corinne.hudson@gmail.com
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Colin Burke	Past President	colinburke@mweb.co.za
Regine le Roux	Public Relations	rotary@reputationmatters.co.za
Vanessa Rousseau	Youth Service	rousseau@iafrica.com
Menno de Wet	Membership	menno.tricorp@gmail.com
Andy Ismay	Entrepreneurship	andy@quicktint.co.za

Books for the World

For all educational school books and novels for age from early education to High school

CONTACT: FRANCOISE NDAYIZIGIYE 0737317056

St Anthony's Catholic Church, Ndabeni Street, Langa

