

Rotary Club of Hout Bay

Bay Breezes

6th Oct 2012

EDITORS NOTE:

Right up front, I have to apologise in advance for the quality of this publication. Our wonderful editor Natalie, who has done such sterling work on Bay Breezes has stepped aside due to work commitment and so yet another short straw came my way. Being entirely unfamiliar with desktop publishing this is my first effort, so bear with me. Just as long as it is legible, understandable and I can get it out to you, I shall be happy.



From President Peter

So September was a month of mixed blessings.

We saw the departure of our good friend John Camplin who has returned to Australia and his family in Townsville [which apparently is about 1,200 kilometres from anything else]. We gave him a good send-off with a well-attended lunch at Pirates. He will be keeping his old email address going for a short while and having arrived after 26 hours travel, I was in touch with him. John will be looking to join a local Rotary club in Australia and we hope to hear from him regularly.

While on the subject of Australia, I can announce that our good friends at Coolamon Rotary have yet again come to our rescue with a donation of R 56,516,97 which will help invaluablely with our obligations to Foundation on Operation Medical Hope. A big thank you goes out to John Glassford and all his mates.

Volunteer Rotarian Shelby Stapleton is also returning to her home country Australia on 15th October after three years of devotion to the poor in the Hout Bay Community. What gives Shelby and her like the drive and humanity to do what she does is a mystery to me but thankfully such people exist. We hosted Shelby and her successor Ashley for our regular Tuesday meeting at which time she was presented with our Hout Bay Rotary Merit Award. Past President Don Peters also presented her with an Ashley Award and a gift of R1,000 which I learned this Friday she herself is donating to charitable causes in Hout Bay. Just amazing.



We welcome Ashley who is a native of the U.S.A. and who clearly is imbued with the same streak of humanity as Shelby. We wish her well and shall support her in every way that we are able.

Warrant Officer Tanya Lesch of Hout Bay Police gave us a highly emotive and enlightening talk on the difficulties facing law enforcement in Hout Bay. Her dedication and heartfelt devotion to all the people of Hout Bay was clear. Tanya's unstinting work was recognised by us with the presentation of a Merit Award which clearly was greatly appreciated by her.



We welcomed back Colin Sutherland from his winter stay in Burgundy, noting that his natural homing instinct for some decent wine was an irresistible draw. Colin and the rest of the swallows [soon to return] are going to be put to good works and Colin has already stepped into the breach with his agreement to take over the reins of Treasurer from Roy Graham. No mean task as I can personally testify having undertaken it for two years myself in the past. Roy is taking a well-earned rest from the job and is taking a break from us for some R and R. Thank you Roy for your hard work.

I have been in touch with Volunteer Rotarian Steven Clegg who, as you know is teaching English in Taiwan. I am "pasting in" his email below and the photos he sent. Good luck Steve.



Dear HBRC Members

Hope that you are all well. Greetings from Taiwan!!

I am enjoying teaching very much here. The children are very friendly and enthusiastic to learn. I teach really young children from 6 years to teenagers of 15 years.

Here are some photos taken on school outings to a temple in the mountains and also to a natural history museum, which features me standing alongside a model of a C17th Dutch explorer. I am trying to read as much as possible about the culture and history of Taiwan and the Asian region.

The food is very interesting and yummy. There are some things to avoid like live Eels!! I have had a few memorable meals of roast duck.

I have made a few friends here, but it will still take a fair bit of time to settle in I realise. I didn't secure the position I came for initially in the science and industrial hub of Hsinchu, but instead got a position in a smaller school in a quieter and smaller city called Chaiyi. This has advantages and disadvantages. There are very few fluent English speakers here, which does motivate me to learn Mandarin Chinese. I met a Rotarian about 3 weeks ago and had a very simple conversation with him. I expressed my interest in visiting the club. I don't think I will join it, but rather wait until next year. I will probably move schools and to a larger city then and a Rotary club with English speakers will be more possible.

I have travelled around a little but there are some adventures which will also have to wait like mountain trails and surfing.

I hope that this gives everyone an idea of my doings. I do dip into Bay Breezes and I am grateful to receive club emails and updates.

Yours in Rotary

Steven
Chaiyi City, Taiwan

Sentinel School

Last Friday Patrick and I attended Sentinel School for Shelby's final farewell to all of her friends in charitable organisations in Hout Bay. Those lovely people she spoke to us about at her awards evening with us. It was of course, very emotional but uplifting and she was able to donate towels to her friends and their causes as had been given to her for the purpose by Don Peters.



While at Shelby's farewell at Sentinel I met with Amanda, the new but temporary head of Sentinel School. She is a past Rotarian and a Paul Harris recipient and I have asked her to come and speak with us. She has been brought in apparently at the behest of Helen Zille herself to straighten out the school and get it back on track after many years of neglect. Just my brief conversation with her was enough to convince me that she is on her way to doing just that. Amanda pleaded with me to understand that the least help in the smallest way is appreciated by the learners. Just paper and

pencils, any food or clothing. She told me the story of the positive effect just one food parcel had on the attendance and behaviour of one pupil.



Our regular Tuesday meeting on 11th September was held at Dunes with the wives and partners enjoying a great Rotarian evening out. Now that summer is coming we should be thinking about some visits and trips to places of interest. Suggestions welcome.

Car Classics was John Camplin's "baby" and our small committee is now trying to get this organised for 9th December. The new Safety at Sports and Recreational Activities Act is going to give us some headaches but we have started

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Peter Dutton 16th October
Alison Rice 10th October

yes everyone....it's Peter's 60th.

WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT:

Tuesday 9th October speaker Richard Timms

Tuesday 16th October free at present

Tuesday 23rd October Raid on Claremont

AND FINALLY.....

Lawyers should never ask grandma a question if they aren't prepared for the answer.

In a trial, a small-town prosecuting attorney called his first witness, an elderly grandmother to the stand. He approached her and asked; "Mrs. Jones, do you know me?"

She responded, "Why, yes, I do know you, Mr. Williams. I've known you since you were a young boy, and frankly, you're a big disappointment to me.

You lie, cheat on your wife, manipulate people and talk about them behind their backs. You think you're a big shot when you haven't the brains to realise you never will amount to anything more than a two-bit paper pusher. Yes, I know you."

The lawyer was stunned! Not knowing what else to do, he pointed across the room and asked, "Mrs. Jones, do you know the defence attorney?"

She again replied, "Why, yes, I do. I've known Mr. Bradley since he was a youngster. He's lazy, bigoted, and has a drinking problem. He can't build a normal relationship with anyone and his law practice is one of the worst in the state. Not to mention he cheated on his wife with three different women.

One of them was your wife. Yes I know him."

The defence attorney almost died.

The judge asked both lawyers to approach the bench and in a quiet voice said:

"If either of you idiots asks her if she knows me, I'll send you to the electric chair."