

# Rotary Club of Hout Bay



## Bay Breezes

2nd Feb 2013



### Last Tuesday's speaker - Rainer Jahn

Rainer's talk on his very early experiences of working abroad with a young wife and new family, thrown in at the deep end and having to make it all work, echo so completely in my own experience. Mine was going to America aged 29 with a 5 year old and a 3 year old. Like Rainer, having to build a business from scratch but in my case I didn't have the language or culture problems [debatable] and I have to admire his grit and determination. It was a thoroughly entertaining journey described by Rainer which we all enjoyed immensely. Thanks Rainer.

~ed~

### From Don Peters

I wondered if Rainer had spent any time in the archives of the company that provided him with a lifetimes employment because the following may well interest him and hopefully our members.

Yesterday, the day that Rainer spoke to the Club was the anniversary of Karl Benz successfully applying for patents on the first petrol driven carriage, Karl presented his patents on the twenty ninth of January 1886, one hundred and twenty seven years ago. The engine that powered the carriage was designed by Nikolaus Otto.

The company Daimler is of course special for Rainer and his varied life in the far East representing the company was fascinating and thank you Rainer for such an interesting talk.

I to have a little story to tell about the Daimler company. My previous career in Zimbabwe saw me as Secretary and Comptroller of the Household to the President of Zimbabwe, the Secretarial position lasted until a comrade from the struggle arrived one day to relieve me of the post. The Comptroller of the Household position lasted some time longer until the Presidents Uncle who had recently retired from his gardening position arrived to take over from me. Prior to my departure back to the Intelligence Service from which I had been seconded I assisted in preparing a draft of the retirement package for the Zimbabwean President. Mugabe at Independence was a Prime Minister but it was well known that he would change roles and become an executive President hence the reason for the early preparation of documentation for the Presidents retirement. This document was unique in the world in respect of the entitlements of a retiring President as it included in its preamble that the retiring President of the Republic of Zimbabwe together with the agreed financial package would also receive a Mercedes Benz motor vehicle. It was a piece of information that Daimler Benz didn't dwell on when advertising.

Don

## Our thanks to Luton Chiltern

As one, we at Rotary Hout Bay thank Luton Chiltern for their extreme generosity with a donation of £500 [**pounds sterling that is**] which was handed over by Harold Allsop to President Peter at the meeting before last. Sadly, we don't seem to have a photograph of the occasion.

Both Colin Sutherland and Don Peters have also extended their thanks to Luton Chiltern and Don has also expressed his thanks for a separate kind donation of a sewing machine which apparently Harold lugged all the way from the UK and which must have severely dented his baggage allowance for important things such as English bangers, Hellman's mayonnaise and Weetabix.

Harold; a huge thanks to you.

## New Website

I have previously mentioned our new website which Patrick and his little helpers has produced very quietly and without fanfare or allusion to all the very hard work which has gone into it. If you haven't already logged on to it you must do so. Not just because I am saying so but because you will genuinely be astounded by the depth of information contained within it. Beautifully designed and easy to navigate. There is now no excuse for anyone to say that they don't quite know what the club is doing here and there in the community.

go to:

<http://www.rotaryhoutbay.org>

John Glassford at our twin club Coolamon is totally excited about it and not for the first time I would suggest that you look at Coolamon's site to see what they are doing. Much of their work reflects in benefit for us here in Hout Bay.

Most of us will recall Coolamon's last visit to us, our Braai up at Skaife Cottage and the great spirit of Rotary brotherhood engendered during that time. We look forward to hosting them again sometime.

<http://club.coolamonrotary.com>

## Our Speaker this Tuesday

Pay attention everyone!!

Our Assistant District Governor, Dr Tony Davidson will be addressing us this coming Tuesday 5th February. He is our guest speaker and I would ask that we are all dressed suitably. Not necessarily best bib and tucker as we are in the middle of summer but no sloppy stuff please.

### Welcome back

Chris Schuchard and Loes are back and shall be joining us on Tuesday. I seem to recall that it is his round! David Heath will confirm I am sure.

## Butch's wheelchairs

For info: I delivered a wheelchair on behalf of Rotary Hout Bay to the family of Trudy Wichman yesterday .Trudy suffered a stroke last week, the hospital would not release her until they were in possession of a wheelchair.

Regards  
Butch



Cheers Butch!

Keith and Alison Bull - more Dictionaries gratefully received.

On Monday 28 January Alison and I delivered 40 Usborne illustrated English Dictionaries (20 from Rotary Hout Bay and 20 from Totnes Rotary, UK) to the headmistress at Oranjekloof Primary school. The school holds some 1,200 children, mainly from Imazamo Yethu and class sizes regularly exceed the 40 mark. The children work in groups and share the dictionaries. The headmistress was most appreciative of the donation and asked us to thank both Rotary Clubs for their interest in the school.

On the same day, I visited the new Disa High School based in the old YMCA grounds, and found a very different environment with the old buildings/containers recently refurbished and containing brand new furniture. Led by headmaster Angus Duffet, (who met me wearing collar and tie!), he is endeavouring to instill values that lead to the children aspiring to escape from the township mentality. I similarly handed over 40 dictionaries (split as above) and for which again, he was most appreciative.

The school has about 260 students, half of which are from IY, in two grades (8 and 9). Grade 8 classes are limited to 35 maximum and Grade 9 only 30 learners. The plan is to expand the school to cover all grades in time.

He was extremely interested and impressed with Hout Bay Rotary Club's bursary programme for students, and would like some of our candidates who are now at University, to come to the school and show as an example of how the children, through hard work, can lift themselves out of their history. He also agreed to come and talk to the club once he has his feet properly under the table.

I also met one of the English teachers who volunteered she was a member of Interact in her Durban school before she went to university. A target for Rotary Club of Hout Bay could be to re-invigorate an Interact programme in the schools?

### More from the irrepressible KB:

In response on hearing the following on Cape Talk news this afternoon (whilst I was doing Neighbourhood Watch patrol!), I decided to SMS John Maytham and make a plug for Rotary.

The news item said that South Africa's first black billionaire, Patrice Motsepe, had signed up for the Giving Pledge, becoming the first African to join some of the world's wealthiest people in donating vast sums of personal wealth to the poor.

Mining magnate Motsepe, with assets estimated by Forbes magazine of \$2.65 billion, said he is making the pledge to benefit the millions of South Africans who have seen little gain in their personal fortunes since white-minority rule ended in 1994.

The Giving Pledge is a philanthropic initiative started by U.S. billionaire Warren Buffet along with Bill and Melinda Gates that has recruited nearly 100 billionaires, mostly Americans, who have pledged to donate the majority of their wealth to charity.

The SMS read 'the announcement about the new charitable foundation offers exciting opportunities. A decade ago, Rotary Foundation pledged US\$500m to rid the world of polio. Bill Gates Foundation matched that. Now there are only 3 countries on the globe where polio exists and they are war zones. Rotary, with 33,000 clubs world-wide provided the assurances that the money is being used properly. Rotarian Keith from Hout Bay'

***John Maytham read the SMS out verbatim and added that this was a really interesting addendum to the pledge and thanked me for the idea.***

### Future Events:

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Cape Argus cycle                        | Sunday 10th March   |
| Bill Kilbride's bowls day               | Sunday 17th March   |
| Mick Feuilherade's<br>memorial golf day | Thursday 28th March |
| Two Oceans marathon                     | Saturday 30th March |

Mick's golf day is progressing nicely. Terry Eldrid reported that 26 four balls are booked at present. A desirable maximum of 32 four balls is possible with a bit of effort. We are still looking for more sponsorship and prizes. Those with connections to companies and individuals who might help are asked to "do something about it" - please.

Bill's golf day is a MUST. Best day out for the members and guests. Do please think about bringing along neighbours and friends. It is a great way to introduce others to Rotary and we might even gain some members.

The Argus and the Two Oceans are both great events which provide for fellowship community not to mention a few beers and cheers afterwards.

Oh Well!!

