

Rotary Club of Hout Bay



Bay Breezes

10th Feb 2013



MEETING LAST TUESDAY

This week saw the return of Chris and Loes Schuchard. They shall be here for a couple of months and we shall look forward to their company and friendship.

Other guests included John Connor from Chester RC in the UK and of course Mrs Eldrid.

In the absence of David Heath, Patrick McLaughlin did a tremendous job of Sergeant-at-Arms. All ran very smoothly and despite a fairly modest turnout we all had a great evening. There were 14 members present and 3 “silent” to give 68%. *(silent is NOT good folks. Not only is it rude but it mucks up the catering needs)*

As Sergeant-at-Arms Patrick commenced by thanking Colin Sutherland for coming in early [before the 5.00pm board meeting] to set up the room. Patrick then presented a “coffee table” book to Chris and Loes as a welcome back gift. The book was penned by a past Dutch ambassador if my notes inform me correctly.

Don Peters took a “spot” to bring to our attention the looming Argus marshalling. We are required to present 35 marshals so, even with full membership attending we are going to be short. Can we all please ask friends and neighbours to help out. It is our biggest fund raiser as Don pointed out and we would prefer not to dilute that by payment to others to come in and help.

Keith Bull took a “spot” and after having to weather the storm about his miraculous hole in one at Clovelly the day before [and demands for a free drink] he reminded us of the ongoing need for bursary funding. His efforts with Talk Radio is really paying off with R6,500 already promised from one listener and to put the cherry on the cake, Keith was able to report that a certain local business called him to confirm that they will sponsor the two new applicants to the tune of R30,000 each. Just fantastic.

SPEAKER

Our Speaker this week was none other than our own distinguished Asst Distr Gov otherwise known as Dr Tony Davidson.

Now, I know that a certain internal groan goes up among veteran members when this subject is brought up. After all, how many times has this been thrashed out? How many times have innumerable ideas and projects withered on the vine? And we remain stuck with the same problem of too few members out of which too few do any work and only the occasional window of opportunity for new prospective members to come forward. Well, this talk was different as all of us present can attest. Never before have I seen or heard such engagement from the floor. Dr Tony wound up rushing to the end of his Powerpoint presentation as so much time had been taken up from the floor.

Tony began by making the point that Rotary membership worldwide has remained the same for the past ten years during which the turnover of members has been around one million. Not so good.

Members from the floor raised a number of interesting points. Colin made the distinction between our club and many abroad in that we are community based and not status based as does occur in many wealthier European and U.S. clubs. We don't have the money or member numbers but we have the hands on commitment. Alison Bull mentioned that her club of Totnes in Devon is growing so fast in numbers that they may have to split. Why? What are they doing right? Alison tells us that it is community involvement. Activities and Rotary fun days which draw the members in. people WANT to be Rotarians in Totnes. Can that work here in Hout Bay?

Terry Eldrid mentioned that his club in Fareham has 50 members, largely status orientated and most of their chequebook money goes to India.

John Connor [guest] made the point that it is not the numbers that matter but the commitment. His Chester UK club has 50 members.

What puts off prospective new members? Allan Walker has had raised eyebrows and shock from some who thought a meeting EVERY WEEK was far too much to manage. Is attendance enforcement that important? John Connor mentions that his club in the UK doesn't even put in attendance figures. For my ten Cents I would say that attendance is important.

We die without it. But enforcement is wrong. If we are not getting the attendance it is for one of two reasons. Either our meetings and club endeavours are not sufficiently interesting to attract attendance or we have the wrong type of member in the first place.

To quote Dr Tony "ARE YOU ON THE RIGHT BUS?"

Do we often enough step back and look at ourselves as a club from the eyes of an outsider? What do we see?

Quality of membership is what counts not numbers and I have to say that I am very proud to be a Hout Bay Rotarian. Honoured to be President this year and humbled by the work of many of our members. We just need more like you!



UPCOMING SPEAKERS

Tuesday 12th February

Butch Liebenberg [our speaker organiser] has had his hands full this last week arranging [and re-arranging] our speaker program. We now have speaking to us on Tuesday, Andrew Smith of Masicorps. This is a project which Keith Bull came across and became interested in.

A little about Masicorps:

The township of Masiphumelele, near Cape Town in South Africa, is home to more than 38,000 people. Most live in shacks. Six families or more share one water tap and toilet facility. Roughly 70% have no regular work. 'Masiphumelele' – is the word in Xhosa that translates to 'We will succeed!'.

MASICORP has over 12 years' experience working in the township. Our approach has been to ask the community where and how they need support and, from this, we know the residents want a hand-up not a handout. We know that they see education as the route out of poverty.

Education is what we do: we built a library and education resource centre where over 20 programs are available free to residents; we have an important project to help improve education in the 20+ township crèches; we have a highly successful university bursary program and we work with and in the township's primary and high schools.

19th February: Lindsey Houchin a USA Ambassadorial Scholar studying education at UCT and the role it plays in developing community leaders.

26th February: Susan Horst - CEO of the Students For a Better Africa programme

5th March: 5th March: Lloyd Whitfield talking to us about Future Vision

19th March: Angus Duffner – Principal of Disa School

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As president I should know everything going on in the Club as regards membership involvement in projects and programs. My efforts in this regard are sometimes thwarted by the modesty of those who wish their generosity of time and money to remain "below the radar". Fat chance. I do find out eventually and we should all look up to the examples of Terry and Terri who have contributed very generously to the Phumlani's bursary for University fees this year. They are also digging deep into their pockets to help Vuyo with his monthly costs.

Athol and Ali are also helping directly with substantial funding [and their very valuable time] for Phumlani. Butch and Lyn's daughter, Genee has also donated significantly. Butch and Lyn themselves are instigators of much of this effort and are heavily involved in effort and financing of this student.

Fedde has his shoulder to the wheel and his hands full [to mix a couple of metaphors] handing the bursary scheme donating his time and money to the many projects on the go.

Fedde is overseeing the continuing education of:

Caryn Fredericks

Nicole Saunders

Ashely Moos

Abigail Blaauw

Cynthia Mdluli



This coming year there are 3 or 4 new bursary applications to consider in addition and as I have mentioned previously in Bay Breezes we really do need sponsors not just in monetary terms but in mentoring time.

THANK YOU EMAIL TO DON PETERS

Hi Don,

Pictures taken of the distribution of the gift from your Rotary club as arranged with John Witton.

The letter with details will be published in next months Prince Albert newspaper.

The sheets, towels and blankets were very well received and appreciated.

I myself was a Rotarian for many years in the Nelspruit Day Club until we moved to Prince Albert thirteen years ago.

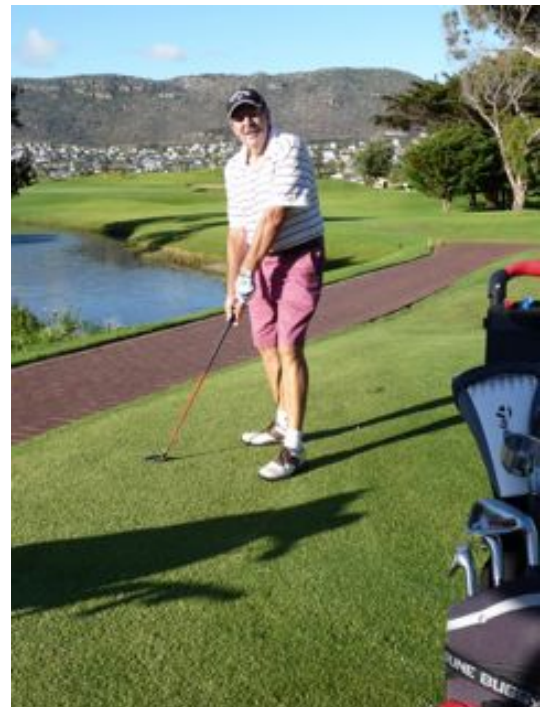
Regards

Ken Auerswald



KEITH'S HOLE-IN-ONE

As mentioned in the lead article, our energetic Rotarian Keith Bull shot a hole-in-one on the 11th at Clovelly last week. A magnificent achievement for which we all deserve a free drink.



HIKEFOR – MESSAGE FROM ADELE MARE

Dear Hikeforians,

We are organising a Cedeberg Weekend on
Jamaka Organic Farm
near Algeria (approx 240km north of Cape Town)
from Friday, June 14th (ETA 16.00h)
to Monday (Holiday), 17th (ETD 10.00h)

Jamaka is a citrus, mango and rooibos tea farm with a campsite and cottages. One of the cottages is House No. 5, it sleeps up to 16 people or 6 couples (married or single) in 6 rooms. We should be at least a party of 10 people in order to have fun.

Find details of activities, excursions, picture gallery and how to find the place here:

<http://niewoudt-farm.com/index.php/home.html>

3 days of beautiful scenery, leisurely hikes and plenty of fellowship is on offer.

Let's have a potjiekos evening on Saturday. So bring your potjie, your ingredients (lean karoo lamb can be bought from the farm) and your very best receipes. If there are enough entries we will expand it into an informal competition. A bottle of a lekker Cedarberg wine will await the winner.

I have provisionally booked the cottage on that date for 10 fellow hikers. Please let us know soon and in any case no later than Febr., 15th, by e-mailing Adele (adele@walkermare.com) or myself (joeschwach01@gmail.com),

After I send you a confirmation letter, I shall ask you to please pay

R300 pp (with bedding) or R270 pp (without) or

R600 and R540 per couple.

The Committee has decided to undertake such an outing only, once the full payment of all hikers is in the kitty.

Thanks a lot!

