

Rotary Club of Hout Bay



Bay Breezes



issue 95. 15th Sept.2014

The penalty of growing older is that some of our friends grow older still or depart before us.

But there are many pleasures in being older. We get to be wiser and more particular about our friends. Who we mix with. Whose company we keep, whose opinion we value and who we don't care if we shun. We can be grumpy with grace.

As a Rotarian, I believe that we hold dear the high standard that marks a friend. Our four-way test is one. We may not always be conscious of those tests in our daily dealings but we automatically live by them.

Rainer was a friend to us all. Sadly, we shall not see him grow any older with us. He is gone and I wish that we had had more time growing older together. -ed-

Rainer Jahn, 21-9-1942 - 13-9-2014

In memory of our fellow member of the Rotary Club of Hout Bay, Rainer Jahn, who sadly passed away Saturday 13th September 2014 just one week short of his 72nd birthday.

Rainer was a special person but for all of us as members of the Rotary Club of Hout Bay Rainer was a 'special Rotarian'. He was inducted into Rotary in 1990 prior to moving to Hout Bay and was a member of the Tokyo, Japan, Rotary Club. His Rotary service with the Hout Bay Club commenced in 2003.

In the tradition of the Hout Bay Club Rainer soon after joining us was asked to give a 'my life story' talk to the Club. Rainer's talk was fascinating, born during the Second World War his father serving in the German Army and Rainer as a very young baby moved around German vacating the family home in Berlin. With the cessation of hostilities the Jahn family returned to their Berlin home only to find it occupied by another family, one can image the distress at such a happening. Rainer on leaving school entered into an apprenticeship as a motor vehicle engineer and joined the Daimler Benz company. He rose through the ranks of the industry and was posted to various locations mainly in the Far East finally rising to the position of Chairman of the Board of Mercedes Benz in Japan.

His semi retirement brought him to South Africa where he continued with his connections to the Mercedes Benz family by obtaining a franchise. Rainer, Ursula and the boys moved to Hout Bay.

Rainer was never shy to join in with Rotary projects, for a number of years together with his son Thomaz they were the marshals at the dangerous bend just above the Chapmans Peak Hotel. As a result the two of them were the first of the Hout Bay Club marshals to have contact with that over thirty five thousand cyclists. For me as the coordinator of Sector Six of the cycle tour Rainer's experience at this vital and dangerous location was invaluable, on my sketch maps of the area that corner was marked as 'Rainers bend'.

As Operation Medical Hope, our Rotary Club's largest ever project grew the coordinator of the project Patrick McLaughlin called on Rainer to assist. A call that was readily accepted and so started a long, happy, fruitful and special connection with this project between Patrick and Rainer. The project was frequently the recipient of generous donations from Rainer

Hout Bay Rotary Club's connection with the Nonceba Counselling Centre for raped and abused children started with the Ashley Kaimowitz Memorial Fund established in memory of a young Interact member who had championed the Nonceba Centre. As the funds organiser and later a Trustee of the Centre I invited the members of the Club to make a visit to Khayelitsha where the centre was situated. Rainer after his visit was an amazing supporter of the Centre and regularly made substantial contributions. The Nonceba Trust recognised Rainer and Ursula with a leaf on the honours tree with the words, 'For the love of the children, Rainer and Ursula Jahn'.

Rainer was ever mindful of the need of further education and he added his support together with contributions to the Club's very active bursary project.

As a Rotarian Rainer didn't shy away from the 'difficult' and controversial and was always prepared to state his case in detail. Rainer's interests spread far beyond Rotary in Hout Bay and particularly to his concerns for wild life and the local populace around his game ranch near the Kruger Park. Together with friends he was involved in a number of far reaching projects for the betterment of the local population. How hard it is to say goodbye but how easy it is to remember Ursula and the boys and a true Rotary colleague and special friend.

Stephen Grellet who was a French-born US missionary said,

" I expect to pass through this world but once; any good thing therefore that I can do. Or any kindness that I can show to any fellow-creature, let me do it now; let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

Rainer will be remembered for the good things and for his kindness to others.

Rest in peace dear friend.

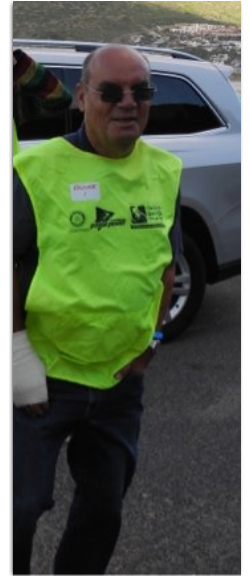
- Past President Don Peters-



Rainer Jahn joined Hout Bay Rotary Club in 2003. He was inducted in Chris Roper's year. A few years back, Rainer gave us a talk of his life from a young age. The difficulties he overcame as a young boy, and his mother faced, in both East Germany and West Germany brought many tears to my eyes. I will never forget his words which were humble to say the least. His career with Mercedes Benz was truly an amazing result for a young man who had struggled with the help of his mother to get an education under hugely difficult circumstances. He held very high positions with Mercedes in Australia, South Africa and Japan. He was held in the highest regard by his peers in Germany. His honesty and integrity could never be challenged, in fact they were legendary. In my opinion he was one of a kind. He constantly supported our various charities with donations that at times left us speechless. He never wanted recognition for any of these donations, he preferred to stay in the background. I was truly privileged and proud to have been invited by Ursula and Rainer into their home during his last 6 weeks, they wanted privacy but allowed me in. Rainer will be a great loss to us all. Ursula his lovely wife, we know will be the one to shed the most tears, together with their two sons Alex and Thomas. They will not be alone in shedding tears for Rainer, many of us already have, and will do so again in the days ahead. Rest in peace our fine friend.

May the Angels bless you forever

Butch Liebenberg
Hout Bay Rotary Club



THIS HAS BEEN SUCH A TRAGIC WEEK.

STEPHANIE PONSFORD

Many will be aware that Stephanie Ponsford, one of our earliest invited Volunteer Rotarians, passed away last week. She was taken critically ill in Woolworths Mainstream where medics sadly, were unable to save her.

I have been in touch with her daughter and shall be putting together a short history of Stephanie's life and achievements, which were many. The truly huge number of postings in sympathy on Hout Bay Organised [Facebook] is an eye-opening indication of how well known and loved Stephanie was.

THIS TUESDAY

We shall be hosting speakers Sarah Garland and Fiona Bromfield who will be talking to us on "horse riding for the disabled".

John Routley will be our Sergeant At Arms.

Please advise Joelle if you cannot attend or if you are bringing guests so that meal numbers are correct.

Joelle.searle@telkomsa.net!

Mob: 083 790 1991

RICHARD PARSONS

I did want to say a few words about `Richard Parsons.

I last spoke to Richard a week before I left for Ibiza and the UK it was a sad conversation as he was aware that time was running out for him.

Richard was a very special Rotarian and his generosity knew no bounds. All you will remember the Rotary District Conference at Ratanga Junction in 2013 I had a display selling dolls and on the Friday I sold only one doll and it was Richard that bought it. After the MC doing a great promotion job on the ~Saturday the dolls nearly all went until the final doll was sold to guess who - Richard. In return for his great support I managed to get some towels from the HBRC efforts at the hotels to the Cape Of Good Hope for their Projects. Richard was a great Rotarian with a big heart, a strong family connection and he bore his illness with great strength.

"Time endears but cannot fade
the memories that
Love has made"

How wonderful that Richard will always be remembered with such great affection, regard and respect, Richard Rest in Peace.

Don

The two Terrys arrived in Canada as part of their summer holidays.....to be met with snow!



LAST TUESDAY

Many thanks for Ali Rice providing the synopsis of last Tuesday's meeting which I was unable to attend.

The Bright Start speakers cancelled at last minute so Bill was 'persuaded' to step in as the guest speaker.

Sergeant was David Walker. 3 guests - Ingrid, George, Matt

Spots: Christine - needing someone to transport marshals to Newlands for Sanlam race on 21st.

Other Christine spots- the skateboard park committee has met again and things are happening with the City. Another volunteer needed to sit on this ad hoc Rotary committee.

One of Christine's bugbears is that there isn't a sign downstairs telling everyone about our meeting location - so she is going to develop one. Bit of discussion around what phone number to put on it as everyone agreed that it was needed. Lots of ideas about slot in names, etc.

Dinner was delicious chicken pie. Ooooooh! My favourite.

After dinner, a few more spots. I handed over the New Haven CT banner to Christine I received when I was on holiday there.

David Walker introduced Bill. Bill was his usual entertaining self.

Key highlights of his talk:

He was on a 'slow journey into silence' starting in his late 20s and now 50 years later has a new lease on life. He explained that there are 21 electrons on the wire that is connected to the cochlear implant - size of a pea - but unfortunately, many of the electrons in his right ear were 'shorting' because they were connecting with bone.

As he was slowly getting worse, he was coached that if he was to lose his hearing, he would also lose the power of speech as well - so started his deliberate attempt to keep talking (to himself) - taking advantage of many hours in the car on his own venturing to Everton games. He started memoriSing poems, specialising from other 'Bills' it seems - and 50 years later regaled his memory skill with reciting many poems from Shakespeare, Wordsworth, Betjeman etc.

Late last year, Margaret started questioning whether anything could be done and they started doing tests on his ears, only to find that his left ear had been dead for years. But, with new technology, there was a hope that they could resurrect his hearing in his left ear and much to Bills reluctance, he underwent surgery on this ear to recoup this faculty, even surpassing loads of barriers such as the floods in Somerset West the day before which meant the location of the op would need to be moved to Kingsbury.

Weeks later, after the swelling reduced, it was 'switch on day' and Bill was amazed to hear depth of noise for the first time in many many years. He said it was like listening to a muted, muffled sound now being heard in its entire depth.

Since then, he has been on the lecture circuit route, especially catering to ENT students who don't have the foggiest what it's like to be hearing challenged. The success apparently of the op was the placement of the new electrodes on the inside of the wire rather than on the outside, which is where the problem with the 'shorting' out comes from.

He ended the evening with a word perfect recital of 'If' from Kipling. Christine thanked him.

A truly inspiring evening that made us all appreciate how lucky we all are to have our senses.

The raffle was won by Ingrid and David Heath ended the evening with two jokes.



A note below from our "swallow" treasurer.

Colin tells me that **there are "only nine" members now who haven't paid their annual dues.** I really had no idea that there was so much poverty among our members.

"Just visited by invitation, a very modest neighbour here for lunch- time drinks, as we thought.

It was indeed a wonderful French culinary event, for just us two, with imaginative creations for a light -lunch and five extraordinary wines and liqueurs. Four hours later we are now at home by foot, they are only fifty meters away from us. Nowhere can this quality of food and wine and the know - how, be offered in such an ordinary but in reality sophisticated home.

Going to the local Rotary dinner this evening. Hardly need any food.

Salutations a Bernadette"

Colin S

From John Glassford at Rotary Coolamon

G ' day

It has been a busy week Rotary wise and here is our latest news:

[Coolamon Weekly Bulletin #10](#)

Yours in Rotary
John Glassford
Co-Team Leader
Mount Kenya 2015 ANZAC Day Climb
Rotary Club of Coolamon District 9700
New South Wales, Australia
61 2 6927 6027

[Mount Kenya 2015 ANZAC Day](#)

[Coolamon Rotary Club](#)

Subject: Books for Carnival

Good morning

This year the Constantia Rotary Club has asked me to head up our Bookstall project which we run at the Community Carnival every year. Normally we try to have over 20,000 books for sale at the Carnival and this generates a lot of interest and, of course, a lot of income for the Community Chest.

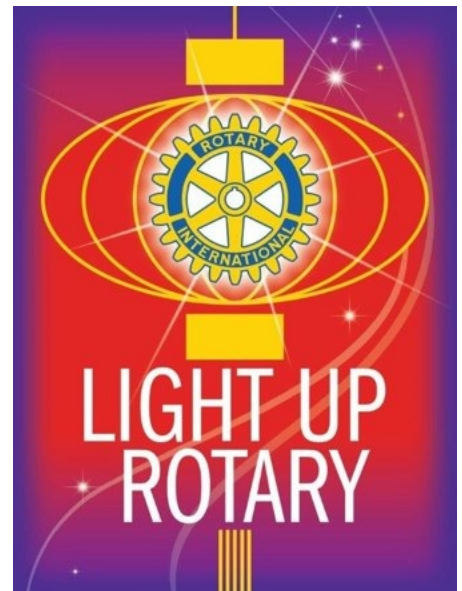
My request to you is to ask whether you would assist us by putting out the word that we would collect from you any books that members or their friends may want to get rid of. We would like to have books of reasonable quality.

It may be something that an Interact club could help with - if you have an Interact or Rotaract club they may have access to some used books too.

Please accept this as a friendly request and, if you are not involved in the Carnival this year, you could regard this as a contribution to that cause.

If your club does come up with any books to be collected please contact John van der Linde on 021 794 0445 or me, Lloyd Whitfield, on 021 794 6476 (however I will be away for the month of October).

Thanks so much from the Rotary Club of Constantia.
Lloyd Whitfield=



IS THERE NO LIMIT TO THE INGENUITY OF COOLAMON RC?

Hi there from Coolamon,

we are starting a great new project - Coolamon Cheese. This is an exciting project not only for us and our local community but also for potential investors.

Please find attached our project overview giving some details about what we are doing and how we plan to achieve it.

If you or anyone you know may be interested in this project and may wish to be involved please contact us for more details.

Thanks and kind regards,
Barry and Anton

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Barry Lillywhite: 0406 38 6665

Anton Green: 0416 419 387

www.coolamoncheese.com.au

www.facebook.com/coolamoncheese

FROM KEITH BULL

One for BB.....only the question with the answer next week?

PS Guess who?!!



See if you can figure out what these seven words all have in common!

1. Banana
2. Dresser
3. Grammar
4. Potato
5. Revive
6. Uneven
7. Assess

No, it is not that they all have at least 2 double letters.

In all of the words listed, if you take the first letter, place it at the end of the word, and then spell the word backwards, it will be the same word. Did you figure it out?

thanks Keith.