

### WHAT'S THE SCORE?

Special Christmas Greetings from our home to yours, as you read this message!

The rugby term which certainly is apt for the Christmas Season is - "to tackle."

Whatever it is that you are required to tackle, do so with gusto, love and anticipation and this will indeed be a happy time.

Get out your fishing tackle and enjoy yummy meals. Tackle the shopping chores early and avoid the frenzy. Tackle the gym and prepare for those extra, inevitable kilos. Tackle the writing of those special Christmas messages to those far away, who will have their hearts warmed by your words.

Looking back over the past few months, as a Club, we certainly have not been afraid to tackle any project, be it large or small. Your selfless work does not go unnoticed. Cheers and here's to the next part of our Rotary year!

How truly blessed we are to be a part of this amazing land; South Africa and how privileged we are to serve in such a time as this. I quote from Professor Jonathan Jansen (Vice Chancellor and Rector of the University of the Free State) - " My South Africa is not the one of violence and corruption, but the one where every day millions of acts of kindness and compassion are shown by individual citizens to one another. This is my South Africa!"

May kindness be our priority, as we tackle Christmas 2013. An easy target as Rotarians, whose focus is Service above Self.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Let earth receive her King! My heart is singing, as I write this to you.

Stella



Area Convenor and PDG Lionel Heath visited us in November and was impressed with what the club has achieved at the Noluthando Soup kitchen.

Well here we are, into the last month of 2013 and, as President Stella has mentioned, what a busy year it's been. But it's far from over and despite the call of the holidays, visits from and to families and friends and all the excitement of the festive season coming up, our Club has a fairly full programme which will require our fullest commitment. Coming up we have the Tree of Joy, Carols by Candlelight and the Cocktail Evening. And of course, next year we look forward to welcoming the new satellite club members into the Rotary Family as well as the American and Turkish RFE teams.

#### MALE EXCITEMENT

Did you know that when a woman wears a leather dress a man's heart beats quicker, his throat gets dry, he gets weak in the knees, AND he begins to think totally irrationally? Ever stop to wonder why? It's because she smells like a new *bakkie*



## BRAIN TEASER.

The first brain teaser in the Spring edition of Rambles was solved in a flash by Pam Gush. Here's one that's a little more taxing.

In each of the following three equations, you have to substitute the question marks with the correct arithmetical symbols (in other words either +, -, x or /), in order to make the equations work, flowing from left to right.

$$1 \ ? \ 3 \ ? \ 5 \ ? \ 7 \ ? \ 9 = 3$$

$$1 \ ? \ 3 \ ? \ 5 \ ? \ 7 \ ? \ 9 = 18$$

$$1 \ ? \ 3 \ ? \ 5 \ ? \ 7 \ ? \ 9 = 47$$

As before, the prize for the first correct answer I receive will be a bottle of wine as well as short-term right to some graceless intellectual preening and meaningless self-congratulation.



Our October 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday social was a bring-and-braai at the home of Simon and Barbara Matthews which was well attended and enjoyed by all especially by our hostess who finally found the glasses she thought she'd lost.



Tree of Joy conveners Barrie and Brenda Brown hosting a work party to pack gifts for the children who will be receiving stationery this Christmas to get them off to a great start at school in the New Year.

## THE ASTONISHING ANNUAL RED CRAB MIGRATION

Each year millions of bright red land crabs leave their burrow homes on Australia's Christmas Island and start a long, laborious trek toward the sea. They descend cliffs, climb banks and manoeuvre around obstacles to reach the shoreline and lay their eggs, eventually returning to the island's central plateau with their offspring in tow. The synchronized migration resembles a crimson-coloured river undulating across the island and can last up to 18 days. The event typically takes place in November or December (the crabs will only move when it's raining) and coincides with the turning of high tide and the arrival of the waning moon.







What a wonderful Christmas lunch Val and her team served up for us late last month and how much we all enjoyed the afternoon of fun and fellowship. Louisa, you must tell the rest of us that joke some time.



#### PSYCHIATRISTS VS. BARTENDERS

Ever since I was a child, I've always had a fear of someone under my bed at night. So I went to a shrink and told him: 'I've got problems. Every time I go to bed I think there's somebody under it. I'm scared. I think I'm going crazy.'

'Just put yourself in my hands for one year,' said the shrink. 'Come talk to me three times a week and we should be able to get rid of those fears. It will cost you eighty dollars per visit'.

Months later I bumped the doctor. 'You didn't come to see me about those fears you were having?'.

'Well, eighty bucks a visit three times a week for a year is an awful lot of money! A bartender cured me for \$10. I was so happy to have saved all that money that I went and bought me a new pickup!'

'Is that so!' and, with a bit of an attitude he said, 'and how may I ask did a bartender cure you?'

'He told me to cut the legs off the bed! Ain't nobody under there now!'

*Forget the shrinks..... Have a drink and talk to a bartender!*



A group of Rotarians recently paid an informal visit to Mamma Bloko at her house in KwaNomquebela where she looks after about 20 mentally disabled people aged from 7 to 41 years old. A truly inspirational project with everyone contributing to the production of bead jewelry, trinkets and clothing as well as baking bread and rolls using equipment supplied by Clover. Rotarian Barrie Brown has provided wheelchairs to some of the physically handicapped in the area and at the house and has assisted with the repair of the dough-making machine whilst Tony Swift arranged to have one of his technicians repair the oven.

**LADIES, IF A MAN SAYS THAT  
HE'LL FIX SOMETHING, HE  
WILL. THERE'S ABSOLUTELY  
NO NEED TO REMIND HIM  
EVERY SIX MONTHS!**

Warmest Rotary blessings and very best wishes to you all, and your families, for a wonderful Christmas of Peace and Happiness and a New Year of Hope and Fulfillment.

**Very best wishes and Bon Voyage to Rob and Louisa Cross for their extended visit to Australia as well as to all Rotarians who are travelling at this time.**

