



Rota Views- 20 February 2018

29 - Weekly Newsletter of the Rotary Club Cape of Good Hope

*We meet on Tuesday evenings near the tip of the Cape Peninsula
at the St James Hotel, Main Road, St James
@ 19:00 - Visitors are always most welcome
Excellent meal served*



ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

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AS WE PASSED THE DATE OF THE FIRST **Day Zero** this week, we all gave a collective sigh of relief, while the hope of being able to avert it completely, becomes more real. It is however of such significance that we have deemed it of great value to share this worthwhile article in prime position of this week's Rota Views
We hope you take the time to take note and enjoy it

Eleven good things about Cape Town's Drought

A positive message on World Wetland Day - By Patrick Dowling

Before we get carried away with the idea of the drought being the best thing ever, we must note the massive increase in the sales of bottled water & the filling of pools by commercial companies – practices that promote the idea of commodifying a common good and pitch the haves against the have-nots.

Beyond the clamour around who's to blame, conflicting scenario descriptions of day zero and its predicted date, individual and community responses and helpful tips, the drought, now officially the worst on record without historical precedent, has done us all some good.

1. It has heightened public awareness of the reality of climate change impacts

The 'debate' idea pushed by those too attached to or invested in the old order of doing things should have been firmly put to bed by now. The new normal concept can't be limited to water only either; fires, migration, health, economy and security are patently part of the picture and a holistic response is required.

2. The world is taking note of an apprehensive interest

At Davos, the favoured, cool, and well-watered Swiss meeting site of the World Economic Forum (where talk is usually about, well, economics, free trade, and all the other good) Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi started the week by telling the 2 500 strong audience that climate change is the greatest threat to civilisation.

He was followed soon afterwards by our own Cyril Ramaphosa who added: "Climate change is a reality. We're facing a real total disaster in Cape Town, which is going to affect four million people." Meanwhile, other water-stressed cities like Los Angeles, Sao Paulo, and Singapore consider who will be next.

3. Communities have started working co-operatively and innovatively together

There are domestic street and faith-based responses, workplace plans, and frail support initiatives. As people work together, mesh talents and grow trust more dots are joined, giving issues of sustainability and cooperative solutions new meaning and practical application direction.



"Probably a Capetonian"

4. There has been a rapid water literacy and numeracy upgrade across society

People are interested. It is important for people to know that 25 litres of water weigh 25kg, where the water goes if you have to flush it, what a catchment is, and what happens in it.

5. Talking of flushing the drought has fore-grounded the topic of the need to move away from water-borne sewerage

Sufficient water means that the more affluent can afford this luxury. Scarcity means we all need to make a plan; good, appropriate, technically sound ones that should see the saving of at least 30 million litres of water per day. Add to this modification in all the other wastewater pursuits we get up to and the savings become enormous. A few years back, controversial water academic and activist, Anthony Turton, said South Africa does not have the dilution capacity for all its pollution.

That's even truer today. By addressing the problem as 'Plan A' we start mitigating the degradation of rivers, wetlands, estuaries, and oceans, too.

6. Government ability is being tested and subjected to scrutiny

Not satisfied with glib answers or spin-doctoring? The public is currently interrogating the reasoning and planning in a way that demonstrates a deeper understanding of, and engagement with, issues.

Can you really flush with seawater? Are 200 water points sufficient for three million people? Is saltwater intrusion into our groundwater likely? These are the sorts of questions being posed to politicians and officials who are also, happily, being swept along on a steep learning curve.

7. A big boost of self-sufficiency and resilient thinking

All the practical responses to the drought – such as organising a rain tank, bending the ball-valve arm down in toilets' cistern to reduce the flush volume, or fitting aerators to tap nozzles – have been a big boost for self-sufficiency and resilience thinking that is pollinating across other areas of life, including energy, waste reduction, transport efficiency, and food security.

The consequent empowerment that goes with positive feedback from such efforts means a trend towards less externalisation of our needs and responsibilities, and a greater sense of pride in problem-solving.

8. It is a reminder to decouple growth from resource exploitation and environmental degradation

People's ability to halve their water consumption in a year, and then do more, shows what is possible.

Cape Town's fossil-fuel-based energy footprint is still way too high. Can that be as dramatically reduced now? Could the plastic waste stream from single-use packaging become a trickle? Is it feasible to so increase marine protected areas and compliance and change consumer behaviour so effectively that we pull back from day zero on the fishing front too?

9. It has put the spotlight on the essential need for wastewater recycling

Cape Town will be joining other major cities in making this part of the new normal. The benefits are significant: less affluent to the sea, less pollution into rivers, greater water security, tighter control on commercial and industrial outflows, more training and jobs for water technicians, and developing an understanding of groundwater recharge implications.

10. An emphasis on the need to stop pollution

Queues at natural springs and seeps around the city testify to the possibly unspoken, appreciation of ecosystem services from wetlands, rivers, the ocean, springs, and aquifers and the need to protect these from pollution and overuse. You can take a wash in the sea, relax in the shade of riverine vegetation, and strip nutrients from your grey water with the help of a home-planted wetland. Kikuyu grass is giving way to hardy indigenous plants.

11. There is increased empathy with the very poor of the country and the world who face the indignity and stress of water deficit every day

As we develop solutions to our crisis now it's important to ensure that everyone benefits from them in the long term. The new normal means a move away from complacency and injustice.



Petr Smejcky receives a banner from Pres Marge

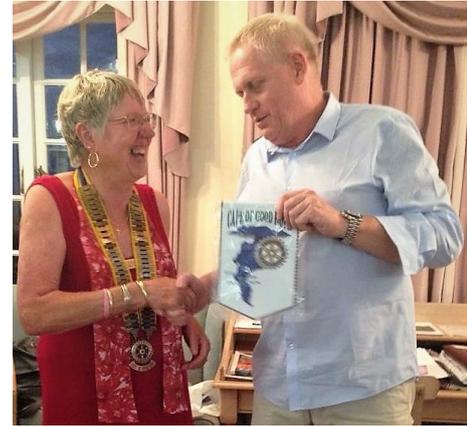
ROTARY CLUB Cape of Good Hope NEWS

Last week we were blessed with so many awesome visitors at our meeting giving it a festive flair...**Jonny and Barbara Hurwitz** from the RC of Newlands;



Petr Smejcky a Rotarian from the RC of Prague and associate **Michal Popov**, also from the Czech Republic – see R; and

Two Rotarians from Iowa, Lee Holmes & Chris Bertelson from the RC of Winterset in the Madison County of Iowa with Mary J Brown, a friend of Rotary. See L



Chris and Lee had previously visited a club project in Polokwane, Limpopo and livened up the meeting with their fabulous ethnic Rotary shirts as they both shared banners with President Marge

Pres Marge with the Iowa group and Bev



LOVE YOUR GUIDE DOG – Friday 16

This group of Rotarians and friends

supported the Guide Dog dinner held in the Fish Hoek Civic Centre which was well organised by **Janice Salthouse** (with her Poodle service dog, **Philippe** and **Dawn Pilatowicz** with her Labrador Retriever service

dog, **Shyann** who has 10 years of service under her collar!! (See below)

The keynote speaker was an inspiring and humorous address delivered by **Michaela Mycroft**, (above) who who was lifted onto the stage by these 4 strong men!! She is also assisted by a service dog and is from **the Chaeli – Hope in Motion – Campaign**. She spoke of her life and amazing adventures that would never have been possible without the help of others



President, Marge was again a lucky winner of one of the hampers but the **highlight of the night was the DOGS!!!**



Dawn Pilatowicz has just reported on Face book that **R21, 500** was raised!!

Thanks everyone for their wonderful support

L- Janice and Michaela with her dog
R – The dogs have a bit of fun at the end of the evening



ROTARY D 9350 - NEWS



February is Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month

How can YOU create Peace and Prevent Conflict?

DISCON 2018 in LUDERITZ- is only 3 months away.



Online Registration is open

Go to www.rotaryluderitz.com

Click on the "Trip Notes" Tab
Click on "Lifts Offered & Wanted"

Three of our members are already registered:
President Marge, President Elect Susan and
Secretary Elect Bev

CELEBRATION CORNER - FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS – Happy Birthday

3 – Tom Rockliffe **18** – Alan Ferguson **25** – Carol Raylor

ANNIVERSARIES Nil

MEETING AGENDA	20 FEBRUARY	27 FEBRUARY
Reception & Greeting Guests	Norma Rockliffe	Norma Rockliffe
General Welcome	President Marge Upfold	President Marge Upfold
Welcome to Visitors	Norma Rockliffe	Norma Rockliffe
Toast to RI and South Africa	Koos Burger	Irene Butterworth
Secretarial Spot	Susan O'Hagan Ward	Susan O'Hagan Ward
Spots from the floor		
Grace	Kirti Patel	Norma Rockliffe
DINNER		
SPEAKER	Dean Lipini	Claire Cuthill
TOPIC	Safety of our Hikers in the mountains	Report back from her STEP visit to France
INTRODUCE Speaker	Andy Rumbelow	Bev Frieslich
THANK Speaker	Susan O Hagan Ward	Thereasa Strano
Sergeant at Arms	Alan Ferguson	Cheryl Reum
Closing remarks & Thanks	President Marge Upfold	President Marge Upfold
Four Way Test	Irene Butterworth	Koos Burger

Event	Date	Venue	Details	Time/ Cost
Speaker	20 February	St James Hotel	Dean Lipini – Safety of our hikers	
STEP student	27 February	St James Hotel	STEP Student Claire Cuthill	
Board Meeting	5 March	Galley Restaurant	Board Meeting	
Business Meeting	6 March	St James Hotel	Business Meeting	
Cycle Tour Marshal	11 March	Fish Hoek Main Road	Marshall for Cape Cycle Tour	
	13 March	St James Hotel		

	20 March	St James Hotel	Fellowship Evening	
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