



Rotary Club of Wynberg

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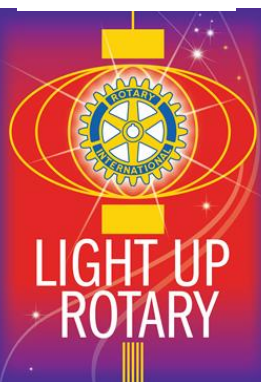
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**Rotary in October
Vocational Service**



EDITORIAL

Fracking wracking my brain

I suppose it was BP's monumental mishap in the Gulf of Mexico and all of us being held to ransom by increasing petrol prices, that initially made me side with the anti-fracking lobby. It just seemed such a dodgy thing.

Driving hordes of massive trucks into the Karoo and then drilling down almost to Australia with the hope of finding gas hiding deep down behind the devil.

But then, I started thinking about it. I listened to the experts who said there was nothing wrong with fracking, it would create thousands of jobs, there wasn't any danger and that it wouldn't endanger the flora and fauna of the pristine Karoo.

I listened to the anti-lobby which claimed that fracking would destroy the Karoo, mess up the ground water supply for all time and probably make all babies born anywhere between Colesberg and Beaufort West have four arms and horns growing out of their ears.

Frankly, I didn't know who to believe.

Risks and rewards

But, having vowed never to be a fence sitter, I decided it was time I had to take sides and make a profound pronouncement one way or the other.

I have therefore decided that fracking should go ahead.

This does not mean I think fracking is a good thing or that all those trucks won't make a mess of the Karoo.

What I am saying is that when one weighs up the risks and rewards, the rewards side wins. Maybe only by a short head, but it wins.

As a very successful businessman once said to me, "if mankind was never prepared to take risks we would not have progressed beyond Neanderthals".

Quite simply, what changed my mind was that history has shown that certain sections of mankind have always tried to stop progress.

Oil keeps the world turning

And progress is important right now because the world population is increasing, more people are starving and somehow we have to keep our shoulders to the grindstone to try and keep up. I don't like it, but I realise I don't have any option but to live with the mess governments, politicians, bankers and lots of extremely greedy people have created because the only other option I have is to hurl myself under a 10 ton fracking supply truck and just end it all there.

Let's face it, we all love to complain about the oil companies but those of us who drive cars or consume goods delivered by trucks and trains and boats and planes have to realise that if it wasn't for the oil companies we would not be able to drive cars or consume any goods other than the odd lettuce we can grow in our own gardens.

Oil keeps the world turning and because South Africa doesn't have any, we have to try and find some alternative energy sources that doesn't make the whole of Saudi Arabia stand up and cheer every time we fill our tanks with hideously expensive petrol.

We also can't live without electricity. And I reckon that the pollution caused by those burning coal mines and power stations in Mpumalanga probably result in the death of many more people than the anti-fracking lobby could ever imagine.

Greater good

So, while we might not like the idea of fracking in the Karoo it might well be a much safer option than continuing with our slaughter of people and the environment caused by coal fired power stations. We have to look at the greater good of this country. And yes, I understand the beefs coming from those very privileged people who have managed to carve out a lifestyle for themselves in the pristine, under populated, squeaky clean Karoo, but they do not in fact "own" the Karoo - only bits and pieces of it.

The rest belongs to everyone in South Africa.

And to those people who will undoubtedly disagree with me and yell blue murder about raping the Karoo, all I can say is that if you win and fracking is not allowed in the Karoo what will you do to help those people in Mpumalanga who will die as a result of coal fired power stations? And will you make a financial contribution to my household expenses when the cost of electricity increases again and again and again because you refused to accept that maybe fracking won't be that dangerous, won't be that intrusive and may just save us all a heck of a lot of money?

Taking chances

I believe that if people who were not prepared to take a risk on technology were successful in the past, there would today, be no X-ray machines in hospitals, no life-saving drugs such as penicillin and other antibiotics, no aircraft, no electricity, no petrol or diesel, no cell phones, no television, no radio.

There would not be basic commodities such as milk because when that first guy to drink milk said to his neighbours, "I am going to pull that dangly thing under my cow and drink what comes out of it," those who belong to the health and safety lobby would have prevented him from doing so.

Submitted by Pam Munday from an original by Chris Moerdyk

MEETING OF 18 SEPTEMBER 2014

Attendance

Membership	27
Present	17
Make ups	2
Apologies	4
Absent	4
Attendance	70%

Visitors

Rtn. Luke Chinanzvavana- Harare CBD, Steve Good, Meryl Fourie, Anne van Zyl, Alison Burton- St. Lukes, Kit Schreiber, Hugh Maunder. Luke exchanged banners with Jackie and said that he was looking for ideas for his 5 year old club.

Fellowship Announcements

Best wishes for Karen's birthday on 20th. September.

Slots

Pres. Jackie: Interact Workshop will take place on Saturday 20th September at the Wynberg Rotaract Hall. Some members have committed to present and organise, however all are welcome to attend. Braai social will take place at the Barnard's on 24th September, National Braai Day - a list was sent around. Reminder that we are collecting second hand books for RC Constantia for their Community Chest Carnival stall - please bring to braai on 24th September.

Biffy: An evening involving four Rotary Clubs and their partners and Icor will take place on 29 October at a dinner in which all would be blindfolded to simulate the difficulties experienced by the blind. R120 includes dinner, BYO (preferably in non- spill bottles, don't get blind drunk. Ed.). A list was circulated. Constantia RC are holding their wine tasting and auction on 31 October, R200 includes food, great fun. New membership directories were available.

Graham handed a cheque for R80 000 to Alison Burton representing St. Luke's Hospice, which was funded by PROMS. R50 000 from the same source would be going to Victoria Hospital.

Jackpot

With R1505 at stake, visitor Anne drew visitor Bruce, but another potential scam was thwarted, although he got close with the eight of diamonds. Mervyn won the R30 attendance prize.

President's quotes

"Success is a lousy teacher. It seduces smart people into thinking they can't lose." Bill Gates

Guest Speaker:

Biffy introduced Bruce Probyn of The Principals Academy, which is a Section 18(a) Trust set up to administer donor funding to develop the executive management competence of school leaders with the goal of turning targeted schools into Centres of Excellence in their communities. The decision to focus on leadership development is based on overwhelming evidence which shows that school leadership in the form of competent motivated principals and teacher quality are the two factors which have the greatest influence on school effectiveness and learner performance, not the buildings and facilities that a school might have.

The programme involves two components, namely an academic component in the form of a Postgraduate Diploma in Management Practice specifically developed by UCT's Graduate Business School and a component of individual support through the provision of up to three years of mentoring and coaching by experienced retired principals who themselves have been heads of high performing schools. Bruce explained that 44 principals had completed the course with a further 25 in the pipeline. The approach is very much "hands on" and concentrates on schools which can be turned around, which unfortunately is not always the case. It has found that where the children walk to school, best results are achieved, as no transport difficulties arise and parents are in a position to attend PTA meetings. Problems such as finding competent teachers for subjects such as maths and language related ones are many.

Bruce's presentation was highly interesting and worthy of Stephen v N's thanks.



GOING FORWARD

Duty Roster

	OCTOBER				Social
	2	9	16	23	30
Sergeant	Schreiber	Van Eeden	Barnard	Van Wyk	Cleveland
Attendance Officer	A O'Driscoll	A O'Driscoll	A O'Driscoll	A O'Driscoll	A O'Driscoll
Wynpress Editorial	Munday	Murphy	O'Driscoll	Schonegevel	Schreiber
Minutes for Wynpress	Bredenkamp	Cleveland	Overbosch	Smith	Bredenkamp
Compilation of Wynpress	Smith	Bredenkamp	Cleveland	Overbosch	Smith
Door Duty	van Niekerk	Vivian	Bird	Bredenkamp	Barnard
Grace	O'Driscoll	Overbosch	Schonegevel	Schreiber	Smith
Loyal Toast	Smith	Schreiber	Todd	Van Eeden	van Niekerk
International Toast	Barnard	Bird	Bredenkamp	Cleveland	Danckwerts
Speaker Introduction	N/A	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Speaker Thanks		Vivian	Bird	Danckwerts	Du Plessis
Find Speakers	Barnard, Bird, Hovstad, Michalowsky, Jackson				

Programme

Thu Oct 2	Business meeting
Mon Oct 6	Wynberg Rotaract meeting
Thu Oct 9	'Me Meeting' - Dirk du Plessis
Thu Oct 16	Shelly Windell of The Sunflower Fund
Sat Oct 18...Sun Oct 19	District Mini Conference Swellendam
Mon Oct 20	Wynberg Rotaract
Wed Oct 22	Joint Meeting: DG visit (location tbc)
Thu Oct 23	No meeting: DG visit 22 Oct
Fri Oct 24	World polio day
Wed Oct 29	Joint club social: I-core: Cape Town Society for the Blind
Thu Oct 30	No Meeting (see yesterday)
Fri Oct 31	Constantia Wine Festival
Mon Nov 3	Wynberg Rotaract meeting
Thu Nov 6	Business meeting: election of Board for 2015-2016
Thu Nov 13	Normal meeting / Quiz evening (tbc)
Mon Nov 17	Wynberg Rotaract
Thu Nov 20	Speaker tbc (Dave re-scheduled till next year)
Thu Nov 27	Social: Rotary Foundation / International (location tbc)
Mon Dec 1	Wynberg Rotaract meeting
Thu Dec 4	Uncle Paul's
Thu Dec 11	Business Meeting
Fri Dec 12	Our Charter Day
Mon Dec 15	Wynberg Rotaract
Thu Dec 18	Christmas Party (details tbc)

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TAILPIECE

Gone are the days when girls used to cook like their mothers. Now they drink like their fathers.

I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row.

You know that tingly little feeling you get when you really like someone? That's common sense leaving your body.