



**Rotary Club of Wynberg**

**WYNPRESS**

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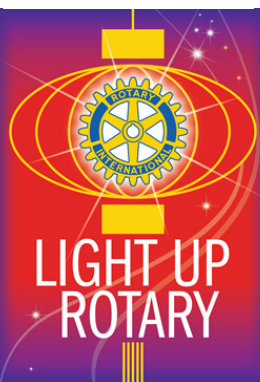
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**Rotary in March**  
**Literacy month**



## Why are they called “Proms”?

by Lina Howard

The Proms started more than 100 years ago, in 1895. Concerts were expensive in those days, and not many people had enough money to go and hear good music. Most people were only able to hear good music when they went for walks in the London parks where there were Promenade concerts. Orchestras and bands played in bandstands. Most of the music was popular and easy to listen to. People could enjoy the music while they walked about.

In the centre of London there was a building called the Queen's Hall. A man called Robert Newman organized concerts there. He had an idea. He wanted to start a series of concerts which ordinary people (people who were not rich) could afford to go to. He wanted to start a series of “promenade concerts” (in French “se promener” means “to walk”). The idea was that people could have standing places which would not cost much money. There would also be seats for people who could afford to pay more.

Robert Newman knew a very good young conductor, Henry Wood. He asked him to be the conductor of the Proms. On 10 August 1895 the first Promenade Concert took place in the Queen's Hall. The price of a promenade ticket (a ticket for a standing place) was one shilling.

The Promenade Concerts were a big success, and soon became known as the “Henry Wood Promenade Concerts”. Wood conducted both popular music and the classical works of Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Tchaikovsky, Brahms and Wagner, as well as some English composers. Wallace and Cowan, popular then, have today faded from the scene, although Elgar and Delius have survived due to Wood's Proms. This broke the convention that famous composers, conductors and singers could not be English.

Henry Wood conducted almost all of the Proms for fifty years, until just before his death in 1944.

In 1927 the BBC started to fund Proms. The radio was a new invention (then termed the “wireless”). Radio broadcasts increased interest in attending live concerts. In 1930 the BBC Symphony Orchestra was formed, playing at a majority of Prom concerts.

In 1941, during World War II, the Queen's Hall was destroyed by bombs. The Proms continued to take place in the Royal Albert Hall. Then it became too dangerous in London and the Proms were held in Bristol and then Bedford. After the War the Proms went back to the Royal Albert Hall. They have been held there ever since. From the 1940s to the late 1960s the BBC Symphony Orchestra played at most of the concerts under the very popular conductor Sir Malcolm Sargent whose Last Night speeches became legendary for their wit.

Today the Proms are very different from when they started. They are much more international. The BBC Symphony Orchestra plays several concerts each season but there are lots of other orchestras from all over the world who come to play. People can hear different kinds of music at the Proms: not just classical music but jazz and music from far-away countries

There is a Prom every night (i.e. every evening) for two months during the summer. The last concert is called the "Last Night of the Proms". It is very famous and millions of people can watch it on television in lots of countries all over the world. Some people who go to the Last Night dress up in funny clothes and wave flags. They hear a piece of music called "Fantasia on British Sea Songs", written by Henry Wood in 1905. It is based on sailors' sea shanties including a 'hornpipe'. The dance that gets faster and faster and the audience clap along, trying to keep up with the orchestra. It includes the song "Rule Britannia". The orchestra always play Edward Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance March no. 1*, which has the tune *Land of Hope and Glory*. The concert finishes with Parry's hymn *Jerusalem*. The conductor also makes a speech.

Well now we have our very own PROMS evening conducted by the enthusiastic Richard Cock and this has been an evening to be enjoyed by many. It is one of the most delightful evenings of music and the best part is that it raises funds for our projects – fulfilling our Rotary maxims, 'Is it fun?' and "will it bring goodwill and fellowship?"

## MEETING OF 05 MARCH

### Attendance

Present	:19
Make ups	: 5
Apologies	: 4
Absent	: 1
Leave of absence	: 1

Total attendance: 24 /29 = 82 %

**Pres. Jackie** welcomed all present. This has been a horrible and devastating week in view of the fires in Cape Town. Many of our members had sleepless nights in fear of their homes and evacuation. But we are grateful that they are present tonight and well. Jackie also said that a most remarkable thing happened: The fire got to Groot Constantia Farm and burnt right up to the Christmas Party site, but the castle is still standing! She also thanked everyone who has gone out and assisted in any way they could.

### Slots

**Beverly Bird** said that during the recent fires the SPCA Wildlife vehicles were parked at the bottom of the mountain and they were literally collecting animals as they were carried down from the mountain. They also asked people who found animals to please bring them immediately to the vehicles in order for them to get immediate help. Beverly asked the club members to make a financial contribution towards the SPCA Wildlife Unit by putting any contributions into a wooden box that was sent around. This box would be sent around again next week for members who did not have any cash on them in order to give all the opportunity to assist.

**Francois van Eeden** asked all the members to be at the Proms and assist on Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> March. A list of duties and responsibilities has been drawn up and will be sent out to everyone. Francois also asked that members please stay after the 2<sup>nd</sup> show and help with all the clearing and putting stuff back into the store rooms. He reiterated that it is very important that everyone be present and contribute.

**Stephen Bredenkamp** said that Hugh Maunder has 150 books written by his late wife Cathy Maunder called 'Danger Points', which is suitable for early teens. Hugh asked Stephen to find out if any of the schools were interested in these books. The principal at Perivale Primary took one look and said that this will be their class reader for the upper grades. So Hugh is donating the 150 books to Perivale which will be their class reader for this year.

## GOING FORWARD

### Duty Roster

	Mar			April	
	12	19	26	2	9
<b>Sergeant</b>	Murphy	Schreiber	Overbosch		Todd
<b>Attendance Officer</b>	A O'Driscoll	A O'Driscoll	A O'Driscoll		A O'Driscoll
<b>Wynpress Editorial</b>	Jackson	Klotz-Gleave	Lidgley	NO	Munday
<b>Minutes for Wynpress</b>	Overbosch	Cleveland	Smith		Du Plessis
<b>Door Duty</b>	Jackson	Klotz-Gleave	Munday	MEETING	A O'Driscoll
<b>Grace</b>	Dietrich	Du Plessis	Gavin		Gowdy
<b>Loyal Toast</b>	Gowdy	Hovstad	Howard		Jackson
<b>International Toast</b>	Overbosch	Schonegevel	Schreiber		Smith
<b>Speaker Introduction</b>	Bredenkamp	Danckwerts	Jackson		N/A
<b>Speaker Thanks</b>	K O'Driscoll	Schreiber	Schonegevel		N/A
<b>Find Speakers</b>	van Wyk, Gowdy, Overbosch, Todd, Murphy, Klotz-Gleave, Van Niekerk			Bredenkamp, Cleveland, Munday, Howard, van Eeden, Du Plessis, K O'Driscoll	

### Programme

Thu Mar 12      Tony Davidson (President RC Sea Point) on Medical Aid costs  
**Note: at Wynberg Girls High School**

**Weekend 14<sup>th</sup> / 15<sup>th</sup> Mar      'Pearls of Proms': All hands needed!**  
**Please keep free! We will need you!**

Mon Mar 16      Wynberg Rotaract

Thu Mar 19      Youth Meeting: **Wynberg Girls High School**



Sat Mar 21      Rotaract Training Workshop

Sat Mar 21      Steenberg Rotaract

Thu Mar 26      Normal meeting. Guest speaker: George Ellis FRS

Mar 27 – Mar 29	Interact Camp (hosted by Wynberg Rotaract)
Sat Mar 28	?? Baby College – <b>Help needed!:- Contact Alan</b> 1) to make healthy sandwiches. 2) Baby minders
Thu Apr 2	No meeting:- day before Good Friday
Thu Apr 9	Business meeting
Sun Apr 12	Rotary day : Blue Train Mouille Point <b>Will require help:- have a gazebo, invite NGO's to sell stuff, etc</b>
Thur Apr 16	Normal meeting. Guest Speaker: Matthieu Snaith – ‘The Cape Peninsula Fires.’
Sat Apr 18	Steenberg Rotaract
Mon Apr 20	Wynberg Rotaract
Thur Apr 23	Meeting at Zeekoevlei SailingClub
Thus Apr 30	Tentative: Social with RC Sea Point

See the WRC [calendar](http://wynbergrotary.org.za/calendar/) (http://wynbergrotary.org.za/calendar/ ) for full details.

Like us on ,  follow us on twitter (@wynbergrotary) and visit the [Rotary Club Wynberg website](http://wynbergrotary.org.za/) to keep up to date

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## TAILPIECE

“So as you look at the fire fighter with his rake, hose or axe,  
 His beet red face or ash covered moustache,  
 You should know why he goes through that smoky front door,  
 And is forced to crawl like a baby down on the floor.  
 He does it to save both lives and property.  
 All that is precious to you and to me.  
 So take a good look at this modern warrior who serve his call proud and true,  
 And know that he would die just to save me and you”

– Robert J. Athans

*And then, "if you think it's tough being a fire fighter, try being a fire fighter's wife" -  
 Author Unknown.*