

Rotary Club of Wynberg WYNPRESS

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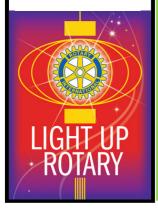
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LINKING NGO FUNDING TO SOLUTIONS

Alan Jackson

I was most interested in an article with a similar heading in the Cape Times in late 2014 by Lorenzo Davids, CEO of Community Chest South Africa and the Community Chest of the Western Cape. It followed an article on a similar subject in October 2014 in the same newspaper.

In the articles Lorenzo Davids refers correctly to the crisis in which the NGO sector finds itself, correctly identifies many of the reasons, but does not in my opinion provide focused direction for resolving these matters he advocates so well in his articles.

I agree with much of what Lorenzo Davids says in the articles, including:

"The generosity of both the wealthy and the poor philanthropist is to be lauded. Billions of rand of aid money are donated to wealthy causes each year. And many of these causes, despite severe challenges and constraints, are holding the very thin fabric of civil society together- often on shoestring budgets.."

"The NGO sector in South Africa needs to stop and ask itself some serious questions- and the same goes for donors"

"..there are too many players in the non-profit sector. This has dispersed the influence, the leverage and the impact of the sector and has diluted the potential to bring about meaningful change"

"If we are serious about significant impact, the NGOs we invest in must produce measurable results"

"We need more accountable relationships (between donors and NGOs), not for the survival of the sector primarily, but so that the end beneficiary.. can immediately benefit from the impact every donated rand should create"

However, Lorenzo Davids makes various comments which must be challenged.

He suggests that the solution to the fact that there are too many NGOs "is simple - stop registering new NGOs". I believe that the solution is a different one – donors should support only those NGOs which can show real results, regardless of whether they are existing NGOs or newish ones.

He says that "NGOs are selling misery, not solutions". I disagree. Perhaps he meant to say that many NGOs have developed a self-defeating "hopeless" and "helpless" attitude and frequently have seen themselves as victims rather than creative masters of their future. I believe that it is a crucial role for those who do the important work of NGOs, or of us who support NGOs, to inspire hope - hope which will come from being empowered to understand the need to produce measurable results for the beneficiaries they serve, and the tools with which to do so.

My experience is that NGOs require assistance not only with developing impact objectives which measure the ways in which the lives of beneficiaries are changed through the work of the NGO, but also the capacity to assess their functioning, and to develop policies, processes, and tools which will maximise their functioning with regard to effective:

- Corporate Governance
- Strategic Planning
- Project Planning
- Income Development
- Financial management

MEETING OF 12 MARCH

Attendance

Present :22 Make ups : 4 Apologies : 2

Total attendance: 26 /29 = 89 %

Pres. Jackie welcomed all present. A special welcome to Arno van Eeden and our speaker Tony Davidson. She reminded all that the next meeting will also be at Wynberg Girls High.

Slots

Beverly Bird (2nd request) 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.

Graham Todd asked all the members to be at the Proms latest 12:30pm.

Barry Cleveland handed a book over from Haugaland with pictures of their visit last November.

David Barnard mentioned that the visit to Norway is happening in June and that there are currently 11 people going. If you are still interested please speak to him

Karen Overbosch informed all that on 7 March her Nephew Ian got married to Lauren Hitchings. It was a wonderful wedding after the scare of the fires being so close to the venue.

President's Quote

"Have no fear of perfection, you will never reach it". No-one guessed the surrealist answer of "Salvador Dali".

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Guest Speaker

Tony Davidson came to speak to us about why medical aid cost increase more than CPI. He said it is beneficial for all to have a medical aid. 13% of you medical aid fee goes to Admin. He explained about the Reserves and how it is funded. How much is being spent to curb fraud and members cheating. The cost of technology is increasing and that is also a reason for the increase in medical aid cost. The hospital cost here is still 30% lower than in Europe. Salaries of medical staff are above CPI in order to keep them. The expectations of members are also increasing. 20% on chronic is spent on cancer. Keela O'Driscoll thanked Tony.

GOING FORWARD

Duty Roster

	Mar		April		
	19	26	2	9	16
Sergeant	Schreiber	Overbosch		Todd	Van Eeden
Attendance Officer	A O'Driscoll	A O'Driscoll		A O'Driscoll	A O'Driscoll
Wynpress Editorial	Jackson	Klotz-Gleave	NO	Lidgley	Munday
Minutes for Wynpress	Smith	Cleveland		Du Plessis	Smith
Door Duty	Klotz-Gleave	Munday	MEETING	A O'Driscoll	K O'Driscoll
Grace	Du Plessis	Gavin		Gowdy	Hovstad
Loyal Toast	Hovstad	Howard		Jackson	Klotz-Gleave
International Toast	Schonegevel	Schreiber		Smith	Todd
Speaker Introduction	Danckwerts	Jackson		N/A	K O'Driscoll
Speaker Thanks	Schreiber	Schonegevel		N/A	Todd
Find Speakers	van Wyk, Gowdy, Overbosch, Todd, Murphy, Klotz- Gleave, Van Niekerk		Bredenkamp, Cleveland, Munday, Howard, van Eeden, Du Plessis, K O'Driscoll		

Programme

Thu Mar 19	Youth Meeting: Wynberg Girls High School		
Sat Mar 21 Sat Mar 21	Rotaract Training Workshop 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 – Help needed!:- Contact Alan 1) to make healthy sandwiches. 2) Baby minders		
Thu Apr 2	No meeting:- day before Good Friday		
Thu Apr 9	Business meeting		

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Sun Apr 12 Rotary day : Blue Train Mouille Point

Will require help:- have a gazebo, invite NGO's to sell stuff, etc

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 <u>calendar</u> (http://wynbergrotary.org.za/calendar/) for full details.



(@wynbergrotary) and visit the Rotary Club Wynberg website to keep up to date

FROM THE ACHIVES OF ROTARY

FRIENDSHIP TREES

Rotarians have planted trees in the name of fellowship, friendship, and community service since the early 20th century. These trees, which can be found worldwide, have grown into enduring monuments of Rotary's ideals.

As president emeritus, Harris traveled extensively during the 1920s and 1930s, often accompanied by his wife Jean. During these trips, the nature-loving Harris planted trees to symbolize goodwill and friendship.

In the fall of 1932, Harris embarked on a five-week tour of European Rotary clubs and planted trees along the way.

"Wednesday forenoon I planted my first tree of friendship in European soil. It seemed to me especially appropriate that it took place in Germany—in its metropolis—Berlin. The planting occurred in a sports platz formerly devoted to war purposes, and a large number including Rotarians, city officials, and others were in attendance."

Harris also planted trees in Tallinn, Estonia, and Göteborg, Sweden, during this trip.

Planting trees soon became a hallmark of his travels, including in Australia, Brazil, Estonia, Japan, Mexico, and New Zealand. In My Road to Rotary Harris recalled:

"With the cooperation of Rotarians and local governments, I have planted friendship trees in the parks and playgrounds on five continents of the world and even on some of the major islands of the seas. Our trees stood as symbols of international understanding and good-will."

Other RI presidents also observed the tradition. In 1931-32, then-RI president Sydney W. Pascall planted trees at the sites of Rotary clubs he visited, reportedly at Paul Harris's suggestion.

Not all of the trees were planted outside the United States. The Harrises often entertained visiting Rotarians and dignitaries in their home, Comely Bank, and planted trees with their guests to mark the occasion. They called the garden their Friendship Garden.

Today, Rotarians continue to plant trees to symbolize enduring friendships and fellowship, to beautify parks and communities, and to contribute to a greener world.

As Paul Harris has been planting friendship trees maybe we should be thinking to plant friendship trees when we have our visit to Norway and when they come and visit us again. Planting the trees in the schools being supported by us. (Just food for thought)

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