



The Rotary Club of Wynberg

Wynpress



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EDITORIAL

One of the country's most conservative groups, Rotary, has elected a transgender woman as a local club president. Monica Mulholland was overwhelmed with the support she had received and said her Queenstown club was a credit to New Zealand.

"Rotary clubs are mostly white older folks, lots of men, and you would think they would be really conservative," she said. "I got flowers and phone calls and emails. The response was amazing."

Transgender people have a gender identity that is different from the physical sex they are born with. Mulholland identifies as a transgender woman. The eldest of nine siblings, she was raised in County Cork, Ireland. She knew from a young age she did not belong in the male body she had been assigned at birth.

"I knew when I was four or five years old. There has never been a day since then when I didn't know it."

Mulholland said growing up transgender was difficult. She struggled to live up to society's expectations of manhood.

"It was a small Catholic village, the chances of coming out there were absolutely zero. I would say I was probably a bit of a 'mammy's boy' and a bit feminine early on. In retrospect, I think my parents were worried I was gay. Looking back on the photos from that era, I can see how lost I was in a boxing class, and how unsuited I was to something like that. You just kept that part of yourself hidden."

Mulholland lived as a man until she was in her 50s. She made the decision to start living publicly as a woman earlier this year.

"I don't have many years left, and that's another reason I decided to come out now. I have been playing a role all of my life. It is time to get real. It is time to just be me. I want to die as I really am, and not as some kind of artificial construct that society has forced me to be."

Mulholland initially had concerns about how the Rotary club would respond to her transition. "The response was amazing; I didn't have one negative experience, I was blown away," she said. "The people in Rotary clubs are there because they want to help their communities and they want to do good, so of course they wanted to support me."

Women were first admitted to Rotary clubs in 1989 and the first female club president was elected in 2004. Mulholland thought it was important to have transgender people in positions of leadership within communities.

"When I was growing up it was seen as perverted even to be gay. It's so important to have role models, and for younger people to see that it is possible to live a full and happy life as a transgender person. There is this attitude that being transgender is a curse, well I want people to see it as a gift."

Mulholland said Rotary clubs were still relevant to young people.

"There is this idea that Rotary clubs are just filled with doddering old people having lunch together. "We are trying to challenge that. These service clubs have been helping in communities for 100 years and it would be such a shame for them to die out because young people weren't interested."

Mulholland will take over the role as Queenstown Rotary Club president in July.

Minutes

2nd. June, 2016

MINUTES OF THE WYNBERG ROTARY CLUB MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 2nd JUNE 2016

Compiled by String Smith

Sergeant Are in charge

Attendance

14 Rotarians + 9 Rotaractors present: 47%

Visitors

Nil

Fellowship

Our Pres. and June both have birthdays on 3rd. June.

From the President

Pres. Stephen reminded members of Alan's induction on 23rd.
No meetings on 16th. and 30th., but members can assist at Adventure into Citizenship for the latter one.
Agreement has been reached with Wynberg Improvement District whereby we will receive R5000 pm for the use of the carpark.

Slots

Justin: New promotional banners were on show.
Adventure into Citizenship. Programme was explained, members support was essential. Participants arrive on Sunday 26 June at Jan van Riebeck HS, meet parents.

Biffy: Assistance required with painting shelves, 18h00 @ John's, assemble following week.
Isipiwe to be improved with vegetation, considering visitors.

David: At a blind wine tasting, Secret Cellar Chenin Blanc @ only R40 was judged best.
Ron Davies' wife Shirley had died of cancer, funeral next day.

Guest Speaker

Our own Rotaractor Lee Bergman is currently District 9350 Rotaract Representative. He told us of the progress and activities during the past year, the slow rate of transformation, the small number of Rotaractors globally who go on to become Rotarians, the need for the two organisations to work more closely together despite the age gap and many other matters which elicited good discussion.

Swindle

Due to technical problems of a viticultural nature, information pertaining to the disbursement of funds is not available.

Duty Roster

		June		
	9	16	23	30
Sergeant	Murphy	NO MEETING	PRES. INDUCTION	NO MEETING
Wynpress Editorial	Smith			
Wynpress Minutes	Howard			
Door Duty	van Eeden			5 th Thursday
Grace	Crous S			Assist with
Loyal Toast	van Niekerk	Public Holiday	TBA	Adventure into
International Toast	Munday			Citizenship?
Speaker Intro	Gowdy			
Speaker Thanks	van Wyk			

Going Forward

Dates To Diarise	
9 June	Early Learning Research Unit
16 June	Public Holiday – no meeting
23 June	Presidential Induction
26 - 30 June	Adventure into Citizenship

President's Quote

Youth has no age

Pablo Picasso

I gave my beauty and youth to men.
to animals.

I am going to give my wisdom and experience
Brigitte Bardot

And from appreciative recipients.....

Attention: Keela van Niekerk And The Rotary Club of Wynberg

Dear Keela

RE: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND THANKS FOR SPONSORING A WONDERFULL OUTING FOR THE CHILDREN.

On behalf of the SOS Children's Villages, Cape Town we wish to thank you for the precious gesture and the kindness that you has shown us by means of sponsoring a wonderfull outing for 30 of our children at The Blue Train Park in Seapoint on Saturday 14 May 2016. Our children are extremely grateful and really enjoyed themselves.

SOS Children's Village Cape Town is an independent, non governmental social development organization which has been working to meet the needs and protect the interest and rights of neglected, abandoned and destitute children for the last twenty five years. Disadvantaged children and families are the focus of our work and we respect varying religions, cultures and work in countries and communities where our mission can contribute to the development of children living apart from their biological families for a variety of reasons. We at SOS Children's Villages remain committed to providing for the basic needs of these children as well as creating the environment of a family unit encompassing the emotional, physical and intellectual needs of the children in our care.

We wish to assure you that your support goes a long way in securing these needs and providing the support system that are necessary in order for us to accomplish our mission.

We thank you for sharing our vision and believe that the contribution you made will add to the lives of the children we care for. Once again, Thank you

Yours sincerely

Rezell Januarie

International Sponsorship Secretary

SOS Children's Village Cape Town



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or look at our website; Wynbergrotary.org.za**