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The Rotary Club of Wynberg

Wynpress

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## Editorial

*Misleading Statistics*

Submitted by Lina Howard

I decided to look into this thorny subject of Statistics when I read that 30 000 children are trafficked from South Africa

As many as “30,000 kids trafficked in SA” read a headline in [The Times](#) in October 2013. A similar article appeared in the [Pretoria News](#), suggesting that “at least 30,000 children” are trafficked and prostituted annually in South Africa and “50 per cent of them are under the age of 14”. The paper attributed the claim to Roxanne Rawlins of [Freedom Climb](#), “a project that works with trafficked people around the globe”.

This number just seemed to be ridiculously high. The newspapers have not reported ONE child missing this month – and if you estimate the monthly number – it would be about 2500. This could then amount to about 30 a day if they are taken individually. Perhaps they take all the children in a village???

When some intrepid researcher looked into this matter, it was found that Rawlins was using data from a 2004 report done by a US company, and she goes on to say she has been ‘misquoted’

Current Missing Children SA records do not support Stafford’s claims either. In 2012 the organisation reported that it had dealt with 304 missing children and 256 cases of missing adults. Only 2% of these cases were as a result of human trafficking.

There you have it – numbers meant to cause alarm and dissent which are really only fabricated.



While statistics are extremely valuable, they are notorious for a means that people use to make false and misleading arguments.

80% of statistics are made up on the spot.

The remaining 20% are mathematically flawed

- *From an internet message board.*

Newspaper articles seem to carry more credence when they quote statistics – as they have an authority about them. (numbers!!!)

Saying “80% of high school students admit to cheating on tests” – just sounds more authoritative than “most high school students admit to cheating in tests”

Most often, statistics are obtained by taking a sample from a larger group and assuming the whole group has the same characteristics. For example, if we ask 100 people who they are going to vote for in the next election, and 55 of them say they will vote DA, we might assume that 55% of the country will vote for DA – but that is a simple exaggeration of small samples.

Even when statistics are technically accurate, they can be misleading. Like the statistic that “the rate of teenage pregnancy in conservative religious groups was higher than the national average”. It was only a higher percentage because many in the religious group were women who married in their teens.

Nevertheless, recognizing that statistics people present to us are frequently flawed doesn't imply that we can depend on anecdotes about individual cases or our own experiences. These are likely to be atypical of what happens in the world at large. Instead we should withhold judgment until we can get more reliable information about what is really going on.

A statistician is someone who is skilled at drawing a precise line from an unwarranted assumption to a foregone conclusion.

Then there's the one that if you laid every statistician on the face of the earth end to end you wouldn't reach a conclusion....

## Duty Roster

	SEPTEMBER			
	3 (Business)	10	17	24
Sergeant	Schreiber	Todd		
Wynpress Editorial	Hovstad	Jackson	Quiz	
Minutes for Wynpress	Smith	Cleveland	Evening	Heritage Day
Door Duty	James	Lidgely		
Grace	Barnard	Bredenkamp		No Meeting
Loyal Toast	O'Driscoll	Overbosch	Tangos	
International Toast	Munday	Murphy	R100	
Speaker Introduction	N/A	Cleveland		
Speaker Thanks	N/A	Vivian		
Find Speakers	Barnard, Jackson, Maunder, Van Niekerk, Vivian			



# Minutes

## 27 August 2015

Compiled by: String Smith

Attendance, Apologies & Make-ups	64%
Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rhoda Daries (speaker), Beverley, Charles, Dawn, Lynette and Tim of Khanyisa School.</li> </ul>
Fellowship Announcements	
Slots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Francois</b> congratulated the Bulls on their (rare) win.</li> <li><b>Jackie</b> reported that further shelves for the library had been ordered. A meeting regarding the Colorado Springs sponsorship had been held, Bruce Probin to investigate and report back.</li> <li><b>Alan</b> reported that the Interact schools would be sponsored to one of the next two RYLA camps to be held.</li> <li><b>Dennis</b> had visited Zeekoeivlei HS and had handed over 11 computers 7 projectors and had managed to get an article in the press, a copy of which had been sent to Odd Henning and <b>Are</b>.</li> <li><b>Stephen</b> requested those members who had assisted at the Interact Conference to pay R25 for the lunch. He mentioned that he had attended the Steenberg Interact Induction which had not been well supported by Rotarians. And finally his quotes.</li> </ul> <p><u>Quiz night</u>; Reminder to book your table for the <a href="#">Quiz Night (20 September)</a> by emailing <a href="mailto:literacy@wynbergrotary.org.za">literacy@wynbergrotary.org.za</a> (R100 per person including R60 meal voucher – Tangos). There are 11 tables left.</p>
Guest Speaker	<p>In introducing guest speaker Rhoda Daries, <b>Jackie</b> expressed the club's pleasure in being able to meet at the school. Rhoda told the club of the school's 14 year existence which currently catered for 79 special needs pupils, with various classes offering subjects such as needlework, carpentry and agricultural related. The school is probably unique in that the Waldorf system of education is followed for youngsters who would battle in normal classes and who must not be marginalised from other children by their disabilities. Although some assistance is received from the Western Cape Dept. of Education, the school is largely funded by the parents and operated through their efforts and those of a dedicated staff. In thanking the speaker, <b>David</b> summed it up when he said that few people present would not have been moved by the presentation.</p>
Swindle	With R1345 up for grabs, Justin failed – what a shame – leaving Biffy the only winner.
President's quote	<p>"Every man gotta right to decide his own destiny" – Bob Marley</p> <p>"The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be" – Ralph Waldo Emerson.</p>
Next Meeting	<b>Stephen</b> reminded us of the business meeting next week which would be the last meeting at the Palms for some time, with a visit to WGHS (10 <sup>th</sup> .) where our PP Shirley Harding would be the speaker, the Quiz (17 <sup>th</sup> .) and a public holiday on 24 <sup>th</sup> .

# Going forward

## Dates to Diarise

<b>Thur Sep 3:</b>	<b>Business meeting</b>
<b>Sat Sep 12</b>	<b>Social / weekend visit to Renosterveld: (Alan)</b>
<b>Thur Sep 10:</b>	<b>Meeting – Guest Speaker Shirley Harding</b>
<b>Thur Sep 17:</b>	<b>Quiz Evening @ Tangos! (Justin)</b>
<b>Sat Oct</b>	<b>Heaven's Nest project with Wynberg Rotaract</b>
<b>Wed – Fri 7-9 Oct:</b>	<b>Rotary Family Health Days</b>
<b>Sat Oct 24:</b>	<b>District Mini-conference – Worcester</b>
<b>Thur Nov 26:</b>	<b>Election of Office Bearers</b>
<b>Thur Dec 3</b>	<b>Uncle Paul's Christmas Party project</b>



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



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