



The Rotary Club of Wynberg

Wynpress



Bom Jesus do Monte

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Stepping out in Portugal

by String Smith

Alas, only 6 hours after arriving in the UK, a bed fell on my wife's foot – she swears it was deliberate – resulting in a visit to the hospital and totally immobilising her for the first few days of our holiday. A week later, not fully recovered, we were dropped by the airport shuttle outside the Fado Museum in Lisbon on the edge of the Alfama, the historic old quarter wrapped around several hillsides. It was time to step out.

Across the cobbled street, up the narrow pavement and into such a narrow lane which next day would entertain the local men, as a harassed female ambulance driver attempted to reverse her steed out of the winding passage. 17 steps took us across a small square, almost deserted in mid-afternoon but which in the evening would be converted into a busy restaurant. After that the steps began again, 52 of them impeding the passage of heavy wheeled suitcases. The agent soon arrived with the key to the apartment, the couch beckoned.

We soon got fit, every day began with 69 steps, or a similar number of steeper ones if we opted to go uphill. Nothing is flat in Portugal, there are even lifts in some streets, the torture had only just begun. The castle at Sintra had a huge number of steps with almost a kilometre of steep road at the beginning to soften one up. The wine that evening was good, the food was good, the beer was even better, could be worse. Then on to the delightful village of Obidos, it does not rain there in summer, it pours, we bought an umbrella, it stopped! Back at the apartment we did the washing, the ancient machine was far from silent, the whole building shook, local residents must have been terrified, anticipating a repeat of the earthquake of 1755 which flattened most of Lisbon. After that my wife got sick, all sense of balance gone as in "too much wine". How do you get the patient to the doctor when she cannot walk there, a taxi cannot take you there, you don't speak the lingo? She had to recover, she did, but only after two days.

So on to Oporto where they make our post meal nectar at the Palms. Here we had the luxury of a flat near the river with road access, even if the gradient was 20%. It was pleasant, we did the

tourist things, then visited Braga to see the famous hillside church of Bom Jesus do Monte. After climbing out of the town the bus deposited us in a wooded clearing, from which stone steps disappeared upwards – to heaven? Not to be beaten by a climb, I began. Alas, it was a case of not being able to see the steps for the trees. Eventually, after fighting the thinning air and on the point of coughing up blood, I think we must have reached the tree-line. The church appeared in all its glory, not just a few metres away but– Matterhorn came to mind. After 574 steps, I dragged myself through the front door of the church and collapsed into the nearest pew. I used the funicular on the way down!

After a most pleasant holiday – Portugal is a good destination –there had to be a sting in the tail. British Airways were 90 mins. late arriving in Oporto, thus losing their berth at the air bridge for the return journey and resulting in passengers being taken by bus to the aircraft. As I climbed the 20 steps up the mobile staircase to the aircraft, I thought “this says it all”.

Minutes

Business Meeting :6 October 2016

	Compiled by String Smith
Attendance	Barry in charge, 20 members present
Visitors	Nil.
Fellowship	Karen has a grandson. Dennis is off to Europe for two weeks, including St Petersburg and Prague.
From the President	More responses are needed to Karen's poll. A reminder that when thanking speakers, we no longer give dictionaries to schools. Brownies and Downies is to be rescheduled due to a clash with the mini conference. The meeting on 11 Nov. will be at Zeekoevlei Yacht Club. A pre meeting sail and bring and braai are being investigated. Due to a request from Victoria Hospital for a photograph of club members, this will be taken prior to next week's (13 th) meeting. Bring regalia. Congratulations to Justin for his accolade from Newlands RC for his involvement in youth.
Slots	Biffy reported on the Rotary Health Day at which there were 865 clients, 2954 interventions, 211 specs handed out, no deaths. Thanks to all involved, especially Barry and Graham who helped pack up afterwards. Justin said that a 1 hour Projects meeting will precede the next Business Meeting. Mike advised that only 1 – 2 subs were outstanding. Volunteers are needed to clean up 4-5 years of accumulated junk. Are reminded members that visitors from Haugaland would attend the meeting on 20 th . Hosts had been arranged with Pam volunteering and a vehicle with driver loaned from the College of Cape Town. Ruth reported that a profit of over R4000 had been achieved for the quiz evening. The venue was good with 110 people attending. Earlier marketing was needed. She and Justin were congratulated.

Business	The business part of the meeting then commenced and is minuted separately.
Jackpot	Biffy gave Don the opportunity of instant wealth (R1220) but he fluffed it. String , always hovering, grabbed the R26 attendance prize. Graham , on behalf of String and himself, sincerely thanked the members for their contributions to their recent holidays.....(!)

Going Forward

Dates To Diarise

Oct 13	Several members of Wynberg Rotaract will present short 'Me talks', giving us the opportunity of getting to know them personally.
Oct 20	Haugaland students and teachers + principals from 7 NLC schools: Four students and two teachers will introduce themselves and tell us about the college's ongoing fundraising activities. They will also hand over certificates to the principals of our supported schools, indicating the different amounts to be donated to each school.
Oct 29	District 9350 Mini Conference in Hermanus
Nov 10	Marco & Marvin from the Zeekoeivlei Sailing Centre, an enterprise long supported by WRC, will update us on their ongoing work, providing sport, life-skills and employment opportunities to disadvantaged youngsters.

Duty Roster

		October		Nov
	13	20	27	3 Business
Sergeant	Hovstad	Murphy	Overbosch	Schreiber
Wynpress Editorial	Gowdy	Hovstad	Howard	Lidgley
Wynpress Minutes	Cleveland	Howard	Maunder	K van N
Door Duty	Lidgley	Maunder	K van N	Overbosch
Grace	Howard	Dietrich	Gowdy	Hovstad
Loyal Toast	Schoenegevel	Overbosch	Schreiber	Smith
International Toast	Murphy	Lidgley	Munday	Maunder
Speaker Intro	Todd	Hovstad	van Eeden	N/A
Speaker Thanks	Maunder	Cleveland	Schoenegevel	N/A
Entertainment for the month				Van Eeden van Niekerk Cleveland Dietrich

Smile



Reminders

For all members: Wear your Rotary clothes for the official photograph on Thursday 13 Oct.

For male members: October is breast awareness month

