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Rotary's June focus is on Fellowship

EDITORIAL

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS.....AND NEVER GIVE UP ON SERVING OTHERS

by Mike Schreiber

By the time you read this editorial, the devastating effects of the Knysna/Plett fires and #Cape Storm will have been far more widely reported and the full scale of the physical (and emotional) damage will have been revealed to all of us.

However, as I sit with coffee in hand in the comfort and security of my Rondebosch home - on a very wet and windy Wednesday evening - much is still unknown, especially as the fire situation dramatically unfolds before me on social media. Our vulnerability to the forces of nature is once again demonstrated with two very different types of disasters barely 500 kilometres apart. We have just received word over Facebook that John and Lesley Satchel, stalwart Knysna Rotarians and the parents of good friends of ours, have had to be evacuated from Belvedere in the face of the raging wall of fire and have lost all contact with their elderly mother aged 90.

My thoughts and prayers go out to all those affected by the two disasters. Not only to the victims, but to the thousands of tireless emergency service workers, NGO's and ordinary volunteers (including Rotarians) who have responded to the crises by going well beyond the call of duty to assist others. Ordinary folk have opened up their homes and their hearts to complete strangers and we can be thankful that there are so many dedicated people who care about helping others in need.

Nature does not obviously discriminate, and in #Cape Storm people from Bishopscourt to Bonteheuwel, Kreupelbosch to Khayelitsha, have been affected. However the suffering of those on the Cape Flats and in other townships in the greater Cape Town area is always very severe in situations like these. There are scores of people huddled together miserably in community halls tonight that have – in a matters of hours – gone from having nothing, to effectively having less than nothing. People who are unfortunately already economically marginalised and subject to gang violence, abuse and a general lack of access to services. What amazes me however is the undaunted resilience and spirit of these victims, many of whom will, by Friday be trying to rebuild their houses, and their dreams, with donated materials, and support from within

their communities. In my opinion (and my first point) we should be very grateful for what we have, being mindful that while we may not be uber wealthy, we all have a roof over our heads and are able to put food on our tables at night. Often we tend to complain about seemingly trivial matters, which in the grand scheme of things are completely insignificant. (like when Gilbert runs out of Port – again!)

We as Rotarians are part of a dedicated collective of volunteers, committing ourselves to "service above self" and our Wynberg trademarked "five way test". My second point is therefore that we must not **ever** let ourselves be distracted from this commendable pursuit. As they say, every little bit helps, and as "Team Wynberg RC" we should not lose sight of what we can achieve together to help others. As I write this, there are many teams of dedicated folk battling through the darkness in smoky fire ravaged Knysna to evacuate residents. Others are already in the community halls and disaster centres laying out food, water and blankets. Among these volunteer groups will be people from very different racial, political, cultural and economic backgrounds (even possibly Blue Bulls supporters), but what unites and bonds them together like superglue is their common objective and passion for serving others in need. Therefore I appeal to our own club members to always put personal or other differences aside in pursuit of our common service goals, because by doing so we can also achieve far more. Let our diversity be our strength and let's not be distracted from our main purpose. This time of the year traditionally sees the "changing of the guard" within Rotary so let me use this opportunity to thank President Alan and his Board for their leadership, and at the same time wish incoming President Rob and his Board all the best as they strive to take the Club to new heights. **AND.....** let's keep having fun doing it (Rotary I mean[©])

Footnote: 8th **June morning and writing with another cup of coffee in hand**: The Satchels have been reunited with Granny and their home has been miraculously spared from the Knysna fire.

Dates To Diarise

15 June	Planning for 2017-18 year			
22 June	Hugh Maunder: 'Some Highlights of my World Cruise'			
29 June	Induction of Rob Murphy as President. Cattle Baron, Mowbray Golf Club			
6 July	Special Meeting to hand over charity funds from Proms. Representatives from the performers also invited to attend.			
13 July	Business Meeting / Atholl Swanson & The Wynberg Improvement District			
20 July	Christmas in July			
27 July	Ann Barr – organiser of the Cape Town Big Band Jazz Festival			
10 August	Official visit by the District Governor, Lynette Stassen			

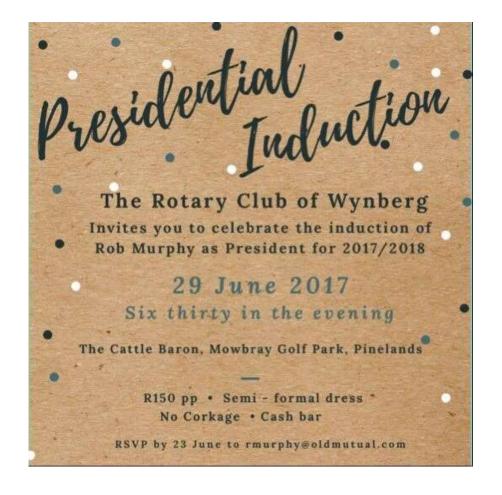


Minutes

8 June 2017

	Compiled by Keela van Niekerk				
Attendance	17 members present				
Visitors	None				
Fellowship	Bev's Birthday – Monday 12 th				
From the President	Fire appeal – Knysna (Grace, International Toast and distributed funding details) Presidential Induction – 29 June (See last page)				
Slots	 Saturday 10 June, 9am (8 Bookcases to Montague Gift's Primary) Thank you to Biffy and the 3 Rotaractors who came to help sort on Monday Bellville Rotaract fundraiser (10 June) Rotaract Conference – 28 – 30 July (See image on next page) Adventure into Citizenship, 2-8 July. (Please complete volunteer roster, sent by Rob on 6 June) Karen – Bread tags for wheelchairs; R8 per kilo of bread tags go to buying wheelchairs. Please collect your bread tags and Biffy will distribute them. Biffy – Shirts and Jackets; Biffy will order more smart shirts (an email will be sent out) We had a strategy meeting (Minutes distributed separately) Are – Books coming from Australia to Kirstenbosch Rotary, distributed to Langa. David – Weekend away in Roberston (11-13 August) – remember to book. Norway – Odd Henning is happy to have us the week leading up to 15th June 2018. Rob – Induction dinner (remember to read the whole email) – please pay via EFT. Attendance prize – bottle of wine. Candice – Duty Roster, we will combine the Intro and Thanks duty to help ease the roster. (suggested that the person who invites the speaker does the intro and thanks) Strategy Meeting – Minutes will be distributed separately Biffy (at Dinner) discussed donating to helping Knysna relief, through the Rotary Club of George. It was debated and asked if the services committee brings a proposal to the board. Suggested to help Knysna after a month, once the first bit of relief fades. 				
Members' moments	Cape storm / Cape Covfefe; Biffy is without electricity for almost 48 hours so far Hugh had half the roof of his annex fly off Keela also had roof flashing fly off				
President's song	No-one guessed Billy Joel's 'Just the way you are'.				
Swindle	Monique pulled Mike's name who unfortunately had the wrong red card. He then pulled Monique's name for the attendance prize of R15 Extra attendance prize of a bottle of wine was given to Justin				





Duty Roster

	JUNE			JULY
	15	22	29	6
Sergeant	Murphy	Overbosch	Schreiber	Todd
Wynpress Editorial	Smith	Todd	Presidential	Van Niekerk
Wynpress Minutes	Howard	Cleveland	Induction	Maunder
Door Duty	Bayes	Barnard	N/A	Bird
Grace	Schonegevel J	Schonegevel R	Todd	Van Niekerk
Loyal Toast	Dietrich	Gowdy	Hovstad	Howard
International Toast	Bird	Cleveland	Danckwerts	Dietrich
Speaker Intro	N/A	Gowdy	Cattle Baron	N/A
Speaker Thanks	N/A	Dietrich	Mowbray Golf Club, Pinelands	N/A
Entertainment for the month	Schonegevel, R, Howard, Hovstad, James,			Cleveland, Dietrich, Munday, Schonegevel, J,
	Maunder			Jackson



