



The Rotary Club of Wynberg

Wynpress



Induction of President Rob Murphy by PP Alan Jackson

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EDITORIAL

4 Dead, Liverless Sharks Wash Ashore in Weird Whodunit

By Laura Geggel, June 26, 2017

<https://www.livescience.com/59056-orcas-may-be-killing-great-white-sharks.html>

Orca whales have claimed the life of another great white shark by eating its liver and leaving it for dead, making it the fourth such grisly death in less than two months

During a four-day period in early May, researchers reported finding the bodies of three great white sharks (*Carcharodon carcharias*) that had washed ashore along South Africa's Western Cape province. All of these sharks were mysteriously missing their livers, necropsies (animal autopsies) showed.

Now, a fourth dead, liverless shark has washed ashore, according to a post on June 26 on the [Marine Dynamics blog](#), a site hosted by a shark cage diving company. The newly discovered 13-foot-long (4 m) male shark was missing its liver, testes and stomach, according to the blog post. No one saw the sharks' last moments, but the injuries indicate that [orcas](#), also known as killer whales (*Orcinus orca*), were the culprits, the researchers said.

"This is the fourth documented deceased white shark since May that we can connect to Orca predation" Alison Towner, a white-shark biologist for the Dyer Island Conservation Trust in South Africa, wrote on the Marine Dynamics blog. "We don't really know how long the sharks will stay away from the area as a result of predation pressure."

Although orcas aren't known to regularly hunt great white sharks, "it's not unprecedented," said Andrew Nosal, an assistant professor of biological sciences at Saint Katherine College in San Marcos, California, and a visiting assistant researcher at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego. (Nosal was not involved in the recent shark analyses.)

Scientists know that both orcas and great whites live off the western coast of South Africa, where the Atlantic and Indian oceans meet. Although Nosal wasn't aware of [orca-on-shark attacks](#) in that area, he had heard of instances in which orcas have hunted the sharks in other locations, such as off the coast of southern Australia and near the Farallon Islands, a wildlife refuge off the coast of San Francisco, he said.

In addition, orcas are known to hunt and eat the livers of the broadnose sevengill shark (*Notorynchus cepedianus*) off the coast of California, said Chris Lowe, director of The Shark Lab at California State University, Long Beach, who wasn't involved with the South African analyses.

Not much is known about orca predation on great white sharks, Nosal said. But any marine biologist can tell you that other marine mammals prey on the livers and internal organs of smaller sharks, he said.

For instance, sea lions routinely hunt leopard sharks off the coast of California. In grisly detail, Nosal described how sea lions grab onto [leopard sharks](#) (*Triakis semifasciata*), and then twist and turn the shark until they can bite just under its gills. Then, the sea lion gobbles up the internal organs and leaves the rest of the carcass, which will either sink to the seafloor [or wash ashore](#), Nosal said.

Sharks have enormous livers, he noted. Livers are filled with fats that give the shark buoyancy. "Bony fishes have a swim bladder that they can fill with gases, and those gases provide buoyancy for the fish," Nosal said. "Sharks do not have a swim bladder. Instead, they have a very large liver."

In addition to being filled with fat, shark livers are "very energy- and nutrient-rich," Nosal said. It's unclear why orcas would go after the sharks' [livers](#), but Nosal said he imagines "they have a high metabolism, and they have a lot of nutrient needs, and so those fats might really help them out."

One commenter on the Marine Dynamics blog wondered whether the sharks could have died from boat strikes, but Nosal dismissed that idea. "These sharks are certainly common at the surface, and so a boat strike is possible," Nosal said. "However, because three sharks washed up around the same time, three [boat strikes](#) are unlikely."

Moreover, when sea lions attack leopard sharks, "we often see these sorts of 'cluster predations,' where the sea lion will eviscerate several sharks around the same time," he said. "So again, all the evidence is consistent with orca predation."

Submitted by Stephen van Niekerk

Dates To Diarise	
13 July	Atholl Swanson & The Wynberg Improvement District
20 July	Christmas in July at Palm House
27 July	Ann Barr – organiser of the Cape Town Big Band Jazz Festival
3 August	Business Meeting
10 August	Official visit by the District Governor, Lynette Stassen
17 August	Jane Coombe & Shelley O'Connell from Wordworks, which aims to promote literacy in schools in the Lotus River and Retreat areas, and the impact the programme has had.
24 August	David Gore from the College of Magic will discuss the work done by the college in developing young magicians, and will share some success stories from local communities.
31 August	A Social: travelling dinner. Details TBA



Minutes

5 July 2017

	Compiled by Hugh Maunder
Attendance	13 members present
Visitors	From Learn to Earn: Barbara Lipp & Robyn Anderson From Childline: Ricki Fransman & Cheryl Morilly From CT Symphony Choir: Julia van Eden & Gwyneth Phillips From Cape Welsh Choir: John & Vanessa Horsfall
Fellowship	Birthdays - John Vivian 11/7, Bertie Williams 11/7 and Jackie James 5/7
From the President	Rob noted that he had been very involved with 'Proms' ever since he joined the club and it gave him special pleasure to welcome our Proms Beneficiaries to the meeting.
Slots	<p>Keela – Christmas in July will be held at Palm House on Thursday 20th July. Special fare at R110 pp. Bring a wrapped gift of value R80-R100.</p> <p>Biffy - 31 August, travelling supper – Volunteers for venues and courses.</p> <p>Mike – It would be appreciated if subs were paid as soon as possible because of early commitments to Rotary International. However, there were options of paying in instalment, debt rescheduling or knee capping.</p>
Members' moments	No moments were noted.
Speaker	<p>President Rob and Barry Cleveland, Chairman Proms Committee, presented donations of R70 000 each to representatives of "Learn to Earn" and "Childline" – See pictures below.</p> <p>Barry introduced the representatives of the choirs present and explained that payment for their participation in Proms 2017 had been deposited in their respective accounts.</p> <p>The representatives of the beneficiaries gave the meeting details of the wonderful charity work done by their organisations.</p> <p>Graham Todd thanked the speakers</p>
President's moment	President Rob bestowed the award of "Sweetie Pie" on Keela.
Swindle	<p>Robyn, a visitor, had the option to draw the winning card but drew 3 spades. Thus leaving the 9 diamonds for next week....</p> <p>Rob, by name but not by nature, won the R20 attendance prize.</p>

Duty Roster

	JULY			AUGUST
	13	20	27	3 (Business)
Sergeant	Barnard	Cleveland	Hovstad	Jackson
Wynpress Editorial	Bird	Bayes	Cleveland	Danckwerts
Wynpress Minutes	Van Niekerk	Howard	Maunder	Howard
Door Duty	Munday	Overbosch	Schonegevel R	Schonegevel J
Grace	Todd	Van Niekerk	Bayes	Barnard
Loyal Toast	Cleveland	Lidgley	Munday	Maunder
International Toast	Jackson	James	Lidgley	Munday
Speaker Intro	Schonegevel J	N/A	Schonegevel J	N/A
Speaker Thanks	Schonegevel J	N/A	Schonegevel J	N/A
Entertainment for the month				Cleveland, Dietrich, Munday, Schonegevel, J, Jackson



CHILDLINE

Robyn Anderson & Barbara Lipp



LEARN TO EARN

Cheryl Morilly & Ricky Fransman

Tailpiece

YOUR LIVING WILL

*Last night my wife and I were sitting in the study and I said to her,
'I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine
and fluids from a bottle to keep me alive. That would be no quality of
life at all. If that ever happens, just pull the plug.'
So she got up, unplugged the computer, and threw out my wine.
She can be such a bitch sometimes!!*



**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

Wynberg Rotary meet every Thursday, 6 for 6.30pm, Palm House, Wynberg.
For more information about our club, like us on Facebook or visit our website:
Wynbergrotary.org.za