

# Editorial

## AI

By Stephen Bredenkamp

The concept of AI – Artificial Intelligence – has been around for many years, popularised in scientific circles ever since Turing postulated his test in 1950.

*The Turing test, developed by Alan Turing in 1950, is a test of a machine's ability to exhibit intelligent behaviour equivalent to, or indistinguishable from, that of a human - Wikipedia*

For many years, gaming was thought to be the pinnacle of AI. Beat a human in chess, or similar 'complex' game, and you show 'human intelligence'. However, it was eventually realised that all that it took was a very quick, very big computer and it was feasible. The computer could effectively analyse an 'infinity' of possible variations. No intelligence required – just brute strength.

The development of AI has now reached a new level, with 'deep learning', or 'machine learning' whereby a computer can 'teach itself'. With the latest developments, the rules of chess (or Go, or ...) were fed in and the computer 'taught itself' how to win. Within 4 hours it could beat any other 'brute strength' based chess computer.

So could we now say the computer is 'intelligent'? This question is still prominent in philosophical and neuro-scientific circles, with but one of the accepted answers being that we have infinite possibilities with 'Artificial Reasoning', which is very deterministic, and not yet intelligence. Intelligence, in this sense is undefined – even intuition, gut-feel, etc has been argued away as the unconscious consideration of past history, developing a conclusion you are not even aware of.

What is without doubt, however, is the change this will make to society. Even if machines are never 'intelligent', 'artificial reasoning' – the creation of an answer to any deterministic problem is with us. Autonomous cars (no driver needed), any assembly line, office job, in fact any activity that can be 'deterministic' (i.e. is rule based) can be performed by a computer program. It is purely a technical challenge. China has just landed a rocket on the far-side of the moon!

This long introduction was my response to an article on the BBC web, 'The last things that make us uniquely human'. It has profound implications for society, and particularly education. What indeed is the need for learning a process, or a fact, if a computer can do it infinitely more accurately, or reveal it within seconds?

The article goes on:-

Actually, it all comes down to a fairly simple question: What's so special about us, and what's our lasting value? It can't be skills like arithmetic or typing, which machines already excel in. Nor can it be rationality, because with all our biases and emotions we humans are lacking.

## WYNPRESS

The Rotary Club of

Wynberg



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### February in Rotary

Peace and Conflict Resolution  
month

**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](http://Wynbergrotary.org.za)**



**BE THE INSPIRATION**

So perhaps we might want to consider qualities at a different end of the spectrum: radical creativity, irrational originality, even a dose of plain illogical craziness, instead of hard-nosed logic. A bit of Kirk instead of Spock. So far, machines have a pretty hard time emulating these qualities: the crazy leaps of faith, arbitrary enough not to be predicted by a 'bot', and yet more than simple randomness. Their struggle is our opportunity.

I am not suggesting we give up on reason, logic, and critical thinking. In fact, precisely because I think so highly of the values we associate with rationality and enlightenment, do I believe we might want to celebrate a bit of the opposite.

So we must aim our human contribution to this division of labour to complement the rationality of the machines, rather than to compete with it. Because that will sustainably differentiate us from them, and it is differentiation that creates value.

If I am right, we should foster a creative spirit, irreverent takes, and even irrational ideas as we educate our children. Not because irrationality is bliss, but because a dose of illogical creativity will complement the rationality of the machine. It'll keep guaranteeing us a place on the table of evolution.

Unfortunately, however, our education system has not caught up to the impending reality of this Second Machine Age. Much like peasants stuck in pre-industrial thinking, our schools and universities are structured to mould pupils to be mostly obedient servants of rationality, and to develop outdated skills in interacting with outdated machines.

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20170309-the-last-things-that-will-make-us-uniquely-human>

Viktor Mayer-Schonberger is Professor of Internet Governance and Regulation at the Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford.



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The Rotarian Action Group for Peace gives Rotary members resources and support to advance world peace and turn ambitious ideas into life-changing realities.

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<https://www.rotarianactiongroupforpeace.org/>

# Minutes: 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Compiled by Barry Cleveland

## Attendance

13 members present = 50%

Guests: Peter Dutton (Guest Speaker), Keith & Alison Bull, Athol Rice (all from Hout Bay RC), Sara Naidoo

## From the chair of President Biffy

1. Childline needs another hands-on effort: tidy garden, prune trees etc. A wall also needs to be taken down.
2. Sat. 23 Feb. Rotary turns 113. We need a venue for a social – Volunteers please. NLC team from Oddemarka will be here at that time too.
3. Raid on Hout Bay RC. Dave to arrange.
4. String and Hugh are both 'man down'; and Don isn't well either after a recent operation.
5. Shelterbox: Sat. 30 March is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Big Green Box event at the V&A.
6. Saturday 2 Feb. there are two District Workshops – (1) Literacy workshop. R50 pp. 8:00-12:00. Kelvin Grove. (2) Rotaract membership at Blouberg.

## Members' Moments

Keela was given a promotion, just before Christmas – Congratulations!!

## Fellowship

Birthdays: Lina on 26<sup>th</sup>; Candice and Ruth on 27<sup>th</sup>; Biffy on 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Slots

**Graham** spoke to String, who is suffering from a suspected fracture of a spinal vertebra, exacerbated by gastritis. All rather uncomfortable! Graham recommended quantities of beer and Marie biscuits....

## Guest Speaker

Peter Dutton is a Past President of Hout Bay (twice!) and gave us an insight into their latest community project – a skateboard park. Hout Bay is described as a 'troubled valley'. It has a wealthy centre, an old fishing community at the harbour and a relatively recent influx of a black community, resulting in conflicts. Skateboarding has been identified as a bonding sport. It encourages self-confidence and improved social behavior. Accordingly, 4 years ago Hout Bay RC embarked on a project in partnership with Indigo Youth Movement to build a skate park, 'Eyethu' covering 1600m<sup>2</sup>, and the first concrete foundations were poured just a week ago. Budgeted cost is R100 000, and they will welcome any co-funding. Lina introduced and thanked our speaker.

## Swindle

The kitty now stands at R1030. Stacy only managed the 10 of diamonds (shame!) Attendance prize of R20 went to Dennis.

## President's Pearls

**"Compassion and love are precious things in life. They are not complicated. They are simple but difficult to practise"**

Duty Roster	February			
	7 Club meeting	14	21	28
Sergeant	Barnard	Todd	Jackson	Barnard
Wynpress Editorial	Bonga	Cleveland	Dietrich	Gowdy
Wynpress Minutes	Thomas	Howard	Bredenkamp	Cleveland
Door Duty	Howard	Jackson	Maunder	Munday
Grace	Schonegevel R	Thomas	Todd	Van Niekerk
Loyal Toast	Todd	Van Niekerk	Barnard	Bayes
International Toast	Barnard	Bayes	Bredenkamp	Bird
Speaker Intro and Thanks	N/A	TBA	TBA	TBA
Entertainment for the month	Murphy, Howard, Maunder, Overbosch, O'Driscoll			

## Dates To Diarise

<b>7 February</b>	Club meeting
<b>10 February (Sunday)</b>	Opera Lite @ Marist (Kromboom Rotary Club)
<b>14 February</b>	TBA
<b>21 February</b>	Kelly Blake (WGHS Interact) on her voluntary work at the 2 Oceans Aquarium. + Students and teachers from Oddemarka Junior School, Norway
<b>23 February (Saturday)</b>	Celebration of the 113rd Birthday of Rotary (Paul Harris' Chicago Club)
<b>28 February</b>	Julia and Andiswa (Manager and Training Manager from MOT) will share a typical training process with us; including packing their hand-out parcels
<b>5 March (Tuesday)</b>	TBC Raid on Hout Bay RC. Guest speaker Delia Sainsbury
<b>13 March (Wednesday)</b>	Wynberg Rotaract's Birthday
<b>14 March</b>	Club meeting: TBC Proms 2018 feedback/MOT/Strategic planning

*"I have mood poisoning. Must be something I hate."*

Marilyn Manson

# Tailpiece

**THEY FINALLY FOUND A NAME FOR US!**

**I just discovered my age group!**

**I am a Seenager. (Senior teenager)**

**I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 50-60 years later.**

**I don't have to go to school or work**

**I get an allowance every month.**

**I have my own place to live.**

**I don't have a curfew.**

**I have a driver's licence and my own car.**

**I have ID that gets me into bars and the wine store. I like the wine store best.**

**The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant, they aren't scared of anything, they have been blessed to live this long, why be scared?**

**And I don't have acne.**

**Life is Good!**

**Also, you will feel much more intelligent after reading this, if you are a Seenager.**

**Brains of older people are slow because they know so much. People do not decline mentally with age it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information in their brains. Scientists believe this also makes you hard of hearing as it puts pressure on your inner ear.**

**Also, older people often go to another room to get something and when they get there, they stand there wondering what they came for. It is NOT a memory problem it is nature's way of making older people do more exercise.**

**SO THERE!!**