

## Editorial

# THE SANTA SHOEBOX PROJECT



*Irené Pieters is a woman who works non-stop and sets herself almost impossible goals.*

After being diagnosed with osteoarthritis, Irené Pieters's career came to an abrupt halt. But every cloud has a silver lining. Marchelle Abrahams chatted to her about her first passion and second career.

After a 25-year-long career as a sports physiotherapist, Irené Pieters had no choice but to retire as a result of osteoarthritis in her hands.

"I was devastated at the time, but it gave me a chance to pursue my passion for charity," says the creative mind behind the Santa Shoebox Project.

The initiative, now in its 11th year, has grown from strength to strength under Pieters' guidance. The project, which started out as 180 boxes in Cape Town, has managed to double its numbers every year.

### The seed is planted

Her passion for helping those in need led Pieters to a charity group called From The Children To The Children, as a volunteer. Not content with just helping out on a volunteer basis, she wanted to do more.

And then came her light-bulb moment: "I was inspired by an idea of the founder of the group - to distribute gifts at Christmas time to underprivileged children."

She was then appointed project leader for what was to become the Santa Shoebox Project. The initiative distributed 2000 boxes instead of the planned 600 in its first year.

Current numbers are sitting on a distribution of 100 000 gifts to underprivileged children per year across South Africa and Namibia.

### To infinity and beyond

Pieters says the hard work didn't stop there - the Santa Shoebox Project has now set a target of reaching a million under-privileged children by 2019.

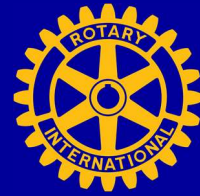
"In 2012 I decided to cap the target at 100 000, which greatly assisted with planning and especially the logistics. We have been doing 100 000 for the past four years."

She seems unperturbed by the mention of a million. "I believe we have the experience, the resources and the support of all of South Africa, so there is no stopping this March to a Million."

*Submitted by Lina Howard*

## WYNPRESS

The Rotary Club of  
Wynberg



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### President

Biffy Danckwerts 0815479489

### Secretary

Monique Bayes 0832580389

### Treasurer

Rob Murphy 837267060

### Editorial Board

Barry Cleveland, Lina Howard, Stephanie  
Thomas, Hugh Maunder, Stephen  
Bredenkamp

### September in Rotary

Basic education and literacy 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**

# Minutes: 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Compiled by Lina Howard

## Attendance

16 members present (61.5%)

Hon. Members/Rotaractors/Visitors: Wenche Hovstad, Chadwin Petersen, Monique Ewen, Alan and Regine Ewen, Sandy Wares, James Thom, Robyn Law, Ryall Connor, Colin Bird

## From the chair of President Biffy

President Biffy welcomed everyone to the meeting, and itemised the following:

- She was the only member of WRC to attend Cape of Good Hope's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- Rotary Africa's digital magazine is very informative.
- Dave, Mike, Lina and Keela have offered to work towards a Global Grant for Victoria Hospital. Stephen has given them the info. on how to proceed.

## Fellowship

Dave's birthday on 14<sup>th</sup> September and Karen's on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

## Slots

**Chadwin:** Steenberg Rotaract have a wonderful project on child development called ItBothersMe. They are hoping to help as many children as possible – emotionally, physically and mentally:

Phase 1 will entail a full clean-up at CAFDA.

Phase 2 will include a recycling project – collecting bread tags, pegs, plastic bottles, egg boxes, newspaper, wool, magazines, ribbons, buttons, paper cups etc

**Barry:** Proms – all tickets for the Sunday performance have been sold; and there are just over 100 left for Saturday.

**Dennis:** Two lecturers and four students from Haugaland Technical College will be visiting between 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> October. They will attend the club meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> and visit schools and touristy spots around Cape Town during the week.

Transport is a challenge, which Biffy will look into.

Members who have offered to host: Bruce, Dennis, Stacy and Biffy.

Wynberg Rotaract can host one evening – possibly 10 pin bowling.

The school bursary evening will be held early in 2019.

## Induction

Pres. Biffy inducted Monique Ewen (Wynberg Rotaract Club) and Chadwin Petersen (Steenberg Rotaract Club) as Honorary Members of WRC.

## Guest Speaker

Bev gave a colourful insight into the June visit by members of WRC to the Rotary Club of Karmøy, Norway. She talked through the whole experience, showed many photos and shared some warm moments with the generous hosts. Hopefully it will be an ongoing friendship exchange – learning about each other's country.

The evening ended with everyone wrapping and packing gifts for Santa's Shoeboxes and the Christmas handover to deserving youngsters.

## Swindle

Keela came close with the 10 of diamonds for the R1200 prize. Colin donated his R26 attendance prize back to the kitty (his pockets just couldn't hold that amount of small change!)

## President's Words of Wisdom

"Never stop doing little things for others. Sometimes those little things occupy the biggest part of their hearts."

<b>Duty Roster</b>	<b>September</b>		<b>October</b>	
	20	27	4 Club Meeting	11
Sergeant	Schreiber	Todd	Barnard	Cleveland
Wynpress Editorial	Smith	Thomas	Van Niekerk	Todd
Wynpress Minutes	Thomas	Van Niekerk	Bredenkamp	Howard
Door Duty	Bayes	Bredenkamp	Bonga	Gowdy
Grace	O'Driscoll	Overbosch	Schonegevel J	Schonegevel R
Loyal Toast	Bird	Bonga	Bredenkamp	Howard
International Toast	Jackson	Munday	Murphy	Murphy
Speaker Intro and Thanks	Barnard	Bird	N/A	Thomas
Entertainment for the month	Bayes, Gowdy, Murphy, Thomas, Schonegevel R		Howard, Maunder, Edwards, O'Driscoll, Overbosch	

## Dates To Diarise

<b>20 September</b>	Visiting MIT student Reanna Pittman will speak to us about solar powered water desalination.
<b>25 September (Tuesday)</b>	ER Community Medics: Comedy Night
<b>27 September</b>	Cyber Phishing/Hacking/Rotary website (Stephen B)
<b>29 September (Saturday)</b>	Last Night of the Proms at 20.00 in the City Hall
<b>30 September (Sunday)</b>	Last Night of the Proms at 17.00 in the City Hall
<b>6 October</b>	Kids' day out
<b>11 October</b>	Belinda Speed will talk to us about her PhD project on forensics + lecturers and students from Haugaland Technical College
<b>13 October</b>	Mini Conference in Mossel Bay
<b>17 October (Wednesday)</b>	RC Seapoint: Top Cop awards
<b>18 October</b>	TBC Social Evening – Suggestions?



EVANSTON, Ill. Just a month ago Rotary announced nearly \$100 million in grants to support the global effort to end polio, a vaccine-preventable disease that once paralyzed hundreds of thousands of children each year.

The announcement comes as Nigeria marks two years without any reported cases of wild poliovirus, following four reported cases in 2016.

Rotary has committed to raising \$50 million a year to be matched 2-to-1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, yielding \$450 million for polio eradication activities over a three-year period. To date, Rotary has contributed more than \$1.8 billion to fight the disease, including matching funds from the Gates Foundation, and countless volunteer hours since launching its polio immunization program, PolioPlus, in 1985. In 1988, Rotary became a core partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative with the WHO, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Gates Foundation later joined. Since the initiative launched, the incidence of polio has plummeted by more than 99.9 percent, from about 350,000 cases in 1988 to 22 confirmed in 2017.

## Tailpiece

### A well run business

**Me:** I was doing an overnight at a hotel away from home. I took my computer down to the bar to do some data entries. I sat down at the bar and asked the bartender, 'What's the wifi password?'

**Bartender:** 'You need to buy a drink first.'

**Me:** 'Okay, I'll have a beer.'

**Bartender:** 'We have Heineken on tap.'

**Me:** 'Sure. How much is that?'

**Bartender:** 'R40.00.'

**Me:** 'Here you are. OK now, what's the wifi password?'

**Bartender:** ' "youneedtobuyadrinkfirst"; No spaces and all lower case.'