

## Editorial

### SVALBARD

Situated between the mainland of Norway and the North Pole lies the Archipelago of Svalbard with a population of just over 2 500 inhabitants, 72% of whom are Norwegian with the balance being made up of Russians, Ukrainians and other races.

The other 'inhabitants' who populate Svalbard's rugged, remote terrain of glaciers and frozen tundra include Polar Bears, Norwegian Reindeer and Arctic Foxes. All of the above share the beauty of the 'Northern Lights' which are visible during winter and summer – 24 hours of midnight sun.

Although there are well over 1 000 seed banks in the world the island of Svalbard is unique in that it has a Global Seed Vault in the most remote location in the world. Recognition of the vulnerability of the world's other genebanks to potential world disasters led to the Norwegian Government's decision to create a seed bank that would stand the test of time. 1 000M<sup>2</sup> was tunnelled into the side of a mountain to provide a home insulated by thick rock and permafrost and requiring no power, at a cost of \$ 8.8 million, or 45 million Norwegian Krone.



It was opened in February 2008. The seeds are stored in 3 ply foil packets at a temperature of 18°C and as at 2018 there were just less than 1 million seed samples from different locations around the

world. Of these about 10% are crop seeds.

It has a capacity to store 2.5 billion seeds. Some examples include from Africa and Asia: maize, rice, wheat and sorghum and from South America: eggplant, lettuce, barley and potato.



All in all a fantastic place to take a family for a safe outdoor holiday. There are daily flights from Nassau to an adjacent, larger island and then ferry to Spanish Wells.

*Submitted by Dennis Gowdy*

## WYNPRESS

The Rotary Club of  
Wynberg



Vol: 70 No. 26  
14<sup>th</sup> March, 2019

### President

Biffy Danckwerts 0815479489

### Secretary

Monique Bayes 0832580389

### Treasurer

Rob Murphy 837267060

### Editorial Board

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

### March in Rotary

Water and Sanitation 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: 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Compiled by Hugh Maunder

## Attendance

17 members

8 guests – The delegates from MOT, Odd Henning, Brian Dalton, Julia Duminy and Andiswa Makaha.

Sara Naidoo, Carl-Heinz Duisberg, Robin McDonough and Neil.

## From the chair of President Biffy

Reminder for Cape Cycle Tour 10 March – We need 12, but we are one short.

Note the Hout Bay raid on Tuesday 5th March .

Last Night of the Proms duties will be circulated in the following week

Biffy will take over duties in respect of attendance to dinner at Palms

## Fellowship

No Known anniversaries in the following 2 weeks.

## Slots

**Dennis:** Thanked all who helped host and entertain our 4 visitors from Norway.

**Barry:** Reported that 420 tickets had been sold for Saturday's and 682 for Sunday's Proms. He regretted that he would miss this year's Proms, having not missed any previous ones since joined the club in 1989.

**Justin:** Asked members to help sort books at the Church on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

**Odd Henning:** Wished the club all the best for the future.

## Guest Speakers

Julia Duminy and Andiswa Makaha explained that MOT is a training process for young people living in deprived, often gang ridden, areas. The object is to empower young people to become good citizens and one of them described it as "**our good gang**".

MOT was developed in Norway and the process has been implemented in South Africa, in the Eastern and Western Cape, for the past 10 years.

Brian Dalton of MOT, who is a Past President of Wynberg Rotary, Introduced and thanked the speakers.

## Swindle

Looking for the Queen of Spades, Justin drew the King of Clubs (Ah! Shame). But fate smiled on him as his name was ten drawn for the attendance prize of R25.

## President's Pearls

**If you're helping someone and expecting something in return, you're doing business and not kindness.**



Duty Roster	March			April
	14 Club meeting	21 NO MEETING	28	4 Club Meeting
	Sergeant	Todd	Barnard	Overbosch
	Wynpress Editorial	Howard	Munday	Murphy
	Wynpress Minutes	Thomas	Bredenkamp	Cleveland
	Door Duty	O'Driscoll	Overbosch	Schonegevel R
	Grace	Bayes	Bird	Bongs
	Loyal Toast	Bird	Cleveland	Dietrich
	International Toast	Dietrich	Gowdy	Howard
	Speaker Intro and Thanks	N/A	Edwards	N/A
Entertainment for the month	Bonga, Edwards, Schreiber M, Smith, Todd			Van Niekerk K, Cleveland, Dietrich, Munday, Schonegevel J

Dates To Diarise	
14 March	Club meeting: Proms 2019 final plans/MOT/Strategic planning
16 March	Last Night of the Proms 19.00: Cape Town City Hall
17 March	Last Night of the Proms 17.00: Cape Town City Hall
28 March	Aid for Animals in Distress (AID4AID) – a local voluntary organization which addresses all sorts of animal rights issues
4 April	Club meeting: Proms 2019 feedback and other matters
11 April	Life coach, Rex Hillier on 'Addictions'
18 April	No Meeting: Tomorrow is Good Friday
25 April	TBA
2-5 May	PETS / District Conference: Lord Charles Hotel

# Tailpiece

As it is Clean Water and Sanitation Month in Rotary I decided to share a Rotary Project in a divided region, instead of a tailpiece, just to show what we can do if we all try.

## Water project unites Lebanon clubs across all divides

A project to provide clean water to all of Lebanon's schools is uniting leaders from many of the country's diverse religious, cultural, and political divisions.

In 2011, Rotary members in northern Lebanon decided to install new tanks and water filters in a few nearby schools with the help of a Rotary Foundation grant. The idea caught on and a few other clubs followed suit.

Two years later, District 2452 Governor Jamil Mouawad and other district leaders saw the potential of creating one giant water project that could reach every school and involve all 24 of the country's Rotary clubs. They formed a committee to handle publicity and gather technical knowledge, while each club was asked to provide volunteers, contribute funds, apply for grants, and secure contributions from outside organizations.

"Every student has the right to drink clean water. It goes without saying that clean drinking water leads to less diseases, healthier students, and consequently, better education," says Mouawad. "The bigger the challenge, the greater its positive impact on humanity."

While clean water is the main objective, the leaders also saw the effort as a means of helping heal Lebanon's long history of sectarian strife. A civil war divided the country from 1975 to 1990, leaving an estimated 120,000 people dead. In recent years, Lebanon's government is a shifting coalition of religions, political parties, and sects.

Lina Shehayeb, president of the Rotary Club of Aley, is a Druze by faith. Shehayeb says working alongside club members who are Catholic, Maronite, Greek Orthodox, Armenian Orthodox, and Muslim to promote the project has deepened her understanding of those with different religious or political views.

"We are building peace and understanding," she says. "There has never been anything quite like this in our country."

Even the distribution of club responsibilities is designed to foster peace. Each club is responsible for a certain number of schools, some in their area but some in a totally separate region. The clubs nominate a project coordinator, find qualified suppliers, arrange for sponsors, and allocate contributions from sponsors, district funds, and global grants to finance the installation of filters in the schools.

"For example a club from Jounieh, a Christian resort town north of Beirut, might be assigned schools in the southern mountains near the Israeli border, an area that is considerably poorer and primarily Shia Muslim," explains Mouawad. "After all, who — no matter what their political or religious views — could argue with providing clean water for children?"

The effort could not have come at a better time. With the crisis in Syria, Lebanon's population is ballooning with refugees, including many school-age children. By improving the schools these kids attend, Rotary members are laying the groundwork for future peace in the region.

The committee is working in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, World Vision, UNICEF, and the Red Cross. Red Cross volunteers take water samples in each of the schools a few times a year and send those samples to the Lebanese Agricultural Laboratory Institute for testing.

According to the committee's technical team, it will cost roughly \$2,500 a school to install water tanks, filters, and provide ongoing monitoring. About 200 schools have been covered so far. The goal is to reach all 1,535 schools within three years.

By Arnold R. Grahl



# Rotary



# Club of Wynberg