



ROTARY CLUB OF WYNBERG

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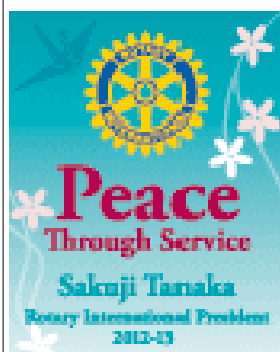
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NEW GENERATIONS MONTH



EDITORIAL

PACKAGING MYTH BUSTERS (MYTH 1)

PACKAGING IS WASTEFUL AND A THREAT TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Submitted by David Barnard

Packaging is an essential part of modern life allowing people to consume fresh, uncontaminated food and beverages wherever they want in the quantities needed.

Modern living has driven the desire for convenience foods in ready to prepare and single serve formats, this pre-preparation ultimately reduces the possible amount of solid food waste generated by households.

Just pause to consider what a modern large retailer would look like without packaging.

Packaging allows the contents to be preserved and has resulted in the emergence of everyday products that could not exist without packaging. Consider for example carbonated soft drinks, long life milk, ready meals and household chemicals. And without a good packaging system, consumers could not be confident that delicate electronic products such as a computer or televisions will work as soon as they are out of the box."

The production of packaging, like the production of any product, involves the consumption of raw materials, energy and water, and results in emissions to air, soil and water. In developed countries, packaging accounts for around 3% of the waste sent to landfill, whether measured by weight or by volume; in SA, packaging is perhaps 6%.

Between 2004 and 2006, consultants working for the European Commission reviewed evidence from relevant major studies and analyses covering a very broad spectrum of methodological approaches to scope the environmental impacts of all products consumed in Europe. The EIPRO (Environmental Impact of Products) report concluded that on average, packaging accounts for 8% of the total energy requirement of packaged products.

A study carried out by for INCPEN (the Industry Council for Packaging and the Environment) in the UK came to very similar conclusions in respect of products consumed in the home. It was estimated that packaging is typically 9% of the weight of the packaged product and uses 8% of the energy required to produce and deliver all products to the household.

It follows, therefore, that the resources locked up in the packaged products are about ten times greater than the resources used for the packaging which protects the contents. Thus, by avoiding food spoilage and product damage, the overall impact of packaging on the environment – and on society – is in fact positive.

A 2008 policy brief from SIWI, the Stockholm International Water Institute, says that in Africa, "in many countries the post-harvest losses of food grains are estimated at 25% of the total crop harvested. For some crops such as fruits, vegetables and root crops, being less hardy than grains, post-harvest losses can reach 50% Economic losses in the dairy sector in East Africa and the Near East due to spoilage and waste could average as much as USD 90 million per year. In Kenya, each year around 95 million litres of milk, worth around USD 22.4 million are lost. Cumulative losses in Tanzania amount to about 59.5 million litres of milk each year, over 16% of total dairy production during the dry season and 25% in the wet season. In Uganda, approximately 27% of all milk produced is lost, equivalent to USD 23 million per year. In Ghana post-harvest losses can account for 35% of total agricultural output."

Obviously, the use of more (or more efficient) packaging would significantly reduce these wastage rates.

Meanwhile, the packaging sector is constantly improving its environmental profile:

- for economic reasons, packaging has been progressively lightweighted as technology has allowed, and innovations to use resources more efficiently also reduce depletion of resources and pollution as well as lowering costs;
- closed-loop industrial systems have been introduced to reduce material throughput and eliminate waste – this is already happening through recycling and reuse systems where appropriate. Some of these involve business-to-business packaging systems which the consumer does not see.

Once it has performed its function packaging takes on an entirely different face. It becomes cumbersome waste.

Sub-sectors of the packaging Industry have voluntarily exercised their extended producer responsibilities forming a variety of organisations dedicated to increasing the collection and recycling of their products. In every case we have created a value for this waste so it is now effectively a resource.

It is important we consider the impact of packaging on the waste stream:

As a nation we are undisciplined litterers and this is a major cause of the unwanted and ugly perception people have of packaging. If we can stop littering we will have made a major move towards cleaning up our country.

Source: Packaging Council of South Africa

MEETING OF 6 SEPTMBER 2012

Attendance

| | |
|------------|-----|
| Membership | 24 |
| Present | 17 |
| Make ups | 0 |
| Apologies | 6 |
| Attendance | 70% |

Visitors: Laura, Simisha, Chris and Melanie Jones (guest speaker)

Honourary members: John and June

Attendance to Biffy 082 468 7504 or aecon.e@mweb.co.za.

The meeting was started with a minute of silence, in honour of Prof. Ron Davies, who passed away that morning.

Bev toasted the New York Rotary Club, who were founded in 1908 and have 200 members. Meeting on a Tuesday, they would have had their meeting on the same day that the world was remembering the attack on the World Trade Centre.

PRESIDENTS ITEMS

President Mike added to the somber mood of the evening by announcing that Edward has tendered his resignation.

On a more positive note, the year end function is planned to take place in the first week of December, most probably at The Palms with a braai on the lawns on a Saturday afternoon. He also congratulated David on his upcoming birthday the next day, and Karen on her birthday next week.

SLOTS

Biffy reminded the club about the painting project which Rotaract are undertaking at Isiphiwo on Saturday 29th, and asked for assistance in providing the painters with drinks and boerewors rolls. She also thanked Stephen for all of the support he has given her with setting up the website. If you haven't yet sent her details of your project for inclusion on the website, please do so asap.

Laura said farewell to the club, before leaving for Glasgow on Saturday. She will be studying for her Masters in Forensic Science at Strathclyde University, and will be hosted by the Rotary Club of Glasgow, who have just celebrated their centenary.

Aubrey mentioned how proud the Genetics department at the Medical School are of Laura's achievement.

JACKPOT

David was hoping to celebrate his birthday with the jackpot of R2180 in his pocket, but it was not to be, as he drew the Q♦ Candice won the generous R25 attendance prize.

PRESIDENTS QUOTES FOR THE WEEK

Being "Roald Dahl Day" it was inevitable that we would get a quote from him.

He was passionate about encouraging children to read and is regarded as one of the greatest storytellers for children of the 20th century. He used politically incorrect humour and lots of hilarious rhymes in his books, and was born on 13 September 1916 in Wales to Norwegian parents..

A couple of quotes:

"A little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest men."

***"Oh please, oh please, we beg, we pray
Go throw your TV set away
And in its place you can install
A lovely bookcase on the wall."***

GUEST SPEAKER

Our Guest Speaker, Melanie Jones, was introduced by John, who was fortunate enough to have heard some of Melanie's presentation on Environmental Awareness previously.

Melanie became interested in waste management 4 years ago, and after doing research in other parts of the world, she started her own recycling company 3 years ago. They now process about 20 tons a week.

All of the current landfills in Cape Town will be closed by 2015, with the waste then being dumped at a new facility near to Atlantis, which in turn will be full by 2023. Some of the problems associated with landfills are the release of methane gas and the contamination of the ground water.

Dry products such as glass, metal and plastic can all be reused. Organic waste is used for compost, fed to worms for the production of vericompost, or used to produce gas through anaerobic digestion. Melanie further educated us with examples of buildings and end products using recycled products, and recycling practices in other countries. Stephen thanked Melanie for an extremely interesting talk.

DUTY ROSTER

| | 20 September | 4 October | 10 October | 18 October |
|--------------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Sergeant | Wetmore | Cleveland | Gowdy | Todd |
| Attendance Officer | Danckwerts | Danckwerts | Danckwerts | Danckwerts |
| Wynpress Editorial | Bird | Gowdy | Hovstad | James |
| Minutes for Wynpress | Danckwerts | Cleveland | Smith | Danckwertst |
| Compilation of Wynpress | Knight | Danckwerts | Cleveland | Smith |
| Door Duty | Bredenkamp | Barnard | Bird | Gowdy |
| Grace | Williams | Bredenkamp | Barnard | Bird |
| Loyal Toast | Murphy | Barnard | Bird | Danckwerts |
| International Toast | Danckwerts | Gowdy | Hovstad | James |
| Speaker Introduction | Bird | N/A | N/A | Danckwerts |
| Speaker Thanks | Barnard | N/A | N/A | Bird |

IF YOU CANNOT MAKE YOUR ROSTERED DATE, PLEASE SWAP WITH ANOTHER ROTARIAN AND INFORM THE SERGEANT WHO IS ON DUTY THAT DAY

PROGRAMME

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| September 2012 | Committee: Knight, Baker, Cleveland, Munday, Orsmond |
|-----------------------|--|

Thursday 20 Sarah Yousuf – Wynberg Ambassadorial Scholar

Wednesday 26 Board meeting

Saturday 29 Painting at Isiphiwo with Rotaract

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| October 2012 | Committee: James, Danckwerts, Schreiber, Smith, Williams |
|---------------------|--|

Thursday 4 Business meeting

Wednesday 10 Combined meeting with Rotaract

Saturday 13 District mini-conference in Swellendam

Thursday 18 Ras Naidoo, Durbanville Rotary Club, on Durban Youth Council

Thursday 25 Board meeting

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| November 2012 | Committee: Barnard, Bird, Hovstad, Michalowsky, Wetmore |
|----------------------|---|

Thursday 1 Business meeting

Thursday 8 TBA

Thursday 15 TBA

Thursday 22 Board meeting

ROTARACT CORNER

Wynberg Rotaract and friends joined a group of 150 people who went to Robben Island on Saturday, to assist in cleaning the shoreline. The weather played its part, with perfect conditions, and quite a few tons of rubbish was removed. It was interesting to see just how much of Cape Town's junk gets washed across to the island.

Biffy is still looking for assistance with support for the Rotaractors who are going to be painting at Isiphiwo on Saturday 29th.

Please remember the Rotaract District Challenge to collecting toiletries. Any donations will be gladly accepted, and can be brought to our meetings.

TAILPIECE

For those of you who have been waiting for the details of Biffy's "average age" research, here are the results;

| | |
|-----|---|
| 70+ | 9 |
| 60+ | 6 |
| 50+ | 3 |
| 40+ | 7 |
| <40 | 1 |

Little Johnny watched his daddy's car pass by the school playground and go into the woods. Curious, he followed the car and saw Daddy and Aunt Jane in a passionate embrace.

Little Johnny found this so exciting that he could hardly contain himself as he ran home and started to tell his mother. 'Mummy, I was at the playground and I saw Daddy's car go into the woods with Aunt Jane. I went back to look and he was giving Aunt Jane a big kiss, and then he helped her take off her shirt. Then Aunt Jane helped Daddy take his pants off, then Aunt Jane...'

At this point Mummy cut him off and said, 'Johnny, this is such an interesting story, let's save the rest of it for supper time. I want to see the look on Daddy's face when you tell it tonight.'

At the dinner table that evening, Mummy asked little Johnny to tell his story. Johnny started his story, 'I was at the playground and I saw Daddy's car go into the woods with Aunt Jane. I went back to look and he was giving Aunt Jane a big kiss, then he helped her take off her shirt. Then Aunt Jane helped Daddy takes his pants off, then Aunt Jane and Daddy started doing the same thing that Mummy and Uncle Bill used to do when Daddy was away on the oil rigs.'

Mummy fainted!

Moral:

Sometimes you need to just shut up and listen to the whole story before you interrupt!