



ROTARY CLUB OF WYNBERG

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ROTARY MAGAZINE MONTH

**To Google or not to Google ,let that be the question;
or why our children do not remember what they have been taught.**

Submitted by Lina Godden

Many people have strong opinions about how to 'fix' schools:

more funding, better teachers, less government interference, more government interference, etc. But the one obvious, and never-stated problem, is that students don't remember what they are taught. In spite of all the "teaching to the test" that parents and teachers complain about, students still don't remember the very things they were taught as answers to test questions.

The reason they don't remember is that they are not taught how to memorise. Why is that? First, there is a cultural disdain for memorisation skills. Who needs memory skills today? Not only do we have books where we can look something up, but now we can always just "Google it." But Google can't learn a foreign language for you. What about students trying to pass high-stakes exams? Google isn't made available. And can Google make business people more knowledgeable and competent?

Being able to find information is not the same as knowing it. Access to the Internet is not always available or practical. Students become mentally lazy when they can look stuff up instead of memorizing. Memory needs exercise or it atrophies like a muscle. Memory-contest competitors train for months to become mental athletes, but when they stop training, their memory capability shrivels back to a more ordinary level.

Worse yet is a teacher prejudice against memorization. That is so "old school;" the hip thing in teaching is to focus on critical and creative thinking—those higher levels of thinking so esteemed in Bloom's Hierarchy of Learning. But memory is crucial for powerful thinking. I agree that the ultimate goal should be to teach people how to think, solve problems, and create. Central to these capabilities, however, is the ability to remember things. A person can't think in a vacuum. Critical thinking requires knowledge and acquired thinking and problem-solving skills. These things require a powerful memory.

Think about all the time and money we spend trying to learn, whether it's in school, on the job, or anywhere else. What good is it trying to learn something if you don't remember it? The only benefit I can think of is that such temporary learning makes it easier to learn something a second time.



The more one knows (remembers), the more intellectual competencies one has to draw upon for thinking, problem solving, and even creativity. Society does not need a workforce of trained seals, but it does need people with knowledge and skills that they can apply appropriately to different situations. U.S. manufacturing company executives are complaining that, since manufacturing technology is so complicated, they have to rely on foreign workers who have better educational backgrounds than do most U.S. student. The same problem exists for recruiters to graduate education programs at U.S. colleges of engineering.

Think back to your own school days. How many teachers explicitly taught you how to remember effectively and efficiently? Your teachers may have used a couple of acrostics and limericks, or warned you not to cram, but chances are that was the extent of your formal education in how to learn. The emphasis in school is always on what to learn. Who teaches how to learn?

The problem is that learning is hard for so many people. They have not learned much about how to learn from parents or teachers, or on their own. When learning is hard it's not fun, so students avoid learning until it is absolutely necessary. These students miss out on all the fun and rewards of lifelong learning.

- From a book written on Memory Power by Dr Klemm

MEETING OF 28 MARCH 2012

Attendance

Membership	23
Present	15
Make ups	1
Apologies	6
Attendance	67%

Visitors: Phillip Munday

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

SLOTS

Biffy reminded the members that there is no such thing as a "Partners Evening", everybody is welcome to attend every meeting. She confirmed that we have banners in stock, should you be planning on visiting another club, and requested support for the Rotaract club and the sponsored 5km walk on Sunday 14th April. Rotaract are also looking for a public speaking expert on the 13th April, so please let her know if you have suggestions. The final item was a reminder of the meeting at Lavender Hill on the 11th April.

Stephen read out the letter from Richard Branson, regarding the gym which Virgin Active have sponsored at Lavender Hill, and drew our attention to the impact that the sports field has had on the school and the community.

Barry gave himself a slot, on Graham's behalf, to confirm that Proms planning is all on track, and that this year should run as smoothly as the preceding 27 years.

String expressed his pleasure that, after many years, we now have a Club shirt.

Don passed on the greetings from Seahouses, and let us know that he had sent our wishes to them.

GUEST SPEAKER

Dennis again managed to make everyone envious of his fascinating travels, this time to Myanmar, which he visited in February. At least, being winter, it was a bit cooler, at only 37°. After explain the differences between temples, shrines and pagodas, Dennis then showed us amazing examples of each of these, including some with gold leaf covering and encrusted with diamonds.

He was impressed with the wide variety of food which they tried, ranging from local dishes to Indian, and even Western menus.

The hotels in which the group stayed were mostly magnificent, many very recently built or renovated, as the country becomes more aware of the importance of tourism.

Travelling by air, bus, boat and even horse cart, they saw many different aspects of the country, palaces ranging from highly ornate to barely standing, local markets and even harvesting of rubber in the traditional way.

Dennis found the locals to be extremely hard working, with no fat people. There was no litter or mess, as everything is used, nothing goes to waste.

Should you be planning on going to Myanmar, he recommends taking at least a firm nail brush, for cleaning your feet, which get extremely dirty when visiting the temples.

As 85% of the population are Buddhists, we saw photographs of a wide variety of statues of Buddha, including one that's 11 storeys high.

Stephen passed on the thanks of the club for another great presentation.

PROGRAMME

April 2013

Committee: Barnard, Bird, Hovstad, Michalowsky, Wetmore

Thursday 4 **Normal meeting: Speaker: Cathy Stagg on how to take good pictures (bring your cameras)**

Friday 5 **Bingo at Rotaract**

Thursday 11 **Normal meeting at Lavender Hill High School: Speaker: DR. RUBEN RICHARDS, company CEO, Executive Secretary of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission, ex-deputy director of the Scorpions, visiting professor to Wits University's Graduate School of Public and Development Management, etc, etc. Topic: based around 'brokering a cease-fire deal with the gang leaders of Lavender Hill in November 2012'.**

Thursday 18

Joint meeting with Rotaract at Palms: Speaker: Mike Roberts
The role of the Agulhas Current in Climate Change and South
Africa's scientific involvement.

Thursday 25

Normal meeting: visit by GSE team from Japan

DUTY ROSTER

	4 April	11 April	18 April	25 April	2 May
Sergeant	Wetmore	Todd	Barnard	Overbosch	Gowdy
Attendance Officer	Danckwerts	Danckwerts	Danckwerts	Danckwerts	Danckwerts
Wynpress Editorial	Van Eeden	Murphy	James	Klotz-Gleave	Lidgley
Minutes for Wynpress	Danckwerts	Knight	Cleveland	Danckwerts	Cleveland
Compilation of Wynpress	Knight	Danckwerts	Knight	Cleveland	Danckwerts
Door Duty	Bird	Gowdy	Hovstad	James	Klotz-Gleave
Grace	Lidgley	Barnard	Bird	Bredenkamp	Cleveland
Loyal Toast	Barnard	Bird	Bredenkamp	Cleveland	Danckwerts
International Toast	Bird	Hovstad	James	Klotz-Gleave	Michalowsky
Speaker Introduction	Gowdy	Orsmond	Overbosch	Bird	Todd
Speaker Thanks	Van Eeden	Wetmore	Williams	Barnard	Bird

IF YOU CANNOT MAKE YOUR ROSTERED DATE, PLEASE SWAP WITH ANOTHER ROTARIAN AND INFORM THE DUTY SERGEANT

JACKPOT

The jackpot reached a new record high of R2 850, which presumably was enough for Graham to ensure that his name was drawn. Unfortunately for him he wasn't feeling well, and his sleight of hand skills weren't up to the task of choosing the right card. Mervyn took home the R25 attendance prize.

PRESIDENT'S QUOTE

President Mike turned to Lady Gaga for inspiration this week.

"It doesn't matter who you are, or where you come from, or how much money you've got in your pocket. You have your own destiny and your own life ahead of you."

"Love is like a brick. You can build a house, or you can sink a dead body."

"I've always been famous, it's just no one knew it yet."

TAILPIECE

For some reason this Australian joke made me think of String- Ed

A bloke's wife goes missing while diving off the West Australian Coast. He reports the event, searches fruitlessly and spends a terrible night wondering what could have happened to her. Next morning there's a knock at the door and he is confronted by a couple of policemen, the old Sarge and a younger Constable. The Sarge says, 'Mate, we have some news for you, unfortunately some really bad news, but, some good news, and maybe some more good news'.

'Well,' says the bloke, 'I guess I'd better have the bad news first?' The Sarge says, 'I'm really sorry mate, but your wife is dead. Young Bill here found her lying at about five fathoms in a little cleft in the reef. He got a line around her and we pulled her up, but she was dead.'

The bloke is naturally distressed to hear of this and has a bit of a turn. But after a few minutes he pulls himself together and asks what the good news is.

The Sarge says, 'Well when we got your wife up there were quite a few really good sized lobsters and a swag of nice crabs attached to her, so we've brought you your share.' He hands the bloke a bag with a couple of nice lobsters and four or five crabs in it. 'Geez thanks. They're bloody beauties. I guess it's an ill wind and all that... So what's the other possible good news?

'Well', the Sarge says, 'if you fancy a quick trip, me and young Bill here get off duty at around 11 o'clock and we're gonna shoot over there and pull her up again.'