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**International  
Service Month**



## EDITORIAL

# WRITING

*From INTELLIGENT LIFE magazine, January/February 2012 (Lina Howard)*

The greatest invention of all must surely be writing. It is not just one of the foundations of civilisation: it underpins the steady accumulation of intellectual achievement. By capturing ideas in physical form, it allows them to travel across space and time without distortion, and thus slip the bonds of human memory and oral transmission, not to mention the whims of tyrants and the vicissitudes of history.

Its origins are prosaic: it was invented by accountants, not poets, in the 4th millennium BC, as a spur of the counting system with which farming societies kept track of agricultural goods.

As human settlements swelled from villages to the first cities, writing was needed for administrative reasons. But it quickly became more flexible and expressive, capable of capturing the subtleties of human thought, not just lists of rations doled out or kings long dead. And this allowed philosophers, poets and chroniclers to situate their ideas in relation to those of previous thinkers, to argue about them and elaborate upon them.

Each generation could build on the ideas of its forebears, making it possible for there to be species-wide progress in philosophy, commerce, science and literature.

The amazing thing about writing, given how complicated its early systems were, is that anyone learned it at all. The reason they did is revealed in the ancient Egyptian scribal-training texts, which emphasise the superiority of being a scribe over all other career choices, with titles like "Do Not Be Soldier, Priest or Baker", "Do Not Be a Husbandman" and "Do Not Be a Charioteer". This last text begins: "Set thine heart on being a scribe, that thou mayest direct the whole earth." The earliest scribes understood that literacy was power – a power that now extends to most of humanity, and has done more for human progress than any other invention

## ATTENDANCE

**Membership:** 29  
**Present:** 19  
**Make Ups:** 0  
**Apologies:** 2  
**Attendance:** 70%

Attendance to Biffy 081 547 9489 or [aecon.e@mweb.co.za](mailto:aecon.e@mweb.co.za).

**Visitors:** Guest speaker: John Rae, accompanied by his wife, Rose Rae (Mercy Ships), Rodney Mazinter and Gavin Schachat (Sea Point RC), Franzi (STEP Sea Point), Ruth Dessington (Kyalami RC), Keela O'Driscoll. VTT: Nadine Itel, Janine Haerle, Sarah Oertli, Maja Krummen-Rubin, Andrea Walter.



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## SLOTS

After Pam & Jackie gave the toasts with which we start our weekly meeting President Karen opened the Meeting and welcomed all our guests, including our visitors from Switzerland.

**Stephen** announced good news about the Lavender Hill School with which Rotary Wynberg has had a long standing relationship. Lavender Hill is to get a new school hall costing approximately R5 million and to which the school must contribute R200 000. They are also to get a new security fence costing approximately a R1 million which will mean that their school sports fields will be more secure and less open to being vandalized.

**Biffy** announced that information about the Knysna Conference will be disseminated to the Club in due course.

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## GUEST SPEAKER

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On Thursday 24 April 2014 we were fortunate to be visited by John Rae, National Director of Mercy



Ships Southern Africa and his wife Rose Rae. John gave us a most informative and interesting overview of the Mercy Ships organization, their vision, goals, scope and the wonderful work they and the many wonderful volunteers who work for Mercy Ships do both on their hospital ship and in clinics on land, especially in the Eastern Cape. Of significance to us at Rotary Wynberg was the enormous financial support that Rotary Global donates to Mercy Ships. This 3 year partnership funding will come to an end soon but thankfully Rotary Global is actively looking at ways to continue to support Mercy Ships together with other partners. Where and when we can we should encourage Rotary Global in their continued support of Mercy Ships.

**Mercy Ships** is an international charity that was founded in 1978 by Don and Deyon Stephens. Mercy Ships currently operates the largest non-governmental hospital ship in the world, providing free health care, community development projects, community health education, mental health programmes, agriculture projects, and palliative care for terminally ill patients. Mercy Ships has operated in more than 70 developing nations around the world, with a current focus on the countries of West Africa. In South Africa a flagship project is the Mercy Ships **Mercy Vision Southern Africa**,



a project to reduce the prevalence of blindness due to cataracts by building capacity in the local public eye care system, more information on this wonderful project can be found at <http://www.mercyships.org.za/mercy%20vision%20southern%20africa.html>

Finally, the Mercy Ships Volunteer Programme offers interesting and valuable, life changing opportunities for service and the chance to meet and work with a diverse and interesting group of people. More information on the Mercy Ships Volunteer Programme can be found at <http://www.mercyships.org.za/how-to-volunteer.html>

Thank you to John & Rose Rae for joining us at Rotary Wynberg

and the interesting talk you gave us, John.

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## ROTARY CORNER

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### SAVING MOTHERS & CHILDREN

At least 7 million children under the age of 5 die each year due to malnutrition, poor health care, and inadequate sanitation. To help reduce this rate, Rotary provide immunizations and antibiotics to babies, improve access to essential medical services, and support trained health care providers for mothers and their children. Rotary projects ensure sustainability by empowering the local community to take ownership of health care training programmes.

### SUPPORTING EDUCATION

Sixty-seven million children worldwide have no access to education and more than 775 million people over the age of 15 are illiterate. Our goal in Rotary is to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and illiteracy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult illiteracy.

### GROWING LOCAL ECONOMIES

Nearly 1.4 billion employed people live on \$1.25 a day! Rotary carry out service projects that enhance economic and community development and develop opportunities for decent and productive work for young and old, We also help strengthen local entrepreneurs and community leaders, particularly women, in impoverished communities.

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### PRESIDENT'S QUOTE

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**President Karen's** computer having failed her there were no President's quotes but here is one some anyway:

**You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough.”— Mae West**

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### DUTY ROSTER

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DUTY	1 May	8 May	15 May	22 May	29 May
Sergeant	No meeting was held it being Workers Day or Labour Day as they like to call it in the USA - a public holiday for us!	Murphy	Cleveland	Van Eeden	 <b>SOCIAL - WATCH THIS SPACE</b> 
Attendance Officer		Danckwerts	Danckwerts	Danckwerts	
Wynpress Editorial		Todd	Van Eeden	Van Wyk	
Minutes for Wynpress		Cleveland	Danckwerts	Wetmore	
Compilation of Wynpress		Wetmore	Cleveland	Danckwerts	
Door Duty		Cleveland	van Eeden	Van Wyk	
Grace		Gavin	Schonegevel	van Niekerk	
Loyal Toast		Schreiber	Smith	Todd	
International Toast		Lidgley	Michalowsky	Munday	
Speaker Introduction		TBA	Overbosch	Danckwerts	
Speaker Thanks		James	Klotz-Gleave	Knight	

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## JACKPOT:

The Jackpot stands at R570.00 with R17.00 having been given over for Attendance and R70.00 towards the swindle fund!

## PROGRAMME

<b>April 2014</b>	<b>Committee: Knight, Bredenkamp, Cleveland, Munday, Howard, van Eeden, Du Plessis</b>
27 April	Freedom Day
28 April	Public holiday
29-30 April	School holidays
<b>May 2014</b>	<b>Committee: James, Danckwerts, Schreiber, Smith, Williams, Lidgley, Gavin</b>
1 May	Workers Day public holiday / No meeting
1-4 May	District Conference
7 May	Wynberg Rotaract meeting
8 May	Business meeting
10 May	Literacy workshop
12 May	International Nurses Day
15 May	Retreat Rotaract meeting
15 May	Normal meeting – Gerry from Mothers Unite
17 May	Norwegian National Day
21 May	Wynberg Rotaract meeting
22 May	Normal meeting: SurfShack – Dave
29 May	Retreat Rotaract meeting
29 May	Social
<b>June 2014</b>	<b>Committee: Barnard, Bird, Hovstad, Michalwsky, Wetmore, Jackson, Schonegevel</b>
4 June	Wynberg Rotaract meeting
5 June	Business meeting / World Environmental Day
12 June	Retreat Rotaract meeting
12 June	Normal meeting – Mary Tata
16 June	Youth Day
18 June	Wynberg Rotaract meeting
19 June	Induction Dinner
26 June	Retreat Rotaract meeting
26 June	Normal meeting
27 June	School holidays start

## TAILPIECE

A blonde calls Kulula Airlines and asks, 'Can you tell me how long it'll take to fly from Johannesburg to Cape Town?' The agent replies, 'Just a minute.' 'Thank you,' the blonde says, and hangs up.