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The Rotary Club of Wynberg

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Editorial

Visit to the Renosterveld Nature Reserve

12 and 13 September 2015**Submitted by Alan Jackson**

Stephen and I arrived at the visitors centre just before 10h00 on the Saturday (we were due at about 10), to be welcomed by a very relaxed and jovial Jannie, who lives on and manages the 500 hectare Reserve, along with his dog, Cindy, an SPCA special. By now Justin and Ruth had indicated that they had recently left Hermanus and would be late? Having done some moving of beds into their correct positions, Barry and Val, who had travelled with John and Mary, arrived, and had soon settled in. We left for our morning walk, passed over 24 Peacocks, and up a long road on the reserve, which runs alongside the neighbouring canola farm, a symbol of what the Reserve tries to oppose - farming on what used to be Renosterveld. While some rehabilitation is possible after farming, there is no chance of returning the vegetation to its original variety.

At the top of the hill we were treated to the sight of “endangered stuff” as Jannie usefully called the various species of plants which are to be seen only in the region. Useful, because I can pronounce and spell “endangered stuff” in contrast to the various Latin names it would take me a lifetime to remember. These species are mostly associated with the bands of Quartz stone and clay on the reserve and throughout the Renosterveld. They include one I can remember, due to its funky Afrikaans name “Baba boutjies”. The photo provided with this article (see page 6), by name *Polhillia Curtisiae* was discovered by and named after Dr Odette Curtis, who founded the project. The small grey shrub is described as ‘critically endangered.’ After a hearty lunch, and a short rest, we set out by car to another part of the reserve. Soon we discovered that we were no longer being followed by Barry and Val, John and Mary. They pretended that they had a puncture, but I think it was simply an opportunity for Barry to show off his wheel changing prowess, which we now understand is considerable. The drama over, we walked in an area where the quartz boulders supply a different environment for plants, including crevices which spurn certain species not seen on other sections of the farm.

Next a celebration of the day- A braai. As it was cold, the braaing was done on the internal braai. Justin did a sterling job getting a roaring fire going. The downside - the chimney did not work anything like optimally, and the visibility deteriorated to the extent that we began to wonder who we were talking to. Needless to say we resolved all the problems of WRC, Education, Health and the world in a very short time assisted to a significant extent by the fruit of the vine. The food was good too!

During the braai, I received news that the gate on my carport at home had been crowbarred, that my motorcycle had been stolen, and that my wife was concerned they would come back the same night. I therefore returned to Cape Town that night, rather than on Sunday. As a result the next paragraph has been written by my co-author, and erudite President, Stephen Bredenkamp- Thanks to him for stepping into the breach.

Sunday morning arrived, cold, windy and overcast. We were assured by the early rising Jannie that there was a partial solar eclipse at 8:30, at which stage most of us were not much interested. However, following a gradual wakening and breakfast, with copious amounts of coffee, Jannie managed to 'persuade' the clouds to part sufficiently and the eclipse was seen, albeit only by the few that ventured outdoors.

Not too long thereafter (Dr) Odette Curtis arrived, dressed for field work. She and Jannie were going out later to start mapping areas for burning the veld next year. The burn would have to be strictly controlled, and the event would involve many before and after photos to see the effect on old Renosterveld. But first she presented the story of the Overberg Lowlands Conservation Trust, and the crusade to save the Renosterveld. The highlight naturally was the purchase of the farm Haarwegskloof, and the transformation of the old farmhouse into the Renosterveld Research and Visitor Centre. Towards midday as we were all preparing to leave, led by John Vivian we agreed that there needed to be some sizeable changes in the Visitors' Centre, and so changes will be made. We can commend this wonderful, curious, peaceful and colourful Reserve to anyone with an interest in fynbos or with a need for a quiet weekend.

Global Grants Report Back

Biffy Danckwerts

Completed GGs

Victoria Hospital GG1 – theatre equipment

Isiphiwo Primary School – expanded computer lab

Victoria Hospital GG 2

This GG has been approved. We are waiting the funding from RI to continue with this GG. The funds will be spent on rehabilitation equipment for the Physio- and Occupational Therapy Departments as well as the theatres.

Colorado Springs Outward GG

It has been decided that this GG will focus on education but how and what this GG will be spent on has not yet been finalised.

Khanyisa School

Funds coming from Norway have been ear-marked for Khanyisa but how these will be spent and if this will become a GG has not yet been decided.

Madrid Rotary Club

Recently Madrid Rotary Club approached Wynberg Rotary Club to take on two GGs. This would be a scholarship and a skills upliftment project. The Board decided not to take these up as they felt this fell

Tree Planting Project Report Back

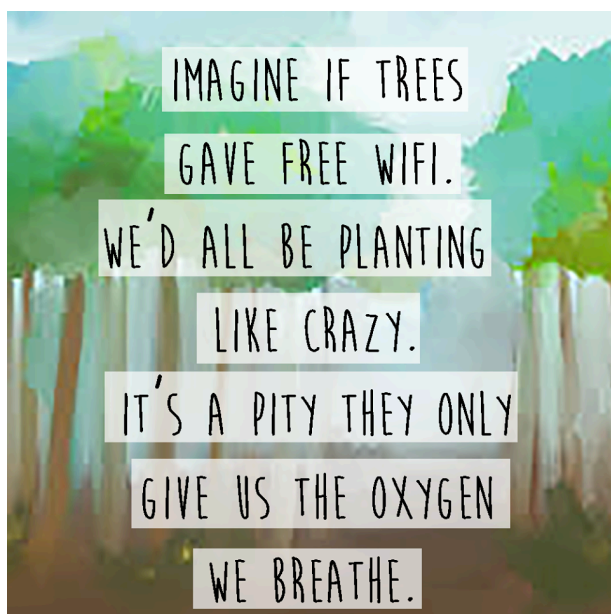
Jackie James

On Saturday 3rd October we planted the teaching equipment!

Fruit trees and medicinal herbs were planted in the Khanyisa School's biodynamic garden by the Wynberg Rotarians and Wynberg Rotaractors. The school's curriculum is designed to integrate gardening with our other academic and practical subjects. This is part of their approach to teach children and young adults with learning difficulties according to their age and individual stage of development. Learners progress at their own pace with emphasis on both academic, practical and life skills.

The planting initiative is part on our clubs ongoing support for the school – last year a District Grant co-funded gardening equipment and rainwater tanks, and now we are the process of planning a global grant with RC Karmoy. It is proposed that the global grant will find reading books, computer equipment and the refurbishment of the hospitality classroom.

Well done gardeners who braved the rainy weather!





Minutes

1 October 2015

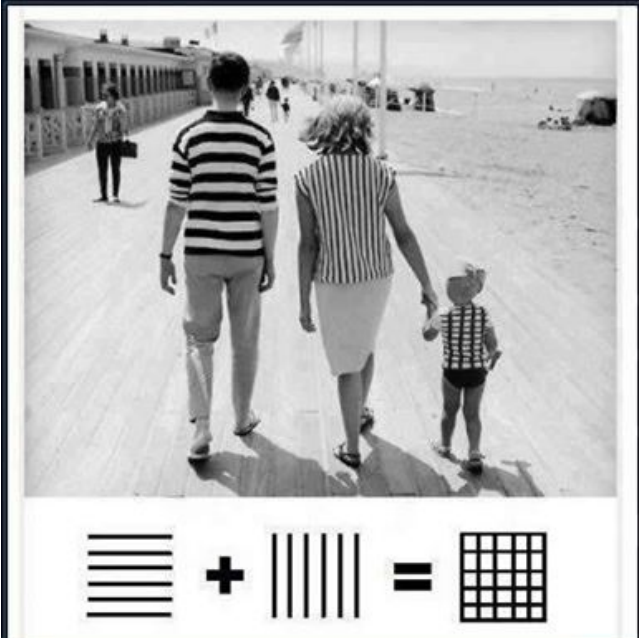
Compiled by; Barry Cleveland

Attendance, Apologies & Make-ups	18 members present,
Visitors	James Barnard (Guest Speaker), Sharon Barnard, Emma Coulter, Peter Niddrie, Rob Schreiber.
Fellowship Announcements	
Slots	<p>From the Acting President's chair:</p> <p>PP Jackie welcomed all present, explaining that Pres. Stephen is on a month's leave-of-absence, and she will be chairing meetings in the interim.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be no meeting next week as a number of members will be involved with RFHD between 7 and 9 October. • Hugh has agreed to regale the club on 22 October with his exploits in the Northern Atlantic. • Rotarians are urged to attend the mini Conference at Worcester on 24 October. <p>Slots:</p> <p><u>Justin</u> (1) The quiz evening on 17 Sept. raised over R4000 – double that of the previous year. We also managed to fill Tango's restaurant to their satisfaction.</p> <p>(2) Lotus River Primary School received over 1000 books from Wynberg Junior School. Wednesday 14 Oct. is set aside to sort and categorise the collection for a proposed 'library corner'.</p> <p><u>Are</u> (1) reminded members of the visit by Haugaland College at the end of October, and encouraged those who haven't had the experience to volunteer to drive the group around while they are in Cape Town.</p> <p>(2) informed us that Oddemarka Junior School in Kristiansand, Norway have just raised some R250000 for the NLC to spend on school equipment. Are reminded us that these youngsters of under 15 years old have now raised a total of R2 million for 'our' schools in Grassy Park!</p>
Guest Speaker	<p>Dennis introduced James Barnard, who is 17 and about to become a Springbok Scout. He first joined the Scouts as an 11 year old in November 2009 and related his experiences through the stages of advancement – from a member of a troop and a patrol to becoming a pathfinder and adventurer; and discovering that he did have the ability to lead. To become a Springbok Scout requires a great deal of work and dedication: about 4000 hours in all! How does it compare with being a school prefect? You are a prefect for a year; you are a scout for life!</p> <p>John offered the thanks of the club, suggesting that with young adults like James as leaders, he has faith in the future.</p>

Swindle	R1485 was up for grabs. Sharon drew John’s name from the 35 card pack but he only managed to find the 8♠. Justin won the R20 ‘consolation’ prize.
President’s quote	
Next Meeting	15 October at the Palms

Duty Roster

	October			November
	15	22	29	5 (Business Meeting)
Sergeant	Cleveland	Hovstad		Overbosch
Wynpress Editorial	Munday	Maunder		Schonegevel
Minutes for Wynpress	Maunder	Howard	Clay Cafe	Smith
Door Duty	O'Driscoll	Overbosch	Hout Bay	Schrieber
Grace	Dessington	Dietrich		Hovstad
Loyal Toast	Smith	Todd		Van Niekerk, K
International Toast	Schonegevel	Schreiber		V Eeden
Speaker Introduction	Howard	Jackson		n/a
Speaker Thanks	Bird	Cleveland		n/a
Find Speakers	Bird, Dessignton, Lidgley, Schrieber, Smith			Danckwerts, Hovstad, Murphy, Schonegevel, Van Wyk



Going forward

Dates to Diarise

Thur Oct 15:	Normal meeting: Speaker tbc.
Thur Oct 22:	Normal meeting: Hugh Maunder on his travels in the North Atlantic
Sat Oct 24:	District Mini-conference – Goudini Spa, Worcester
Thur Oct 29:	Social at Clay Café, Hout Bay (Keela)
30 Oct - 7 Nov:	Visit to Cape Town by Haugaland College
Thur 5 Nov:	Visit to Club by Haugaland College
Thur 12 Nov:	Normal meeting: Dr Mills and the Banting diet
Thur Nov 26:	Election of Office Bearers
Thur Dec 3:	Uncle Pauls : SOS Childrens Home

See the WRC [calendar](http://wynbergrotary.org.za/calendar/) (http://wynbergrotary.org.za/calendar/) for full details.

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