



The Rotary Club of Wynberg

Wynpress



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WHERE IS HOME?

Why would anyone at the present age of 32 volunteer to spend the remaining years of her life emigrating on a one way trip to Mars? Admittedly this adventure of the century, if it takes place, won't be for at least another 10 years. But even so, I mean can you imagine the mindset required to volunteer and go through with such an experience.

Well we have a South African from Durban who is one such person. Adriana Marais a postdoctoral theoretical physicist is one of 5 South Africans on the shortlist of 100 potential candidates from a global application list of more than 200,000. And next year the organisation behind the initiative, Mars One, will be announcing their top 24 who will then undergo 10 years of intensive training in preparation for their one way trip to the red planet.

Imagine saying goodbye to everything with which one is familiar and takes for granted in 'living' – water and air never mind families, friends, mountains, rivers, plants, animals, the sea and so on and so on. Due to the harsh conditions the new Martians would not survive more than 2 minutes in the open air so would spend their days in spacesuits or living units to isolate them from the radiation, carbon dioxide levels and atmospheric pressure. Other than scientific experiments how will they pass the time without going mad for as much as they try, they can't totally erase memories of where they have come from, what they have done and experienced and therefore what they are missing?

So, will the words of Nelson Mandela - "it always seems impossible until it is done" – be sufficient to keep the new Martians motivated, proud and sane enough to not end up being driven mad before they comprehend their actual vulnerability in a harsh unknown environment? Or will they be saved by a second expedition which will have the technical wherewithal to return them to their land of birth – all a bit far-fetched for us mere mortals to understand.

So, back to the question – why would anyone at present age of 32 want to volunteer? It happened in Durban in 2013 when a friend showed her an article about the project, she says her mouth went dry, her heart began thudding and she ran to the bathroom ready to throw up. “In that moment I made peace with possibly never returning to Earth, giving up everything I know and love, and living out my days on another planet,” she says. “We are all naturally curious explorers, seeking new experiences and new knowledge. I think if we stop exploring, we may lose touch with what it is to be human,” she says.

There are many other questions of course – Won’t you go crazy? What do your parents feel? What about procreation on Mars? etc, etc.

By Dennis Gowdy

Minutes

Rotary Meeting :13 October 2016

	Compiled by Barry Cleveland
Attendance	16 Rotarian members and 9 Rotaractors present
Visitors	Morgan and Adrienne from California, working on a Cape flats project
Fellowship	None recorded
From the President	Meal for the meeting on 20 th will be beef sirloin or vegetarian option at R85. In future, when Palm House hosts conferences, we will hold our meeting + supper in the dining room. Brownies and Downies brunch has been postponed to 26 November. RI President is recommending Rtn Babalda to head up Zone 20 (Africa and Eastern Europe).
Slots	Biffy: 1. Many marshals’ ‘bibs’ are missing. Please can they be returned! 2. Dictionaries: 2 each have been donated to Swaanswyk Academy and Square Hill Primary School. 2 will be given to Capricorn Primary School to clear the stock. 3. Please collect 2 litre plastic bottles for her. Justin: Reminder of the Service Committee meeting on 3 Nov.
Guests	Dave introduced members of the Wynberg Rotaract Club, saying that we are privileged to have such an active team of Rotaractors: Kerry teaches at Square Hill Primary and has started an Earlyact Club. Jessica works in procurement at her father’s business. Lee is a graphic designer. Robyn is in 2 nd year at UCT. Robbie has just completed matric at Rondebosch and is joining Rotaract. Ryall is a sound engineer, working mainly for medical conferences. Monique is a teacher at Rondebosch Boys Prep. School. Chrisleen is a teacher at Swaanswyk Academy and has started an Earlyact Club. Ray has a degree in forensics. Hugh thanked the Rotaract team, saying how amazed he is with the dynamics of our partner Club.

Jackpot	Robyn drew Dave's name, but that where the fortune stopped. Dave only managed the Jack of clubs (ah shame!). Mike won the consolation prize. There are now only 28 cards left and the jackpot stands at R1300.
President's Quiz	The quoted lines were from the song 'Route 66', sung by Nat King Cole et al.

Going Forward

Dates To Diarise

Oct 20	Haugaland students and teachers + principals from 7 NLC schools: Four students and two teachers will introduce themselves and tell us about the college's ongoing fundraising activities. They will also hand over certificates to the principals of our supported schools, indicating the different amounts to be donated to each school.
Oct 29	District 9350 Mini Conference in Hermanus
Nov 10	Marco & Marvin from the Zeekoeivlei Sailing Centre, an enterprise long supported by WRC, will update us on their ongoing work, providing sport, life-skills and employment opportunities to disadvantaged youngsters. NB This meeting will be at Zeekoeivlei Yacht Club. Details to follow.
Nov 17	Dr Muavia Gallie of Education Moving Up, a previous presenter to the club concerning the many problems facing the SA education system, will highlight the most urgent issues requiring intervention in our schools, the way in which their intervention occurs and the results they achieve.
Nov 24	Abe Oliver from False Bay College will tell us about the 'Rapid Incubator' program designed as a fun way of introducing young learners to the principles of Entrepreneurship.
TUESDAY Nov 29	WRC's evening for hosting at Uncle Paul's.



Duty Roster

	October		November	
	20	27	3 Business	10
Sergeant	Murphy	Overbosch	Schreiber	Todd
Wynpress Editorial	Hovstad	Howard	Lidgley	Maunder
Wynpress Minutes	Howard	Maunder	K van Niekerk	Smith
Door Duty	Maunder	K van Niekerk	Overbosch	Schonegevel
Grace	Dietrich	Gowdy	Hovstad	Munday
Loyal Toast	Overbosch	Schreiber	Smith	Todd
International Toast	Lidgley	Munday	Maunder	Murphy
Speaker Intro	Hovstad	van Eeden	N/A	van Niekerk
Speaker Thanks	Cleveland	Schonegevel	N/A	Schreiber
Entertainment for the month			Van Eeden van Niekerk Cleveland Dietrich	

Tailpiece

My own social media

SIR: I haven't got a computer, but I was told about Facebook and Twitter and am trying to make friends outside Facebook and Twitter while applying the same principles.

Every day, I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel, what I have done the night before and what I will do for the rest of the day. I give them pictures of my wife, my daughter, my dog and me gardening and on holiday, spending time by the pool. I also listen to their conversations, tell them I 'like' them and give them my opinion on every subject that interests me... whether it interests them or not.

And it works. I already have four people following me; two police officers, a social worker and a psychiatrist.

Peter White, Holbrook, Derbyshire