



Art Jamming last Thursday at the Waterfront

President: Alan Jackson 0835248724

Secretary: Rob Murphy 0837267060

Treasurer: Mike Schreiber 0834140462

Editorial Board: Barry Cleveland, Lina Howard,  
Hugh Maunder, Keela van Niekerk

**Vol: 68 No: 28 2March 2017**

**Rotary's March focus is Literacy**

## Editorial

### South African universities won't change unless mindsets start to shift

*By Tim London*

*Now is the start of the academic year in South Africa. The student protests that rocked most public universities' campuses in 2016 – the second consecutive year of protests – died down long enough for most institutions' exams to go ahead as usual. But the fundamental conditions that led to the protests are still largely unresolved.*

The ongoing debates around reform in higher education – specifically the call for “decolonisation” of the curriculum and space – are a piece of a much wider historical, political, and cultural set of issues and contexts. Some of these issues are decades old and are not unique to South Africa.

For higher education to progress, especially in the context of the country's wider historical, political and cultural realities, three significant mindset changes are required: focusing on what's possible in education; viewing real learning as a product of creative and constructive engagement from multiple viewpoints; and, related to the other two points, understanding that any good educational system will inherently always be developing and a work in progress. If these shifts are achieved, the debate can move into more productive territory.

#### **Focus on possibilities**

Students have repeatedly called for a decolonised curriculum, but this push could ironically end up trapping universities in a colonised curriculum. This is because describing a vision or mission statement in terms of anti-, dis-, or de- inherently ties the process to the very idea a group is trying to avoid. It forces you to take your cues solely from that framework – either to change them or reject them. It leaves the thing after the “anti-, dis-, de-” driving the conversation, limiting the scope

to replace it with something else. If the goal is to transform the curriculum, then it's important to imagine and pursue possibilities rather than simply condemning what some people feel doesn't work currently.

And once the sector has agreed that it must not simply reject, but also seek to redefine and re-imagine, then everyone involved in the university system must understand that actual curriculum and educational systems do not exist on paper, but in practice. These systems include teaching methods, support, training for educators and many factors beyond the actual curriculum.

### **Space for constructive engagement**

Extensive research reveals that there are many types of curricula. The most relevant in this debate appear to be the written curriculum – syllabi, handbooks and websites – and the “hidden” curriculum. This refers to what is actually taught and learned due to assumptions, norms, teaching practices and experiences in and outside of the classroom.

The written curriculum is important, of course. But it pales by comparison with what is experienced in the shared teaching and learning process. It is here where ideas are exchanged, evaluated, critiqued and modified, accepted or rejected. Quality teachers know that the best, most meaningful learning happens through engagement with students since everyone has things to learn.

These are not new thoughts. “Synergogy” (learners not just at the centre of learning, but actually driving it) has long been mooted as a powerful way of enhancing learning. In other words, the curriculum becomes nothing more than words on a page if students don't have the opportunity to actually engage with it.

If South Africa is to transform education, people must have space to grapple with – and actively challenge – different viewpoints. The “hidden” curriculum can only be addressed when it is brought into the light of the teaching and learning process. If classrooms are closed down, which some in the #FeesMustFall movement believe is the best way to force decolonisation, society will lose one of the most powerful ways it has to actually create transformational education.

### **Education is a work in progress**

Other demands under the student protesters' banner can have discrete, achievable indicators – no fee increases, no fees at all, changing workers' contractual rights, etc. But education is an inherently evolving and developing process. It is never going to change from “untransformed” to “transformed”, from “colonised” to “decolonised”. These make for powerful slogans but, as is so often the case, the devil is in the details.

There will literally never be a point in time when an educational system is definitively any one thing. The way in which each group of students engages with the material, each other and the teacher is significantly different each time – even if the material was identical. This is the joy of the educational process: it is always a work in progress. That notion keeps teachers young at heart, but it also flies in the face of arguments made to keep classrooms closed until a set point is reached.

It is essential that universities work to make better education a reality; this is only possible with open classrooms. These are not spaces where facts are memorised, but where an engaged, interactive and constantly transformational learning process can be experienced by all – not just students.

*Submitted by Dave Barnard*

	<b>Minutes from 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb Compiled by Barry Cleveland</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	15 members present (and quite outnumbered by our visitors, below)
<b>Visitors</b>	<p>Rotarians: Rtn Colleen and Carl Stone from Iowa, USA</p> <p>From Oddemarka: Teachers – Bjarne Sløgedal and Erik Kalvik Students – Ingrid Amundsen, Sander Jølstad</p> <p>From NLC schools: Rochelle Jacobs (Stephen Road) Terence Klassen (Fairmount) Tanya Abrahams (Lotus River) Denzil van Graan (Perivale) Reggie Gabriel (Montagu's Gift) Anthea Adriaanse (Die Duine) Sharon Brown and Nadia Anhuizen (Zeekoevlei)</p> <p>Guests: Hon. Rtn. John and Mary Vivian, Barbara Smith, Wenche Hovstad, Phil Peckett, Stewart Dix-Peek (clubfoot doctor), Adrian Africa and his wife.</p>
<b>Fellowship Announcements</b>	<p>Today was Erik Kalvik's birthday!</p> <p>Dave and Sharon celebrate their wedding anniversary on 25 February</p>
<b>From the President</b>	<p>Alan welcomed all guests to the meeting, and especially those from Oddemarka School, Norway and representatives from the NLC schools, Cape Town.</p> <p>Reminded us that 23 Feb. is the 112<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rotary International and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rotary Foundation (see below).</p> <p>Thanked Stephen for his Wynpress article on 'coffee logs'.</p> <p>Note Rotary Fun Day at Mouille Point on Sunday 9 April.</p>
<b>Slots</b>	<p><b>Biffy:</b> Will be looking for volunteers for another hands-on project to Victoria Hospital. She will be having two eye cataract operations shortly.</p> <p><b>Lina:</b> Brian has had a hernia op. and is recovering.</p> <p><b>Justin:</b> Last opportunity to order Rotary golf and T shirts.</p> <p>All welcome to a slice of the LARGE Rotary Foundation anniversary cake.</p> <p><b>String:</b> Looking for more marshals for the CT Cycle Tour on Sun. 12 March.</p>
<b>Guest Speakers</b>	<p><b>Are</b> spoke of the very beginning of what has become a significant component of fund raising at WRC: In 2002 Kopervik RC bought the first two computers for Montagu's Gift and Stephen Road primary schools. They also sponsored two teachers and two students to visit Norway. One of the students was Adrian Africa, at Montagu's Gift. Now 27, married with a 10 month old son, he was present this evening. After high school he took a banking course and is still in banking. He explained how his Norwegian experience has influenced his life and will continue to do so forever. That and Theodore Roosevelt's "Do what you can with what you have where you are."</p> <p>Students Ingrid and Sander then introduced themselves and teachers Bjarne and Erik told the story and showed the pictures of Oddemarka's fund-raising venture on 'Solidarity Day' last year. 300 students were sponsored to run around the school many times (1 lap = 720m), and they raised some R75 000 in 45 minutes! Over these past 15 years, Oddemarka have raised nearly Nkr 2 million, all of which is used for bursaries, computers and libraries for the schools under the NLC banner.</p> <p>On behalf of all the schools, Terence Klassen gave a vote of thanks.</p>

<b>Swindle</b>	With the kitty now at R575, Ingrid drew Stewart's name, but the best he could manage was the 7 of diamonds (ag shame) Attendance prize of R20 was won by Monique.
<b>President's Song</b>	Adele's "Hello" was immediately recognised by Colleen Stone.

Duty Roster				
	March			
	2 Business meeting	9	16	23
<b>Sergeant</b>	Murphy	Overbosch	Schreiber	Todd
<b>Wynpress Editorial</b>	Bayes	Bird	Danckwerts	Dessington
<b>Wynpress Minutes</b>	Howard	Van Niekerk	Cleveland	Howard
<b>Door Duty</b>	Gowdy	Hovstadt	Howard	Lidgley
<b>Grace</b>	Barnard	Bird	Dessington	Cleveland
<b>Loyal Toast</b>	Howard	Munday	Murphy	Overbosch
<b>International Toast</b>	Dessington	Dietrich	Gowdy	Hovstad
<b>Speaker Intro</b>	N/A	Murphy	Overbosch	Schoenegevel
<b>Speaker Thanks</b>	N/A	Howard	Murphy	Overbosch
<b>Find Speakers</b>	Jackson, Klotz-Gleave, Smith, Todd, van Niekerk			

At the 1917 Rotary Convention, outgoing Rotary President Arch Klumph proposed setting up an endowment "for the purpose of doing good in the world". That one idea and an initial contribution of \$26.50 set in motion a powerful force that has transformed millions of lives around the globe.



# Hugh's Nughs

## LAST WEEK:

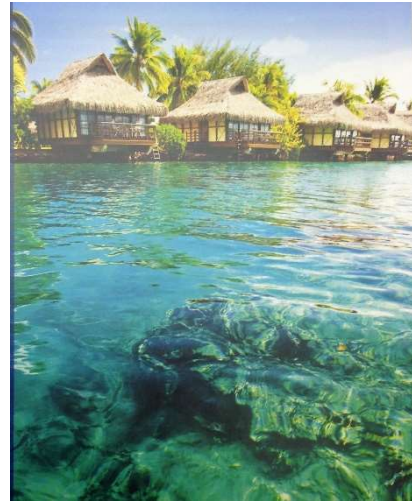
The French Polynesian Islands in the Pacific Ocean cover an area as big as Europe. There are 118 islands of which 67 are inhabited and are financially assisted by France. The islanders have French passports and the Euro is an accepted currency, as is the US\$.

I found Bora Bora the most interesting island. We were met on the dock by the singing and dancing Hula Hula girls and then took a coach tour. The island is surrounded by a barrier reef and a lagoon, making it one of the most beautiful parts of the Pacific Ocean. It was created by a volcano which is in the centre of the island rising to two peaks.

It has many luxury resorts which are kept very private and many can only be accessed by boat.

They do not have cemeteries and the deceased must be buried on the owner's land. One can notice these by a roof in a fenced off area.

Many bungalows and hotels are built over the water, the tide difference is only 6 inches, and we saw one built by Marlon Brando when he was filming "Mutiny on the Bounty".



*Hugh would not be drawn further on the singing and dancing Hula Hula girls – Ed.*

## THIS WEEK:

We are a third of the way already and have just left New Zealand, which is the coldest and furthest south we go on the ship.

New Zealand is mainly two very big islands: North and South Island. Few people live in South Island because it has a much colder climate. The people who lived in the islands before the Europeans arrived, were the Maori and there were 37 tribes, of which only three of them lived in South Island.

I visited the museum and was amazed at the advanced culture of the original Maori people. They were Stone Age people because they did not have any available metal ore to make tools or weapons. However, they built massive ornate wooden buildings and very long dragon boats with stone tools. The Maori resisted colonization by the British and were very fierce and strategic fighters even against the superior firepower of the British army. In one battle, they used a system of trenches to avoid the cannon balls and jumped out and attacked as the soldiers advanced close to them. They won that battle but lost in the end because the tribes also fought between each other. They were very fierce fighters. The 'Haka' is the Maori war dance, now immortalized by the All Blacks. When the British first arrived they found many new and strange animals. One of them was the 3.6m tall Giant Moa bird. Unfortunately, they were all killed for food hundreds of years ago but I managed to get a photo of one in the museum.





## Dates To Diarise

Thur 9 Mar

TBA

Sun 12 Mar

Cape Town Cycle Tour

Thur 16 Mar

Visit to Rotary Project PEDI in Philippi – AG Paul Stohrer

Thur 23 Mar

Peninsula Schools Feeding Association – Charles Gray

Thur 30 Mar

Social TBA

Sun 9 Apr

Rotary Family Fun Centennial Walk – 2.65Km at Mouille Point

Rotary Family Fun Day at Blue Train Park

27-29 Apr

Rotary District Conference in Swellendam



**Wynberg Rotary meet every Thursday, 6 for 6.30pm, Palm House, Wynberg.**

For more information about our club, like us on Facebook or visit our website:

**[Wynbergrotary.org.za](http://Wynbergrotary.org.za)**

# Tailpiece

