



The Rotary Club of Wynberg

Wynpress

Meet the new RI
president, John
Germ, and his
wife, Judy



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EDITORIAL

WILD ENCOUNTER

by Bev Bird

Some time ago I happened to tune into an American TV program called something like 'Wild Encounters', featuring scary real-life stories of close-up encounters between various wild animals and ordinary city folk, often in unlikely urban settings. In the episode I was watching we were introduced to a delightful old mid-Western couple, Henry and Martha, who had for some time been aware of a snake that had decided to take up permanent residence underneath the wooden porch of their rickety old suburban house.

We first got to meet Henry and Martha sitting on their wide porch in their comfy rocking chairs, happily recounting in their slow drawl how they would often watch the snake through the gaps in the porch floorboards and how they'd grown rather attached to it over time. From their cheerful demeanour it was clear they weren't in the slightest bit troubled by the snake but had merely called for help because they thought the creature would be happier back in the wild.

In the next shot we see Wayne, an energetic outdoorsy type of fellow, as he pulls up alongside the old folk's house in his small utility van emblazoned with the name and logo of his pest-control business: Pesky Critters. We Take Care of All your Unwelcome Visitors. Wayne jumps out of the van, smiling enthusiastically. He tells the TV viewers he's ready to take on this troublesome intruder and is eager to get started on his new assignment.

'Don't you worry', he advises Henry and Martha, as he prepares to crawl underneath the porch. 'I'll have that pesky snake out of here in no time.'

'Oh, we ain't worried', they assure him in their placid drawl. 'Truth be told, we're kinda fond of him', they say, nodding and smiling at one another. 'But you take care now...', they add as an afterthought, '...He's a mighty big fella.'

By now Wayne is down on all-fours, flashlight and snake-net in hand, crawling into the dark cavernous space underneath the porch.

'No sign of him yet', he shouts calmly from underground. 'Still looking ... '.

And then, seconds later, as if propelled by an explosive force, he comes barrelling out backwards from underneath the house, frantically clawing his way out for all he's worth.

'Holy crap!', he gasps, as he scrambles to his feet, 'It's a monster!'

Henry and Martha look bemused. 'We told you he was a big fella', they say, puzzled.

The TV cameraman decides to try and get a shot of the snake through the cracks in the porch floorboards. And then, for the first time, we viewers actually get to see the creature. Or at least part of it. The sheer width of the snake's body, the size of a small tree-trunk, fills the whole of the TV screen. There is a collective shudder. Henry and Martha carry on gently rocking in the sun.

'He ain't never caused us no trouble', they say quietly, wondering what all the fuss is about.

Next we see the arrival of all the reinforcements that have now been summoned: handlers, firemen, drivers, workmen, and all manner of officials and advisors come swarming onto the scene, ready to plan the next offensive. They're armed with nets, spades, helmets, ropes, ladders, and anything else they can think of. It's like they're preparing for war. Lots of consulting, lots of strategising, lots of sweating. Then someone really, truly brave is chosen to lead the group in, underneath the house.

There is much shouting and scuffling and flashing of torch-beams in the dark underfloor spaces and eventually word comes up that someone has actually managed to grasp the snake by the tail. We assume some other hardy person must have it by the head by now. Perhaps they've managed to tranquillize it, but there is still too much noise and confusion to tell. And then little by little they start heaving the creature out from underneath the house and we can see its massive body emerging into the daylight. In the end it takes eight sweaty men to hoist the snake's huge body aloft and trundle it onto a waiting truck: an astonishing sight. As the truck drives off, taking the great snake to its new home in the wild, Henry and Martha stand at their doorway, looking forlorn.

'He was a good fella', sighs Martha, sadly. 'He never did us no harm.'

'Gonna miss him', agrees Henry. And then they go quietly inside.

Minutes

11 August 2016

	Compiled by String Smith
Sergeant	PP Are in charge.
International Toast	Biffy toasted the Clubs of Fairfield and Ottumwa, Iowa, with whom we have links through a past visitor Colleen Stone and visitors expected shortly.
Attendance	13 Members present, 11 apologies, 1 make-up, attendance 48%
Visitors	None, apart from Guest speaker Stewart Dix- Peek.
From the President's Chair	Aubrey is recovering from a further heart problem and would appreciate phone calls. He also announced that although the Palms owners were planning in develop the site with a 150 room hotel, the club should not be adversely affected.
Slots	Justin advised members of the Induction of the Steenberg Rotaract President at Peddlars on 20 August at 9h30. He is also struggling to get assistance with the Interact Workshop on 17 September. The quiz will be held on 29 th . September at the Builders Warehouse complex.
Fellowship Announcements	Adele will celebrate her birthday on 16 th . Francois related that 28 years ago he had had a double lens transplant which had successfully cured a major vision problem. String advised that Pick 'n Pay was selling all its wines at a 20% discount.
Guest Speaker	Justin introduced Dr. Stewart Dix- Peek, an orthopedic surgeon specializing in skeletal infections. Stewart gave an enlightening talk on club feet, which bears a stigma in Africa and which can be treated on a small budget. He explained the techniques involved and his philosophy of doing things differently and of training students in these techniques. He invited members to visit the Rosebank Clinic on Fridays, 8h00 – 10h00 to witness the work. In thanking our speaker, Bruce complimented him on the fact that his talk was understandable to laymen.

Swindle

String announced that once again the kitty had passed the magical R1000. Stewart drew **Karen's** ticket but to the great disappointment – ha ha- of members, she failed to draw the 2 of hearts, leaving **Biffy** to take home the R25 attendance prize.

Dates To Diarise

Aug 18	Linda Wilson, from Pocket Money Market, will discuss youth entrepreneurship – an issue strongly promoted by our Rotary District.
Aug 25	Dave Barnard has lined up a Quiz to challenge your intellectual prowess and competitive spirit. Come and test how smart you are! There may even be prizes on offer...
Sept 1	Business Meeting.
Sept 8	Brownies and Downies, a business providing training and work opportunities for people with Down's Syndrome, will talk about their innovative work and inspired vision.
Sept 15	Brian Ingpen, founder and principal of Lawhill Maritime Centre, Simonstown and weekly columnist on nautical matters, will talk on the work of the centre.
Sept 17	Interact Workshop.
Sept 22	Lorenzo Davids, CEO of the Community Chest and past member of the club, will speak on the Chest's 87 year history of empowering the poor.
Sept 29	Quiz Evening with Justin in charge.
Oct 4-6	Rotary Family Health Day.
Oct 7	Constantia RC Wine Festival: tickets Biffy

Speaker Groups until the end of the year

OCTOBER 2016

Maunder

Overbosch

Schrieber M

Smith

Todd

NOVEMBER 2016

van Eeden

van Niekerk K

Cleveland

Dietrich

DECEMBER 2016

Munday

Murphy

Schonegevel

Bayes

Dessington

Duty Roster

	August			September
	18	25	1 Business	8
Sergeant	Murphy	Overbosch	Schreiber	Todd
Wynpress Editorial	Crous J	Crouse S	Barnard	Cleveland
Wynpress Minutes	van Niekerk K	Howard	Cleveland	Howard
Door Duty	Danckwerts	Cleveland	Bayes	Gowdy
Grace	Schonegevel	Todd	Schreiber	Bayes
Loyal Toast	Dietrich	Gowdy	Hovstad	Jackson
International Toast	Overbosch	Bayes	Danckwerts	Dietrich
Speaker Intro	Murphy	Barnard		Overbosch
Speaker Thanks	Dietrich	Gowdy		Hovstad
Find speakers			Dessington, Gowdy, Hovstad, Howard, James	

Tailpiece

