

I'm told that a good way to start a speech like this is to say "As Henry V111 said to his wives: I won't keep you long.... "

I would like to start with a sincere thanks to you all - Rotarians and Guests for coming out from your warm homes on a cold winter's evening to attend my Induction Dinner and contributing to making it such a special and memorable experience.

I would however like to thank in particular 3 members of the Club who have made an extra special effort in assisting me put together this evening and in no particular order: Mike; Keela and Biffy.

With his unique and quirky sense of humour Mike was always going to make an excellent choice of MC for an evening like this even if he has spent the last few days suffering with the flu bug. By profession Mike is an excellent accountant but as you will experience this evening he is certainly no little grey man in a suit!!!

Keela in her own highly efficient way has organised tonight's raffle and sourced and wrapped all the prizes. The chocolate decorations on the table and the Induction invitations are all thanks to Keela.

An equally efficient Biffy has arranged all the flowers on the table adding colour and a feminine touch to the evening. Her printing of the seating plan and program ensure some degree of order prevails.

Thanks you so much to all 3 of you for all your kind support and advice – much appreciated.

Then for the wine lovers among us a big thanks to Candice and Constantia Uitsig for the red wine that we enjoyed with our dinner. Thanks Candice – the wine was great.

I would like to thank at this stage our Club's immediate Past President Alan for all the many hours of time and effort that he has put into his Presidency of Wynberg Rotary Club this past year. Alan has proved to be a very thorough and hardworking President and as a token of our appreciation of all his efforts I would like to present him now with his Past President's badge.

I also have the pleasant duty of awarding membership badges for honorary membership of Wynberg Rotary Club for the coming year for our current two Rotaract Presidents and call on Monique Ewen from Wynberg Rotaract and Tiffany Serenge from Steenberg Rotaract to come forward and collect their badges.

Looking forward briefly to the year ahead, I would like to pose the following questions:

"Why do we continue being a Rotarian? "

" Why do we attend meetings each week ; get up an ungodly hours to marshal races ; set aside a whole weekend and hours of planning to put together a charity concert or roll up our sleeves and provide much needed maintenance and labour to charitable organisations needing assistance ?

The question of Service above Self is obviously very important. I had the privilege of being shown around Victoria Hospital recently and seeing the medical facilities that existed before and the vast improvements now in place thanks to the Rotary Global grant process – it was a very humbling and proud experience. The annual handover to our Proms beneficiaries is always a special experience and you will all recall the joy in being able to present worthwhile beneficiaries just as the Volunteer Wild Fire Fighters with much needed funds.

However the key if not the essential factor in any Club is that much loved 5<sup>th</sup> part of our 5 Way Test: Fun or Fellowship for without this no Club can strengthen or grow.

To quote the Founder of Rotary Paul Harris:

Friendship is a natural and willing servant....There is no reason why the great power of friendship should not be harnessed to do its part in the world's work."

Another quote I found dating back to a 1920 Rotary Convention in Atlantic City:

"Friendship...the craving for which brought Rotary into existence is the thing that will keep Rotary a living, vital force in the world for all time, the very foundation of our organization."

This forthcoming year Wynberg Rotary has a number of Fellowship activities planned: Christmas in July; Weekend away in Robertson; a Quiz evening; visit to Jack Black brewery and hopefully some old favourites like the delicious Curry evening at the Mundays and the ever popular Club braai at the Barnards. In addition to all this we can look forward to being able to visit our good Rotarian friends in Norway in June next year.

If I do no more that facilitate an increase in the fun and fellowship energy that already exists within this Club during the forthcoming year then I can handover the Presidency next year to my successor with a happy and satisfied heart.

I would like to conclude by introducing and sincerely thanking each member of the incoming Board. I would ask each Board member to stand up when I call their name and then please can we all give them a big round of applause once all are named:

Alan Jackson: Past President and Service Director

Mike Schreiber: Treasurer

Keela van Niekerk: Secretary

Biffy Danckwerts: Membership Director and President Elect

Candice Klotz-Gleave: Youth Director

Thank you all for standing for these Board positions and with the experience and energy in this team I know that Wynberg Rotary Club can look forward to a successful year ahead.

So all that is left for me to do is to thank Lance; Christo; Dylan and all the Cattle Barron team for hosting us and looking after us so well.

Enjoy the rest of the evening and HAVE FUN!!!