



Official Club visit by DG Lynette Stassen

EDITORIAL

WHY THE SKY IS BLUE

From The Economist

The onset of springtime means the promise of cloudless blue skies, some of the time at least. What makes the sky this colour?

For scientists, the answer is relatively straightforward: Rayleigh scattering. When white light from the sun reaches the Earth, it hits the gas molecules that make up the atmosphere. These molecules – mainly nitrogen and oxygen – are smaller than the wavelengths of light in the visible spectrum, and so scatter the light. White light is made up of different wavelengths, which, since Isaac Newton’s experiments with prisms in the 17th century, we think of as a spectrum of seven different colours: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. Light at the violet end of the spectrum travels in shorter, tighter waves, which are affected more by the molecules in the atmosphere than the longer, lower-frequency waves at the red end. This phenomenon is named after Lord Rayleigh, the British physicist who discovered it in the 19th century. The sky appears blue because shorter wavelengths are scattered more by the atmosphere than longer wavelengths; so the scattered sunlight that reaches our eyes when looking at the sky (rather than at the sun itself) is predominantly blue.

But there is a catch: not everyone would agree that the sky is blue. In 1858 William Gladstone, better known for being the Prime Minister of Britain four times during the 19th century, published a treatise on Homer. He noted, with astonishment, that the Greek poet did not once use the word blue. He used colour words rather oddly – he described the sea as “wine-dark”, iron as violet and honey as green. Further research showed that the Koran, the original Hebrew Bible, the Icelandic sagas and the Vedic hymns, written in India between 1500 BC and 1000 BC, also lack references to this hue, even when talking about the heavens. There are still many languages today that do not have a word that precisely correlates to the English word for the slice of the spectrum between green and purple.

Russians might call the sky either *goluboe* (light blue) or *sinee* (darker blue); in Japan 青 (*ao*) encompasses the colour of the sky but also apples and grass; the Namibian Himba tribe would describe the sky as *zoozou*, which roughly translates as “dark” and includes shades of red, green and purple as well as blue.

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August Rotary Theme
Membership and New Club
Development Month
**Wynberg Rotary meet every
Thursday, 6 for 6.30pm,
Palm House, Wynberg.**

For more information about
our club, like us on Facebook
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Wynbergrotary.org.za

This is more than a pedantic issue of translation: evidence suggests that language has a huge impact on how people interpret the world. Incredible as it may seem, having a distinct word for a colour reinforces and amplifies the perception of it as distinct from other shades. Without the word you don't perceive it as readily. To prove this, scientists showed groups of coloured tiles to the Himba, who found it difficult to pick out one blue tile from a group of 11 green ones (although they found it far easier than English-speakers to spot one yellow-green tile hiding amongst some more pine-hued ones). So although it's true that to English speakers the sky is blue, it's arguably only blue because they say it is.

Submitted by Barry Cleveland

<h1 style="margin: 0;">Minutes</h1> <h2 style="margin: 0;">10 August 2017</h2> <p style="text-align: right; margin: 0;">Compiled by Barry Cleveland</p>	
Attendance	15 members present = 62.5%
Visitors	DG Lynette and Koos Stassen, AG Paul Stohrer, Wenche Hovstad, Denzil van Graan and a good sprinkling of 5 Rotaractors.
Fellowship	Adele Michalowsky's birthday on the 16 th .
From the President	<p>Pres. Rob welcomed all guests, especially DG Lynette to the special meeting at one of our NLC schools, Perivale Primary School. He thanked the Principal, Denzil warmly for hosting us and acknowledged his birthday last Tuesday.</p> <p>Pres. Rob gave Koos Stassen a R1000 gift towards the new e-Rotary Club.</p>
Slots	<p>Dave was sorry that more members aren't able to make the Robertson weekend.</p> <p>Keela announced that hands on packing of toiletry packs will take place at the next Rotary meeting.</p> <p>Justin is still looking for more donated prizes for the Quiz night on 26 Sept. at the Earth Fair Market, Tokai.</p> <p>Denzil said that he was honoured by the presence of such auspicious guests; he is proud of the achievements of Perivale students, and very grateful for the sponsorship by Haugaland College through the NLC.</p> <p>Are reminded members that we can expect 4 scholars and 2 teachers from Haugaland College mid October. Hosts will be needed for Week 42.</p>
From the DG	<p>DG Lynette elaborated on this year's Rotary theme, 'Making a Difference' (#MAD) and her twitter column @TheDigitalDG. She stated that Rotary has the highest level of friendship of all service clubs internationally. Anywhere in the world a Rotarian can just make contact with a local Rotarian and be guaranteed friendship. She urged us to try a cultural exchange with a foreign club. She also praised our website. For her year in office, DG Lynette has two main quests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every club should endeavor to get a citation • Grow members with a Rotary heart.
President's Sweetie Pie	<p>Karen qualified as this week's Sweetie Pie</p> <p>Dave was awarded the male equivalent (Steak & Kidney Pie?) for his organization of the Wynberg Wotawy Wacky Wobertson Weekend.</p>
Swindle	<p>Jackpot stands at R1510 and 29 cards left.</p> <p>Denzil drew Keela's name, but she drew the 10 of spades (aah shame!)</p> <p>Attendance prize went to Are.</p>

Duty Roster	August			September
	17	24	31	7 (Business)
Sergeant	Todd	Barnard	No Meeting	Hovstad
Wynpress Editorial	Gowdy	Hovstad		James
Wynpress Minutes	van Niekerk K	Howard		Van Niekerk
Door Duty	Smith	Thomas		Van Niekerk
Grace	Danckwerts	Dietrich		Gowdy
Loyal Toast	Schonegevel J	Schonegevel R		Smith
International Toast	Overbosch	Schonegevel J		Schreiber
Speaker Intro and Thanks	Schreiber	Smith		N/A
Entertainment for the month				Barnard, Bayes, Bird, Danckwerts, Gowdy

Dates To Diarise

17 August	Jane Coombe & Shelley O'Connell from Wordworks, which aims to promote literacy in schools in Lotus River and Retreat areas, and the impact the program has had.
24 August	David Gore from the College of Magic will discuss the work done by the college in developing young magicians, and will share some success stories from local communities.
1 September	A Curry Evening at Monique's home. Details TBA. (NB Friday)
7 September	Lufefe Nomjana, the Spinach King of Khayelitsha, will tell us about his one-man enterprise which he started in 2011 with a capital outlay of R40 and which today is a thriving business in the Khayelitsha Mall
14 September	Dr Jane Battersby, UCT lecturer and researcher, will speak on Urban Food Security
19 September	RI President Ian Riseley and Juliet Riseley visit to D9350 -Cocktail Event at Kelvin Grove, Newlands (Invitation to all)
21 September	Our Interact Clubs will update us on their projects
26 September	Quiz Night at Earth Fair Market, Tokai. (NB Tuesday)

Hurried attempts to prevent Mike from responding to DG Lynette's address to the Club last Thursday were in vain. His Rap response is published below. *(It came with a warning of severe penalties if not published – Ed.)*

Yo, listen up now all and let me say....

Boss Lynette you're A-Okay!

We listened good to what you say... to make a difference every day.

We heard you say dat we're da best, now we jus' gotta go and tell da rest!

Now dat we are on da way.... Da citation's comin' soon OKAY!

Tailpiece

