

Editorial

THE DOMINANCE OF *HOMO SAPIENS* – BUT AT WHAT COST?

The Weizmann Institute of Science recently published research that shows that the world's 7.6 billion human beings, whilst being by far the most prolific species on the planet, only comprise about 0.01% of the biomass of the planet on which we all live, meaning that we represent only 0.01% of all life on the planet! Furthermore, this 0.01% has caused the loss of 83% of all wild mammals and half the plants that once occurred naturally on Earth, while we have massively and disproportionately increased the numbers of livestock – simply to feed the voracious appetites of the most abundant species on the planet.

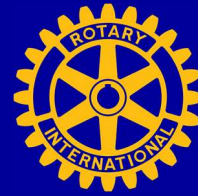
The research goes on to indicate that humans are displacing wild animals and plants with those that are cheaper and easier for us to eat, at alarming rates. Today, farmed poultry comprises 70% of all birds on the planet, with only 30% of birds being wild. A staggering 60% of all mammals on earth are livestock (cattle and pigs) and wild animals form only 4% of mammalian lives on Earth. Despite humans making up only 0.01% of the planets biomass, in terms of sheer numbers we make up around 36% of the mammals on Earth.

We are by far the most successful species on the planet and we keep finding ways to be more successful – if species proliferation is the key measure of success. Yet tragically, this is coming at the expense of most other forms of life on Earth. If inequality between humans is a major source of societal instability then how can the disproportionate ongoing growth of the human population and our staggering distortion and destruction of the planet's natural resources not be recognized as the greatest threat to our own survival? Ironically, it is almost a political imperative these days to highlight, and demands redress for the inequality between people; yet likewise, it is political taboo to contemplate that the unequal use and abuse of almost all other species by our own species, is just as serious. Serious, not for the sake of those species who get driven to extinction every day in the name of 'development', but serious because of what it may mean for all humans on a day not too far into the future. *Homo sapiens* may become the only species that is able to breed itself into extinction!!

By Dennis Gowdy

WYNPRESS

The Rotary Club of
Wynberg



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December in Rotary

Disease Prevention and Treatment
month

**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



BE THE INSPIRATION

Minutes: 6th December 2018

Compiled by Stephanie Thomas

Attendance	17 members + 1 make-up = 69.2%
From the chair of President Biffy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncle Paul's roster still has a few open slots to be filled. Biffy requested that members try to fill them. • Members to please let String know if they (and guests) will be attending the Christmas party next week. • Steenberg Rotaract is doing a food drive – please bring a tin of food to the Christmas party to donate if you can. • Biffy handed over a banner to the Franschoek Valley satellite club at their chartering ceremony. • Biffy and Bruce attended a ceremony for the unveiling of a sports field at school in Masiphumelele. • Biffy attended a graduation ceremony at Learn to Earn and GroundUp today. Three of our 12 graduates were there. DG got Lord Charles Hotel to agree to have GroundUp coffee stations at conference. Natasha Fowler received an award for being a top student at GroundUp and expressed her gratitude for the assistance received from Rotary.
Fellowship	<p>Don Lidgley will be 90 on 8th December</p> <p>Scott Klotz-Gleave's birthday on 8th December; and Valda's on the 12th.</p> <p>WRC turns 69 on the 12th.</p> <p>Armien's daughter is getting married on Saturday 8th December.</p> <p>Bev's golden wedding anniversary is next week.</p>
Slots	<p>String needs feedback about the Christmas party.</p> <p>Alan requested better communication when duties are changed in the Wynpress. Candice manages the schedule on a 3 month basis, but there are inevitable changes from week to week. People whose duties have been changed need to be informed. Especially for speaker introductions.</p> <p>Justin: January has 5 Thursdays. 31st of January agreed for a club social: Bowls with Graham Todd at WPCC? Dave Barnard to arrange.</p>
Guest Speaker	<p>No speaker. Club AGM. Election of office bearers.</p> <p>One candidate for each position: Justin elected as President Elect. Rob elected Treasurer. Stephanie elected Secretary.</p>
Swindle	<p>For the R500 prize, the 6 of spades didn't help Keela. "Ah shame".</p> <p>Hugh won the massive R15 attendance prize.</p>
President's Pearls	<p>Six mistakes mankind keeps making century after century:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Believing that personal gain is made by crushing others; 2. Worrying about things that cannot be changed or corrected; 3. Insisting that a thing is impossible because we cannot accomplish it; 4. Refusing to set aside trivial preferences; 5. Neglecting development and refinement of the mind; 6. Attempting to compel others to believe and live as we do. <p style="text-align: right;">— Marcus Tullius Cicero</p>

For the great enemy of the truth is very often not the lie - deliberate, contrived and dishonest - but the myth - persistent, persuasive, and unrealistic.

Too often we hold fast to the clichés of our forebears. We subject all facts to a prefabricated set of interpretations. We enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought.

~ John Fitzgerald Kennedy

Duty Roster	December			January
	13 Year-end Party	20 No meeting	27 No meeting	3 No meeting
Sergeant	Schreiber			
Wynpress Editorial	Howard			
Wynpress Minutes	Howard			
Door Duty	Overbosch			
Grace	Bird			
Loyal Toast	Smith			
International Toast	Van Niekerk			
Speaker Intro and Thanks	N/A			
Entertainment for the month				Barnard, Bayes, Gowdy, Thomas, Schonegevel R

Dates To Diarise

13 December	Year-end Party
20 December	No club meeting
22 December (Saturday)	Uncle Paul's last night
27 December	No club meeting
3 January	No club meeting

Rotary has entered a new partnership with the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) to enhance its peace and conflict resolution efforts with data-driven methodologies and tools.

The partnership with IEP – a global think tank that pioneered a conceptual framework for ‘Positive Peace’ – enables both organizations to work together to create an online learning platform with webinars and interactive tools to teach Rotary members and Rotary Peace Fellows to apply new peace-building methods to their communities while addressing underlying causes of conflicts. In addition, the partnership allows for the development of local workshops hosted by Rotary clubs to educate communities about positive peace.

“Peace is much more than the mere absence of violence,” said Rotary President Ian H.S. Riseley. “The IEP has helped shift the world’s conversation about peace to a positive, achievable and tangible measure of human wellbeing and progress. Our partnership will foster community-based projects in peace and conflict resolution that are both practical and impactful.”

“We are excited to be partnering with Rotary on this important initiative to reach millions of people, helping them to become peacemakers,” said founder and Executive Chairman of IEP Steve Killelea. “As recent events clearly indicate, peace is a pre-requisite for humanity to thrive. The Rotary programs, built on Positive Peace, will be an invaluable contribution to global peace.”



Instructions for giving your cat a pill

1. Pick up cat and cradle it in the crook of your left arm as if holding a baby. Position right forefinger and thumb on either side of cat's mouth and gently apply pressure to cheeks while holding pill in right hand. As cat opens mouth, pop pill in mouth. Allow cat to close mouth and swallow.
2. Retrieve pill from floor and cat from behind sofa. Cradle cat in left arm and repeat process.
3. Retrieve cat from bedroom and throw soggy pill away.
4. Take new pill from foil wrap, cradle cat in left arm, holding rear paws tightly with left hand. Force jaws open and push pill to back of mouth with right forefinger. Hold mouth shut for a count of ten.
5. Retrieve pill from goldfish bowl and cat from top of wardrobe. Summon spouse.
6. Kneel on floor with cat wedged firmly between knees, holding front and rear paws. Ignore low growls emitted by cat. Get spouse to hold cat's head firmly with one hand while forcing wooden ruler into its mouth. Drop pill down ruler and rub cat's throat vigorously.
7. Retrieve cat from curtain rail and get another pill from foil wrap. Make note to buy new ruler and repair curtains. Carefully sweep shattered figurines from hearth and set to one side for gluing later.
8. Wrap cat in large towel and get spouse to lie on cat with its head just visible below spouse's armpit. Put pill in end of drinking straw, force cat's mouth open with pencil and blow down drinking straw.
9. Check label to make sure pill not harmful to humans, and drink glass of water to take the taste away. Apply plaster to spouse's forearm and remove blood from carpet with cold water and soap.
10. Retrieve cat from neighbour's shed. Get another pill. Place cat in cupboard and close door onto its neck to leave head showing. Force mouth open with dessert spoon. Flick pill down throat with elastic band.
11. Fetch screwdriver from garage and put door back on hinges. Apply cold compress to cheek and check records for last tetanus shot. Throw T-shirt away and fetch new one from bedroom.
12. Phone fire brigade to retrieve cat from tree across the road. Apologise to neighbour who crashed into tree to avoid cat. Take last pill from foil wrap.
13. Tie cat's front paws to rear paws with garden twine and bind tightly to leg of dining room table. Find heavy duty pruning gloves from shed. Force cat's mouth open with small wrench. Push pill into mouth followed by piece of fillet steak. Hold head vertically and pour 100ml water down throat to wash pill down.
14. Get spouse to drive you to emergency clinic and sit quietly while doctor stitches fingers and forearm and removes pill fragments from right eye. Stop by furniture shop on the way home to order new table.
15. Arrange for vet to make house call.