



THE ROTARY CLUB OF KNYSNA  
NEWSLETTER  
OCTOBER 2011



## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

### Rob's Ramblings



As President of our Club I am awestruck by the many varied and interesting invitations I receive, two of which occurred during this last month. I was privileged to be a guest at an appreciation day at TSiBA Eden College situated in the nearby village of Karatara.

Under the watchful eye of Campus Director Sandy Ueckermann and her enthusiastic supportive team, we were treated to interesting speeches about the centre and its many achievements, witnessed awards and recognition and were entertained by the students who explained in a humorous and light-hearted way the workings of the Student Council and duties of the various members. The business aspect of the day was followed by some excellent catering all done by the students.

This was my second visit to the campus and on both occasions I have been moved by the obvious commitment of the staff and the joy and happiness that abounds amongst the students. The unique purpose of TSiBA Eden is to offer a green entrepreneurial bridging and skills development programme serving rural communities in the Southern Cape. The programme provides students with business administration and entrepreneurial skills and enables them to apply these theoretically-learned skills through practical application. Board and lodging is provided for 50 of the non-local students and offers safe and secure conditions for social transformation.

TSiBA Eden has developed from being almost closed down to a thriving ever-growing and diversifying facility. It proudly boasts a number of impressive statistics:

- Over 85% of the students who have graduated from the campus have either found employment or are studying further.
- All employed graduates are in the top 10% wage earning category for their skills.
- The average passmark achieved is 50% compared to 10% for the national average.

The Rotary Club of Knysna has played an active role in the growth and survival of this facility, not only through assisting with material needs, but also through the willingness and dedication of a number of our members who are involved in providing free tutoring and management expertise. I think this success story is aptly summarized in the campus theme: **IGNITING OPPORTUNITY THROUGH EDUCATION**

The other equally rewarding event during the month was attending a drill parade of the sea cadets of TS Knysna under the leadership of Lieutenant Commander Steve Eriksen at which annual recognition awards were presented. The unit is an asset to our town and a reflection of total selfless dedication on the part of their commanding officer. This, too, provides an ideal opportunity for underprivileged children in our community to improve their positions in life and train in a worthy career opportunity under a strict and disciplined environment. The TS Knysna proudly boasts the success of many of its cadets who have gone on to acceptance by the SA Navy and achievement of worthy positions. Our club through its new generation activities has been and continues to be actively involved in the financial support of this unit.

**We make a living by what we get but we make a life by what we give**

## USING ROTARY AS A CHANNEL....



*Blankets being delivered to Masithandane*

The Rotary Club of Knysna does not only use its own funds to support various projects and worthy causes in the greater Knysna area, but it is sometimes approached by other organisations and individuals to distribute goods or use money for a specific purpose. Ray Holmes, for instance, gave the club three computer screens for distribution. Two were given to FAMSA in Knysna and one was given to TSiBA College in Karatara. Thank you very much, Ray!

Recently during our cold winter, two gentlemen who wish to remain anonymous, donated 750 blankets to the club for distribution in Knysna. Their only criteria were that the blankets be given, not sold or re-sold, and that the recipients were in need of blankets. Considerable thought went behind this gift: warm, fluffy  $\frac{3}{4}$ -sized blankets were selected and purchased from a South African producer. They were thus ideal in size and quality to cover two to three children! A group of strong, active Rotarians sprang into action to distribute the blankets to a number of beneficiaries: Hospice, Masithandane, Red Cross, church groups, soup kitchens, crèches and trauma support groups. Our deepest thanks go to these two young men and their families for this most generous gift!

## ROTARY HEARS

In July 2011 Mick Furman, with the assistance of Derrick Ikin, began working on "Rotary Hears", a new project of the RCK. They were inspired by a Knysna-based audiologist who made a presentation to the club and mentioned the need for hearing aids by community members who could not afford to pay for them.

A local practice currently services and recycles hearing aids and then allocates them to impecunious patients free of charge, together with a six months' supply of batteries. These patients are referred to the clinic by the staff of the Provincial Hospital in Knysna. The supply of used devices, however, is insufficient to meet the needs in the region. It was thought that there must be many hearing aids which are discarded when their users upgrade to newer models or when they are replaced for other reasons. The biggest bottleneck in the existing service, therefore, is the scarcity of used hearing devices. This is where Rotary has stepped in to try and alleviate the problem.

A collection box has been placed in the municipal library on Memorial Square in town and dozens of posters have been distributed in the greater municipal area, calling on residents to place their used and no longer needed hearing aids in the box. Rotary regularly clears the box and delivers the contents to the audiology clinic. Adverts have been placed in the local press, and flyers and posters distributed in the waiting rooms of doctors, dentists and therapists, in pharmacies, supermarkets, retirement centres, clubs, churches, fitness centres and public buildings. So far thirteen hearing devices have been donated. As this is a longterm project, it is hoped that over time many more will be collected.

***Rotary Hears – the flyer distributed all over Knysna***



**“ROTARY HEARS”**

**WANTED**

**Used Hearing Aids**

**All makes and in any condition**

*Please deposit them in the box at the Knysna  
Library, Memorial Square, Knysna*

**OR**

*Phone 076 755 9288 for collection*

**OR**

*Email [mandlfurman@gmail.com](mailto:mandlfurman@gmail.com) for  
collection*



**The Rotary Club of Knysna together with  
professional audiologists will assist needy local  
people to hear again.**

## GIFT OF THE OVERLOCKER

Wheelchair-bound Shahieda Stevens, who works in the sewing section of Werkswinkel, asked the Rotary Club of Knysna if they could help her acquire an overlocker so that she could begin her own sewing business from home and thus become independent. A Bernina overlocker was bought and Rtn. Alan Warne presented it to Shahieda in her home.



*Rtn. Alan Warne hands over a Bernina overlocker to Shahieda Stevens while her mother proudly looks on*

## FROM THE INTERACTOR CLUBS – MONTESSORI

Montessori Knysna was brought into the Interact fold by the New Generations committee in 2008. Three years on we can report a thriving, enthusiastic, award-winning club. 2010 and 2011 saw Montessori collect the annual Best Interact Club trophy; this year it was presented at the annual training day in September. Beginnings were slightly bumpy in 2008: no one in the school knew anything about Interact clubs and I was “new on the block” of Interact activities and had to repeatedly call on guidance from New Generations. Lesley in particular was a great mentor! In 2009 Taddy Beleveld, the school principal, delighted with what Rotary could contribute to the “all-rounded” development of the learners, made Interact membership compulsory for all high school learners. Wow, overnight the ranks swelled, teachers had more experience and “up, up and away” the Interactors went, becoming more and more involved with the community!



*Centre row, seated from left to right: Dorothy Fourie, Alison Knox, Rtn Lesley Satchel, Taddy Beleveld, Rtn Sesel Hartshorne, Andri Nel-Rasmussen and Jonathan Fourie – sitting amongst Interactors*

When the younger members developed different ideas to those of the seniors, the club divided into two: a “senior” and a “junior” Interact club. 2010 was the settling down year when junior members went their own way and the seniors became the fully-blown formal Interact Club. Involved decision-making and action resulted in the best club award. Because of the load on grade 12 learners, it was decided that the Interact president’s position would not be held by a grade 12 learner. The learners of grades 10 and 11 have shown that they are quite capable of running the club.

Facebook provides a lively stage for social discourse and sharing of information. This year Interact past president Lizzy Twekye was voted head girl for 2012 and past board member Michael Edwards was voted head boy, both very popular and well deserved appointments. New 2011/2012 Interact president Donna Mohamed is an extremely enthusiastic Interactor and we look forward to an excellent year with her. Rotary is grateful for the tremendous support of Taddy and her staff, particularly Alison Knox, Jonathan Fourie and Steve Williams in the earlier years, and Andri Nel-Rasmussen, our current stalwart. We look forward to working with Dorothy Fourie in 2012, and for ongoing support from “Taxi” Okkie Fourie and “Backbone” Dawn Walsh who complete the Knysna Montessori Interact team. Report written by Rtn Sesel Hartshorne.

## QUAINT RCK RITUALS – MOONING

At 18h00 on 12. October, a group of tough, intrepid, mad Rotarians and their partners met for mooning at Margaret's Point, just above Brenton-on-Lake/Belvidere.

(Okay, so what if two souls had to be dragged from their TV screens....) It was a windy, dark and overcast evening - the latter unfortunately did not bode well for the sighting of the rise of the full moon at 18h38.

Rotarians, however, are not easily beaten by circumstances, and aided by delicious snacks and warm spirits of the liquid and ethereal kind, a jolly evening was enjoyed by all who attended. On leaving we were solaced by the certainty – end-of-world predictions notwithstanding - that in future there will be many more opportunities to greet the full moon in all her splendour!



*Mooning at Margaret's Point. From left to right: Dori Waterston, Eleanor Pawson, Derrick Ikin, Ina Thompson, Elwin Thompson, Graham Waterston, John Satchel, Lesley Satchel, Rob Pawson. Front right, sitting: Sesel Hartshorne and Emil Möller*

## PAN AFRICAN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE



*3 year-olds form the word "kar" with a car on the mat in front of them.*

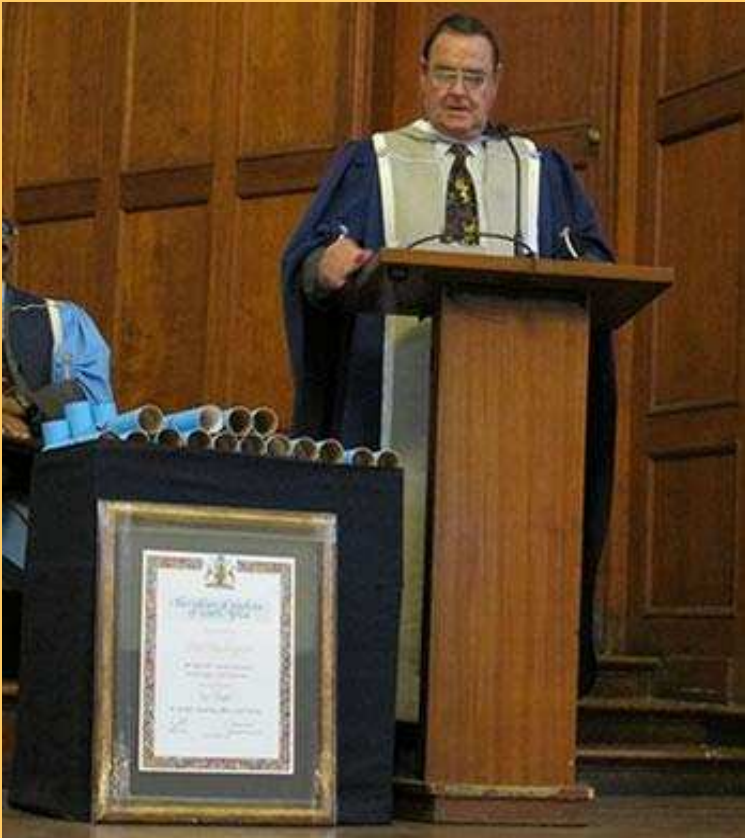
I was fortunate to be a delegate at the Pan African Early Childhood Development Conference in Cape Town recently. I accompanied Annette Nelson from KET, a local Knysna organisation that has benefited from several matching grants, and Rtn Brenda Ericksen of Peachtree City Rotary Club, USA. Our team presented information on the progress of the SOUNS Literacy Programme as it is developing in Knysna and further afield in South Africa.

"Our children are ready, our country is waiting! The hunger in young children to learn is the promise of Africa." This was Annette's message to the conference. The presentation was given to a full house of delegates from small informal organisations trying to improve educational opportunities for disadvantaged preschoolers, representatives from the formal sector in all provinces, and university professors from South Africa and overseas.

They were amazed to see video footage of the success of the SOUNS programme in local townships, in local languages, with preschoolers and their teachers.

This programme was started in the USA by Brenda Ericksen in English, for very young children, while they are still crawling. It was further developed in Knysna by KET into Afrikaans and Xhosa and used successfully with preschool children. Education authorities have asked for the programme to be used in state schools and grade classes, and teachers have started using it. Progress is being strictly monitored through KET.

A Pretoria Rotary club has started the programme in 5 primary schools in Mamelodi as well as at the Prinshof School for the Blind. A global grant will be used to enable all 8 Rotary Clubs in Pretoria to start SOUNS courses of their own. The programme has already spread to Ladybrand, Lesotho and Hartenbos through Rotary connections. The theme of the three day conference was "Sekunjalo - now is the time for new thinking!" It was a positive, hopeful conference, completely different from the doom and gloom that we find in the media every day. We have many enthusiastic and passionate volunteers and professionals in the preschool field, and I am confident that entry-level schooling will upgrade itself continuously in the future. Written by PP Lesley Satchel



*PP Ian Huskisson accepting the illuminated address honouring his five decades of service to the Colleges of Medicine*

The Rotary Club of Knysna applauds the achievement of members in any field. This month a remarkable presentation was made to Rotarian Ian Huskisson in the Jamieson Hall at UCT in Cape Town.

He was honoured by the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa for “extensive, comprehensive and unique contributions” to medicine in South Africa over a period of 50 years. From its fledgling beginnings in a spare office in the Medical Centre in Cape Town, the Colleges of Medicine grew to an organisation with magnificent buildings in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban.

Ian has given voluntary service as a librarian and archivist, editor of transactions, honorary treasurer and trustee of the College Foundation as well as a frequent examiner. After he retired from practice in Cape Town and moved to Knysna, he wrote a book entitled “The history of the colleges of medicine of South Africa. The first 50 years”.

The Rotary Club of Knysna congratulates Ian and thanks him for his long and dedicated service to the medical community. Ian continues to serve the Knysna society by being involved in a number of project service activities.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**6. November:** Croquet Day at 10h30 at Brenton-on-Lake. R10 per person. Please bring a picnic plate of eats to share and a bottle of your special drink.

**13.-18. November:** ENT week

**17. November:** Club assembly @ 17h30 at the Yacht Club to be followed by a fellowship braai with the ENT team at 19h00

**22. November:** DG's Visit @ Yacht Club: Dinner meeting

**4. December:** Xmas Lunch @ Belvidere Manor

2012

**28. January:** Mini-Conference in Cape Town – details to follow

**25. February:** Southern Cape Rotary Day

**24. March:** The Anns' Big Walk

**20.-22. April:** District Conference @ Mossel Bay

**6.-7. July:** Annual Cycle Race



In the past the Knysna Rotary Anns visited various primary schools in the area to hand out soaps to schoolchildren and make them aware of the benefits of washing hands as their Global Handwash Day project. This year the Anns decided to concentrate on provincial clinics and hand out packaged soaps especially to mothers with babies and toddlers. The Anns bought 250 soaps, while 200 were donated by Lesley Liversage from Hospitality Classics and 144 by Chipkins in George.

Sue Mills kindly asked for these donations. Sue Mclver organised the project and packed 594 soaps, each with a pamphlet, into cellophane packets ready for distribution. On 12. October Gertie Soanes, Barbara Derbridge, Sue Mclver and I went to Khayeletu clinic, where we met Sister Makwela, to hand over a bag of soaps and two posters.



*Dori Waterston and Sue Mclver handing over soaps and posters to Sister Ntlanga at the Witlokasie clinic*

Each mother with a baby or toddler at the clinic that morning received a bar of soap. Sister Stander was especially thrilled to accept the posters and soaps at the Hornlee clinic and made us aware of the other handwashing posters already in the clinic. At Witlokasie clinic, Sister Ntlanga welcomed us and thanked us for the posters and soap. We also took soaps to the Knysna town clinic for Sister Louisa Marais, who kindly offered to deliver these to the Sedgefield clinic. Sister Penny Lennon handed out our soaps to the mothers/caregivers at the Keurhoek clinic. Two posters and 50 soaps are still to be delivered to the Knysna provincial hospital for the new moms in the maternity ward. Sister Swanefelder, in charge of all the clinics, was extremely thankful for the soap gifts to the mothers/caregivers.

We Anns felt the visit to the clinics was an interesting and humbling experience and we realized with how much love and caring the patients are being treated by the nursing staff. 56 lovely fluffy toy animals, donated by Judy Carter, have now all been washed and look sparkly and new! We are sure the children who will receive them will cherish and love them.

I am very happy to say that Judith Retief is home after a successful operation and hope that our loving thoughts, best wishes and visits will help her to recover steadily. Take it easy, Judith, and in time you'll have all your strength back! The Festive Season is nearly upon us and I wish you all well with the exciting preparations for a happy and peaceful time! Love, Dori

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

*".....in life we are worth only what we are willing to share with others" – Sir Moses Montefiore, a 19th century British financier and philanthropist. Quoted from the November 2011 edition of The Rotarian*

*"Optimism is the one quality more associated with success and happiness than any other" - Brain Tracy*

**President:** Rob Clark; **Past President:** Franc Bentley;  
**Secretary:** John Satchel; **Treasurer:** Adrian Auckland; **Club Administration:** Ina Thompson; **Service Projects:** Alan Warne;  
**New Generations:** Mike Mills ;  
**Rotary Foundation:** Peter Southey; **Public Relations:** Dereck Wheeldon ;  
**Anns President:** Dori Waterston  
**Venue for Tuesday Meetings:** Yacht Club at the Knysna Waterfront at 12:30 for 13:00

