



**THE ROTARY
CLUB OF KNYSNA
NEWSLETTER
December 2015**



PRESIDENT PETER'S MESSAGE



President Peter with Lenie

Dear Friends,

As this year is coming to an end and I ask myself "where did the last five months go?" I realise what a privilege and pleasure it has been working with such a great bunch of people that make up the Rotary Club of Knysna. We are so fortunate to have in our club people of great talent and diversity, enabling us to raise the funds necessary to support our community projects. In this way we can work toward being "...a gift to the world" as requested by RI President K.R. Ravindran. I would like to thank each and every member of the Rotary Club of Knysna for what has been achieved so far and what is still to come next year. My first and big thanks is to my board of committee directors, Andy, Ina, Andrew, Mick, Alan, Emil, my right hand and secretary Doug, and our ever faithful and true bean counter Rob who does such a splendid and sometimes thankless job of keeping our numbers right. In July the board met for a SWOT workshop and came away with a good set of priority issues to be addressed. I am pleased to say that most of those have been dealt with, but there are still a few items that need to be tackled in the New Year.

The club's first Global Grant with the Knysna Sport School has been evaluated by PDG Mark Doyle; the application for our second Global Grant for the Knysna Education Trust has been submitted.

Club membership has reached 60 for the second time in my recollection and should soon reach 61. Again we are considering the possibility of a satellite club. Our committees have all been very active and busy throughout the year.

The fourth Knysna Rotary SPLASH will be held in December, with swimming and canoeing events and the ever-popular Quack Attack. Two golf happenings are being organised for 2016 by Sesel and her team. Louise is re-initiating the Rotary International Friendship Tours beginning in 2016.

Once again I really do thank you all for being the best Rotary Club I have been associated with and I take this opportunity on behalf of Lenie and myself of wishing you and your families a Blessed and Happy Christmas/Festive Season and may the New Year bring forth all your dreams and aspirations.

I am yours always in Rotary
Peter Southey

KNYSNA ROTARY SPLASH IS BACK!



Knysna Rotary SPLASH, the annual water festival organised by the Rotary Club of Knysna, will be back on 19. & 20. December with three fun-filled events for the whole family.

This year SPLASH will focus on the two most popular events - the Knysna Lagoon Mile Swim and the SPLASH Quack Attack duck race - and introduce two new canoe races: the SPLASH Family Fun Canoe Race and the SPLASH 10km Canoe Race. The Knysna Lagoon Mile Swim will take place in the morning on Saturday, 19. December at the Knysna Yacht Club. As in previous years there will be a Mile Swim (1600m) and a Junior Swim (450m).

The popular SPLASH Quack Attack will be held on Saturday, 19. December at 15h00 in the canal along the Knysna Waterfront. This is an entertaining yellow duck race for up to 1,000 ducks. Adults and children alike are thrilled by this exciting and totally unpredictable race!

A new event, the SPLASH Canoe Races, is planned for Sunday, 20. December, setting off in the channel in front of Sirocco and Quay Four on Thesen Island. Buoyancy devices are compulsory for both events. The Family Fun Canoe Race, with its Pirates of the Caribbean theme, is a one-and-a-half kilometer race open to all paddle craft including K1s, K2s and K3s, single and double surf skis, sea kayaks, fishing kayaks, Indian canoes, plastic canoes, guppies and SUPs. The 10km Canoe Race is for more experienced and competent canoeists and is open to racing kayaks and surf skis only.



For more information visit www.knysnasplash.co.za. Follow Knysna SPLASH (<https://www.facebook.com/KnysnaSPLASH>) on Facebook and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/KnysnaSPLASH>) for regular updates.



GLOBAL GRANTS

The Knysna Rotary Club has entered the era of Global Grants with a flurry of hard work and great excitement!



Cooperating with RC Nieuwkoop in the Netherlands, a Global Grant was awarded to the Knysna Sport School (KSS) in 2014 to provide over 1'000 scholarships for underprivileged children to participate in the school's eight sport activities. In addition, a workshop in anger/conflict management was held for coaches and mentors. A GG evaluation was undertaken by RI and the first annual report has been submitted. KSS has met all its commitments and the Club looks forward to another two years of exciting bowling and batting. RC Knysna thanks RC Nieuwkoop for being such a stalwart supporter of the KSS over many years. On behalf of the Club, PP John Satchel honoured four KSS coaches for their great dedication and work. Jan Van Wageningen and Iain Coetzee were presented with Rotary Community Service Awards; Paulus Sigonyela and Willem Pompies were given the Rotary Community Achievement Awards. These four men have shown exceptional dedication in organising, coaching and mentoring schoolchildren in a variety of sports. The coaches serve as valuable role models and instil discipline and sportsmanship in the youngsters, while providing healthy and creative after-school activities.

The second Global Grant the Club has applied for is with a number of Canadian Clubs led by energy whirl Lesley Barmania of RC Mississauga-Meadowvale. It is in support of the Knysna Education Trust (KET): Three buildings were donated to KET, and with the help of the Global Grant it is hoped to renovate these buildings to establish a combined model preschool and hands-on teacher training centre. This centre will annually train 40 teachers in early childhood schooling, basic literacy and numeracy, while at the same time provide a child-friendly learning environment for 120 children from disadvantaged backgrounds. The teachers will graduate with a recognized and certified qualification. More and more studies – worldwide and local - show that the key to successful formal education starts with early childhood education.



As a direct result of the successful VTT visit to D2000 in Switzerland (see Newsletter October 2014) by five early child development teachers (ECD) from D9530, and after much communicating and deliberating, a submission has been made for a Global Grant to train five ECD principals and 10 teachers from D9530 through a registered ECD training programme. The areas chosen are Knysna, Franschhoek and Khayelitsha and the programme will be run by Professor Eric Atmore through the Centre for ECD in Cape Town. The Swiss Clubs contributing are RC Küsnacht-Zürich and RC Chur-Herrschaft.

ROTARIANS INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP TOURS (RIFT)

After a break of five years, the Rotary Club of Knysna is reactivating the Rotarians International Friendship Tours (RIFT) project. The object of these tours is to foster goodwill and friendship amongst Rotarians worldwide and to promote a better understanding of South Africa, its peoples and their cultures. Over 600 Rotarians from 18 different countries have visited South Africa on these tours and lasting friendships have been made across the globe.

Louise Pannell, who in partnership with her late husband James, organised and led these tours for 25 years, will once again be the champion for this project. Dates for RIFT South Africa No 35 are from 27. October to 14. November 2016. Tour leaders will be Rotarians Louise Pannell and Vicky Tricker.

Accommodation will be mainly in 4- and 5-star hotels or lodges and the itinerary will include some of the top attractions of South Africa. Visitors will be home-hosted by

Knysna Rotarians for three nights and there will be additional opportunities for Rotary fellowship during the tour. Transport includes one domestic flight and overland travel by luxury air conditioned coach. It will be possible for Rotarian golfers to join the Knysna Club's *November in Knysna* golf event after the tour. Information on the Club website.

Rotarians worldwide are invited to participate in this tour. Seats are limited, with a maximum of 22 participants on the tour. Details will be available on the Club website soon. Anyone interested in joining or finding out more, please contact tour organiser Louise at rotarytours@pannells.com.



RIFT South Africa no. 34 – November 2010 with representatives from eight countries, seen at Cape Agulhas, the southernmost point of Africa

GOLF



The Rotary Club of Knysna will be hosting its Annual Golf Event from 12.-15. May 2016. This event started many years ago as a small group of locals playing golf on a Saturday afternoon and has grown considerably over the years. 2016 should see a record of over 250 visiting golfers who, together with locals, are expected to play close to 800 rounds over four days.

The aim of this event is to create a second major fundraising drive for the Club after their Annual Knysna Cycle Tour. Over the past years golf chairperson Sesel Hartshorne has re-engineered the event and turned it into one worthy of standing beside the Knysna Cycle Tour as a top class event, not only doing Rotary proud, but also raising funds for charities that the Club supports.

The competition will take place at the Simola Golf Club, Pezula Golf Club, Pinnacle Point, Goose Valley and the Knysna Golf Club. Golfers from all over South Africa and Namibia come to support the event with local golfers to make it an exciting golfing weekend. It is also a wonderful

opportunity to show our visitors not only the incredible golf courses in this area, but also the hospitality of the local community as more and more golfers are accompanied by partners who enjoy special relaxation time in Knysna.

In addition, Rotary Knysna will hold its international golf event *November in Knysna* from 13.-19. November when overseas players are invited to come and enjoy the scenic Garden Route while playing golf on some of the most beautiful and prestigious courses in the world. The first *November in Knysna* in 2014 attracted visitors from nine countries and the Club is looking to draw visitors from even more countries and to double the number of golfers participating.



CLUB FELLOWSHIP



JAQUI'S GOLDEN JOTTINGS

“HEARTS OF GOLD” - Greetings from the Knysna Rotary Anns!

Since our last newsletter our hard working group of Anns has been very busy preparing for Christmas in several ways.

We are glad to welcome three potential new members to our club, but lost one member due to other commitments. It is always wonderful when new ladies join our group with refreshing and new ideas. Our highlight in October was the visit from our DG Geraldine who certainly inspired us with her valuable experience from her corner of Africa. We took her to our local home for the aged where we all joined in the musical aerobics class... a hilarious 30 minutes!

Our annual Bosky Dell Rose Garden morning was another fantastic success with incredible speakers, fantastic prizes & delicious refreshments - and the bonus of improving our bank balance.

Projects fulfilled gave 52 old folk of Vermont Home each a beautiful, colourful and warm comforter (eiderdown), giving great joy to the recipients. Fraasig Primary School in Hornlee was presented with a much needed photocopier and printer for its busy library, enabling more children to benefit from learning by reading.

We decided this Christmas to present personalized parcels to the residents of Loeriehof Home for the Aged and had such fun being Santa and his reindeers, giving laughter and pleasure to the 70 old folk.



The joy of giving - Anns Carol Emmanuel, Jaqui von Ribbeck & Jean Allan at Loeriehof



Comforters & pillow cases for Vermont residents

Our Christmas lunch was also such fun when we could enjoy fellowship together at Shepherds Tree Trading Centre, a little enterprise supporting our local community.

Lots of joy and laughter to finish our busy year and wishing everyone a wonderful & peaceful Christmas,
Jaqui

UPCOMING EVENTS

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|-----------------------|--|
| 19.-20. December | SPLASH Festival |
| 12.-15. May 2016 | Knysna Rotary Local Golf Weekend |
| 1.-3. July 2016 | Knysna Rotary Cycle Tour |
| 13.-19. November 2016 | Knysna Rotary International Golf Event |

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together ~ African proverb

Individuals and nations owe it to themselves and the world to become informed ~ Paul Harris

Board Members 2015/2016

President – Peter Southey **Past President** – John Satchel

Secretary – Doug Emanuel **Treasurer** – Rob Clark **Club Administration/President Elect** – Mick Furman
Service Projects - Andy Muir **Youth Service** – Ina Thompson **Rotary Foundation** – Alan Warne

Public Image – Andrew Finn **Membership** – Emil Moller

Ann's' President – Jaqui von Ribbeck

