



**THE ROTARY
CLUB OF KNYSNA
NEWSLETTER
June 2016**



PRESIDENT PETER'S PIECE

Dear Friends -

As we are coming to the end of a Rotary year that I never thought I could possibly survive, I find myself in total awe of this club and its members. That I survived is purely thanks to you for making it easy for me.

At the beginning of my year I undertook not to "fix what ain't broke"! When attending the POETS training seminar at the beginning of the year, DG Geraldine provided a check list of the characteristics of an ideal Rotary Club. I was pleased to report that our club ticked all the boxes of what a thriving Rotary Club should be doing. Therefore it would be silly to change for the sake of change.

Together we have achieved so much. We expanded our club to 62 members and it was lovely to welcome our "newies" to the Rotary Club of Knysna. The induction ceremony of a new member is always a highlight for me. By continually growing our membership, we expose the club to new ideas and new talents. Our crop of "newies" have all proven to be fabulous assets to the club. Thank you for all you do and how you have fitted into this club.

The club's fundraising has continued to be good and looks to have new revenue avenues through the expansion and sponsorship opportunities of the SPLASH Festival in December. The year started as always with the Cycle Race which is our main fundraiser and again thanks to the efforts of Elwin and his team, this was the success that we have become used to. It is never taken for granted and the same efforts of all members will be required for the upcoming weekend starting 1 July in Mick's year. Our golf weekend also went off well thanks to the superb planning, monitoring and management processes implemented by Henry and Sue. Together with Sesel's continued guidance, the weekend has grown from a two-day affair to four days of golf and 7 fields of golfers playing 5 different courses from Mossel Bay to Plett. As I go to print I haven't heard the final funds raised, but whispers tell me we may have done better than last year. Awesome, everyone! Then there was the SPLASH weekend in December which, thanks to our main sponsor SANLAM, brought in a profit. Stand up and take a bow, Mick Furman, Mac Thorpe and the SPLASH team – great job!!



Whilst it hasn't actually happened in my year, I cannot ignore the initiative and effort put in by Louise in resurrecting our International Rotarians' Friendship Tour. It will take place in the next Rotary year and already has enough takers to make the tour viable. Well done, Louise and Vicky.

Special thanks to my board members without whom I could definitely not have survived the year. More details at Mick's induction. Be it enough for now to know that words cannot describe how much their support was worth to me. Well done to every one of you for all you have achieved this year.

Some of the milestones this year have been

- Increased membership
- Sufficient fund raising – with amazing commitment
- Great fellowship
- Excellent projects – budget this year was R900,000
- New global grant for KET
- Restructured financial management (work in progress)
- Knysna Rotary Trust put in order (also work in progress)
- Winner of Youth Prize at District for our *Know your Town Project*

I would like to end off by wishing Mick Furman and his new board every success for the 2016/2017 Rotary year. I am sure with his able leadership and everyone's support, this club will continue to grow from strength to strength.

Thank you one and all for your support and putting up with my 4-way test at the end of every meeting. It has been a wonderful experience for me.

Peter Southey

HAPPY FACES



Reading in front of mirrors

Previous newsletters have often reported on the Club's very active involvement in early childhood in the Knysna community. Earlier this year KET, the Knysna Education Trust, under the able directorship of Nicola Goodall, was awarded a Global Grant to renovate three buildings to establish a combined model preschool for 120 children and a hands-on teacher training centre for 40 teachers. Work is well underway for this renovation.

Recently the new Happy Faces Preschool for 65 pre-schoolers was opened in Hornlee and has been busily active. A District Grant together with the RC of Cardiff, Llanishen in Wales enabled them to buy five CD players, full length mirrors in the classrooms and bathrooms, a microwave, a gazebo, storage cupboards and recycling bins. Thank you, RC Cardiff Llanishen for your support!



Rotarian Lesley Satchel and the class trying out the new CD player

GOLF

The 17th Rotary Knysna Charity Golf Event took place in May this year. Golf was played on the courses at Pezula, Simola, Knysna GC and Goose Valley on three days. 168 golfers from out of town participated, many bringing their partners for a wonderful stay in our beautiful town. Once again, fun was had by all the participants.

This golf weekend is the second largest fundraising event of the club after the Momentum Weekend Argus Knysna Cycle Tour during the Oyster Festival in July. Once again businesses, organisations and individuals in the Knysna district came to the club's support by giving prizes, services and cash sponsorships.



Photos by www.ellephoto.co.za



SAD FAREWELL



Judith and Francois receiving a certificate of appreciation from President Peter

After twenty years in Knysna, the Rotary Club bids a fond farewell to Judith and Francois Retief. Francois was a member of the Rotary Club of Knysna during this time and served as president in 2002. Judith was a Rotary Ann and served as the Anns' president in the same year.

Francois' sardonic humour evoked many a smile at our lunchtime meetings and Judith was known for her kindness and support where needed. Both contributed much to the club's fellowship events and the club will miss them. We all wish them joy and good health in their new home in Gauteng.

INTERACTORS GET TO KNOW THEIR TOWN



Once again the Club held its popular *Know Your Town* programme for a group of 30 Interactors from seven local high schools. The learners visited some important institutions which contribute to the smooth functioning of our town, such as the Municipal Chambers, the Executive Council, the Police Station, the Correctional Services and the Fire Station. This year another exciting dimension was added: the group was hosted by volunteers from the Knysna Basin Project who talked passionately and informatively about the estuary. The learners could have close encounters with various estuary-dwelling creatures. Discussed, too, was the huge litter problem on a local, national and global level, and how much of this litter ends up in the sea. For many



Interactors this was the first exposure to the delicate balance that links people and the environment. At the District 9350 Conference in Stellenbosch, this "Know Your Town" was judged the best youth project in the district.





The second half of our Golden Year has raced by so fast I can hardly believe we are reaching the end of June and the induction of our new president, Era Law. Since our very successful and happy Golden Jubilee celebrations at the end of January, our ladies have been extremely active, involved and dedicated to Anns projects.

A very sad start was the loss of Mary van Eeden's daughter and Gertie Soanes' husband. We purchased Easter eggs, hot cross buns, crayons and paints and brushes for the Eyethu Creche and supplied colouring books for the Provincial Hospital children's ward.

We are glad to welcome two more new members which gives us four new members to add to our list for this year 2015/16.

In March our guest speaker was Lou van der Merwe from FAMSA, retiring after 11 years. She was such a dedicated and inspirational director, giving tirelessly of herself and her loving support. We presented her with the Diana Theresa award.

Mid-May was a busy weekend for the Anns, producing teas and eats for three performances of the Jo'burg Ballet for Hospice plus the same weekend selling hamper raffle tickets at the annual Rotary Knysna Charity Golf Event played at four golf club venues near Knysna. All was worth the hard work, giving us considerable funds for our projects and receiving lots of congratulations from the



President Jaqui with Judith Retief



Inspired waitresses for the ballet evening

audience and golfers. Hospice will be the beneficiary of the ballet funds.

In early June we had our first Social Bridge Afternoon where we provided super prizes and delicious teas. The proceeds will be donated to the "Rape Room" at the Provincial Hospital providing comfort kits for victims.

At the annual District Conference the Knysna Anns won the Kenneth Young Trophy for being the "most visible club in the district".

I thank every Ann for her dedicated support over the year which has been a very rewarding experience. I hand over to the capable hands of Era Law who will be a refreshing and stimulating President for the year to come. She has some exciting new ideas for us all.

In Rotary friendship from President Jaqui von Ribbeck.



UPCOMING EVENTS



25. June	Presidential Induction – Mick Furman
27. June	Cycle Tour Packing Party
1. July	Cycle Tour Registration
2.-3. July	Cycle Tour
2. August	DG's Visit to RCK
20. August	Rotary Awareness Day
8.-10. November	Home hosting of Rotary International Friendship Tour

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Ideas have unhinged the gates of empires ~ Paul Harris

In case of dissension, never dare to judge till you've heard the other side ~ Euripides

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

Anns' President – Jaqui von Ribbeck

