



Bay Breezes

Meeting Time: Tues 5.30pm for 6pm & on Zoom
Location: Atlantic Boat Club, Hout Bay Harbour
Attendance officer: Adele Hayden | m: 082 807 0087

President: Ralph Tobergte | m: 082 080 3662
Secretary: Carolyn Herrick | m: 076 012 2440

www.rotaryhoutbay.org February 2024

Overseas Donors Support Vision Testing

Thanks to several overseas donors, we are able to continue offering vision testing in seven Hout Bay schools in partnership with Jonga Trust. To date, we have completed testing at Disa Primary, Sentinel Primary, Hout Bay Primary, Kronendal Primary and Silikamva High School, screening over 1400 children.



Above: On 13 February, the Horwood family from Australia who have sponsored our programme at Silikamva High School, visited us to see how the testing was going. It was lovely to meet all of them in person and be able to show them how their donation is benefiting high school students in Hout Bay. Over three days at Silikamva, we screened 373 students and will be providing 234 (37%) with eyeglasses.



Above: Members of the Grand Bend Rotary Club which sponsored testing of Grade 5 students at all five primary schools, visited us from Canada, also on 13 February. They were kind enough to bring along some donations, including readers, which we will distribute on our next Family Health Day.

We will finish screening in all schools by the end of March and expect to deliver the new eyeglasses by mid-April. We are very grateful to our donors who enable us to help these children see properly in the classroom.

Club Models that propel Rotary into the Future

By Ian Irvin

On 30th January, the “Vocational Cluster” (VOCA) of the Rotary E-Club of Greater Cape Town joined us at RCHB. Jerome O’Ryan spoke to us about their alternative club model.

Whilst he has been a long-standing Member of Kirstenbosch Rotary Club and a past President, Jerome has spent much of his time in starting new, now flourishing, Rotary and Rotaract Clubs in many locations, including Atlantis.

A “cluster” is essentially a group of like-minded people with shared interests and/or vocations who leverage their similarities for fellowship as well as service projects. In the VOCA cluster, the methodology of running the organisation differs from the traditional Rotary club structure in the following ways:



Jerome O’Ryan

- **Meetings are flexible:** they are not calendar driven but happen when appropriate according to the wishes of the members; they can be online or in-person events.
- **Networking and projects:** the cluster networks by visiting other clubs and participating in projects and events. A few clusters may get together at times to work on the same project. They utilise their members’ vocations within Rotary projects.
- **Inter-generational participation:** “The important thing for the future is that we have to attract younger people into Rotary,” said Jerome, “but young people may not want to join a formal organisation”. The cluster addresses this by providing an enjoyable, informal place for like-minded young people and Rotarians to find each other and work together. The older members bring experience, knowledge, and maturity whilst younger members bring enthusiasm, energy, and lateral/fresh thinking.
- **Focus on relationships and engagement:** Cluster meetings are often sociable and might include singing (Jerome serenaded us with a sampling at our RCHB meeting!). Jerome stressed the need to welcome and support new and potential members. Fellowship and enjoyable meetings will attract and retain members.

Jerome concluded by saying that the way forward for Rotary is beyond age, culture, structure, language. It is about relationships and enjoying working together. Jerome believes this overall flexibility fits with the lives and attitudes of the young and busy members of our society.



Visiting members of VOCA



A different club model

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Membership: Marcelo Andrade
International: Hans Kuhn
Foundation: Phil Couchman

Station 8 of the National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI)

By Ingrid Kupper

We were pleased to welcome our “neighbours”, NSRI station commander Spencer Oldham and deputy commander Carmen Long, to a recent RCHB meeting.

Carmen gave us a brief history of the organisation, which was established in 1967, as well as an overview of the Hout Bay NSRI station. Established in 1979, Station 8 is one of the oldest and biggest NSRI bases in the country, given that Hout Bay is still one of the busiest fishing harbours in South Africa.

The Station 8 crew is made up of people from all walks of life, from the youngest trainee of 16 years, up to the oldest who is soon turning 77. The station has four operational crews, each with at least one experienced Class 1 Coxswain. Carmen herself is the first woman in the NSRI’s history to qualify as a Class 1 coxswain.

The crews generally train on weekends and perform night exercises during the week. Their skill set also includes paramedical training.

In the past year, Station 8 undertook 46 sea rescue operations including medical evacuations from ships. In addition, they assisted in countless land-based operations such as medical evacuations from car accidents, and medical assistance at beaches and sports events -- you will always see the Station 8 crew on Chapman’s Peak during the Cape Town Cycle Tour or the Two Oceans Marathon.

The Station 8 building is one of the best facilities for conducting joint operations in the area, so is often used by other rescue services when the need arises e.g. during disastrous fires and floods in the area.



Station 8 recently received a new JetRIB rescue craft, the “Spirit of Gabi”, thanks to a generous bequest. They will also soon receive the NSRI’s ground-breaking 14,8m ORC (Offshore Rescue Craft) which will require rebuilding the base to accommodate this big boat.

Spencer noted that one of their earlier rescue boats was the 12m “Spirit of Rotary” from Walvis Bay. Though this boat has now been replaced, the steering wheel still exists in the clubhouse.

The presentation concluded with applause and gratitude from the audience, for the crucial and life-saving activities of the NSRI in our community, all of it on a voluntary basis.

Important Dates to Diarise

10th March: Cape Town Cycle Tour – marshaled by Rotarians
18 – 20 April: District 9350 Conference, Mossel Bay

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Ziyaad's after-school Skate Programme

By Keith Bull

Tuesday 13th February saw the club room packed to the rafters with over forty members and visitors.

We welcomed the Horwood family – sponsors of the Student Support Scheme and Vision projects amongst other things – who had flown in from Australia not 24 hrs beforehand. With other family members they had already witnessed the Vision Project in action in attending the testing of eyesight of children earlier in the day.

Rotarian Hans Gustavsson from Sweden (picture at right) brought greetings from his club and there was an exchange of banners. His wife Annelie was also there.

Among the 24 visitors that evening we welcomed back Butch & Lynn Liebenberg. Butch was a long-time member of RCHB until he moved to KZN. He was President in 2003-4 and through all his amazing work for the club he is one of only a few Honorary Life Members.



We all came along to see and hear Ziyaad Davids and his fellow coach Wonga Lucas wow the audience with the fantastic work they do with the children. After a brief introduction explaining the background to the skate park and the key role Rotary Club of Hout Bay (RCHB) played in the design, fund raising and construction, Ziyaad and Wonga were posed a series of questions about their work. They explained they run courses after school every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for some 20-30 children selected for their programme. The children are taught not just about learning to safely ride a skateboard, but also the discipline and respect required to succeed in life.



Both Ziyaad and Wonga are from the communities of Hout Bay – Ziyaad born and bred and still living in Hangberg and Wonga similarly, but in Imizamo Yethu. They explained they were exposed to the peer pressures and problems existing in these communities: crime, drugs, gangs, alcohol etc. Their programme aims to inform the children how important it is to resist being drawn into that easy way of life.

Before the children are allowed to get on their skateboards (many of which were provided by RCHB together with protective helmets and guards) they are encouraged to respond to the coaches' briefings on life skills, including respect for everyone.

The students are also helped with homework, provided with food on Fridays and taken on trips around Cape Town to museums, places of interest such as the Aquarium, on hikes up Table Mountain and theme locations where the owners invite them with free entry. The children are thus exposed to life outside Hout Bay which many of them have never left!

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The response from the audience was enthusiastic and supportive of the wonderful work Ziyaad, Wonga and his other two coaches do (Keerin and Dahlia couldn't attend on the night), and appreciative of the time and encouragement they give to the children.

Ziyaad and his team are delivering the objectives that RCHB had in providing the skate park as a facility to bring all communities together and take children off the streets and away from harm.



Lions' Club Update

By Tina Irvin

We were pleased to welcome members of the Hout Bay Lions Club this month, including club president Elizabeth Boonzaier, her husband Jerome, and Liz Huckle who is of course an honorary member of our club and Paul Harris fellow.

Elizabeth is a long-time Hout Bay resident and taught business subjects at Hout Bay High School, as well as serving as Principal of the school for 6 years. This was followed by a career in management accounting.

She has been a Lions member for 29 years, with her primary area of interest being youth development. Elizabeth gave us an overview of current Lions' projects:

In terms of **health and welfare**, the Lions distribute the Rotary-funded e'Pap to creches; support the aged and people with disabilities with e.g. mobility devices; supply gifts for the monthly senior's bingo day; and support the work of the CDC and Main Road clinics. They are also involved with the food garden at Main Road Clinic, as well as with transport provision for patients who need to get to hospital.

Youth bursaries are funded by the Lions Club as well as donations from the Horwood Foundation, and have facilitated studies such as a paralegal course, beauty therapy ITEC diploma, a Bachelor of Education Foundation Phase Teaching Course.

Another area of focus is on the **Girl Child**: keeping girls in school by supplying hygiene packs, ensuring they have career planning, and help to prevent the large number of teenage pregnancies.



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In **Pre-School Education**, the Lions are active in improving the qualifications of ECD practitioners by helping them get their qualifications, funding short courses e.g. on Autism, in response to requests.

Their **Youth Leadership Program** for 2024 will comprise of a speechcraft course, a teambuilding weekend, plus various topics like conflict resolution, decision making and problem solving. It is targeting Grade 12 learners from Hout Bay High School and will hopefully expand, funds permitting.

A proposed **Youth Programs** will consist of a 2-week School Holiday Program working with HB Leopards Soccer School. This will entail mixed sporting and other activities for a group of 60-80 primary school children.

Another proposal is to revive the 1st **Sea Scouts** in Hangberg which would identify 16 youths aged between 10-12 for a scout awareness day in June and identify adults who would be interested to lead the scout group. And on the **Boys to Men** initiative, they are due to send two boys to a camp in May.

Elizabeth shared the Lions International focus areas which include: addressing Hunger, Diabetes, Eye Vision, Humanitarian needs, Childhood Cancer, Environment and Disaster Relief.

The Hout Bay Lions have only 7 members and Carolyn, in her thank you's, commented on the amazing list of things they were involved in for this small membership with a very impressive focus on youth.

In Memoriam

By Colin Sutherland

A year has passed since Rotarian and Paul Harris Fellow, Denise Hopkins, passed away only some five days after her wedding to Peter.

Here is a happy photo of Denise on her wedding day to remind us of her.



RCHB Programme for March

N.B. Calendar is subject to change

MAR 2024	Time	Venue	Speaker / Event	Sergeant (Organiser)
1	5 pm	Woodcutters Pub	Fellowship drinks	(Charles)
5	6 pm	ABC	Cape Cycle Tour briefing	Keith
8	10.30 am	Delish	Coffee morning	
10	5.30 am	Mainstream Centre	Cape Cycle Tour – marshal rendezvous	
12	6 pm	ABC	“Nonceba” presentation – Nosi	Alison bull
15	5 pm	Woodcutters Pub	Fellowship drinks	(Charles)
16	9 am	Beach	Beach clean-up (<i>now every 3rd sat</i>)	
19	6 pm	ABC	Hout bay EMS – Quinton Luck	Candida
22	10.30 am	Delish	Coffee morning	
26	6 pm	ABC	Club Business Meeting	Ralph

Club members are asked to please give Adele their apologies before each Tuesday meeting so that she knows how many people will attend meetings in person or online.

Zoom Meeting link for 2024:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84852612997?pwd=Wi84RVk1S1MyOXUyTXlJcmdqK0k0dz09>

Meeting ID: 848 5261 2997

Passcode: 248734

March Birthdays:

10th Mar – Marcelo

15th Mar – Ralph

29th Mar - Butch

RCHB Vision Statement: *We unite to take action that contributes to lasting change in our Hout Bay community and beyond, and in ourselves.*

RCHB Mission Statement: *We focus on improving lives in our Hout Bay community, primarily by providing programmes for youth from early childhood through to young adult, and other support for those in need.*



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