



# Bay Breezes

NEWSLETTER | JULY 2025

**Meeting time : Tuesday 5:30pm for 6pm**  
**Location : Atlantic Boat Club, Hout Bay Harbour**

**President : Adele Hayden | 082 807 0087**  
**Secretary : Marcelo Andrade | 082 970 3720**

## WELCOMING OUR NEW PRESIDENT – WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR OUTGOING LEADER

As we begin a new Rotary year, we extend heartfelt thanks to our outgoing president, Carolyn Herrick, for her incredible dedication and leadership. She led with purpose, passion, and grace, leaving our club stronger, more connected, and deeply inspired.

At the same time, we are excited to officially welcome Adele Hayden as our new president. With her energy, vision, and commitment to service, we look forward to a year of fresh ideas, meaningful work, and continued fellowship.

Thank you, Carolyn, for everything. And welcome, Adele, we are so excited for what lies ahead!



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| JULY 2025        | Time    | Venue          | Speaker / Event                                                                                        | Sergeant |
|------------------|---------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1 <sup>ST</sup>  | 6pm     | ABC            | <b>BUILDING EURODISNEY - COLIN SUTHERLAND</b>                                                          | Ralph    |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | -       | -              | NO MEETING                                                                                             |          |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am | Delish         | Coffee morning                                                                                         |          |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | 6PM     | ABC            | <b>ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FEEDBACK - RANDELL, DIANNE, CAROLYN AND JOHN</b>                    | Tim      |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> | -       | -              | MANDELA DAY – Sandwich making at Marianne and blanket drive distribution by Elie on 19 <sup>th</sup> . |          |
| 22 <sup>ND</sup> | -       | -              | NO MEETING                                                                                             |          |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> | 6pm     | RESTAURANT TBC | Fellowship dinner with partners                                                                        |          |

# TALK ON EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION.

*By Matt Mercer*

At a recent Rotary meeting, we had the privilege of hearing from Matt Mercer, who shared insightful strategies and practical advice on improving the way we communicate. His talk was both engaging and thought-provoking, reminding us just how powerful intentional communication can be in both our personal and professional lives.

One of the key takeaways from Matt's presentation was the concept of tactical empathy, a tool that can truly transform the way we connect with others. As Matt explained:

"Tactical empathy is a communication skill where you deliberately seek to understand the emotions, perspectives, and motivations of others, and then use that understanding to guide the interaction toward a positive outcome. It's not about agreeing with someone, but about demonstrating that you get where they're coming from."

His words resonated deeply, offering a valuable reminder that listening with empathy can be one of the most effective tools for building trust, solving problems, and inspiring collaboration.



## *Congratulations to Charles and Carina!*

We're delighted to share the joyful news of Charles and Carina's recent wedding. Wishing you both a lifetime filled with love, laughter, and wonderful adventures together. Your Rotary family celebrates this beautiful new chapter with you!



# BUILDING EURO DISNEY

*- Written by Michele Grant*



Honorary member Colin Sutherland delighted fellow Rotarians with a captivating and humorous recount of his unique involvement during the grand opening of Euro Disneyland (now Disneyland Paris) in 1992.

Colin's story began thanks to his wife, a member of the International Women's Group in Brussels and Paris, who had been invited to volunteer for public relations duties during the park's highly anticipated launch. When she couldn't attend, Colin stepped in — joining a team made up almost entirely of women (with just one other man), responsible for hosting VIP guests. On the day before the official opening, he had the unforgettable task of guiding the Mayor of Oslo and the legendary Angela Lansbury through the park.

Planning for the park had begun in the mid-1980s. The site, located on farmland east of Paris, was strategically chosen for its flat terrain, expandability, and easy accessibility by road, rail, and air. It was close to densely populated areas and easily reachable from across Western Europe. The project received strong political support from President François Mitterrand and Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, who saw its potential to boost tourism and create jobs. A dedicated train station was constructed, connecting central Paris to the park in just 35 minutes.



Much of the park's design was influenced by Tokyo Disneyland. Colin noted how cultural differences were taken into account during planning. For example, Japanese visitors were content to queue, but European guests were not — so Disneyland Paris designed its queues to be more entertaining, with themed walk-throughs and performances along the way. Cleanliness was another priority, modeled on the Japanese parks, and safety was built into every detail, from dual-height handrails for children and adults, to emergency lighting and well-planned stairways.



# BUILDING EURO DISNEY - *Continued*

Many of the construction workers came directly from Tokyo Disney projects and relocated to France with their families, creating a tight-knit international community during the build. When the park opened, it included seven hotels, themed zones, and a wide range of entertainment spaces. Over the years, it has grown significantly and now employs around 17,000 full-time staff — making it the largest single-site employer in France. Since 1992, Disneyland Paris has welcomed more than 375 million visitors, averaging about 50,000 guests per day. The surrounding region has benefited enormously, with tourism-related growth, hotel partnerships, and a boost to the greater Paris economy.



In 1994, the park was renamed Disneyland Paris to strengthen its association with the city and avoid confusion with the newly introduced euro currency. Expansion over the years has included Caribbean-style themed hotels, a man-made lake, a 27-hole golf course, and upgraded digital booking systems. Attendance has broadened too, with growing numbers of visitors from Eastern Europe, particularly Poland. Colin noted how thoughtful infrastructure, strong social policy, and efficient public transport — such as high-speed trains — played a key role in the park's long-term success.

Throughout his talk, Colin shared colourful anecdotes — from a Kent gardener commissioned to deliver 52,000 pansy floats, to amusing insights into Disney's approach to cultural adaptation across its global parks. He ended with a lighthearted comparison between France's readiness for such a project and the complications the UK might have faced, especially post-Brexit and outside the eurozone.

The evening concluded warmly, with a thank-you gift from the club, cheerful reflections from members, and more stories exchanged about travel, golf, and post-war Europe. It was a talk that blended history, humour, and personal connection — and one we'll remember fondly.



## A BIG THANK YOU FROM ZIYAAD! *Written by Keith Bull*

In 2019 RCHB won a District Grant to provide skate boards, spare parts, helmets and knee and elbow guards for the skate children taught by Ziyaad. Much of that equipment has been well used and required replacement. Recognising the importance of teaching safety to the children, after a discussion with Ziyaad it was agreed RCHB would help in replacing some equipment. Through astute market research RCHB was able to provide nine complete sets of safety equipment [helmets and elbow/knee pads].

This photo was sent with a heartfelt thank you message from Ziyaad and the children.

# ROTARACT CLUB OF HOUT BAY CELEBRATES 9 YEARS OF SERVICE AND INDUCTS NEW LEADERSHIP

by Tariro Namawa

On Saturday, June 28, 2025, the Rotaract Club of Hout Bay gathered to mark a significant milestone – the club's 9th anniversary since its establishment in 2016. The occasion was also marked by an induction ceremony, welcoming new members and ushering in a new leadership team.

The event began with a heartfelt appreciation ceremony, led by Immediate Past President Aaliyah Mogotsi. Three dedicated members were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the club:

- Sizwe Khuzwayo was honored for his unwavering commitment and devotion to the club. His reliability and willingness to lend a hand have been invaluable assets to the Rotaract Club of Hout Bay.
- Tariro Namawa was acknowledged for her tireless efforts in planning, organization, and support. Her dedication has ensured the successful execution of various projects and events.
- Azola Nyoka was recognized for her expertise and guidance in upholding the club's bylaws and ensuring compliance with Rotaract regulations. Her leadership has been instrumental in maintaining the club's integrity and governance.

The highlight of the day was the induction of the new leadership team for the 2025–2026 term:

- Tariro Namawa was inducted as President, bringing her exceptional organizational skills and passion for service to the forefront.
- Sizwe Khuzwayo was inducted as Vice President, continuing his legacy of dedication and commitment to the club.
- Thembi Khuzwayo was inducted as Secretary, while David Kamutini took on the role of Vice Secretary and Social Media Representative.
- Aviwe Dulani was inducted as Treasurer, tasked with managing the club's finances and ensuring its continued sustainability.

We also had the joy of welcoming seven new members into the Rotaract family. Four of them—Linamandla, Aziliyah, Anitha, and Zubenathi—were inducted in person, and it was such a pleasure to witness the start of their journey. Although Olwethu, Isaac, and Oluhle couldn't be there, we're looking forward to having them join us in our upcoming projects.





# Birthdays



July 24 Steve Fulgham

NEW ZOOM LINK FOR 2025 FOR WEEKLY MEETINGS: Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82462683356?pwd=2TYjUfpIzKzN6uOzVU7W3hUeAg6b4K.1>

Meeting ID: 824 6268 3356  
Passcode: 569941

**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.

**"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."**

**Winston Churchill**

**Thank You  
For Reading!**



President: Adele Hayden  
Treasurer: John Herrick  
Secretary: Tim Smith  
Club Services : Michele Grant

Vocational: Keith Bull  
Community: Ralph Tobergte  
Youth: Marianne Marsh  
Public Image : Janice Grant

Membership: Ali Rice  
International: Hans Kuhn  
Foundation: Carolyn Herrick