



Bay Breezes

NEWSLETTER | November 2025

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

President : Adele Hayden | 082 807 0087
Secretary : Tim Smith 076 583 9875



Kicking Goals Across Continents

When Evelien Griffioen from the Netherlands contacted Rotary with an offer of soccer shirts, we were delighted to facilitate the donation to F.C. Mathulele, a youth soccer group coached by Thulani Mkojo from Disa Primary.

A wonderful gesture with a big impact — building confidence, community, and connection through sport.

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NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2025 CALENDAR

NOV 2025	Time	Venue	Speaker / Event	Sergeant
4 TH	6PM	ABC	CORA PROJECT – AURORA MARCOPOLOUS	MARIANNE
7 TH	10.30	DELISH	COFFEE MORNING	
11 TH	5.30PM	HYDE HOTEL SEA POINT	RAID SEA POINT ROTARY CLUB AND BRAAI AFTERWARDS	
13 TH	2-5PM	CLAY CAFE	FUNDA KUNYE PAINT IT FORWARD	
14 TH	6PM	TIMOUR HALL VILLA, ST JOHNS RD, PLUMSTEAD	WYNBERG QUIZ EVENING	
18 TH	6PM	ABC	CLUB AGM	CANDIDA
21 ST	10.30AM	DELISH	COFFEE MORNING	
25 TH	6PM	ABC	HAPPY TUMMIES FEEDING PROGRAM PRESENTATION BY NADINE SPENCER BLESSED	
28 TH	5PM	TBC	FELLOWSHIP DRINKS	IAN
DEC 2025	Time	Venue	Speaker / Event	Sergeant
2 ND	6PM	ABC	DISTRICT GOVERNOR VISIT	ADELE
5 TH	10.30AM	DELISH	COFFEE MORNING	
9 TH	6PM	TBC	CHRISTMAS PARTY	KEITH

Calendar subject to change

Making Waves for Change:

Chris Sparks and the Oceans Alive Conservation Trust

At one of our Rotary meetings this month, we were privileged to host Chris Sparks, Chief Operations Officer of the Oceans Alive Conservation Trust, for an inspiring talk about ocean conservation and community empowerment right here in Hout Bay. A Hout Bay resident for 30 years, Chris is the driving force behind the Oceans Alive Lifesaving Training Programme at Hout Bay Beach — an initiative that trains young men and women from the local community to become qualified lifeguards. Through this work, the Trust is saving lives, building confidence, and creating employment opportunities while fostering respect for our oceans.



The Oceans Alive Conservation Trust is a registered non-profit and public benefit organisation with a global outlook and a deeply local heart. Its mission is to protect oceans and coastal environments through scientific research, clean-ups, wildlife protection, and community education. At the core of their work is the belief that awareness and training empower people to “understand, appreciate, respect, and protect the wonder and diversity of our oceans.” One of the Trust’s key initiatives is the Oceans Alive Training Academy, launched in 2022. The academy provides swimming and lifesaving training for individuals aged 18–35, particularly from previously disadvantaged backgrounds. Participants gain practical training in swimming, beach fitness, rescue techniques, and first aid — leading to formal qualifications as pool and surf lifeguards.



The programme has already made a real impact: in its first year, 22 pupils qualified as pool lifeguards, and eight went on to qualify as surf lifeguards. Oceans Alive also sponsored their memberships at the Hout Bay Lifesaving Club, enabling them to volunteer and gain

Chris reminded us that this programme is about much more than water safety — it’s about uplifting youth, creating pathways to building a stronger, safer community. As he shared: person, I saw the need to give back — to use through skills that save lives.”

To continue and expand this vital training, Oceans Alive needs funding and community support for equipment, transport, and certification costs. For our Rotary members, Chris’s talk was a moving reminder of service in action — and a perfect reflection of Rotary’s values of community development and sustainability. If you’d like to support the 18–35 Lifesaving Programme or learn more, contact Chris Sparks at 082 559 7692 or visit Oceans Alive Conservation Trust on social media.

Together, we can help ensure the waves of Hout Bay are not only cleaner and safer — but full of hope for the next generation.

THIS COURSE IS AVAILABLE TO SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZENS ONLY



WOULD YOU LIKE TO APPLY TO BECOME AN
OCEANS ALIVE
CERTIFIED LIFESAVER ?



APPLICANTS MUST BE BETWEEN 18-35 WITH MINIMUM OF GRADE 10 AND MUST BE UNEMPLOYED TO QUALIFY

SEND AN EMAIL TO [INFO@OCEANS-ALIVE.ORG](mailto:info@oceans-alive.org) FOR AN APPLICATION FORM

Inspiring Hope Through Art and Education

On the 21st October, we had the privilege of hearing from Charmaine Solomons, a lifelong Hout Bay resident and passionate advocate for children's development. Charmaine shared the incredible story of the Denis Goldberg House of Hope, a community centre that continues the late anti-apartheid activist's legacy of equality, creativity, and opportunity.

Named after Denis Goldberg, one of the Rivonia Trialists who spent 22 years in prison alongside Nelson Mandela, the House of Hope stands as a living tribute to his vision that art and education can change lives. True to that belief, the centre welcomes more than 30 children every day, offering them not just access to creative learning but also a safe and nurturing space – something many of them would not otherwise have.

The House of Hope's weekly programme is as vibrant as the children it serves:

Mondays bring the excitement of circus classes. Tuesdays are filled with drama workshops. Wednesdays focus on reading support, through the "Hout Bay Hoppers" literacy initiative. Thursdays come alive with group music sessions. Fridays rotate through computer skills training, running in four-week cycles. Afternoons also feature private guitar lessons and fitness with China classes, while weekends are just as enriching – from hip-hop and jazz art on Saturdays, to reading with Chloe (for Grades 1–3), and Science Makes Art sessions once a month. The youngest members of the community benefit too, through Book Sharing – a programme that trains parents to expose their children (from birth to age three) to the magic of books.

What makes this initiative so impactful is the personal connection Charmaine and her team share with the community. Having worked for many years at Kronendal, Charmaine knows many of the children and their families. She can often be seen around Hout Bay, personally delivering leaflets and posters to spread awareness of the centre's services.

But as Charmaine reminded us, the House of Hope is not just an arts and culture centre. It's also a place of safety – a haven where children are seen, supported, and inspired. Through the Mikulu Trust, the centre identifies children most in need, often with the help of schools and parents. Every day, each child receives a nutritious sandwich and a piece of fruit, ensuring that their basic needs are met while they learn and grow.

The Denis Goldberg House of Hope is a true testament to what community, creativity, and compassion can achieve when they come together. However, the centre relies on donations and funding to continue its vital work. If you would like to contribute or learn more, please visit their website and help keep Denis Goldberg's dream of hope alive in Hout Bay.



PAWS WITH PURPOSE: HOW GUIDE DOGS CHANGE LIVES

by Michele Grant



Recently, members enjoyed a heartwarming and insightful presentation from Leanne Wheeler, a volunteer puppy raiser with the South African Guide-Dogs Association, who shared the remarkable journey of how a tiny puppy becomes a life-changing companion for someone who is visually impaired.

The story begins in Johannesburg, where the Association runs a carefully managed breeding programme to ensure healthy bloodlines and the right temperament for guide work. Labradors are now the preferred breed for their calm nature, intelligence, and eagerness to please — qualities that make them wonderful partners and easy to train.

At just eight weeks old, puppies are flown to Cape Town and placed with volunteer puppy raisers — families who provide love, structure, and socialisation during the dog's crucial early months. Raisers attend a training course and receive ongoing support from professional trainers, with all costs — including vet care and food (sponsored by Bob Martin) — covered by the Association. After about 18 months, the young dogs move on to formal guide-dog training. Over the next six months, trainers teach them to walk in straight lines, avoid obstacles, stop at curbs, and even recognise overhead branches. Once training is complete, each dog is carefully matched with a person whose pace and lifestyle suit their personality.

Leanne shared the story of Wesley, a lively Labrador who found his perfect match with a Paralympic swimmer — a partnership that changed both their lives. New owners spend two weeks learning to work with their dog before returning home together. The owner contributes only R205 plus a small harness fee, though the true cost of preparing a guide dog exceeds R100,000 — funded entirely through donations and sponsorships.

Guide dogs usually work for eight to ten years before retiring, either staying with their owner or returning to their puppy raiser. Even dogs that don't qualify as guides often find new purpose as therapy or companion animals. Handing over a dog after nearly two years of love and care is emotional, but seeing that same dog give someone freedom and independence makes it all worthwhile. As Leanne said: "You know from the beginning that it's not your dog — you're just borrowing them for a while. But when you see them change someone's life, your heart is full."

To support their work, you can sponsor a puppy (including naming rights), volunteer as a puppy raiser, or make a donation. Visit www.guidedog.org.za or their Claremont training centre for more information.

"These dogs don't just guide — they give freedom, independence, and hope."





ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

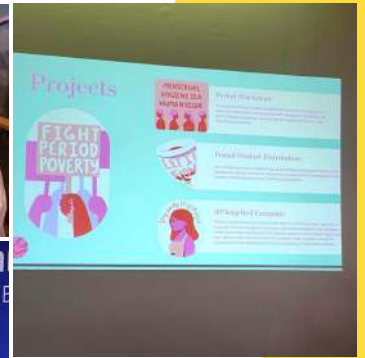
TAIPEI, TAIWAN | 13-17 JUNE 2026



Register and pay in full by 15 December 2025,
before prices increase, at convention.rotary.org.

Register today!

October 2025 Photos



October 2025 Photos



October 2025 Photos



Birthdays



December

5

Tina & Phil

NEW ZOOM LINK FOR 2025 FOR WEEKLY MEETINGS: Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82462683356?pwd=2TYjUfplzKzN6uOzVU7W3hUeAg6b4K.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.

“Volunteers are unpaid not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.” – Anonymous

**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