



October 2011

The Rotary Club of Pretoria East

Founded 28 March 1961

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity



Message from President Ivan

Having spent the past month as an absentee President touring the Levant, during which time my imagination was quickened by the profound, in-dwelling spiritual energy of the Holy Land, it was a pleasure to return to a Club brim-full of goodwill, good cheer and good ideas, and endowed with an inexhaustible sense of mission. Our Club continues to inspire all its members with its inimitable blend of forward-thinking, fun, fellowship, and far-sightedness.



During my absence, I was able to count on the generous assistance of two stalwart Rotarians, Deon and Terry, and on *all* members of the Club – further testimony to the strength and vitality of our collective endeavour.

Wit, intelligence, energy, and humour: these are the underpinnings of Rotary, and we possess them in good measure. I have it on good authority that such qualities were fully in evidence at the Braai at Marilyn and Ernie's, at the Meerhof Braai, at the Meerhof visit to the Kruger Park, at the Octoberfest, and at all our meetings, and I am confident that these attributes will characterize all our activities in the future.

It's good to be back!

President Ivan Rabinowitz



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

ANN PRESIDENT JENNY'S REPORT

We all agreed that having the Ann's meeting at Utopia was a great success – and it was super having Val Bartlett with us.

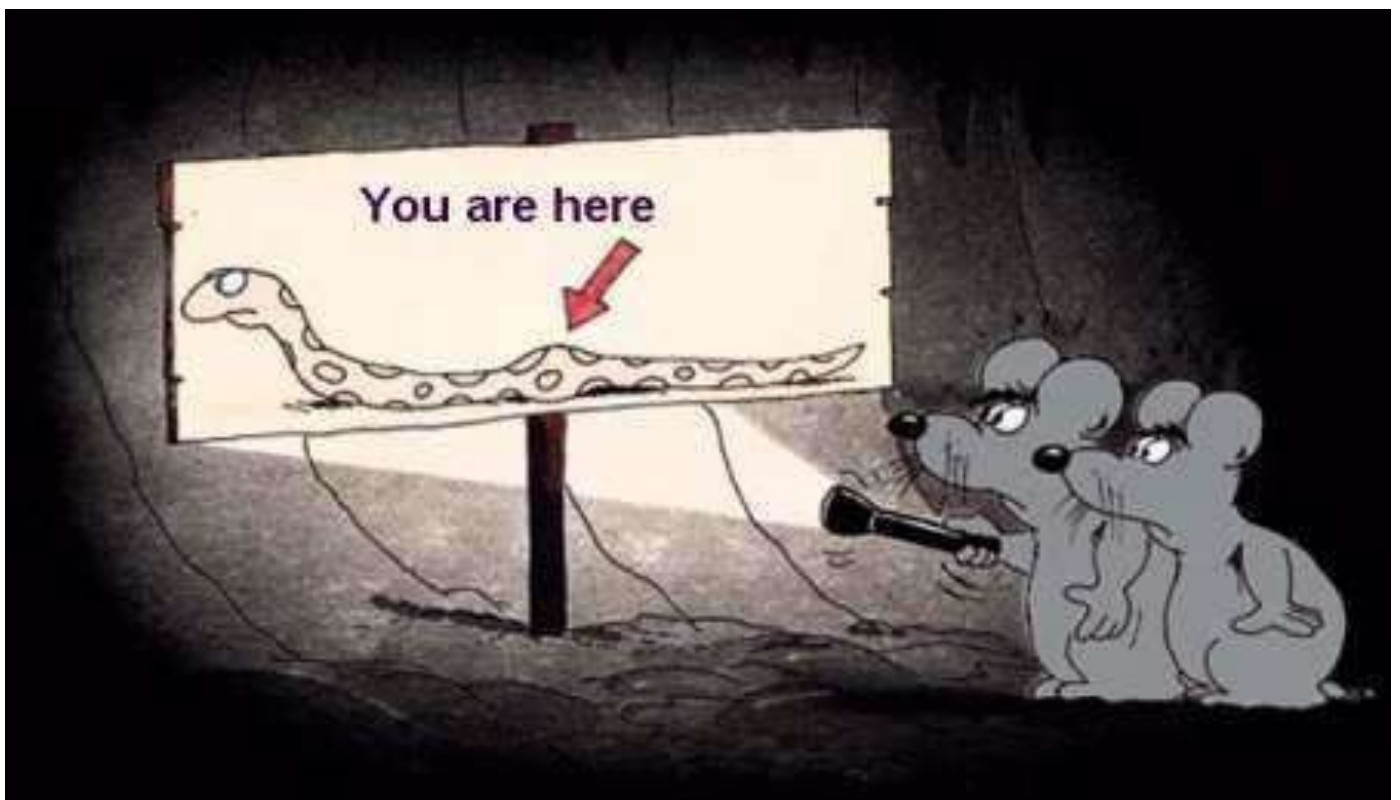
The Meerhof braai was a great success, and thanks, once again, to Mayda for ordering and bringing the meat. Rotary Anns were also involved in promoting Rotary at the Oktoberfest.

I visited the Susan Strydom home and met with Aletta Louw – a remarkable woman who has devoted her life to caring for patients with Alzheimers. Their needs for the Alzheimers' wing are many and the Anns will try and provide as much support as we can.

The President Anns project coincided with one of our proposed projects – the linking of children in privileged schools with children in under-privileged schools. Mayda, Val, Kirsten and I met to initiate the project and set the project in motion. We decided to link the project with existing outreach programmes at the German school and with the Interactors at St Paulus. If anyone can help us with about 150 A4 paper bags with a handle, we would be delighted.

We look forward to many more delightful Anns meetings – where we are able to engage in fellowship and fun.

Jenny Rabinowitz —Ann President



Braai Fellowship at the Home of Ernie and Marilyn



Rtn Ernie and his Ann Marilyn hosted a fellowship braai at their home on Sunday 11 September. Despite the wind, lovely spring weather prevailed and a good time was had by all. Many thanks to Ernie and Marilyn for opening their home to us.

Overheard:

S: **"My maid makes the best curry ever!"**

J (with all humility): **"I thought I made the best curry ever!"**





German School Oktoberfest Fellowship



Rtns Oliver and Marco arranged a fellowship at the German School Oktoberfest on 15 September. There was a good turnout and a whole lot of fun. Our thanks to Oliver and Marco for making the arrangements and to the Rotarians who participated.



Overhead:

She: "Did you find something sweet to eat?"

He: "The only sweet thing was in a mini skirt."

She: "Thirty years ago you would have called it sexy!"





Rotary Information at the Oktoberfest



The PR Committee arranged to have a Rotary Information kiosk at the German School Oktoberfest. Rtns Grant and Marco sponsored the kiosk and T-shirts worn by participants.



A number of Rotarians assisted throughout the day and our thanks and appreciation go to them for this involvement.



WINTERVELD PROJECT NEARS COMPLETION

The hard work of Rotarians Clive, Bernard and Aiden is paying off. The toilet block project is almost complete and the handover date should be arranged soon.



SPEAKERS



Maj Gen Des Barker addressed the Club on 29 August on his days with the Cheetah Aircraft .



Marlene Freislich told the Club on 5 September about new developments at PopUp in Shoshanguwe



Marco gave us an overview on 12 September of the work done by Siemens and his particular involvement.

Cullinan Care & Rehabilitation Centre

At the Board Meeting recently, we were made aware that many of our newer members have no idea of **what we are talking about when referring to projects by name and maybe some of the older ones don't** either.

The club needs to understand in order to give their support and I would like to start by talking about **"Cullinan."**

We hear the names of projects and perhaps are aware of what has recently been achieved .but:

how did we get involved?

why did this particular project become ours?

why do some members seem to be so passionate about a project?

Cullinan Rehabilitation Centre

Carte Blanche - 22 April 2007

<http://beta.mnet.co.za/carteblanche/Article.aspx?Id=3296>

A mere 50km east of Pretoria lies the quaint diamond-mining town of Cullinan. On weekends this popular getaway draws locals and tourists to its B&Bs, coffee shops and galleries.

Ruda Landman (Carte Blanche presenter): 'Tucked away on the outskirts of the town lies a facility that few tourists or visitors ever pay any attention to - the Cullinan Care and Rehabilitation Centre.'

It's a government run centre for people with varying degrees of intellectual and physical disability. At the moment there are about 230 patients ranging in age from under 10 to over 70.

Ruda: 'Over the last year or so we received numerous desperate pleas from people concerned about their loved ones' welfare at the Cullinan Care Centre. About six months ago we decided it was time to investigate what was going on behind those brick walls. What we found was shocking.'

Patients were seen eating off the floor in full view of staff. We found people with seeping wounds in desperate need of medical attention. Patients were forced to use filthy toilets in a state of appalling neglect. But, most disconcerting, was the discovery of prison-like cages in which nurses placed patients.

On the Monday following the broadcast on Carte Blanche at the meeting of the Rotary Club of Pretoria East, many of the members spoke about the situation and called for the club to take action to protect the patients.

PDG Eben who I am sure never saw himself involved in this as a "project" walked calmly to the podium and said **"Colleagues as Rotarians we are not here to become part of the problem, it is our role to be part of the solution. I undertake on behalf of the club to contact the Centre and find out how we can assist."**

That night my respect for Eben went to a new level – I was proud to be part of an organisation that adopted that sort of approach.



What Eben found there when he first visited was certainly not as bad as Carte Blanche made it out to be. There were some care-users eating from the floor - because they could not sit on chairs as they fell off. Severe cases are from time to time held behind bars - not in "prison-like cages" and the reason for this is that those care-users are, as their condition is described severe and they get violent. They are therefore kept there for their own, the other care-users and the nursing staff's safety.

As the weeks went by Eben brought a company, **Jack's Paints, on board as they had been collecting** clothing for the needy. They supplied clothes that were delivered to the Centre – some most unsuited to the needs of the patients but received with joy.

Since then Eben has ensured that the patients receive Easter Eggs, wheelchairs, additional clothing and most important of all is that he has maintained contact with the staff and established what they do need to help the patients.

This has come a long way since the first visits when as a result of the Carte Blanche exposé, they did not know who they could trust.

One year a Christmas Party was held, which I did not attend but I know it brought tears to the eyes of some club members. The one story that comes to mind was of an adult male who was given a teddy-bear and hugged it with such passion refusing to let it go..

All the while Eben has been looking for the big break-through to equip the physio and occupational therapy facilities.

We are aware of the equipment and training that was recently supplied by the VTT team through D7630 from Boston and D9400, which has obviously made a big difference.

PDG Eben must be congratulated for his approach and commitment to this project and it would seem **we have become "part of the solution!."**

The dream of equipping the therapy facilities has become a reality.

The Cullinan Care and Rehabilitation is now one of the best run facilities in Gauteng - quoting the Gauteng Department of Health. The C.E O. Ms Nyathlo is an inspiration to all concerned, including Eben **who says "it is wonderful to be part of a project where you can see you actually make a difference."**

I would like *Carte Blanche* to become aware of Rotary in Action!

A job for PR?

Rtn Jenny Els

ST. PAULUS INTERACT CLUB

The school year is drawing to a close and so are the activities of the Interact club. I report on the following activities that took place during 2011:



Cake sales at the school

The club members have held three very successful cake sales during the daily school breaks and made just under R1000 for their club funds.

Boerewors Rolls at school sport activities

Club members made boerewors rolls on several occasions and collected further funds for their club

Clothing

Another, and in fact bigger, collection of clothing at the school enabled the Interactors to make a huge amount of second hand clothing available to various Rotary projects e.g. Winterveldt, Cullinan, Peas-in-a-Pod. Clothes were also provided to S.A. Cares, who distributed them to five of their centres around Pretoria.

Visits to Centres

Several visits were made to Abba House where the members played with the babies and gave them refreshments which they had provided themselves.

The club visited Cullinan Care & Rehabilitation Centre on Thursday 22 September 2011 when they assisted the nursing staff in providing activities for the care users

Club members are planning a Christmas party for the cancer patients at Steve Biko Oncology Department in November 2011. Members have pledged R100,00 each and in consultation with Dr Reynders, Head of the Department, will make a donation to the department. Members will also provide refreshments during this visit and entertain the patients.

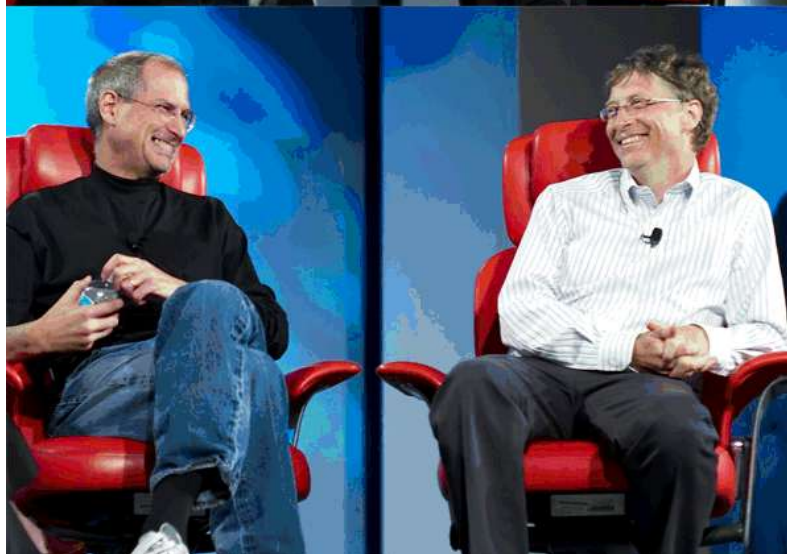
The present members who are leaving the school at the end of this calendar year, have nominated 20 members for 2012. Letters, advising them of their nomination were sent out and on receipt of acceptance, a letter of membership is being sent to those concerned. New members will attend the next meeting on Friday 14 October 2011 and induction details will be announced later. At this meeting a decision will be taken on donations to be made out of their club funds.

Obituary

On Sunday, 25 October 2011, Jan Sebothoma died tragically in a motor accident. He worked with Grant Adam as his BEE partner for 17 year and to a large extent was responsible for the profits which indirectly benefitted the Rotary Club of Pretoria East. He was loyal, hard-working and always had a smile. He was loved by clients and was a an asset to Grant's (Pty) Limited.

Grant made a donation to Foundation in memory of Jan Sebothoma as a mark of his respect for his erstwhile partner.

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