



September 2011

The Rotary Club of Pretoria East

Founded 28 March 1961

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity



Message from President Ivan

DG Anton's visit on Friday 12 August exemplified the spirit of Rotary: objective rationality combined with compassion, generosity, and unwavering good humour. During his afternoon meeting with the Club Executive, our DG brought significant areas into special prominence, such as the need to increase membership through the formation of satellite clubs, the importance of membership retention, the value of collegiality, and the need to embrace change and innovation in all their myriad dimensions. And during the evening Club meeting in partnership with the Hatfield Rotary Club, he let the proverbial genie out of the vase when he regaled his spellbound audience with homiletic and jocular tales from far and near.



In a world awash with sour self-interest, gloomy egoism, and pervasive consumerism, Rotary confirms the liberating truth that genuine freedom is the recognition of necessity – a truth carried into the community by passionate and persuasive individuals united in collective action. It is imperative that we actualize the Four-Way Test – our guiding ethos -- by communicating the meaning of Rotary to the widest possible audience, and that we give living substance to the principles enshrined in the Four-Way Test at every Club meeting, at every Board meeting, at every Club Fellowship, and in all our cooperative activities.

RI President Kalyan Bannerjee has reminded us that ‘part of our goal is also to leave Rotary better at the end of the year than it was at the beginning, which means bringing in new members and working to keep the ones we have.’ He has asked the RI Membership Development & Retention Committee to ‘develop a three-year membership plan that includes the following elements:

- Recognition of varying regional opportunities and challenges
- A focus on diversity to bring in more young professionals and women and expand the range of professional backgrounds in our clubs
- Improved retention efforts in all regions
- More appealing, inviting, and flexible clubs.’

President Bannerjee's message is both diagnostic and prognostic – an inspiring affirmation of our purpose and aspirations.

Rotary regards,

President Ivan Rabinowitz



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

ANN PRESIDENT JENNY'S REPORT

At our last meeting, everyone accepted a majority decision of a meeting place – and as from next month we will be meeting at Utopia. It was really good having Marilyn with us and I hope other Anns will join us.

Our first mini fundraising event was a great success – with not a morsel left on any platter. A very big thanks to Mayda, Susan, Rose and Aglaea. Also a special thanks to Cheryl who helped make the function the success it was.

Mayda and I spent a very special time with DG Ann's Annetjie Meerkotter. Her vision for this year is to get primary school children involved in Rotary community activities and so get their mothers involved in Anns' activities. Although we may not be able to implement this as she envisions, we need to get younger people involved in our activities, and perhaps a way of doing this is by bringing a younger 'Friend of the Ann's' to our meetings.

We also met with Pat Harley from the Pretoria Club – and we hope to meet with members of the Pretoria Club on a regular basis.

To those Anns who did not attend the function at the Sheraton –we missed you. It was a delightful evening – a mix of formal informality that made for a very relaxed atmosphere.

Jenny Rabinowitz —Ann President



DG's Visit

DG ANTON MEERKOTTER



DG Anton Meerkotter visited our Club together with the Hatfield Club on the 12th August, when we attended a dinner at the Sheraton Hotel, which was enjoyed by all.



There was a fair representation by our Club members and we enjoyed a relaxed evening together with the members of the Hatfield Club.



One of the highlights of the evening was the Paul Harris Recognition presented to PP Ann Edie Jones for her valuable contribution towards the Anns and our Club. Well done Edie!



SOUNDS

GLOBAL GRANT 25244 PROGRESS REPORT—August 2011



Grade R pupil spelling her first word, "hat".

Our Souns project continues to build on its early successes. Literacy learning of phonics through SOUNDS is now firmly entrenched in 15 Grade R classrooms in 6 schools.

In the first week of August, all the schools were re-visited by Brenda Erickson, Annette Nelson and myself and the progress made is remarkable. At each school, aside from meeting with the practitioners (teachers) and observing the progress of the learners, we met with School Deputy Principals or Heads of Departments and were enthused by their comments; comments such as

"Grade R pupils have previously never known their phonics as they do already this year and this is due to the SOUNDS project".

"I wish we had had this programme in place when I was a young teacher".

"We knew we must teach sounds, but previously we did not know how. As soon as we had SOUNDS we were able to do it."

"Previously when we had taught the alphabet A-Z, we thought we had done our job. But we knew it was only a camouflage to meet curriculum requirements. With SOUNDS, we now have the tools to teach literacy."

The objective of these visits was to assist the practitioners in stepping onto a new level, namely the sounding out of letters to write words. That the pupils were ready for this step was quickly evident when one pupil spelt correctly Npopi (doll in Sepedi).

A workshop attended by all the practitioners in the Mamelodi schools allowed for idea sharing in the use of a spelling table as illustrated. One to the teachers had her pre-school daughter with her and she quickly caught onto the idea of SOUN-ing out a word.



Workshop training on playing games with SOUNDS letters.



Workshop training on use of spelling table



HODs and practitioners attending the workshop

Aside from this aspect of the workshop, the HODs from the schools along with two Gauteng Educational Department staff were able to brainstorm how to develop the programme into the coming year. A final decision is still to be made, but the idea of expanding the programme only into the grade 1 classes of the existing schools met with common approval, the idea being to create centres of expertise to illustrate the benefits of the programme. In this regards, a proposal to hold another workshop in October is taking hold when the Grade 1 teachers will be introduced to the programme.

Dr Robin Jones
Service Projects Chair

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MEERHOF KRUGER PARK TRIP - 2011

After a hearty breakfast provided by the Meerhof School, the party set off with great excitement and anticipation. Like me, most of the children were experiencing their first Meerhof Kruger Park trip.

Our drive to Skukuza certainly was not uneventful with rain and heavy mist for most of the trip, a clear forerunner of the weather that was to come. On route we stopped for lunch at El Fresco in White River where I unfortunately had the trailer lid collapse on my head. However, after a very quick visit to a nearby clinic and five stitches later, I still had time to join the others for lunch.



The children were pre-allocated to the various drivers for the duration of the trip enabling the different groups to bond as the days went by. Each team of learners was given a daily assignment to complete and a sheet of animals and birds to be identified each day. The children really got into the spirit of the **challenge with a great deal of rivalry to see who the day's team winner was going to be**, with the winner getting an extra allocation of sweets and cold drinks. The **rivalry between the "Ooms" that is the drivers, was just as keen.**

All in all a very moving and humbling experience, one that I certainly will not forget and should I be asked to assist again, would jump at the chance.



Some of my observations and thoughts on the trip are, firstly the dedication, compassion and care that the Meerhof School teachers and staff have for the **children and of course the children's appreciation for everything that is done** for them and the way they support and assist one another irrespective of individual strengths or disabilities, gender or race is a lesson for us all.

The whole trip was very well organized with a great deal of attention to every detail in advance, ensuring that everything ran like clockwork. I am totally convinced that the team of teachers, helpers and drivers that have been doing **this for many years, some as in Allen Joss's case for 44 years, know exactly** what is expected and required of them, which contributes greatly to the ongoing success of the project.

I would like to thank Allen for inviting me to participate and the Rotary Club of Pretoria East for giving me the opportunity to have this memorable and humbling experience of interacting with the Meerhof children - they are all

SPEAKERS



Annette Nelson and Brenda Erickson visited the Club on 1 August and spoke on the progress being made with the SOUNS project both in Mamelodi and in Knysna.

MEERHOF BRAAI



Following in the tradition of previous years, after the children of Meerhof set off for the annual Kruger Park trip, Bernard and Mayda de Winter once again arranged a braai for those who were left behind.

Despite the cold weather, we had a lovely evening, enjoying "pap 'n vleis" done to perfection,. The bonfire was lit and as always, produced both warmth and atmosphere.



Clive gave up his seat to Aiden as a driver this year and for the first time attended the braai. A number of the children who had previously travelled with him to the Kruger Park, came and told him how much they had enjoyed their time with him, and what the trip meant in their lives.



Our thanks go to Bernard and Mayda for making the arrangements, to the "cooks" and those who served us. It was a job well done!



The Back Page



Three mischievous old Grannies were sitting on a bench outside a nursing home, when an old Granpa walked by.

And one of the old Grandmas yelled out saying, "We bet we can tell exactly how old you are"

The old man said, "There is no way you can guess it, you old fool!"

One of the old Grandmas said, "Sure we can, "Just drop your pants and under shorts and we can tell your exact age."

Embarrassed just a little, but anxious to prove they couldn't do it, he dropped his drawers...

The Grandmas asked him to first turn around a couple of times and to jump up and down several times. Then they all piped up and said, "You're **87** years old!"

Standing with his pants down around his ankles, the old gent asked, "How in the world did you guess?"

Slapping their knees and grinning from ear to ear, the three old ladies happily yelled in unison...

"We were at your Birthday Party YESTERDAY!"



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