

The Grapevine

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Paarl

March 2017

President Marita has her say

2017 started on a very hot note! The fires in our valley were devastating and we feel for the people who lost properties. Our club made a donation of water, lip ice, eye drops, vaseline and energy bars to the firefighters. We thank Kevin and Dischem for sponsoring some of the items.

The cycle races at the beginning of February went off very well. The Language Monument made a good venue for the MTB, while the road race at De Poort took place in cool weather, and drew more entries than last year. All went well and the after party was enjoyed by all.

We recently had a surprise visit from 12 visiting Rotarians from Canada. They brought backpacks and stationery which were distributed to needy children. They also presented us with a magnum of Canadian wine to be auctioned later this year. During their visit, everyone enjoyed the movie evening where the caterers even supplied a "movie meal" with popcorn and ice lollies.

On Monday 20 February, Abie and I delivered the backpacks to four primary schools and the Drakenstein Crèche. The identified children just loved their new backpacks. On Wednesday of the same week, the representatives from the wheelchair foundation in the UK arrived and we took possession of 15 wheelchairs. Thanks, Dave M. and Gerald, for hosting our friends from the UK. On Thursday the wheelchairs were fitted, the Mayor arrived and we presented the beneficiaries with their new chairs. It was very emotional for some. Thanks to Dave M and Tommy G for coordinating this.

Our Girls Talk project is blossoming. Nelmarie has brought in three helpers: a nurse who is involved with Procure in Wellington, her daughter who is a social worker, and a nursing sister who has retired. They are passionate about the project and we are lucky to have them involved. Boys are now also benefiting from the project. Thanks, Elsabé, for managing this grant.

The 20 members of our new Early Act Club were inducted on 2 March at the Klappmuts Primary School. The kids are very excited about this new venture, coordinated by Steph. Abie organized celebratory cupcakes for each member of the club and the ones that were left were sold for the first funds in their kitty. That evening it was party time. Dave M organized a grappa tasting at Wilderers and the 20 members and partners enjoyed a great dinner under the stars.

Our seniors' concert on 8 March was a hit, once again. How touching it was to see the enjoyment on the faces of the audience, which included residents of Sunfield, some of whom even took partners and danced to the music. It was so special. We thank Peter Vanne from the Lions Club for putting the concert together. Thanks also to Elsabé and Kaufie for organizing the event and Pietie who was a great MC. This concert has been held for 31 years. If one sees the enjoyment it brings to all the old folk, it is something to be kept on our calendar. Shoprite as always provided each person with a goodiebag and we thank them for their assistance. Hopefully more club members will be present next

year. Thanks to all those who found the time to help and who joined the artists for a meal and fellowship after the show.

The Grande Roche hosted a very successful moonlight concert on Sunday evening 12 March, which was organized by Margie Molenaar in aid of Hospice and in memory of her husband, Gus. What a lovely way to spend a Sunday evening with tasty snacks and drinks, wonderful music by the Ian Smith Jazz Band, good weather and the full moon to crown it all. Thanks to all the Rotarians who helped us sell the tickets. You contributed to a very successful evening.

I wish you all a Happy Easter and may our Jewish members have a good Passover. If you are travelling over the holidays, drive carefully and be safe! - **Marita**

Cycling race a success

More than 1200 cyclists took part in the annual Bouckaert-Soenen Paarl road cycling race presented recently by Paarl Rotary, a marked improvement on last year's figures. This improvement is ascribed to the social media campaign in the run up to the race, run in cooperation with Labit.

Paarl Rotarians were up at the crack of dawn for two consecutive days to cope with the registration of entrants in the MTB and road race, and to serve as marshalls over the routes. The road races followed a route through the winelands from Paarl to Wellington, Gouda and Riebeeek West and back, while the MTB races took place the day before on scenic Paarl Mountain.

Participants had the opportunity to enter both events at a 15% discounted entry fee. The participants with the best combined Racetec/PPA time for the 37 km MTB and 124km road race were eligible for vouchers totalling R8000. The top three "Granite Conquerors" were Matt Daneel (first in a combined time of 5:08:46.5), Francois Louw and Dirk Pieters. All proceeds from the races are channelled towards local community development projects.





A large group of club members attended the recent grappa tasting at Wilderer's. After sampling a variety of schnapps and other fortified drinks (fortunately limited to three each), the evening was whiled away with an enjoyable meal and social fellowship al fresco. Certainly an evening to remember!



Paarl Rotary recently handed over wheelchairs to a number of disabled persons in Drakenstein. The wheelchairs were sourced through the international Wheelchair Foundation which is a Rotary-managed charity. The distribution was done with the assistance of local ward councillors, Monte Christo Ministries and the Friends of Paarl, who identified needy recipients. With some of the recipients are (rear from left) the Mayor of Drakenstein, Conrad Poole, Aletia Grundlingh (MCM) and the Speaker, Aiden Stowman.



Paarl Rotary received a large amount of stationery from Canadian Rotarians visiting from the town of Osoyoos in British Columbia, to distribute among local schools. Here Paarl Rotary President Marita van der Sluys (right) presents some of the backpacks filled with stationery to learners and staff of Ronwe Primary. Next to Marita are (third right) Veronica Whatney (principal) and Grade 4 teacher Anneqcq Maree (second right). At far left is Rotarian Abie Martin. Other schools who received stationery and toys are Sonop Primary, Drakenstein Creche and the Paarl Stimulation Centre.



Senior citizens and residents of Sunfield home started dancing in the aisles at the recent concert presented in the town by Paarl Rotary and the Peter Vanne Band with Karen K.



The Klapmuts Early Act Club was recently launched at the Klapmuts Primary School under the auspices of Paarl and Stellenbosch Rotary Clubs. Klapmuts Primary is the only school in the small town of Klapmuts, which has many needy residents, and through the club senior students will devote themselves to service above self. Here the members celebrate along with their mentoring teachers, after the induction. The president of the club is Carly Hoffman (rear centre), with chief mentoring teacher Beverly Rhode at far right. At the same event, club president Marita van der Sluys also handed over five overhead projectors for use in class.

Paarl Rotary has initiated the Girls Talk project with the assistance of a global grant from the Rotary Foundation. The project brings health and sex counselling to young teenagers in needy schools. The project enables Dr Nelmarie Pitout (above) and other health professionals to teach young girls about the female anatomy, pregnancy, contraception and sexually transmitted diseases. The project, which is based on a German model, is supported by the Rotary Cubs of Bayreuth and Jena (Ernst Abbe) in Germany, and has now been rolled out to include boys as well.





Thoughts for the Day:

RED SKELTON'S RECIPE FOR THE PERFECT MARRIAGE

- 1. Two times a week we go to a nice restaurant, have a little beverage, good food and companionship
She goes on Tuesdays; I go on Fridays.**
- 2. We also sleep in separate beds.
Hers is in California, and mine is in Texas .**
- 3. I take my wife everywhere....
but she keeps finding her way back.**
- 4. I asked my wife where she wanted to go for our anniversary.
'Somewhere I haven't been in a long time!' she said.
So I suggested the kitchen.**
- 5. We always hold hands. If I let go, she shops.**
- 6. She has an electric blender, electric
toaster and electric bread maker.
She said 'There are too many gadgets, and no place
to sit down!' So I bought her an electric chair.**
- 7. My wife told me the car wasn't running well
because there was water in the carburettor.
I asked where the car was. She told me, 'In the lake.'**
- 8. She got a mud pack, and looked great for two days.
Then the mud fell off.**
- 9. She ran after the garbage truck, yelling, 'Am I too late
for the garbage?' The driver said, 'No, jump in!'**
- 10. Remember: Marriage is the number one cause of divorce.**
- 11. I married Miss Right. I just didn't know her
first name was Always.**
- 12. I haven't spoken to my wife in 18 months
I don't like to interrupt her.**
- 13. The last fight was my fault though.
My wife asked, 'What's on the TV?'
I said, 'Dust!'**