

NORTHCLIFF ROTARY CLUB

Weekly information Sheet of the Northcliff Rotary Club
P.O. Box 35439 Northcliff 2115, Johannesburg



18 January 2017

Diary of Forthcoming Events

21 Jan – Wheelchair Work Party
10, 11 – 16 Feb. Rushmoor arrives
16 – 21 Feb. Kruger Park Rushmoor visit

| | 18_Jan | 25_Jan | 01_Feb |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Sergeant | Ian Goldsmith | Jan Christoph Hadenfeldt | Francis Callard |
| Reception and Regalia | Lyn Clarke | Vaughan Russell | Dave Woodhouse |
| Grace | Dave Woodhouse | Laszlo Somody | Dean Gouden |
| Welcome Visitors | Lylie Beukes | George Beukes | Peter Jacobs |
| Swindle & Fines | Peter Jacobs | Vaughan Russell | Tommy Stratten |
| Peace Prayer | | Francis Callard | |
| Rotary 90" Slot / Int. Toast | Dean Gouden | Paul Westcott | Lyn Clarke Somody |
| Introduce Speaker | Tommy Stratten | Dean Gouden | Sean Coleman |
| Speaker | George Beukes | Sean Coleman | TBC |
| Topic | Alternative Energy | Bitcoins – The Future of Money? | TBC |

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

18 : Dulcie Jacob
25 : Laszlo Somody

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|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| President <i>Andrew Buttriss</i> | Club Secretary <i>Paul Westcott</i> | Club Treasurer <i>Tommy Stratten</i> | President Elect <i>Tommy Stratten</i> |
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Our speaker

Our newest member, Sean Coleman, gave us a fascinating talk on the history of money. From the earliest of times circa 2000 BC when bartering was the norm through to Roman times when the intrinsic value was in the coin. This was followed by symbolic representations in the form of paper money which was backed by gold reserves (“I promise to pay the bearer on demand”) through to the abandoning of the gold standard. The system is now based on faith and trust. Sean also took us through various aspects of the money supply and currency reserves and what they mean. A fascinating talk and the questions and discussion carried on long after the formal meeting. Below: Pres Andrew presenting Sean with the Speakers pen.



Nick’s visit was really apt as the 90 second slot was on the “make-ups” and visiting other Rotary clubs. It was serendipitous to have a real example who could testify to the fellowship and benefit of a Rotary make-up.



2017-18 RI President Ian H.S. Riseley announces his presidential theme, **Rotary: Making a Difference**

Rotary International President-elect Ian H.S. Riseley made the case on Monday that protecting the environment and curbing climate change are essential to Rotary's goal of sustainable service.

Riseley, a member of the Rotary Club of Sandringham, Victoria, Australia, unveiled the 2017-18 presidential theme, Rotary: Making a Difference, to incoming district governors at Rotary's International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA.

Environmental degradation and global climate change are serious threats to everyone, Riseley said. "They are having a disproportionate impact on those who are most vulnerable, those to whom Rotary has the greatest responsibility. Yet environmental issues rarely register on the Rotary agenda," he said

Riseley added, "The time is long past when environmental sustainability can be dismissed as not Rotary's concern. It is, and must be, everyone's concern."

The president-elect challenged every Rotary club to make a difference by planting a tree for each of its members between the start of the Rotary year on 1 July and Earth Day on 22 April 2018. Trees remove carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from the air, which slows global warming.

"It is my hope that the result of that effort will be far greater than the environmental benefit that those 1.2 million new trees will bring," Riseley said. "I believe the greater result will be a Rotary that recognizes our responsibility not only to the people on our planet, but to the planet itself."

In his address to the 2017-18 class of district governors, Riseley also urged clubs to improve their gender balance and lower the average age of their members.

Only 22 percent of Rotary's members are women, up from 13 percent 10 years ago. At that rate, Riseley said, it will take another three decades for Rotary to achieve gender parity

Noting that 103 of the 539 incoming governors are women, Riseley said they are the type of women we need in Rotary, "leaders who will help Rotary connect with, and represent, and better serve, all of the members of all our communities."

Riseley also believes it is imperative that clubs find ways to attract and engage younger members. Today only 5 percent of reported members are under 40, and a majority of members are over 60, Riseley told the audience.

"Consider what Rotary stands to look like 10 or 20 years from now if we don't get very serious, very soon, about bringing in younger members," Riseley said.

Clubs will make a difference this year through their own decisions, said Riseley, but it will take teamwork on a global scale to move Rotary forward and secure its future.

"We know that we can do more together than we could ever hope to do alone," he told incoming governors. "I ask you to keep that spirit of teamwork and cooperation always in your minds and to take it back with you to your districts."



The oldest computer can apparently be traced back to the time of Adam and Eve.

It was an Apple.

But with extremely limited memory.

Just 1 bite.

Then everything crashed.

I was walking down the street when I was accosted by a particularly dirty and shabby-looking homeless man who asked me for a couple of dollars for dinner.

I took out my wallet, extracted ten dollars and asked, "If I give you this money, will you buy some beer with it instead of dinner?"

"No, I had to stop drinking years ago," the homeless man replied.

"Will you use it to go fishing instead of buying food?" I asked.

"No, I don't waste time fishing," the homeless man said.. "I need to spend all my time trying to stay alive."

"Will you spend this on hunting equipment?" I asked.

"Are you NUTS!" replied the homeless man. "I haven't gone hunting in 20 years!"

"Well," I said, "I'm not going to give you money. Instead, I'm going to take you home for a shower and a terrific dinner cooked by my wife."

The homeless man was astounded. "Won't your wife be furious with you for doing that?"

I replied, "Don't worry about that. It's important for her to see what a man looks like after he has given up drinking, fishing and hunting."