



Rotary District 9370
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CLUB NEWSLETTER No 2

MARCH 2021

Hi Everyone!

Welcome to the second of our monthly newsletters. The purpose of this is to try and keep all our members on the same page with what has been going on during each month. Much has been going on behind the scenes amongst working groups and the Board which members need to be aware of. And we have to keep in mind that some members need to keep their distance and cannot attend meetings.

Please feel free to send contributions and updates for inclusion in each issue and share freely with friends and family or anyone interested in our activities.

For those who weren't there

Our "Live" meeting on Wednesday evening, 31st March was chaired by President Santa, with our Sergeant for the evening, President Elect George Stegmann, keeping the meeting running smoothly at an entertaining but slick pace. Manfred Burkert was Duty Officer for the evening with Ivan Beaumont keeping tabs on attendance. Apologies from Paul Sherman, Brian Codling, Craig Northwood, Cath Mitchley and Nerine Botha.

Our guests for the evening included Keith Alford, Jo Brown's husband Adam (who came to hear what Lucy really got up to in Italy) along with their friends Gilly and Andy from Manchester (who still haven't decided if they are ever going back home).

The Club warmly welcomed Rotarian Stacey Lippstreu from the Rotary Club of Claremont in Cape Town. Stacey will be a part of our club while she and her husband Chris and 18 month old son, Liam are living in St Francis for a year to assist their family.





Our invited guests were our last exchange student Lucy Brown who filled us in on her year in Italy at the heart of the epidemic, and Matt Genrich of FOSTER who brought us up to date with their needs for the year. See further on for their reports.

The winner of the evening's lucky draw – a bottle of fine wine chosen by Ivan Beaumont - went to Jo Brown.

There was great news of Brian Codling who is making a steady recovery from his recent triple bypass surgery. Also in the good news for the evening were the newly tarred roads in St Francis and Cape St Francis, new Tourism signage and non-indigenous bush clearing, giving our little towns a lovely fresh feeling. And probably the most important good news this week is that the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is to be manufactured in PE which will hopefully mean the demise of the pandemic in South Africa sooner rather than later.

Responding to a club member's request for clarity on our Club's succession plan, past Chairman Ivan Beaumont explained that as our Club had only just been Chartered before the COVID-19 pandemic turned the world as know it upside down, we had not had the opportunity to inform our relatively new Rotary members on the need for a Club succession plan, the procedure for forming a Board and its function.

It is very important for all Rotarians to understand that at some point during their membership, they should serve on the Board in some capacity.

Ivan explained that for the first time since we chartered our Club we have appointed a President Elect to succeed President Santa Zeiss from 1st July 2021. Over the past eighteen months, several of our more seasoned Rotarians were asked to consider stepping up. George Stegmann has agreed to take up the reins for the year 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

George will soon set about appointing his Board to help him run the Club for the next Rotary year. The Board usually meets once a month to ensure the smooth administration of the Club. Board members typically include Past President, President Elect (to be appointed by the Board), Treasurer and Secretary, as well as Elects to those positions if applicable, and the leads responsible for each of the Club's Key Focus Areas.

Our Board currently consists of President Santa, past Chairman and Treasurer Ivan Beaumont, Secretary Lyn Aitken, Projects leader and WOW - Craig Northwood and Brian Codling for Environment focus area. When applicable other members with specific focus areas or projects are asked to join a Board Meeting to give their input.

As the Board takes care of the mundane administration, these matters do not need to be discussed at Club meetings, leaving meeting time to be spent enjoying fellowship, interesting speakers or lively discussion on topics raised by members.

George shared with the Club important messages sent to all Club Presidents from RI President Holger Knaak recently.

The first message brought the sad news that the Rotary Board of Directors has taken the decision to suspend the Rotary Youth Exchange Program through to 30 June 2022 due to the continued uncertainty of the Covid 19 pandemic. Although this is very unfortunate, it is completely understandable.

In his second message to Club Presidents, RI President Knaak is encouraging Clubs to get involved with local vaccination and / or Covid 19 prevention efforts in their communities. George feels we should give some thought as to what role we could possibly play in our own community.

Based on input from a few sources, it would appear that there is still a need for sanitiser and face masks in Sea Vista. On the communications front, we can consider working in conjunction with the Sibanye ladies group and the clinic, pharmacy and medical practitioners.

Rounding up at the end of the meeting, Ivan invited anyone who was interested to review of the Club's finances with him and has agreed to provide the club with a synopsis at the next meeting.

Tom informed the club that a family foundation has invested a further R300 000.00 in the club for specific projects. Fantastic news! We look forward to Tom giving us breakdown on how we will be putting this fantastic donation to use.

LUCY BROWN – Exchange in the Time of COVID

Lucy began her talk to us by thanking Rotary for the opportunity to “make her dream come true”. She was part of a group of 28 exchange students to go to Italy in January last year and one of only 2 that lasted through the COVID pandemic drama. She only managed to get in 3 weeks of schooling before the national lock down kicked in and another two weeks right at the end of her time.

However, she did manage to enjoy some incredible experiences despite all the difficulties and has come back conversant in Italian and her mind firmly made up on a career in fashion design. She was based in Lombardia, and mostly in Cremona. Because of her proximity to Milan, a lot of the people she was hosted by and met along the way were involved in the fashion industry. During lock down she began putting her sewing skills to use creating dresses for her 7 year old exchange sister and making special hats and masks for nurses. And so the fashion bug bit and she is now enrolled on a fashion design course in Cape Town. Six weeks earlier than planned, but after almost a year in Italy and spending five months of that in full on “red zone” lockdown, her very proud Mum and Dad decided it was time for their girl to come home. Well done Lucy – and thank you for being such a great ambassador for Rotary and South Africa.



FOSTER – Friends of St Francis Nature Areas presented by Matt Genrich



FOSTER manages four nature reserves in the great St Francis area which include Seal Point, Cape St Francis, Seal Bay and Irma Booysen nature reserves. In total these reserves cover 132 acres which FOSTER maintain and develop for nature trails, foot paths, cycle tracks, controlling alien vegetation and ensuring the protection of the delicate biodiversity of these reserves. Find out all about them of www.foster.org.za.

The organisation is funded entirely through donations and membership subscriptions, so Matt's first appeal to us was to please consider joining FOSTER – it is only R300 per family p.a. (bank details below have been shared on the Whatsapp chat group today). These funds cover the basic maintenance of the reserves alone.

Matt then presented the club with a funding proposal for R74 000.00 which FOSTER needs specifically to create a Two Bay Trail to incorporate the Shark Point view point. This currently exists but is in very poor shape.

Their aim is to rehabilitate the existing trail and create improvements to maximise the stunning views, and showcase the amazing biodiversity, endemic plant life and rock formations as well as the unique untouched dune by-pass system. The origins of homo sapiens began with the Strandlopers right here and ancient middens can be found all along our coast and particularly in these reserves which is why it is so important to preserve these sites to the best of our ability. FOSTER would be looking to use the funding to build the trail and to erect important signage.

Thank you Matt for a very interesting chat and proposal. We will be looking at ways and means of assisting you with this very important work.

KEY FOCUS AREAS and 2021 Projects

A core group met to analyse and fine tune all the suggestions and comments received in response to Paul Sherman's document on the Key Focus Areas for our Club. The fine tuned version has been sent to all club members for review and comment. Please make a point of reviewing the document and sending your responses to Paul to collate by April 15th at the latest.

It is important that each of you gives some consideration of where you see yourself fitting into this framework. The final debate will see all Club members being allocated portfolios and tasks under each of the Focus areas.

Z-SPORTS TRIATHLON CAME TO TOWN

The highlight of this month for our club was the People's Triathlon event staged in St Francis by Z-Sports.

Our club were asked at very short notice to provide race Marshalls for the event. In return for our hard work the Club of St Francis received R5,000 to be paid over to the RI End Polio Now project.

A Big thank you to Rotarian Mike Zoetmulder and Z-Sports for bringing their Triathlon to St Francis and to all our volunteer Marshalls, Rotarians and friends for a great event!

Congratulations must go to all the amazing competitors with a special shout out to the Humansdorp Traffic Department for their friendly assistance. What a fun day! Well done everyone!!

Best of all, we hear that a bigger and better event will definitely be back next year – watch this space!!

And from Mike Zoetmulder : Thanks Santa, a huge THANK YOU to the Rotary Club of St Francis for being involved. It was great to be back hosting events in St Francis.

The spirit of your members is incredible and was greatly welcomed by all the participants.

Thank you and we are so happy to be able to make a donation of R5000 to the End Polio Campaign on behalf of your club.

Thank you to all.



Rotarians' vote for Inspiration of the Triathlon event - last lady in number 127! Well done Ayesha on an amazing race. You kept going, never gave up, chatting and smiling all the while, and completed the event in your very own style! Very well done to you! We hope to see you back with us next year.

Jo and Stacey made sure she was welcomed home in style and even created a special personalised band to mark her last lap.

And her lovely response ...

[Ayesha Bibi Osman](#)

Thank you so much, so very kind you all! I truly appreciate the amazing support out there! You wonderful volunteers made the race so much more fun! Definitely made my first visit to St Francis Bay extra special!



WHY IS CLUB SUPPORT IMPORTANT FOR THE END POLIO NOW CAMPAIGN?

When I was growing up (and yes it was a long time ago!) it was not unusual to see children hobbling about in leg irons, battling a dreadful disease called polio. And I clearly remember receiving our vaccinations – lining up at school to receive a sugar lump with a bright pink dot on it, greedily gobbled up.

In the early days of our Satellite Club, 2012 to be exact, we entered the End Polio Now Global Swimarathon. I've long since lost the details but we smashed it and the global event qualified as a global Guinness World record. Jo Brown was MC for our event held at the old hotel pool, Dr Jean Malan spoke to the competitors and spectators about Polio and the importance of the vaccine – and - Jessica Brown (yes one of our very own Brown's) at only 8 years old was confirmed the youngest participant in the attempt - worldwide!

But End Polio Now has been so successful that this disease is almost unknown in most parts of the world these days. So why is this campaign still important and why should Clubs support it?

I asked incoming Assistant Governor Angela Newton for help on this one.

She said :

“Contributions to End Polio Now do not contribute to Paul Harris awards or grants, however I will say this, if a club has contributed towards foundation and polio, and applies for a district grant, their application is definitely considered more favourably than a club who does not.

We contribute to polio because we are part of Rotary and it's the right thing to do to eradicate this crippling disease once and for all.”

So some more about this campaign :



What is polio?

Polio, or poliomyelitis, is a paralyzing and potentially deadly infectious disease that most commonly affects children under the age of 5. The virus spreads from person to person, typically through contaminated water. It can then attack the nervous system.

Rotary has been working to eradicate polio for more than 35 years. Our goal of ridding the world of this disease is closer than ever.

Our Goal

As a founding partner of the [Global Polio Eradication Initiative](#), we've reduced polio cases by 99.9 percent since our first project to vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979.

Rotary members have contributed more than \$2.1 billion and countless volunteer hours to protect nearly 3 billion children in 122 countries from this paralyzing disease. Rotary's advocacy efforts have played a role in decisions by governments to contribute more than \$10 billion to the effort.

Today, polio remains endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan. But it's crucial to continue working to keep other countries polio-free. If all eradication efforts stopped today, within 10 years, polio could paralyze as many as 200,000 children each year.

Every donation helps us obtain the vaccines, transport and materials needed in the fight against polio.

By The Numbers :

\$3 - average cost to fully protect a child against polio

430 million - children in total vaccinated in 39 countries in 2017

\$100 million - cost to conduct polio surveillance worldwide

Rotary



ROTARY CLUB OF ST FRANCIS



And Finally

WINE-ON-Water remains Postponed for now

The WOW committee met last week to review the decision to postpone this event until the COVID-19 regulations permit. It was agreed that we will continue with the postponement and will review the situation regularly. The following was sent to all concerned parties and to ticket holders to keep them informed.

Re: Update on postponement of St Francis Rotary Club Wine on Water (WOW) weekend.

We refer to our correspondence of 16 August 2020 advising the postponement of our Rotary WOW event to the weekend of 14 and 15 May 2021, due to the current Corona Covid pandemic.

Our WOW committee met earlier this week to review current circumstances and has, in light of the current Covid situation, made a decision to postpone the event until such time that regulations permit us to safely schedule such an event.

Whilst we understand the disappointment in postponing such an exciting event, we were left with little option to do so when our country went into a national lockdown on 27 March 2020 with the event scheduled to commence the next day on 28 March 2020.

Our Rotary Club of St Francis identified WOW as a novel and fun filled annual event which will serve as our key anchor fundraising project for the deserving local charities we support. As previously communicated, all funds raised from this event will be allocated to charities in the local disadvantaged community of Sea Vista township. These charities include, amongst others, Talhado Pre Primary School, Disney Creche, Sea Vista Primary School, the Medical Clinic, Hospice and various others.

Just as any project of this magnitude requires cash from ticket sales to fund set up costs - and we were all set to go on 27 March 2020 - our Rotary Club has incurred significant set up costs which had to be covered by ticket sales. We therefore appeal to all ticket holders to retain their tickets for our rescheduled event. If personal circumstances do not permit ticket holders to attend the rescheduled event, we kindly request they consider donating their tickets to friends or family. Alternatively, they could consider them as a donation to our Rotary Club for supporting our local charities as mentioned above.

We take this opportunity to thank many for their continued support for our exciting WOW event including homeowners, wine estates, our local business and restaurant community, our local authorities and most importantly our ticket holders.

We sincerely look forward to the time when we can all safely share a glass or two of premier wines on our unique canal system!

Stay safe and we look forward to meeting you all soon!



St Francis Rotary Club Wine on Water team