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**MARCH IS
LITERACY MONTH**



EDITORIAL

Submitted by Dennis Gowdy

THE EXTINCTION CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

(Extract from Veld and Flora)

Owing to its unique geographical location and characteristics such as geology, microclimate, surrounding oceans, evolutionary history etc. we, after Indonesia and Brazil, are the 3rd most biologically diverse country in the world. Although occupying only 1% of the world's terrestrial land area, South Africa is home to an array of organisms including –

- 10% of the world's plants
- 5% of the world's reptiles
- 8% of the world's birds
- 16% of known coastal marine species
- 33% of the world's tortoise species

South Africa is the only country in the world that encompasses 3 biodiversity hotspots (worldwide there are 34 under severe threat) including the **Cape Floral Kingdom** which is also the smallest of known planet kingdoms. The other 2 are the **Succulent Karoo**, which is shared with Namibia, and the **Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany** which is shared with Mozambique.

As a consequence of so many variables the Western Cape is home to –

- 56% of RSA's plants
- 51% of its birds
- 51% of its mammals
- 65% of its fish species

Unfortunately, this very remarkable place, rich in biodiversity, is the country's most threatened reservoir of plant and animal life. The Western Cape and Cape Town in particular, is regarded as the extinction capital of the world; the W. Cape is losing species faster than any other place on the planet. The 2 most important emerging threats are the on-going impacts of global climate change and the threat of new diseases, associated both with climate change and today's extensive global and passenger movements.

Despite many scientific advances, we are still losing quality of life simply because we have lost sight of our fundamental being, namely to be of service to our fellow beings and indeed, to all life around us. ***The bulldozer and not the atomic bomb may yet turn out to be the most destructive invention of the 20th Century.***

WESTERN LEOPARD TOAD



SUGARBIRD



MEETING OF 27 FEBRUARY 2014

ATTENDANCE

Membership:	28
Present:	15
Make Ups:	2
Apologies:	11
Attendance:	54%

Visitors: Roxana Bell (speaker), Firdous Hendricks (speaker) from Rape Crisis, Cape Town, Dottie Leveque (LA, Ontario, USA Rotarian), Val Cleveland, **Win Moser** (Barry Cleveland's mother visiting from Durban), Geraldine Guillome, Keela O'Driscoll, Anne O'Driscoll, Eleanor Williams.



Attendance to Biffy 0813259570 or aecon.e@mweb.co.za.

Pres. Karen opened the meeting welcoming members and our guests wishing us all a successful, enjoyable and fun-filled meeting.

SLOTS

After the traditional toasts the Sergeant, Dave Barnard, invited the following to give their 'slots':

1. Greetings from Odd Henning (NLC) on a visit to Cape Town with a team of teachers were conveyed to the Club. They visited our NLC schools chaperoned by Dennis Gowdy and String Smith but were unfortunately not able to attend our Thursday meeting.
2. **Stephen Bredenkamp** informed us that he will speaking about ROTARY WYNBERG on Radio Helderberg in the near future as part of a programme they are running on the work of Rotary in Cape Town and surrounds.
3. **Dave Barnard** thanked all those who helped at the successful Constantia Primary Fun Event mounted by Rotaract Wynberg.
4. **Barry Cleveland** requested the *disciplined* help of those detailed to write EDITORIALS for the weekly WYNPRESS. If you are down to write an editorial you are requested to ensure it is sent timeously and at the latest by the Saturday prior to the WYNPRESS in which it is going to appear.
5. **John Vivian** mentioned that THE PROMS ticket sales were going well BUT that there were a number of seats on the Saturday (Approx 250) and Sunday (Approx 80) still available. Selling these seats is critical to raising as much money as possible for our 2 beneficiaries: St Luke's Hospice & Victoria Hospital. He urged all members to redouble efforts to market and sell off the remaining seats.
6. **Francois van Eeden** mentioned that all leave had been cancelled for the duration of THE PROMS as every able bodied Rotary Wynberger was required to assist at THE PROMS.
7. **Biffy Danckwerts** mentioned that she'd be attending the a Literacy Workshop on Saturday

8. **Lina Howard** announced the sad passing of former Rotarian Roger Wasdell on Sunday evening 23rd February 2014.

GUEST SPEAKERS



Firdous Hendricks (responsible for Training & Development) and Roxanna Bell (Communications Intern) from Rape Crisis, Cape Town gave us a most interesting talk on the work, challenges and huge contribution Rape Crisis makes to rape survivors, our community and South Africa.

Interestingly, Roxana has strong connections to Rotary. In her own words:

'I had the opportunity to spend my senior year of high school (or Matric year) as a Rotary Exchange Student to East London, South Africa from July of 2008 to July of 2009. I lived with some lovely Rotarians from the East London and East London Sunrise Rotary Club and attended Clarendon Girls High School during my exchange. ***It was a life changing experience.*** After I returned home to Cleveland, Ohio, USA, I searched for an opportunity to return to South Africa either for studying or working. This opportunity presented itself during my time as an undergraduate at the Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington (I will graduate in June, 2014). Through my college, I've had the opportunity to do advanced independent learning and my independent learning has taken the shape of coming back to South Africa to work with an NGO that addresses the need for women's empowerment and advancement in South Africa. I got connected with Rape Crisis through an internship placement company called **"If I Could."** which is attached to a larger non-profit called **Development Works** that works to revitalize the Development Sector within South Africa. I told them my interests and goals and was placed with Rape Crisis for 10 weeks.'



Rape Crisis' mission is to act as a bridge between rape survivors and the system so that:

- more survivors report rape,

- the number of rape incidents decrease,
- survivors experience reduced secondary trauma within the system and
- the conviction rate of rapists increases thus providing a deterrent to rape.

Our work would not be complete without also acting as bridge between the rape survivor and the community in order to reduce the stigma of rape, to challenge myths and stereotypes about rape and to increase the support available to survivors.

We aim to achieve our mission through coordinated action between our three main programmes:

1. counseling, crisis containment and court support directly to survivors,
2. training and awareness programmes to civil society organisations, government partners and community groups and
3. advocating for law reform with partners in the sector.

Counselling and Support Services

- Rape Crisis offers face-to-face counseling by experienced counselors at three centres in Cape Town (Athlone, Observatory and Khayelitsha)
- We also provide counseling for family members, partners, spouses or friends of the survivor
- We offer a 24-hour crisis line and speak to survivors in English, Afrikaans or Xhosa over the telephone
- We offer ongoing social support in the form of support groups for survivors
- To support a survivor through the process of reporting and prosecution, a Rape Crisis counselor will act as a liaison with various people in the criminal justice system, such as police, medical personnel and prosecutors
- We offer 24 hour crisis containment at Thuthuzela Care Centres, which are one stop rape care centres based at regional hospitals where the forensic examination and treatment of rape survivors takes place
- Rape Crisis offers a pre trial consultation service to help prepare survivors for the rape trial
- We offer support at court throughout this experience

All of these services are offered **free of charge**

Training and Awareness Programmes

- Rape Crisis offers awareness raising talks and workshops to community groups, other NGOs, criminal justice system officials, church groups and schools
- We offer customised training courses to NGOs offering services to rape survivors as part of their offering and to criminal justice system
- Our [peer education project](#) trains selected high school learners to offer support and raise awareness about rape in their schools
- Our SafeSpace Corporate Training and Consultation Service offers a package of services to the corporate and private sector

Some of these services are offered free of charge while others are offered at a fee on a sliding scale

Working for Change

- Rape Crisis has strong relationships with more than 60 networking partners across South Africa and abroad and are members of several national and provincial working groups including the National Working Group on Sexual Offences and the Provincial Victim Empowerment Programme (VEP) Task Team
- We also participate as active members in several ongoing campaigns including the [Shukumisa Campaign](#) to improve infrastructure available for prosecuting sexual offences and the Road to Justice Campaign to persuade government to enact Victim Empowerment Legislation that will improve services and access to justice for all victims of violent crime
- Our advocacy is based on research and we are in the process of building a computerised research database to capture vital information about the nature of rape in South Africa and about survivors' experiences of the criminal justice system

Special Projects

- The [Birds and Bees](#) youth camp takes place at the end of the year bringing together high school learners that participated in our peer education project during the year
- The SpeakOut project offer support and presents opportunities to rape survivors that wish to speak publicly about their experiences either to the media, to researchers, as guest speakers at functions and events or on other public platforms
- Our [Virtual Tour](#) of The Criminal Justice System is an online guide to victims of violent crimes showing in virtual 360 degree photography and in video clips how a case proceeds from police station, to health facility, to court, to counseling service and what the all steps are along the way
- The Stop the Bus campaign takes a crew of volunteers on a tour of small towns and rural farms in the Western Cape during the 16 Days of No Violence Against Women and Children offering a mobile awareness raising and counseling service.

Challenges include:

- Funding, fund raising and resources
- The time that rape cases take to be tried due to a number of factors, one of which are the backlogs in processing DNA samples. Francois van Eeden explained the various problems from the perspective of the Law and why cases **do** take so long.

See the Rape Crisis website for more information: <http://rapecrisis.org.za/>

Graham Gavin gave ROTARY WYNBERG'S thanks to Firdous Hendricks and Roxana Bell for taking time out to visit us and address our members. Another thought provoking talk indeed.

DUTY ROSTER

DUTY	6 March	13 March	20 March	27 March
Sergeant	Cleveland	Todd	Murphy	Van Eeden
Attendance Officer	Danckwerts	Danckwerts	Danckwerts	Danckwerts
Wynpress Editorial	Gowdy	James	Klotz-Gleave	Michalowsky
Minutes for Wynpress	Danckwerts	Cleveland	Wetmore	Danckwerts
Compilation of Wynpress	Wetmore	Danckwerts	Cleveland	Wetmore
Door Duty	Gavin	Klotz-Gleave	Gavin	Lidgley
Grace	van Niekerk	Schonegevel	Du Plessis	Gavin
Loyal Toast	Howard	Jackson	James	Klotz-Gleave
International Toast	Bird	Bredenkamp	Gowdy	Hovstad
Speaker Introduction	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Speaker Thanks	Schonegevel	van Niekerk	Barnard	Bird

JACKPOT:

The Jackpot now stands at R1965.00 and the Lucky Card to be looking for was the 3♥. Win Moser drew Mervyn's ticket out of the hat but he missed finding the Lucky Card 3♥, if indeed it was in the pack! (ag shame). All was not lost when Pam Munday won the Attendance Draw of R20 and seemed eager to leave the meeting to splash out spending her fortune.

PROGRAMME

March 2014	Committee: van Wyk, Gowdy, Overbosch, Todd, Murphy, Klotz-Gleave, van Niekerk
3 March	Board meeting

5 March	Wynberg Rotaract meeting
6 March	Business meeting
9 March	Argus Cycle Tour
12 March	Retreat Rotaract meeting
13 March	Normal meeting/Rotaract Birthday – speaker TBA
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15 & 16 March	Proms at the City Hall. NB All hands on Deck!!
19 March	Wynberg Rotaract meeting
20 March	Normal meeting – speaker: Susan Wishart: ‘Toading & the Leopard Toad’
21 March	Human Rights Day / Public holiday
26 March	Retreat Rotaract meeting
27 March	Normal meeting – speakers: Drs Mark van Rensburg & Cathy Spargo: ‘Myths and other things you should have asked your doctor about or should never have asked’
28 March	School holidays start

April 2014	Committee: Knight, Bredenkamp, Cleveland, Munday, Howard, van Eeden, Du Plessis
2-4 April	Rotary Family Health Days
2 April	Wynberg Rotaract meeting
3 April	No meeting
7 April	Board meeting / School term starts
9 April	Retreat Rotaract meeting
10 April	‘Wine Tasting – Truths and Lies’: Dennis Gowdy and Fred Kuys
11-13 April	Interact Camp – <u>WRC on duty on Sat 12 April</u>
16 April	Wynberg Rotaract meeting
17 April	Business meeting
18-21 April	Easter
23 April	Retreat Rotaract meeting
24 April	Normal meeting – Mercy Ships
27 April	Freedom Day
28 April	Public holiday
29-30 April	School holidays
1 May	Workers Day public holiday / No meeting
1-4 May	District Conference

PRESIDENT’S QUOTES

President Karen gave us the following quotes to ponder:

1. *‘We could all take a lesson from the weather, it pays no attention to criticism!’*
2. *‘Weather is a Great Metaphor for life: sometimes it’s good, sometimes it’s bad and there is nothing you can do about it but carry an umbrella.’*



CAPE TOWN AT NIGHTFALL



WATERFRONT

