facebook.com/rotaryclubblouberg www.instagram.com/rotaryclubofblouberg/?hl=en
https://bloubergrotary.org/ za.linkedin.com/company/rotary-club-of-blouberg

We meet most Thursdays **TIME** 18h00 for 18h30 **VENUE** Milnerton Aquatic Club, Table View
SECRETARY Jean Freeborough: secretary@bloubergrotary.co.za

Congratulations to President Jackie, her Board and the members for achieving the 2025/2026 Club Excellence Award.

SOCCER AT VAATJIE MOR FARM SCHOOL

Welcome to our second issue of the Blouberg Banter, and thank you to all who contributed items and advice - and to all of you for your friendly encouragement. **Editor** *Lynne*

PRESIDENT JACKIE

In August we really went full out to honour the theme of the month " Membership and New Club Development". Carl did sterling job of getting many new prospective members to visit. We had a steady flow through August and a few of these visitors have been back. Let's all just keep that mind set so we can grow our club to full potential.

We also proved that worker bees make Bingo work. Thank you to all who always go the extra mile to assist Team Bruce who never disappoints. It may not be the most desirable venue, but it is showing a steady growth. So much more is achieved by our Bingo evenings than just a fundraising event. The players contribute generously to our call for various items needed in our projects.

Our "Sop & Dop" annual social event happened with great participation and was a jol of note! BRC members can certainly let their hair down with flair. Our beautiful soups represented a variety of cultures and showed our open hearts embrace all that makes the Service Above Self shift.

As Vaaitjie Mor School celebrated their first soccer and netball tournaments, we certainly rejoice with them. What a long way we have come together. Our hearts are full for the subtle unexpected changes that show its head in the major infrastructure work we put in.

The new BRC winter jackets are on its way thanks to Leanne's persistent effort. Can't wait for us to show this off!!

MONTHLY BINGO FUNDRAISERS

We have been running our Bingo evenings 11 months every year since 2011 - initiated by former member Marius. It has been a major fundraiser, an important tool to reach out to the local community and a treasured source of continuity. Players sometimes give us goods for our projects. Some of us shine as Bingo callers. Others assist regularly. We thank co-ordinator Bruce for holding the project together and all who help with PI.

SOCCER & NETBALL AT VAATJIE

It gladdened our hearts to see the learners playing their first sports tournament on the artificial turf field and with equipment and clothing which we and our donors had provided. In the Soccer, the scores were: U10 Draw, U11 Draw and U13 Win. Vaatjie sadly lost all 3 Netball games - but all the learners who played were winners. School attendance has risen since the learners have begun sport, so we all win with that.

JARS OF HOPE DELIVERED

We received, in addition to last month's donations, generous contributions for our 'Jars of Hope' from Max and Pam, and also from our Bingo Players in July. Our jars have been delivered for use at need at a local school, while some went to Zusakhe in Du Noon. Jars of Hope is a project which can be repeated going forward, as the need is always there.

SPEAKER ETHAN JOSEPH ON RYLA (Rotary Youth Leader Awards)

Ethan Joseph is the coordinator of our District 9350 RYLA programme, to which our club has sent many learners - most recently from Blouberg International, Parklands and Sinenjongo . Three members generously sponsored learners. The RYLA camps aim to foster leadership skills in promising learners from Grades 10 - 12. Leadership exercises boost confidence by testing leadership skills, critical thinking, adaptation to unfamiliar environments and cooperation with new acqaintances. The courses are managed by young leaders who have passed through the programme themselves, who are thus relevant and accessible to the learners.

Pres Jackie in the kitchen - they have to use wood

VISIT TO LILLY ROSE VILLAGE

Lilly Rose Agri-Eco village (formerly Community Farm) has been described by AI as 'a privately owned emergency refuge and independent living community for destitute elderly pensioners'. A few members visited it in late July to investigate its needs, with a further visit planned shortly. They are housing 240 pensioners.

BEACH CLEANUP

Leanne and Dirk supported 'Save a Fishie' with a beach cleanup at Milnerton Lagoon Beach on the 15th. Very sadly, many dead fish were found - many sardines have died along the W. Cape coast. Our SA Environmental agency has run tests. It is thought to be Pilchard Herpesvirus, with environmental stressors added.

Dirk helping at the beach cleanup

ANNUAL 'SOP 'N DOP' SOCIAL

This year, Graham and Pres. Jackie opened their house for our much-loved and eagerly anticipated 'Sop 'n Dop' social. Members are asked to provide home-made soups, breads and snacks, and the quality of the contributions assures all of us that we would shine at any District culinary event. Our home-made soups this year were Bean, Butternut (x2), Chicken Noodle, Pea and Ham, and Potato and Leek - all delicious and 'the Best in the West'.

DISTRICT 9350 CHARTER OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF GROOT FISANTEKRAAL

With thanks to Carol and Gordon Millar

On Saturday 8 August the Rotary Club of Groot Fisantekraal officially launched at the Durbanville Golf Club. Eugene Balie was inducted as the Charter President, supported by new members and fellow Rotary clubs. All present enjoyed music by Rupert Mellor and commemorative gifts.

Starting just two months prior with six passionate founding members and already growing, the club serves the expanding Groot Fisantekraal region, including the new Winelands Airport and STADIO University. President Balie emphasized that Rotary must present itself where communities grow. He pledged to lead with humility, aiming to build strong partnerships between business, education and community organisations to deliver sustainable projects that turn their shared vision into action.

The club is partnering with SNAP (Special Needs Adapted Program) as its primary sustainable project. SNAP offers specialised education, early intervention, and family support for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). We will use our networks to guide and assist SNAP to raise funds - so will hold a special Bingo day and invite other clubs.

.

MY MOST MAGICAL ROTARY MOMENT: HELÈNE

I was very fortunate to be able to attend the 100th anniversary of Rotary International at the RI Convention in Chicago in 2005.

One speaker was a lady who had been an American exchange student to Indonesia. One day, while out walking, she met an 8 year old girl carrying a syringe, walking with her 4 year old brother to a local blood bank. She was going to donate blood to her brother, who had leukemia. The student accompanied them and found that the blood bank was old, smelly and not very sterile. The blood was kept in a damaged fridge with a door secured by duct tape. The humid local weather was not conducive to hygiene either.

On her return to the USA, the student reported on the incident in her talk to her sponsoring Rotary Club and asked if they could assist with improved facilities. The club did not have enough funds for such a project, but assisted her in contacting every club in that District. Within a year, funds raised were donated to the Red Cross in Indonesia to build a new blood bank. The student returned to Indonesia, and upon discovering that a new fridge and other equipment was needed, embarked on a further fundraising campaign to provide what was needed.

This story once again made me realise how powerful our International friendships in Rotary are and how we can use it to help others.

PROJECTS FROM OUR PAST: TOYS COLLECTION

January 2014: By placing a tiny ad in a free local pamphlet of the time - HomeAdswest - circulated in the Table View area - we received donations of toys for our Children's Hub (child focused) project. One boy named Matthew, from Sunningdale, donated many old toys. We were able to take toys and games to the Tygerberg Children's Hospital, Malachi House, Home of Hope, Zizamele Creche and Siyazakhe Creche.

Matthew with a toy

RI THEME: MEMBERSHIP AND NEW CLUB DEVELOPMENT MONTH

North America has decline of 20% in membership - the US has the most Rotarians. Asia has major growth, with India, Japan and S. Korea leading with a 26% increase. Europe has a 3% decrease, but some nations like Germany are stable. Africa has robust growth, notably Nigeria, Uganda and Ghana, with many young and female members. Oceania, formerly a stronghold, is reducing. Latin America, with Brazil as a key player, maintains a substantial presence. *The Rotarian Minute D1700*

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT YINKA ON MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Our goal of reaching 1.25 million Rotarians and 125,000 Rotaractors by our 125th anniversary in 2030 is also about people. I want to offer your club a simple exercise. Look back over the last 5 to 7 years and find your best year. Maybe it was a year new members arrived and, more meaningfully, stayed. Maybe it was a year your meetings became something members looked forward to, rather than another obligation on a crowded calendar. Find that year. Then I ask you to do better than your best.

OUR GENEROUS DONORS: RC Wallingford Memorial, USA

A Busy Start to Summer in Wallingford: Part 2

On 25 July, we held our annual coin drop - members stood in the street asking motorists to donate change - raising about US$2 000.

We have had interesting speakers - Rtn Micah Azzano on media literacy and carefully examining the news - citing opposing accounts of the Revolutionary War . Rtn Tim Bevis of RC Merrimack, on Peace Poles, inspired us to raise one at the Little Red Schoolhouse (Rotary Founder Paul Harris' primary school - *see photo*).

In July, we welcomed D9350 former DG Stephen Young and Jackie, who spoke on RC Swellendam's ECD Centre and Adopt a Teacher programme. D9350 AG Carolyn Herrick zoomed to describe RC Hout Bay's vision-testing project.

We send warm greetings to our friends and fellow Rotarians in Blouberg Rotary. *PDG Randell Barclay*

REFLECTIONS BY RIAAN : WHERE ROTARY REALLY HAPPENS

Rotary has always understood the importance of ceremony. We have badges, bells, banners, chains of office and enough titles to reassure any passing bureaucrat that civilisation is safe.

Fortunately, very little of the actual work happens there.

It happens in phone calls, spreadsheets, borrowed cars, sponsor meetings, WhatsApp groups and the quiet sentence "Leave it with me."

Leadership matters. So does continuity. Sometimes experience is exactly what a club needs for another year. But office is not ownership. A title merely tells us who has agreed to carry a little more of the furniture.

The institution remains bigger than any one of us.

The roles change, the people change, occasionally even the venue changes—and somehow, somebody still remembers to ring the bell.

DUTIES ROSTER FOR SEPTEMBER

ATTENDANCE	Richard Wade	Olivier Baudry	**SERGEANT**	Malcolm Freeman
4 WAY TEST	Joachim Paul		**FELLOWSHIP OFF**	Max Ahmen
GRACE, T & P	Graham Claydon			

DIARY & BIRTHDAYS FOR SEPTEMBER

1	SEPTEMBER	Bingo at Ysterplaat Primary School
3	SEPTEMBER	Business / Avenues Meeting
5	SEPTEMBER	Visit to Lilly Rose settlement and Huis van Heerde Orphanage
10	SEPTEMBER	Speaker Wendy Robertson on Cleanups in Table View
17	SEPTEMBER	Social TBA
24	SEPTEMBER	Board Meeting

10	SEPTEMBER	Birthday	Eliana Soares De Oliveira
11	SEPTEMBER	Birthday	Richard Wade
16	SEPTEMBER	Anniversary	Boris & Silvia Vassilev
22	SEPTEMBER	Birthday	Damilola Chukwurah
25	SEPTEMBER	Birthday	Randell Barclay

CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

President & Club	Jackie Claydon	Secretary	Jean Freeborough
Treasurer	Janine Freeman	Community	Graham Claydon
Foundation	Helène Visser	Youth	PE Malcolm Freeman
PI	Dirk-Jan Dijkstra	Environment	Leanne Bayhack
Membership	Carl Bayhack		

HUMOUR FUNNY

COMMITTEE AND CHARITY JOKES

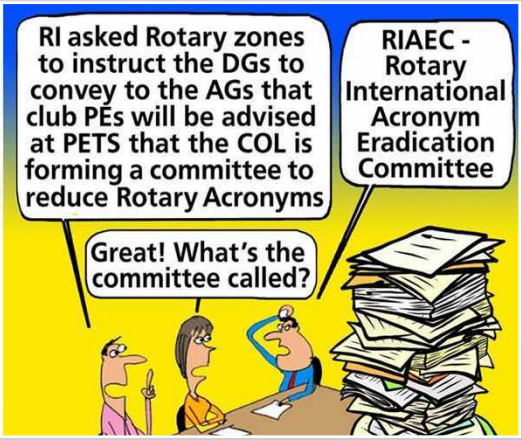
President to Board: 'We will continue to have these meetings every single day until I work out why no work is being done'.

A committee is a group of people who keep minutes but lose hours.

"I do charity work. I volunteer my opinion just about every day.".

A positive attitude may not solve all your problems, but it will annoy enough people to make it worth the effort.

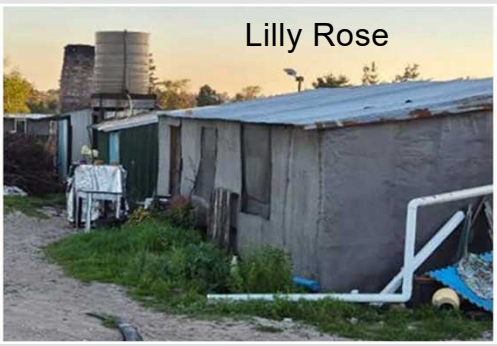
The trouble with being punctual for business meetings is that nobody's there to appreciate it.



Soccer & Netball at Vaatjie Mor

RC Groot-Fisantekraal

Bingo!



Lilly Rose

Sop ‘n Dop at Graham & Jackie’s