



Volume 19 No 35

# Seal's Bark

Waterfront Rotary Club weekly newsletter

PO Box 50007, Waterfront  
Cape Town,  
8002, South Africa

**26 March 2010**  
District 9350  
Chartered: 12-09-1992

Breakfast Meetings at the Cape Town Hotel School Restaurant, Fridays at 07H00 for 07H10

**Captain (President):** Theoniel Potgieter

**Secretary:** Sue Truter

**Scribe:** David Bradley

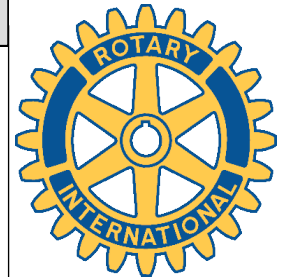
## CAPTAIN'S LOGBOOK

**THE BASIC CONCEPTS PROGRAMME**  
A Metacognitive Programme For Young Children Who Experience Barriers Towards Learning In The Foundation Phase

A Programme Developed By  
**Louis Benjamin, Ph.D**

Tel: 021 797 9110  
Cell: 084 857 8793  
Website: www.basicconcepts.co.za  
Email: louisben@africa.com

Presentation last Friday of our prestigious *Vocational Service Award* to Dr. Louis Benjamin coincided with both Rotary Literacy Month and this week with National Library Week. Louis highlighted the crisis situation in the education system and the critical need to have children enter a competent programme as early as possible. The information about the poor uptake of words by children from poor backgrounds emphasized more than ever the critical need for such children to be exposed to competent early education. This extends of course to the provision of libraries that are competently staffed.



**March is Literacy Month**

### Anniversaries

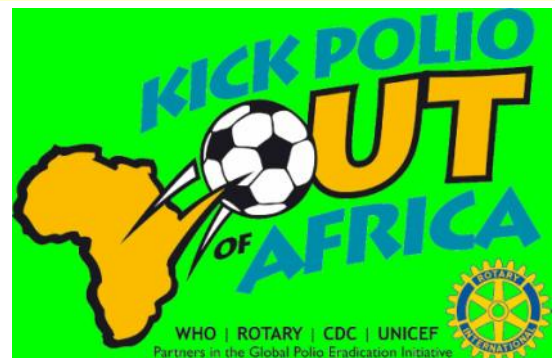
**Birthday:** Nadene Rolston  
30 March  
**Wedding:** Robin + Lynda  
Gilfillan 30 March

News that we will be unable to use this venue after 22nd May until the World Cup events have concluded creates another challenge.

You are invited to give thought to recommending optimum expenditure of our limited funding. It is essential to vet organizations that we are considering helping to ensure that good governance is in place and that there are no highly paid staff sapping donor funds.

## LITERACY MONTH

**National Library Week** this week has focused attention on the paucity of facilities available in schools in South Africa. Vital is the need to train empathetic people to run school libraries. Initially these folk can be given sufficient training to enable books to be issued and controlled. Real library skills can be gained in time with encouraged interventions. Lets act now—postponed perfection is not the way to go!



## Future Meetings / Events

Fri 26 Mar	<b>BUSINESS MEETING</b>
Fri. 2 Apr	<b>NO MEETING—Public Holiday</b>
Fri. 9 Apr	Discussion on Projects
Tue 13 Apr	Outgoing GSE team presents at Claremont R C
Fri. 30 Apr.	<b>BUSINESS MEETING</b>
14-16 May	Rotary District Conference @ Lord Charles Hotel
Sat 22 May	Captain Chris Winberg will be piped aboard
19 & 20 Aug	<b>WINEX—early diary warning</b>



## Waterfront Inner Wheel

The club for partners of Rotarians  
**"Help Bring Hope"**



**Monthly Meeting** will be held at Baxter Theatre Restaurant on Saturday 17th April

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

**Sat 10th April—District Fellowship at Fairview**

**Sat 22 May—International Inner Wheel Awareness Day at Pinelands**

**2010-11 Theme of**

**RIPE Ray Klinginsmith will be**

**BUILDING COMMUNITIES**

**BRIDGING CONTINENTS**



## Meeting 19th March 2010

Thanks for notes prepared by Hannarie Wenhold

**BOSUN:** Johann Gerber

**GRACE:** Beulah Goldman

**PEACE CANDLE:** Lit by Chris Winberg for peace on our roads over the long weekend.

**TOAST:** by Gordon Millar to all members who completed the Argus and to Rotary International

**HAPPY RANDS:** Johann Gerber declared all were happy that Lionel had worked so hard for the Argus and had to contribute accordingly

### SLOTS

**Lionel Daniel** thanked all those members who worked hard to help make the Argus a success. The ticket sales brought in R36 000 and further payment would be made by the organisers for the work we did.

**David Catling** announced that R50 000 had been received for the club's new library project from Engen.

**David Bradley** passed on greetings from former members Thom Graham, Piet van Zyl and Birgitt Horn with whom he'd made contact recently.

**Jenny Harpur** announced that the induction of Chris Winberg takes place on Sat 22 May. This early date is due to the fact that the Hotel School has contracted their venue to the BBC for the whole duration of the World Cup. The breakfast meetings will also be relocated to another venue for that period.

**ROB THE FELLOWSHIP SEAL:** With Jenny Harpur

**WINE DRAW:** Derek Wrangmore, Dennis Figov

**FOUR-WAY TEST:** By David Catling

### ATTENDANCE

**Desk duty:** Alfons Genseberger and Fanie Harmse, presented by Alfons

**Visiting Rotarians:** Wal Taylor (Rockhampton South RC, Australia), Honorary members Thom + Bianca Mittag, Bengt Berglund (Simrishamn, RC, Sweden) Lise Balz (Somerset West RC)

**Inner Wheel:** Val Griffiths + Lorna Bradley

**Guests:** Fadeela Davids + Louis Benjamin (guest speaker), Ian Hunt, Miné Norval (guest of Hannarie Wenhold), Michelle Whitehead's daughter Jessica, Dorothy Catling, Marc Yardin

**Make-ups:** Ronnie Kann (Hermanus), June Webber (Kimberley South)

**Apologies:** Margie Barrie, Michael Brand, Robin Gilfillan, Peter Hodson, Ronnie Kann, James Liddel, Matt Mercer, Dave Shreeve, Pieter Swart, Bron Villet, June Webber, Nadene Rolston (leave of absence)

33 of 49 members present: 67.46%



### BANNER EXCHANGE

Bengt Berglund from the RC of Simrishamn presented his banner. This is the southernmost town of Sweden with a population of only 6500 people, though large numbers of tourists flock there every summer.

### CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Capt Theoniel presented special thank-you gifts to several members who had worked exceptionally hard recently. They were David Catling for organising the reception of the riders who took part in the Rotary Club of Empangeni's Connection Ride; Lionel Daniel who had excelled once again at organising the parking and marshals for the Argus, and Debby Daniel and Sue Truter who also worked exceptionally hard behind the scenes and with the selling of tickets.



left: Sue Truter accepts a Meritorious Service award for her role as Club Secretary and her support of Club projects

Capt announced that Mike Ochse had been nominated as DG for 2012/13 and any club may nominate someone else before 31 March if they wish to.



Capt Theoniel presented a **Vocational Service award** to Dr. Louis Benjamin for his valuable work in the field of early childhood development and the work he undertook in the Kamiesberg area.

## LESSONS FROM KAMIESBERG EDUCATION PROJECT

David Bradley introduced **Louis Benjamin**, who is highly qualified in the fields of education, educational psychology and social work, and well known to our club.

Dr. Benjamin proceeded to show a slide of the excellent results that he had obtained over a period of four years with the education of children in the remote areas of the Kamiesberg in the Northern Cape through his Basic Concepts programme. He had high praise for Waterfront Rotary and its generous donors who had enabled him to undertake this work and said he was humbled by the dedication of Rotary and its understanding of all the issues in the area, including lack of resources and the poverty of the people. He could therefore concentrate on the project of raising the standard of teaching in three small villages at pre-school and the first three school years. This was a resounding success and after four years (one year in pre-primary and three years in primary school) 80% of the children in the project schools were ready to proceed to Grade 4, as opposed to the average of 40% in the control schools in the same area. The reading ability and even the spelling of the children was far ahead of the other schools.



Dr. Benjamin emphasised the importance of pre-school education, where basic concepts have to be taught and the ability to learn has to be developed by competent and suitably educated teachers, rather than mere child-care workers.

He said the situation in education was truly desperate and far too many children were language deprived, with the result that up to 85% of children starting in Grade 1 are not ready for school. The decision of the Education Department to yet again postpone the introduction of Grade R as a compulsory pre-school year was therefore a great setback.

Honorary member Thom Mittag, who had been the driving force behind the Kamiesberg project, thanked the club for the work that started five years ago in under resourced schools and where Louis Benjamin's programme could be introduced once the resources had been provided. He said that those in positions of power should know about the work we were doing. Thom thanked the speaker on behalf of the club.