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Seal's Bark: Weekly Newsletter of the Waterfront Rotary Club

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SEAL'S BARK VOLUME 32 NO 19



# Seal's Bark

## Waterfront Rotary Club Weekly Newsletter

District 9350 Chartered: 12 Sept 1992



## WATERFRONT ROTARY MEETING

**Friday 12 November 2021 - 06h45 for 07h00**

Captain (President): June Webber; Secretary: Sue Truter

Scribe: Pieter Swart

[www.waterfrontrotary.org](http://www.waterfrontrotary.org)



**Rotary** International President Shekhar Mehta urges Rotary clubs to "grow more" so that we can "do more". "Caring and **servng** others is the best way to **live** because it **changes** not only other people's **lives**, but also our own."

NOVEMBER IS ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH



## CAPTAIN'S LOG - 12 NOVEMBER 2021



**Captain June is on shore leave this week. The Captain's Log will return next week.**

## The Polio Plus Campaign



*(Based on an article by Peter Ross Range, published in the Rotarian magazine, Jan 2014.)*

The eradication of polio is one of Rotary's longest standing and most important efforts to combat disease, which is one of Rotary's core objectives. Along with its partners, Rotary has helped immunize more than 2.5 billion children against polio in 122 countries. This mammoth effort has reduced polio cases by 99.9 percent worldwide since 1978.

But how did this significant project start?

In 1978 Rotary initiated a special fund called the "75th Anniversary Fund" for the development of Rotary International's Health, Hunger And Humanity Grants Program. The "3-H" grants program was designed to undertake large-scale service projects beyond the capacity of individual Rotary clubs or groups of clubs.

Mateo A.T. Caparas, a Rotarian from the Philippines, was then the Director of the Foundation. Together with Clem Renouf, the Rotary International President in 1978-79, it was decided that the first 3-H grant would fund a 5-year project to eradicate polio from the Philippines by immunizing all of the children through the Philippine Health Organization, Rotary International and the Philippine government.

Flying home from Manilla in April 1979 where he had been formalising the agreements to launch the polio immunisation project, Renouf was browsing a Reader's Digest and read that smallpox had recently been eradicated. Renouf wondered if these new 3-H grants could enable Rotary to tackle another disease with similar success. He called his friend and fellow Rotarian John Sever. Sever was a Rotary District Governor in the Washington, D.C. area and head of the infectious diseases branch of the National Institute of Health . Sever studied infectious diseases that affect children and his professional goal was to bring vaccines to the children of the world. Sever was also friends with the men who had developed the polio vaccine: Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin. Sever recognised that the new oral polio vaccine, administered via a few drops on the tongue at a cost of only 4c a dose, could eradicate polio in the same way that smallpox had been eradicated, if only someone could organise the effort.

"The important thing was to get the polio vaccine from the manufacturers to the people who needed it," Sever recalls. "I knew that Rotarians were a big international army of volunteers. They could work with the governments of the world to assist with immunization and provide financial support and social mobilization." And so the extraordinarily Polio Plus campaign was born.

The first challenge was to create a partnership with the World Health Organisation, who were sceptical that a volunteer organisation could 'go the distance'. Eventually however with Sever's help, Rotary received a special designation as a nongovernmental organization affiliated with WHO. That partnership, now known as the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, includes WHO,

Rotary International, the U.S. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF. Other important sources of support include the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and national governments.

At the 1979 Rotary Convention in Rome, Italy, President Sergio of the Rotary Club of Rome announced that they were ready to help the children of the Philippines with 500,000 polio vaccines ready to be airlifted to the Philippines. Eventually, Rome would send a total of 1M polio vaccine doses to the Philippines.

Our own Captain June Webber was one of the organisers of the enormously successful 'Kick Polio Out of Africa' campaign in conjunction with the 2010 Soccer World Cup held in South Africa. Health ministers at the World Health Assembly in 2012 raised the polio eradication campaign to "emergency" status, in order to generate the political will to raise the necessary funding to achieve final eradication. Television and print campaigns such as the *End Polio Now* ads, featuring well known figures like Bill Gates and Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, also raised public consciousness and support.

The Bill Gates Foundation has just extended its 2\$ for 1\$ funding support for another 3 years . If each Rotary Club around the world donates \$1500/year for the next three years, the total amount raised including the Gates Foundation match will be \$450M. Waterfront Rotary Club decided to try participate, starting by earmarking all Happy Rands donated for the month of November to this cause. We encourage our friends and all readers of this Seal's Bark to make a contribution to help us reach this goal.

With the end in sight, now is the time to bear down, Sever says. "Rotarians get fatigued. The governments in countries that now have very little polio get fatigued. They sometimes say, 'Why don't you help with measles or parasites or something else?' Even if we sometimes merge polio immunization with these other efforts, we're here to eradicate polio. We're not here to switch to another program.

Now is the time to stay focused. "

This year every Rotary Club is asked to contribute just \$1,500 for PolioPlus, to be matched 2-1 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.



The WRC Board suggests that all Happy Rands in **November** are earmarked for PolioPlus.

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## **Rotary Glencairn Youth Camps – Jewel in the D-9350 Crown**

The Rotary Club of Cape Town (RCCT) was bequeathed the more than 300 hectares of a 400 hectare Glencairn Valley property on the death of Rotarian William Haines in 1941. Rtn Haines was operating a camp for youth on the smaller portion of the property under the banner of the Gordons Missionary Society. The mainly underprivileged youth spent holidays enjoying physical exercise and developing leadership skills.

During WW II the matter was held in abeyance but immediately after the war ended the RCCT went full speed ahead and developed a Dormitory building with hall and kitchen for boys and girls and this opened in 1947. The MOTH Organisation built a second Dormitory facility in 1952 and a third facility was added by the Rotors (later Rotaract) Club of Wynberg in 1986.

In 2019 the smaller portion of Haines Property, the Gordons Youth Camp was transferred to RCCT and consolidated. The Gordons Camp was in need of major renovation that began with a R500,000 replacement of roofs. Next was the electrical installation in all buildings on the site and a contract amounting to R300,000 is almost complete. (An important aspect is to upgrade power sockets to the new South African Standard and to include USB charger sockets.)

In parallel with infrastructure improvements and in accordance with South African Law, RCCT is responsible for the management of the portion of the Else Stream, a perennial stream rising in the mountains above Simonstown and flowing to the sea at Glencairn via the Glencairn Wetland. This stream was heavily infested with Typha Reed as well as alien growth. It was a Herculean task to make the first phase clearance of the choking vegetation to re-establish a free flow. This was done, just in time to coincide with the first overflow of the two Council water storage dams on the upper reaches of the stream.

Following the Covid 19 pandemic lockdown rules the camp has been without income for many months. Fortunately bookings are now trickling in and it will be a long time before accumulated debt exceeding R1 million on the operating account can be recouped.

- Electricity installation

- Preliminary work is proceeding on the formulation of the outline for a potential Global Grant to obtain funding to switch to solar water-heating and solar generated electricity
- Stormwater
  - Groundwater seepage from the Expressway is still keeping the Northern side of the Gordons Camp playing field very soggy. About 100m of subsoil drainage using plastic slotted drainage pipes covered with Bidem cloth and bedded in crushed stone has been effective in draining the area round the accommodation but unfortunately because of the topography it was not possible to lead the water to the Els Stream. It is ponding an area to the East (sea) end of the field where it will be encouraging growth of Typha. It is planned to lower the level of the stream by at least 500 mm before the 2022 winter rains.
- Foul Sewer
  - A bugbear that has been constantly monitored since taking over Gordons Camp is the very high electricity consumption. Theoretical consumption calculations were made to pinpoint the cause. Random observation showed that both the sewage pumps seem to run continuously. Running hour meters have been installed on the pumps and routine logging of the readings has confirmed continuous running.
  - Random checks have shown that the foul sewer is running full, with only a few workers on site, so groundwater infiltration is certainly a big issue. We were hoping that the sub-soil drains would have reduced the infiltration but because of the aforementioned inflow from the mountain slope the water table is still way above the invert level of the sewer.
- Management
  - Sadly, Camp Manager and incumbent President of RC Cape of Good Hope Koos Burger succumbed to Covid 19 and his widow Antoinette ably supported by the site staff are doing an admirable job and good progress is being made in securing occupancies. It is still a trickle but at least there is some positive cashflow.
  - [bookings@rotaryyouthcamps.co.za](mailto:bookings@rotaryyouthcamps.co.za) will enable you to enquire about facilities hire

**WATERFRONT MEETING - FRIDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2021**

## BUSINESS MEETING

The Christine Revell Children's Home annual market was held on the 6th of November. A huge thank you to our community of friends for their support.



## WATERFRONT ROTARACT



Janet advised that two Rotaractors had joined as a positive spin-off of recent activity involvement,.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



A 32.5KM CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF ROB BEN ISLAND!

**Waterfront**  
CANAL CHALLENGE

The 2021 Waterfront Canal Challenge is a self-timed, virtual open water swimming event.

15 OCT - 15 DEC 2021  
**VIRTUAL**  
**THEO YACH**  
**CHALLENGE**  
**32.5 KM**

Cape Town legend Theodore Yach is the only person to have completed an open water swim from the V&A Waterfront, around the circumference of Robben Island and back again. Now you can try this epic feat virtually and at your own pace to help us raise funds for an amazing cause!

[www.waterfrontcanalchallenge.co.za](http://www.waterfrontcanalchallenge.co.za)

Rotary Club of Waterfront  
BIG BAY EVENTS  
V&A WATERFRONT CAPE TOWN  
MY VIRTUAL MISSION

Michelle Weber and Ryan Stramrood have registered for the event and have agreed to come aboard as our Waterfront Canal Ambassadors again this year! Two participants have already completed the 32.5 Virtual Theo Yach Challenge circumference swim.

## OTHER CLUB EVENTS - NOVEMBER





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## CALENDAR

# Speakers / Events

### NOVEMBER 2021

Friday, 12 November - Strini Reddy RC, Winnipeg & Rob Campbell - RC Hillcrest RSA "One Thousand Survival Gardens"

Friday, 19 November - Vivienne Schultz - "Human optimisation from dependency to dignity & creating ecosystems for change"

Friday, 26 November - Danielle Lotzoff - RC of Sydney Cove - Reeducate Literacy Programme

### DECEMBER 2021

Friday, 03 December - no meeting

Saturday, 04 December - End of year Fellowship Function with Rotaract, family and friends - at the Two Oceans Aquarium, V&A

Friday, 10 December - Annual General Meeting and Captain's half year address

Friday, 17 December (social meeting optional)

24 December - no meeting

31 December - no meeting.

No meetings until the new Calendar year.

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## ATTENDANCE REPORT MEETING - 5 NOVEMBER 2021

Lucky Draw: NA; **Grace/Meditation:** Debby Daniel; **Peace Candle:** Jacinta Subjee; **Rotary Toast:** Maryka Vermaak; **Four Way Test:** Derek Pead

**Bosun:**Derek Pead; **Reception:** Nadene Rolston

### **Apologies:**

David Catling; David Bradley; Chris Fick; Kirshia Govender-Koumbatis; Janice Halliford; Theoniel Potgieter and Ralph Roseman

### Visiting Rotarians:

None

### **Guests**

Emily O'Ryan; Thimna Matika; Karen Ndlovu

**Birthdays in the coming week - 12 - 19 November 2021**

Debby Daniel - 19th

**Partners' birthdays - 12 - 19 November 2021**

Anne Postema - 17th

**Anniversaries in the coming week - 5 - 12 November 2021**

None

**Rob the Fellowship Seal is with Spiro Mitchell - Lockdown Level 1**

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