



16 September 2019

#### Albie's Rambles

Why do people join Rotary, why do they stay and why do they leave? These are vital questions we must ask in our pursuit of meaningful change in our club. RI conducts a survey every year in which answers to these questions are sought. While the results may not be applicable everywhere, they are worth looking at.

It appears that the opportunity to participate in community service projects is a factor that attracts half of the new members into Rotary and also keeps them there. Well, our club has a range of community service activities but we must ask ourselves how exciting, meaningful and relevant they appear to outsiders and whether they still excite us as members? Do we need exciting new projects and what would they be?

About one third of members that leave Rotary do so because of cost and time constraints. Is this really a valid excuse or just a smokescreen because they have lost interest? Another third leave because they don't like the club environment and culture. Hmmm....applicable to RCWR? About 17% leave because of unmet expectations. Have we ever asked new members what their expectations are? Could be worth our while!

Lots of food for thought here!

***President Albie van de Venter***

#### Meeting: 16 September

- Kath reported back on the Rotary Inter Schools Speech Competition. All went off well, and we were fortunate to have had Tina Baer from Toastmasters as a fellow judge.
- We have managed to secure food from Woolworths for distribution, which is fantastic. Our collection day is on a Saturday, so please volunteer to pick up from Woolworths and take to Masoyi, where Lucy distributes to a couple of places. Liz will probably set up a roster.
- Sergeant tonight was Ian who entertained us with Alzheimer's jokes.
- Wine draw won by Mariette.

- We had 3 member speakers tonight – so interesting to hear everyone's stories! They are all three involved in Rotary's youth projects.
  - ❖ Lindsey has been in the Lowveld since 1989. She studied bio medical technology (please excuse me if the term is not correct!) and is currently a quality manager in a laboratory. Her career path has gone from mundane lab tests to working closely with Aids research. The Southernns have 2 children, a son who is currently studying and a past YEX participant, and a daughter still at school.
  - ❖ Khensi was born in Maputo to a South African father and Mozambican mother. She moved to South Africa in 2000 when her parents moved to the area. School education was both in Mozambique and Swaziland. After school she pursued her interest in jewellery design, and now also assists her parents in their tourism industry.
  - ❖ Mariette, a self confessed “last minute .com!” was born and bred in Nelspruit and comes from a very close-knit family. Her profession is in the office furniture business. Mariette has a son who participated in our YEX programme. Her interests are varied and include good food, good people, good wine! She loves old cars, gardening and fly fishing as well.

## RI Official Exchange Rate:

**September: \$1.00 = R15.35**

## Next meeting 23 September

**Partners' meeting – Richard Spoor is the guest speaker**

**Organiser:** Gerard  
**Grace & Fellowship:** Erik  
**Sergeant:** Anns

## Upcoming Events



|   |   |
|---|---|
| Friday 27 September                               | <b>Wine Auction @ the Winkler Hotel</b> |
| Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> October | <b>Rotary Family Health Day</b>         |
| Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> October                    | <b>DG's visit</b>                       |

## Birthdays & Anniversaries



### Birthdays

20<sup>th</sup> Sep – Marie Lewis  
 24<sup>th</sup> Sep – Hilda Maluka  
 24<sup>th</sup> Sep – Neha Motiram  
 29<sup>th</sup> Sep – Hitesh Motiram  
 30<sup>th</sup> Sep – Brian Hyson

### Anniversaries

There were no weddings in September, only the birth of babies!



Thank you Woolworths for donating your almost expired foodstuff to us! We are able to feed hungry mouths every weekend.



Kath and Khensi were judges at the Rotary Inter School Speech Competition



Neha and Mary helping prepare the meals the Anns served to the Senior Citizens

See what our Club gets up to!



Rotary White River



@rotarywhiteriver