



Rotary Club
White River
Mpumalanga



Rotavision



From the Editor

September is the month when Rotary focuses on literacy and education.

Imagine what it must be like living in a world where the writing that confronts you wherever you look is a meaningless jumble of squiggles. There are an estimated 760 million illiterate adults in the world today, most of whom are women. The average in the world, including first world countries, is 20% of the adult population. Some research puts this figure somewhere between 10 and 20 % , but whatever the final figure its too many! It is not only in countries like ours where adult literacy is a problem. That means one in five adults is functionally illiterate – make you think, doesn't it?

Those who lack basic literacy skills are unable to perform everyday tasks, such as:

- sign their name on a signature line
- reading medication warning labels
- making sense of an account
- locating streets on a map and finding your way around a town.
- reading for pleasure
- ordering food from a text only menu
- reading food labels eg no name brand labels on tins (no pictures)
- helping children with homework.
- Voting
- Reading birthday cards

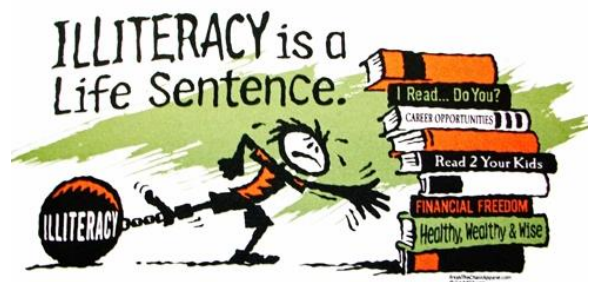
The list goes on and on and these are only some of the restrictions that are faced by illiterate adults.

Can you read this?



Translation: Poison! Do not drink.

Hmm, and it looked like cool drink!





Baumgart's Blog

As I am writing this, we are counting day 523 of national lockdown. Just another flu, a lot of people say. Really? The death toll is reaching 82 000. Just another flu, a lot of people say. I don't think so. I am saddened by the fact that quite a few of my friends and acquaintances have lost their lives, and many have lost their employment or income and are suffering tremendously. I am also saddened by the fact that so many people, mainly those who say that it is just another flu, refuse to get vaccinated. What is wrong with people who are offered protection free of charge to not only reject it but also intimidate those who opt to get the shot? I am tired of walking around with a mask all the time, having my hands sprayed continuously and checking if the bottle stores are open or not and when to increase the emergency booze stock. I want life to get back to normal, but will it ever be? Sorry, I had to get this off my chest, and I feel a whole lot better now.

It is fortunately not all doom and gloom. We had two great face to face meetings in August, and our new venue proved to be an excellent choice. Unfortunately, attendance is affected by fear of infection, but by now most of us should be vaccinated, so I am not giving up hope that the numbers will improve.

The first face to face meeting was very special, because we inducted Les Carlisle as the first new club member of the new Rotary Year. Still a lot of work to be done in this department, we need another 8 new members to achieve our goal. Therefore, please remember: EACH ONE BRING ONE (and keep one). There is nothing wrong with bringing all your spouses to a meeting to stir interest in our club.

I have not given up my search for a President Elect and I might be slightly closer to success, but nothing can be confirmed at the time of writing. Please watch this space for exciting news.

Finally, please be reminded of the forthcoming DG visit on 13 September. It would really be great to have maximum attendance, therefore all of you, please make a very special effort.

Many thanks to all of you for your fantastic support during my second month in office and keep up the positive vibe.

The Rotary Anns

We continue to meet face to face. Most of us have had both our vaccinations and we thoroughly enjoy each other's company.

Mags Billingham joined our group and immediately "volunteered" (or was she coerced?!) to make sandwiches for the children at White River Primary School. Once again,



we took it in turns to make sandwiches for children who have been identified in the school as those who come to school hungry and are unlikely to have a good meal on their return home.

We handed over the ladder to Hospice so that they can keep their house free of leaves and it will hopefully help them with the upkeep and maintenance of the Hospice House in White River.

We looked at Millenium Home of Hope and feel that it is a project we can become involved in. The children are in need of stimulation and perhaps a few pairs of "Granny" arms to give them lots of TLC.



Club Service Report

Speaker on the 2nd August was Carmen Saffy. – POPI act

Due to the public holiday, there was no meeting on the 9th August.

- 16th August: Guest Speaker: Andre Steinmann - Face to Face
- 23rd August: the last Rotary Year in Pictures - Zoom Meeting
- 30th August: Member Speaker: Hein Gehle - Face to Face



Timbercity donated files which were donated to the Grade 7 learners at Loti Primary School.





Mashadza Special Care Centre

A donation of gardening equipment and treats for the children of Mashadza Special Care Centre

(Masoyi) was made possible by Andre Steinmann and his team from Assupol. Thank you!



Fellowship



This month we had a bring and braai at Judy and Ricky's home. Having PP Patrick and his wife Judy McPhail in the Lowveld was a good excuse to have a get together! We had a lovely evening catching up with them and enjoying lots of fellowship with each other. Great to see you again McPhails!



Official rate of exchange for September: \$1.00 = R14.68



General Rotary information

RI President Shekhar Mehta

His message in Basic Education and Literacy month.

One of the ways you can make the greatest change in a person's life is to help them learn to read. Literacy opens up the world to us. It makes us better informed about life in our own communities and opens vistas to other cultures. Reading and writing connects people and gives us another way to express our love for one another.

September is Basic Education and Literacy Month in Rotary. Enhancing literacy skills is critical in our pursuit of reducing poverty, improving health, and promoting peace. In fact, if all students in low-income countries left school with basic reading skills, it would result in a significant cut in global poverty rates.

Without education, illiterate children become illiterate adults. Today, 14 percent of the world's adult population — 762 million people — lack basic reading and writing skills. Two-thirds of that group are women. Literacy and numeracy skills are essential to obtaining better housing, health care, and jobs over a lifetime.

Especially for girls and women, literacy can be a life-or-death issue. If all girls completed their primary education, there would be far fewer maternal deaths. And a child is more likely to survive past age 5 if he or she is born to a mother who can read. Improving outcomes for more people worldwide is possible only if countries remove barriers to education for girls. The economic argument for doing so is clear: In some countries where schooling is geared toward boys, the cost of missed economic opportunity is more than \$1 billion per year.

Empowering people through education is among the boldest goals we have as Rotarians. We don't have to travel far from our homes to encounter those whose lives are being curtailed because they struggle with reading, rely on others to read for them, or cannot write anything more than their own name.

Literacy is the first step out of poverty. As Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai has noted, "One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world."

Comment: Thinking on these lines, perhaps our club could do one project for Basic education and Literacy month. Through my involvement in Partners for Possibility, I have identified the need for posters and labels for classrooms. Maybe the Rotary Club of White River could sponsor a poster making workshop – just materials like

pens and card. For a few hundred rand, we could Serve to Change lives and live up this year's motto.

The first two people to email me showing that they have read this article will win a packet of Brian's amazing Choc Chip cookies.

September birthdays and anniversaries

Lorna 11th September

Luiza 13th September

Vinah 17th September

Nehas 24th September

Hitesh 29th September

Brian 30th September



R.I.P

rest in peace

It was with sadness that we heard of the passing of Doc Oosie Oosthuizen. Although we haven't seen him for a while, he will be remembered by those who knew him as a great Rotarian, a true gentleman and a wonderful person. Our thoughts go out to his family at this sad time.



A poem that is apt in this month where the focus is on Literacy.

Why English is so hard to learn

We'll begin with *box*, and the plural is *boxes*,
But the plural of *ox* should be *oxen*, not *oxes*.
Then one fowl is *goose*, but two are called *geese*,
Yet the plural of *moose* should never be *meese*.

You may find a lone *mouse* or a whole lot of *mice*,
But the plural of *house* is *houses*, not *hice*.
If the plural of *man* is always called *men*,
Why shouldn't the plural of *pan* be *pen*?

The *cow* in the plural may be *cows* or *kine*,
But the plural of *vow* is *vows*, not *vine*.
And I speak of a *foot*, and you show me your *feet*,
But I give a *boot* . . . would a pair be *beet*?

If one is a *tooth*, and a whole set is *teeth*,
Why shouldn't the plural of *booth* be *beeth*?
If the singular is *this*, and the plural is *these*,
Why shouldn't the plural of *kiss* be *kese*?

Then one may be *that*, and three be *those*,
Yet the plural of *hat* would never be *hose*.
We speak of a *brother*, and also of *brethren*,
But though we say *mother*, we never say *methren*.

The masculine pronouns are *he*, *his*, and *him*,
But imagine the feminine *she*, *shis*, and *shim*.
So our English, I think you will agree,
Is the trickiest language you ever did see.