

# Rotary Club of Knysna



Newsletter November 2018

## Interact Training Day



Each year, the Rotary Club of Knysna holds a training day for the various different Interact Clubs in the area. This year it was once again held at the Belvidere Manor but took on a new format,

There were clubs from Knysna High School, Oakhill, Constantia High, Knysna Sekondere, Percy Mdala, Montessori and Heatherhill, as well as one club from Plettenberg Bay.

The theme of the training day was Leadership and started with a short presentation by President Mike Mills on Rotary, followed by some feedback on the recent RYLA programme

held at Outward Bound. A leadership presentation was then done by Phil Golson through the medium of drumming. The interactors were each given a drum and some drumsticks and had to follow a pattern. This was indeed a very different, but very effective form of teaching leadership through getting some members to lead, and others to follow, and how difficult it is to be either one of those people. Some great drumming rudiments were created as well as a whole lot of fun!

After lunch which is usually the most difficult session of the day, the group was given a game to play which again was not only fun, but also a lesson in teamwork, the final session was held. This consisted of presentations by the different schools of some of their projects for the year. While the efforts of these groups were incredible, it was the presentations that were the highlight. The quality of the speakers and the way they did their presentations was in many instances, almost of a professional level. Congratulations to all these young people and with you coming forward as the leaders of our future, our country is indeed in good hands.



## Choir Festival

Joan Huskisson is one of the long-standing members of the Rotary Club of Knysna and instead of getting older, she gets more creative. This year her new project was to organize a choir festival for some of the local schools. At first this met with a little resistance, but with the determination of Joan and a small committee of musical members, they managed to organize eight schools from the Knysna area to perform.



The festival was held in the school hall at Concordia High School. Tickets were sold ahead of time, as well as at the door, and by the time the show started, the hall was full. The schools performing were from Concordia, Montessori, Knysna Sekondere, .... The quality of the singing was extremely high and the joy in the faces of the performers was wonderful to see.

This was not run as a competition and there were no prizes awarded, but it was done for the sheer enjoyment of listening to these young people perform and to give them the opportunity to perform to a crowd. It was extremely well received and Joan is determined that it will be come an annual event – and with her determination, it is certain to do so.

The Rotary Club of Knysna would like to congratulate all the performers in the festival and a special vote of thanks to Joan Huskisson for her hard work it making it happen.

## Cricket Match against Epilepsy

Rotary is not always about hard work but is also about fellowship and having some fun. The Rotary Club of Knysna has been running an Annual Cricket Match against the Epilepsy Society of Knysna for a number of years. This year was no different. The morning started off with a thunderstorm and fears that the great match would not take place. However, the weather was kind and quickly cleared up and became a beautiful hot summer day.

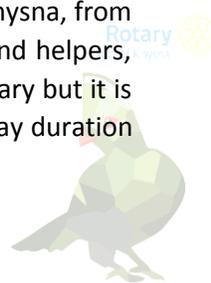
The competition took place at the Knysna Sports Academy grounds was fierce! Rotary started off the batting with each member facing 8 balls and scoring as many runs as to. Despite having about 18 players, they managed to score a paltry 98 runs!

The opposition then came in and it quickly became evident that they had either been practicing or they had enlisted some very good players, and but the time all of the players had had a chance to bat, they had reached an incredible 114 runs which then gave them the title, once again.

However, cricket was not the winner on this day as a fun day was had by all. The Epilepsy group had prepared some delicious salads and a couple of enterprising Rotarians braaied some great boerewors and lunch was served at the end of the match. Suffice to say, a great time was had by all!

## Rotarydent 2018

Rotarydent 2018 was a joint venture between USA based Medicine Arm in Arm, The Rotary Club of Dundee, and The Rotary Club of Knysna, both in South Africa . The dental clinic was set up in the Concordia High School Hall, Knysna, from 15 to 19 April 2018. Six volunteer dentists from the USA and one from Finland, along with their partners and helpers, provided free dental treatments to 253 schoolchildren, between the ages of 6 and 16. Calculation methods vary but it is probable that over R1M of dental treatment was provided to the community, free of charge, over the four-day duration of the clinic.



Rotarydent projects, through the partnership of Medicine Arm in Arm and the Rotary Club of Dundee, have been rolled out in South Africa since 2005, mainly in Northern Kwa Zulu Natal and neighbouring Swaziland. In November 2018, a decision was taken to offer the Project to a Rotary club in the Western Cape area and RCK gladly accepted the opportunity, even though the time for preparation was shorter than ideal.

Whilst Medicine Arm in Arm and the Rotary Club of Dundee were busy with preparation work in the USA and Dundee respectively, the Rotary Club of Knysna was engaged in local preparations. The venue and its location were a critical success factor. Thanks to the vision and support from Mr Blaai, principal of Concordia High School, his school hall was secured as the venue. The location, size and facilities offered were perfect for the clinic. Furthermore, its proximity to other schools, made it easy to manage the flow of school patients to and from the venue. Much appreciation is expressed to Mr Blaai and his staff.

Approval was sought and secured from the department of Health, for the clinic to proceed. They also pre-screened as many learners as possible, prior to commencement of the clinic. After initial reluctance, the local department of Education added their support for the project and provided all the enabling approvals at a school level.

The Interactors were also a vital cog in this wheel and they were on hand for the duration of the programme – teaching the importance of good dental health, encouraging the patients not to be afraid and helping the doctors and staff to clean up after each patient. Their help was greatly appreciated.



Interactors helping with Rotarydent



Cyclists from the Knysna Sports Academy

### Knysna Sports Academy Grant

The Rotary Club of Knysna has frequently supported the Sports Academy with funding in the past. The most recent endeavour was to apply for a Rotary District Grant to assist the Academy with their on-going operating costs. A partnering arrangement was agreed between the Rotary Club of Northwiche Vale Royal of the UK, the home club of Rotarian, Mac Thorpe who spends the European winters with us at the Rotary Club of Knysna and ourselves.

Northwiche Vale Royal contributed US\$1000 which converted to ZAR14 690. This was matched by a contribution from their Rotary District with a further US\$1000. RC Knysna contributed R25 000 which was matched with a further R25 000 from our District making a total contribution to the Academy of R79 380, a useful sum in the current depressed economy which makes fundraising even more difficult than usual



## Red Cross Memorial Children's Hospital Update



New incubators during the move into the new ICU

After a few delays, the first patients were transferred to the new Neonatal ICU at the end of August. The incubators in this new ward were procured with funding from a Rotary Global Grant where RC Knysna was the Host Club and RC Mississauga-Meadowdale of Canada, the International Partner. In all 28 Rotary Clubs in South Africa, Canada, Germany and USA participated in this major undertaking. Contributions from local clubs here and overseas were matched by their Rotary Districts and The Rotary International Fund plus a grant from the Canadian Government to make up a total of R3.5 million.



A view inside the new ICU

### Board Members 2018/2019

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**Secretary** – Sharon Richards **Treasurer** – Doug Emanuel **Membership** – Graham Waterston

**Club Administration/President Elect** – Julie Staub **Service Projects** – Henry Fairweather

**Youth Service** – Herb Hunter **Rotary Foundation** – Mick Furman **Public Image** – Andrew Finn

**Anns' President** – Sue Mills

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