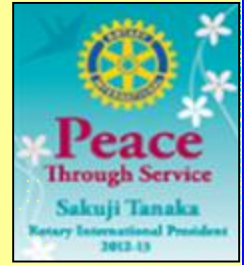


# ROTARY GRIQUA

The Official Bulletin of  
**The Rotary Club of Kimberley**  
(Chartered 20 August 1951)

25 March 2013



**Rotary District  
9320**

**RI President**  
Sakuji Tanaka

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& Bloemfontein**  
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**Club Board**  
Allison Fletcher  
Ken Quinn  
Peter Thomas  
Corlia v Tonder  
Amanda van Zyl  
André Oberholzer  
Philip Maritz

**Club Meetings**  
Kimberley Club  
Monday  
12:45 for 13:00

**Bulletin Editor**  
Barry Downs

## Meeting Report - 18 March

(by Gill)

President Pete van Zyl opened the meeting with his usual warm greeting and called on Dwayne Evans to proceed with his corporal duty.

For his first time Corporal Dwayne did a good job, whilst Liezel took care of young Drew who looks cuter with each passing meeting – will he be the youngest ever Rotarian of this club??

Pres Pete called Jannie Jacobs forward and eloquently inducted him in Afrikaans (fortunately Gill was doing the meeting report as Barry declares he is Afrikaans-illiterate)

As there were to be many report-backs to be done during the course of the meeting Pres Pete asked Amanda to introduce her three guests, Monique, Fifi (Refilwe) and Tlotlo. Following the meal, Monique and Fifi told us about their recent trip to RYLA at the Willem Pretorius Reserve and how they had enjoyed the experience. Fifi won an award at this event.

Tlotlo then told us of the Northern Cape High Schools' **Interact** involvement last Saturday at the CANSA Relay for Life. 45 young people had participated and were probably the noisiest and liveliest team of the evening. Amanda van Zyl, who is a teacher at Northern Cape, has done an excellent job of swelling the numbers of Interactors and involving them in many community activities.

In her thanks to the three young people who spoke, Amanda congratulated Tlotlo who has been accepted for a long-term exchange next year.

Janine, president-elect, then proceeded to tell us of her POETS weekend in Colesburg, which Corlia had also attended. Whether by design or co-incidence, Corlia had developed a stomach virus and was unable to attend today's meeting! Janine spoke of how much she had learnt during the weekend and had realised that there was a great deal more to discover about Rotary International. Unfortunately nothing was mentioned of the evening functions as the group had decided that "what happens in Colesberg, stays in Colesberg"!

Serjeant Gill read out the duties for next week and Ken mentioned that there were 16/23 Rotarians present for a 69% attendance.

Corporal Dwayne told us a good joke and then read his tailpiece which the scribe forgot to write down!

**Last meeting's attendance—69%**

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**District 9320 & FaceBook:** [www.rotary9320.org.za](http://www.rotary9320.org.za)  
**RI:** [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

## News from Jim & Roberta Graham in Indiana, USA.

*(With thanks to Lawrie for passing on Jim Graham's email)*

Older Kimberley Rotarians will remember **Jim and Roberta Graham** who visited us some years ago. Jim and Roberta are members of the **Brownsburg Rotary Club**. At the end of February 2013, Jim sent an email to Lawrie and Ken. That email contained a link to the following [on-line article and a video clip](#) that were posted on wthr.com (Indiana's News Leader) on 22 February.

### **Qudrat's lasting legacy: Father establishes school in Afghanistan**

AFGHANISTAN—You may remember the cute little face, the heart-tugging story and his unforgettable name. Qudrat. In February 2005, a little baby became big news in Indianapolis. The 14-month-old boy was flown from Afghanistan to Indiana for life-saving surgery. His heart was not working properly. Indiana doctors fixed it. Qudrat, who had virtually no motor skills, little strength and weighed ten pounds before surgery, gained nine pounds and became a strong little boy after the procedure.

Sadly, when Qudrat and his father Hakim Wardak, returned to their home country in April 2005, there was an unexpected and heart-wrenching turn of events. Qudrat died suddenly. The cause of death was never determined. Roberta and Jim Graham took the news hard because Qudrat and his father had lived in their Brownsburg home for three weeks before returning to Afghanistan.

"Holding him and seeing his expression. He had the cutest little smile," remembered Roberta Graham. "Yes, he did die but I truly believe those few weeks that he had of really meaningful living, he never had that before. He truly had meaningful living."

The couple remembers how attentive the father was to the little boy.

"He was the most devoted father you've ever seen. He took immaculate care of the baby, changed his diaper, fed him, applied all of his medications on schedule. He had a timer to track the medicine schedule," said Jim Graham. "I think we were both devastated like any family losing a grandson. Suddenly, a grandson that left us in great health, fun, playful. And to think four days later, he was dead. We couldn't hardly accept it," said Graham.

But Qudrat's death, while sad, was not the end of the story. In fact, it was the beginning of a legacy. When Qudrat's father was staying in Indiana, he noticed something the Taliban forbids in Afghanistan.



Qudrat died suddenly after returning to Afghanistan.



His father Hakim Wardak founded a school in his son's memory.

"When I visited America, I saw all women could read and write," said Hakim Wardak during a phone conversation from Afghanistan. "I see that educated women would be big improvement for our country."

When Hoosiers raised \$13,000 and donated it to his family, Wardak first recovered his five children that he had given away because of starvation.

"He went from refugee camp to refugee camp and found the five families that he had given these children to three or four years earlier asked for his children back then he went to that village that was destroyed in 1981 where Qudrat was buried, took his wife and children to that house, fixed it up so it was livable and left them with enough money to feed themselves for two years and he took off for a university," said Jim Graham.

*(Continued on page 3)*

*(Continued from page 2)*

Wardak then used the money to study two years of medicine and education at Peshawar University in Pakistan. After graduation Wardak built a six-room school on 1.5 acres in northern Afghanistan and named it after his son. The Qudrat Wardak school was funded entirely by **Hoosier Rotarians** and a variety of churches. Wardak is the headmaster.

"I teach reading, writing, history, geography, math, and 4th grade - English, start. I also teach geography and that America is a good country," said Wardak.

Not all of the classrooms have desks. Some of the children sit on a concrete slab. In this area of Afghanistan, Where 99% of the women are illiterate, the Qudrat school gives girls a chance to learn.

"He devotes everything he has to educating women and children. Children, both sexes. They're combined in the same class," said Graham. "They don't segregate them and they all have the opportunity for education."

Graham says Wardak once had to flee the area because the Taliban threatened to kill him because he was teaching girls. Wardak also supervises an adult female literacy program in five villages, spends time farming and runs a clinic providing medical care, advice and medicine for children.

"The Qudrat school was built to provide for the children in my village," Wardak said. "Now, five villages give students to the Qudrat school. The school was built to educate 200 students thru the sixth grade. Now, the students want more education and I want to add a junior high school of grades 7, 8 and 9," said Wardak. "Now we have 350 students in the school built for 200 students. We don't have enough chairs and desk. We need a large school."



The school is unique in that boys and girls learn together, although this has made Wardak a target for the Taliban, who oppose educating girls.



Graham says school teachers make \$1,200 a year in Afghanistan while the ordinary income is only \$600 annually. The Grahams have raised \$30,000 so far and need to raise an additional \$4,000 in order to pay for a school expansion.

"It's a tribute to Hakim because he's a person of such high character, intelligence and dedication to improving the life of women who have been downtrodden. Under the Taliban rule, he saw terrible things," said Graham. "I was absolutely amazed at what he did with the \$13,000 that the Hoosiers have given him."

Who would have thought that the sad death of a boy we all knew would have such an impact on hundreds of children we don't know.

"In that part of Afghanistan, if it wasn't for Qudrat, there would be no schools there. The girls would have no opportunity," said Graham.

Qudrat's legacy is living, thriving and growing half a world away thanks to the love of a father and the generosity of Hoosiers.

President Pete van Zyl and the members of the Rotary Club of Kimberley  
send greetings to  
President Scott Norris and the members of the Rotary Club of Brownsburg



# Kimberley Rotary Club Calendar

(Meetings: 12:45 Monday lunchtime at the Kimberley Club—unless otherwise stated)



## March—Literacy Month

23 District 9320's "Peace Through Service" day

## April—Magazine Month

1 Family Day

## May—No Rotary designation

9-11 Family Health Day function with Kimberley South

18 Golf Day @ MMGC

## June—Rotary Fellowships Month

31 The last day of District 9320

## July—No Rotary designation

## Dates & Duties

If you are unable to perform a duty, please make sure you arrange a replacement.  
(and please advise Barry by email or SMS of any changes)

### Fellowship

12:30 Welcome Rotarians & Guests. See that Rotarians wear their name tags and that guests are welcomed.

Mar 25 Nanine van Olmen & Corlia van Tonder

Apr 1 Family Day

Apr 8 Amanda van Zyl & Barry Downs

Apr 15 Andries & Sharon Erasmus

### Corporal

Grace, 4-Way Test, Toast to SA – Fines – Tailpiece.

Mar 25 Chris Louw

Apr 1 Family Day

Apr 8 Philip Maritz

Apr 15 Judy Morrison

### Birthday Greetings

Mar 29 Andries Erasmus

Apr 9 Philip Maritz

Apr 16 Gill Downs

Apr 19 Paul Harris (1868)

### Wedding Anniversaries

Mar 26 Pete & Amanda van Zyl

Apr 26 Hentie & Lizanne van Niekerk

May 17 Philip & Shirley Maritz

Jun 28 Barry & Gill Downs

### Induction Anniversaries

Apr 5 Lawrie Shuttleworth 1952

Apr 29 Ken Quinn 1993

May 17 Corlia van Tonder 2010

Jun 2 Janine Snyders 2008

### Coffee Club



10:00 at the "Hole in the Wall"

Mar 26 Dwayne Evans

Apr 2 Barry Downs

Apr 9 Liesel Evans

Apr 16 Peter Thomas

### Coffee Club Birthday Greetings

Changes—please advise Barry Downs

Mar 28 George Lodder

May 10 Ron Wilson

Jun 14 Piet vd Merwe

Jul 15 Mark Harding

## Disclaimer

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the editor and the contributors. They do not necessarily reflect the views of the Rotary Club of Kimberley, of Rotary District 9320 or of Rotary International.

## Griqua Goodies

Nothing is inevitable until it happens.  
—A. J. P. Taylor (born on **March 25**, 1906)