



ROTARY GRIQUA

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KIMBELEY

10 OCTOBER 2016

<http://rotarykimberley.org.za/>

A PRICELESS DONATION



Please don't make anything of it. I only did it out of goodwill," says Captain Mohan Bir Singh, restaurant owner and a member of RC Chandigarh. He is a bone marrow donor and his donation has helped save the life of a 13-year-old leukemia patient in Delhi.

"If my act could inspire some more people, I'm happy. I don't want any recognition," he says. His action has created a ripple-effect, as a few of his friends and staff have signed up for bone marrow donation.

Four years ago, Singh, a former Army officer, and his wife, Bandana had registered on the bone marrow registry to save a cancer-afflicted relative. "Though people scared us with a variety of misconceptions, we were firm in our decision to go ahead with the donation," says Singh. But unfortunately, both their cells tested negative for the match and were stored at Gene Bandhu, a Delhi-based NGO that works to find a matched donor for cancer patients in need of bone marrow transplants.

Sometime in July, he got a call from the NGO asking if he was willing to donate his marrow for a blood cancer patient in Delhi. "I instantly agreed, but asked if it was okay to do it after returning from my vacation to Goa that was planned, and they agreed. But when I was relaxing at Goa, I got a call requesting me to begin the process immediately as it was an emergency and I returned to Chandigarh." The day, August 3, was his birthday, and the process began.

He had to take injections thrice a day for five days. He felt uncomfortable, tired and had fever and body ache. On the fifth day, he was admitted to a hospital at Mohali and as the

doctors couldn't extract the marrow from his arms, they had to take it from his groin. The entire procedure lasted for seven hours and the extracted stem cells were frozen and taken to Delhi.

"But all the discomfort vanished when I learnt that my cells matched 100 per cent with that of the child and that she had 90 per cent chances for survival," recalls Singh.

He adds that it takes quite a while for the body to get back to total normalcy, though one can resume routine chores and work a day after the procedure. The side effects wear off within a week.

He is happy that the child is doing fine. "I had made it clear that I don't want to know my recipient because then the entire meaning is lost. It'll be like charity which is not my intention," he says. He has shared his gesture on the social media so that others may be encouraged to replicate.

Public awareness on bone marrow donation is yet to gain momentum in our country and there are just about 20,000 donors registered in the two main registries across India. Over the years the procedure has become much simpler and less painful, says Singh. Will he repeat the act? "Of course, yes!" he says. And the doctors have told him that he can do so after three months.

Singh is a Rotarian for the past 15 years and his father, late Col A B Singh, was also a member of the same club. He loves Rotary "for the selfless work Rotarians do, the time and money they give generously for the underprivileged, and more importantly, for its work in eradicating polio from India, as also for the numerous corrective surgeries." He and his architect wife Bandana are regular blood donors.

ROTARY CLUB OF KIMBERLEY

Chartered 20 August 1951

Rotary District 9370

RI President: John F. Germ

District Gov: Bruce Steele-Gray

Ass Gov: André Oberholzer

Club Pres: Dwayne Evans

Club Board:

Luzan Hoffman
André Oberholzer
Barry Downs
Colleen Fairweather
Ken Quinn
Peter Thomas
Amanda van Zyl
Pete van Zyl

Bulletin Editor: Peter Thomas

Club Meetings:

Kimberley Club
Mondays 12:45 for 13:00

INFO: 072 236 8658

DIARISE... Rotary Night Cycle Race: 21 OCT 2016



CALENDAR & DUTIES

OCTOBER

Vocational Service Month

- 17 Oct: CLUB BOARD MEETING 12:45 for 13:00
21 Oct: Night Cycle Race and Run
24 Oct: Club Meeting 12:45 for 13:00
28-29 Oct: Yonder Fête
28-29 Oct: R.L.I. Training - Bloemfontein
31 Oct: Club Meeting 12:45 for 13:00

NOVEMBER

Foundation Month

- 4-6 Nov: Rooifontein Fellowship Weekend
7 Nov: Club Meeting 12:45 for 13:00
12 Nov: Foundation Training – Ladybrand
14 Nov: Club Meeting 12:45 for 13:00
21 Nov: CLUB BOARD MEETING 12:45 for 13:00
28 Nov: Club Meeting 12:45 for 13:00

DUTIES

If you are unable to do a duty, please make arrangements for a substitute.

WEEK OF 17 OCTOBER

FELLOWSHIP: BOARD MEETING – No Duty
CORPORAL: BOARD MEETING – No Duty
TUES COFFEE CLUB: Peter Thomas

WEEK OF 24 OCTOBER

FELLOWSHIP: Philip Maritz & Gill Quinn
CORPORAL: Amanda van Zyl
TUES COFFEE CLUB: Corlia van Tonder

WEEK OF 31 OCTOBER

FELLOWSHIP: Peter T. & Corlia v. Tonder
CORPORAL: Pete van Zyl
TUES COFFEE CLUB: Pete van Zyl

WEEK OF 7 NOVEMBER

FELLOWSHIP: Pete van Zyl & Brenda Booth
CORPORAL: Brenda Booth
TUES COFFEE CLUB: Brenda Booth

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

- 24 Oct Corlia Van Tonder
27 Oct Kevin Fairweather
02 Nov Beryl Bradnum (Honorary)
04 Nov Mike Bradnum (Honorary)
17 Nov Charlene Daubney (Honorary)
18 Nov Lawrie Shuttleworth
26 Nov Peter Daubney (Honorary)

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 07 Nov Dwayne & Liesel Evans

INDUCTION ANNIVERSARIES

- 26 Oct 2012 Dwayne Evans
14 Nov 1991 Peter Thomas

COFFEE CLUB BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Nov Pem Rodger
13 Nov Mendg Chan Yan
15 Nov Derek Henning
20 Nov Brian Lloyd
21 Nov Danie Theron

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE ROTARY GRIQUA ARE WELCOMED. PLEASE E-MAIL TO:
petertee@vodamail.co.za



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 9370 or of Rotary International.

MEME OF THE WEEK

