



ROTARY GRIQUA

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KIMBERLEY

20 FEBRUARY 2017

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

ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE GAVE ME HOPE FOR PEACE

Being lost in the middle of the bustling, hazy, city of Bangkok, Thailand, is not ideal for a 17-year-old Australian girl. But, it was a moment that changed my life.

I was on Rotary Youth Exchange and despite excellent instructions from my caring host-family; I had no idea how the intricate bus system worked, and hadn't mastered the language yet to ask. After boarding the wrong bus for the third time, a young student calmly stood up, took me by the arm and walked me miles down the road to the right stop. She spoke little English, but waited patiently until my bus arrived and told the driver my destination. It must have added a full hour to her day, and she wanted nothing in return – just to help a stranger.

I was shocked. I had never encountered such kindness. That was one of many moments I was humbled by the generosity of the Thai people during my exchange year, and something that I hold up as proof of genuine compassion in the world.

Today, I am the founding editor of Peace News – a new media platform that provides alternative news stories from conflict zones. While mainstream war reporting focuses on violence, explosions, and hatred, we focus on telling stories of peace-builders. Wars need to be covered, but we aim to provide balance to the reporting – in every conflict zone there are people taking risks for peace, and we want to show that side as well.

In my line of work I see, and hear about, horrific violence, and it's often difficult to keep faith in humanity. I believe it's a growing fear for many people today, and sensationalist media representations of how 'bad the world is becoming' don't help. We often need reminding that there are still great people out there, that there are inspiring examples of tolerance and empathy still going on.

My year as an exchange student showed me that there is good reason to have hope, and provided me with a platform to direct my career. Through the endless examples of kindness from a host country, and also exposure to many cultures through other exchange students, I saw enormous capacity for a global community. Rotary taught me to appreciate and respect diversity – a hot topic today with global immigration debates.

I have no idea who that student was who stopped to direct a confused foreigner all those years ago, but her act reminds me daily of what one moment of empathy can do. She taught me to have a little trust in the world we are so often trying furiously to change – and to always travel with a bus map.

By Kate Roff, a former Rotary Youth Exchange student

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

Secretary: Corlia v.Tonder

Club Board:

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

Bulletin Editor: Peter Thomas

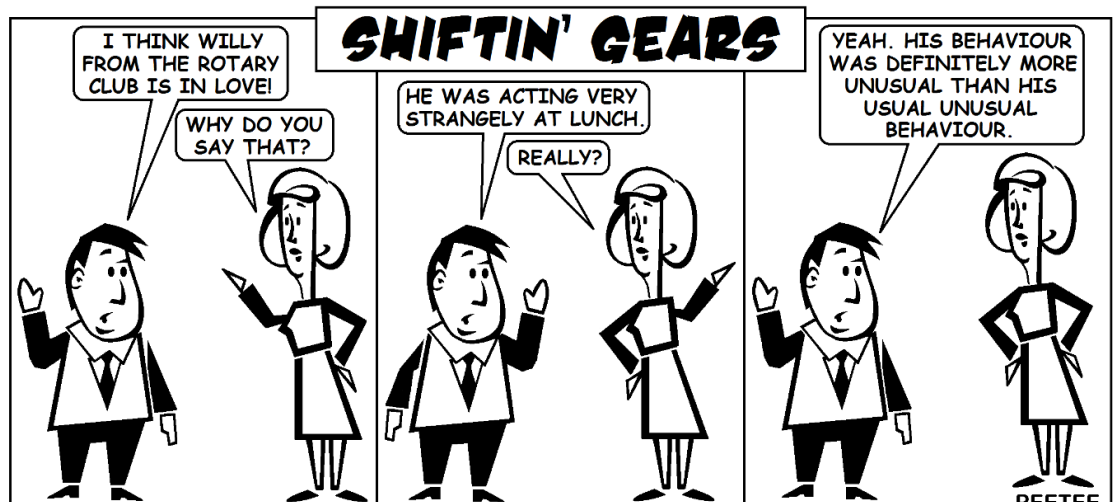
Club Meetings:

Kimberley Club
Mondays 12:45 for 13:00

INFO: 072 236 8658

Diarise: 3/4 March: P.O.E.T.S. in Ladybrand

(Presidents and Officers Elect Training Seminar)



CALENDAR & DUTIES

FEBRUARY

World Understanding Month

20 Feb: BOARD MEETING 12:45 for 13:00

27 Feb: Club Meeting 12:45 for 13:00

“Love is not patronizing, and charity isn't about pity, it is about love. Charity and love are the same -- with charity you give love, so don't just give money but reach out your hand instead.”

Mother Teresa

DUTIES

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

WEEK OF 20 FEBRUARY

FELLOWSHIP: Board Meeting - No Duties

CORPORAL: Board Meeting - No Duties

TUES COFFEE CLUB: Barry Downs

WEEK OF 27 FEBRUARY

FELLOWSHIP: André Oberholzer & Gill Quinn

CORPORAL: Corlia van Tonder

TUES COFFEE CLUB: Dwayne Evans

WEEK OF 27 FEBRUARY

FELLOWSHIP: Ken Quinn & Peter Thomas

CORPORAL: Pete van Zyl

TUES COFFEE CLUB: Colleen Fairweather

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.

MARCH

Literacy Month

6 Mar: Club Meeting 12:45 for 13:00

13 Mar: Club Meeting 12:45 for 13:00

20 Mar: BOARD MEETING 12:45 for 13:00

27 Mar: Club Meeting 12:45 for 13:00

DATES TO DIARISE

WEEKEND OF 4 MARCH

P.O.E.T.S. & A.G. Training - Ladybrand

WEEKEND OF 20 MAY

Interact Conference - Kimberley

WEEKEND OF 26 MAY

District 9370 Conference - Grahamstown

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

- None -

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

09 Mar Charles & Marie Parsons (Honorary)

26 Mar Peter & Amanda Van Zyl

INDUCTION ANNIVERSARIES

24 Feb 2014 Colleen Fairweather

COFFEE CLUB BIRTHDAYS

26 Feb Rob Hollings

28 Feb Sam Goldblatt

28 Mar George Lodder

31 Mar Charles Burton

MEME OF THE WEEK

**BEING A MALE IS A
MATTER OF BIRTH.
BEING A MAN IS A
MATTER OF AGE.
BEING A GENTLEMAN IS
A MATTER OF CHOICE.**

