



ROTARY GRIQUA

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KIMBERLEY

10 September 2018

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

READ IT AND WEEP! SA KIDS STRUGGLE WITH LITERACY

The education system is in crisis – and one of the main culprits is being masked by a convenient statistic.

Unesco lists South Africa as having a literacy rate of 93% but, beyond the mechanical ability to identify words, the picture is much bleaker. According to research released by the University of Pretoria, 8 out of 10 Grade 4 pupils “still cannot read at an appropriate level”. The ability to read in Grade 4 is regarded as crucial, because from Grades 1 to 3 you learn to read, and from grades 4 to 12 you read to learn.

South Africa was placed last out of 50 countries in the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study which included nearly 320,000 children globally. The survey also found that reading scores have not improved since 2011.

In England, only 3% of Grade 4 pupils are illiterate, and the rate in Chile - a low-income country - is 13%.

Stellenbosch University education expert Nic Spaull said an inability to read properly meant that “many learners never get a firm grasp on the first rung of the academic ladder and fall further and further behind”. The research “paints a picture of a reading crisis in our country”, said Spaull.

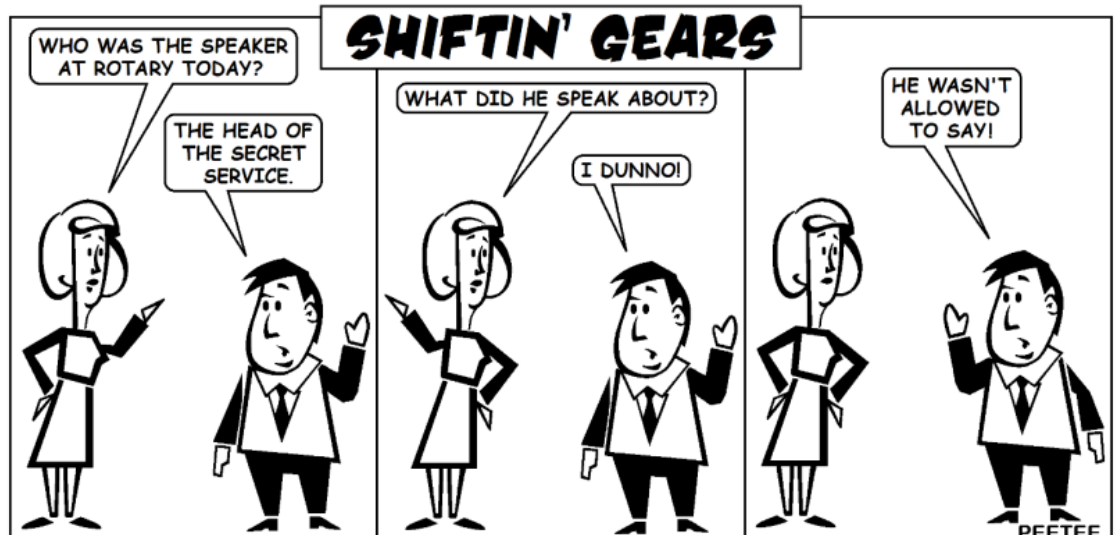
Unisa expert Nkidi Phatudi said in many township and rural schools, teachers trying to introduce English were at a disadvantage because of their own lack of proficiency in the language. The Child Gauge also showed how marked the inequality is and the vicious cycle it creates: 65% of learners in the 10 richest schools are “advanced” in their literacy, yet less than one in 10 in the poorer schools get anywhere near that level. The literacy gap in South Africa thus results from inequality, but also exacerbates it.

According to researcher Ursula Hoadley, “The value of literacy extends beyond the classroom, and should ideally equip children with the knowledge, skills and confidence to participate actively in society”. Good reading skills “enable children to learn much more than their teachers might offer and it enables them to learn independently”.

Daphne Komani, who lives opposite the public library in Gugulethu in Cape Town, says that she only reads Move and Drum magazines. “I grew up with the Bible in my house but no other books,” she said, “so I still don’t think of books as what I will pick up to read. But also, in this generation, the education is not okay because children have too much freedom now. They have their rights, but they no longer get punished so they can get by without reading properly.”

ROTARY CLUB OF KIMBERLEY
2018-2019
 Chartered 20 August 1951
 Rotary District 9370
RI President: Barry Rassin
District Gov: Gianna Doubell
Asst Gov: Barry Downs
Club Pres: Corlia v.Tonder
Secretary: Gill Quinn
Club Board:
 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: 082 898 3805

SEPTEMBER IS BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY MONTH



CALENDAR & DUTIES

SEPTEMBER

Basic Education & Literacy Month

10 Sep: BOARD MEETING 12:45 for 13:00

17 Sep: Social Meeting 12:45 for 13:00

24 Sep: NO MEETING (Public Holiday)

24 Sep: HERITAGE DAY

"Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself"

George Bernard Shaw

DUTIES

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

WEEK OF 10 SEPTEMBER

FELLOWSHIP: BOARD MEETING – No Duty

CORPORAL: BOARD MEETING – No Duty

TUES COFFEE CLUB: Barry Downs

WEEK OF 17 SEPTEMBER

FELLOWSHIP: Colleen Fairweather

CORPORAL: Hein Knoke

TUES COFFEE CLUB: Hein Knoke

WEEK OF 24 SEPTEMBER

FELLOWSHIP: Hein Knoke

CORPORAL: Philip Maritz

TUES COFFEE CLUB: Peter Thomas

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.

OCTOBER

24 October – World Polio Day

1 Oct: Social Meeting 12:45 for 13:00

8 Oct: Business Meeting 12:45 for 13:00

15 Oct: Social Meeting 12:45 for 13:00

22 Oct: BOARD MEETING 12:45 for 13:00

29 Oct: Social Meeting 12:45 for 13:00

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

22 Sep Gill Quinn

23 Sep Gordon Dally (Honorary)

29 Sept Marie Parsons (Honorary)

04 Oct Peter Hohne (Honorary)

13 Oct Pete Van Zyl

14 Oct Colleen Fairweather

24 Oct Corlia Van Tonder

27 Oct Kevin Fairweather

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

27 Sep Corlia & Dries Van Tonder

14 Oct Colleen & Kevin Fairweather

INDUCTION ANNIVERSARIES

05 Oct 2010 Corlia Van Tonder

COFFEE CLUB BIRTHDAYS

13 Oct Peter Gibbs

MEME OF THE WEEK

**I LIKE TO DATE
SCHOOLTEACHERS. IF
YOU DO SOMETHING
WRONG, THEY MAKE
YOU DO IT
AGAIN!**



**Rodney
Dangerfield**