



# ROTARY GRIQUA

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KIMBERLEY

17 December 2018

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

## WEIRD CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

**Krampus:** Our children are well acquainted with Father Christmas, but they can consider themselves lucky they don't live in Austria, where a ghoulish creature called 'Krampus'; the evil accomplice of St Nicholas, is said to wander the streets in search of badly-behaved children.

**Roller Skate Mass:** In the Venezuelan capital of Caracas, swathes of city dwellers make their way to mass on roller skates every year on Christmas morning. The tradition is now so well-established that many of the city's streets are closed to traffic from 8am on the day, so that the skating congregation can get to church safely.

**A Cobweb Christmas:** Ukraine's strangest festive tradition is not one for arachnophobes! Where we would have baubles, tinsel and stars on our trees, Ukrainians use decorations that mimic the natural formation of spiders' webs shimmering with dew.

**Colonel Santa:** Back in 1974, the American fast-food restaurant KFC released a festive marketing campaign in Japan. The seemingly simple slogan "Kurisumasu ni wa kentakkii!" (Kentucky for Christmas!) spawned a national tradition that still thrives to this day. Although Christmas is not even a holiday in Japan, families from all over the country head to their local KFC for a special Christmas Eve meal – costing around 3,350 yen (R420.00).

**Festive Sauna:** Many homes in Finland come equipped with their own sauna, and at Christmas time this cosy spot becomes a sacred space associated with long dead ancestors. On Christmas Eve, it's customary to strip naked and take a long and respectful stint in the sauna. After the sauna session, Finns head out to the evening celebrations - while spirits of those ancestors take their place in the sauna.

**Shoes by the Fire:** Every year in the days leading up to Christmas, Dutch children eagerly place their shoes by the fire in hopes that Sinterklaas will fill them with small gifts and treats in the night. Traditionally, carrots are left in the shoes for the companion of Sinterklaas, a white horse named Amerigo.

**Flying Witches:** According to Norwegian folklore, Christmas Eve is the day when mischievous spirits and witches take to the skies for mischief and general tomfoolery. As witches often use brooms as their preferred mode of transportation, it is tradition for Norwegian families to hide any cleaning supplies attached to sticks where the witches won't be able to find them.

**The Poop Log:** Catalonia in Spain easily has the most outlandish Christmas tradition, Tió de Nadal (the Christmas log). Tió de Nadal is made from a hollow log, with stick legs, a smile, and a red hat. Every evening between December 8th and Christmas Eve, the children feed the log small treats and leave him under a blanket to keep him warm.

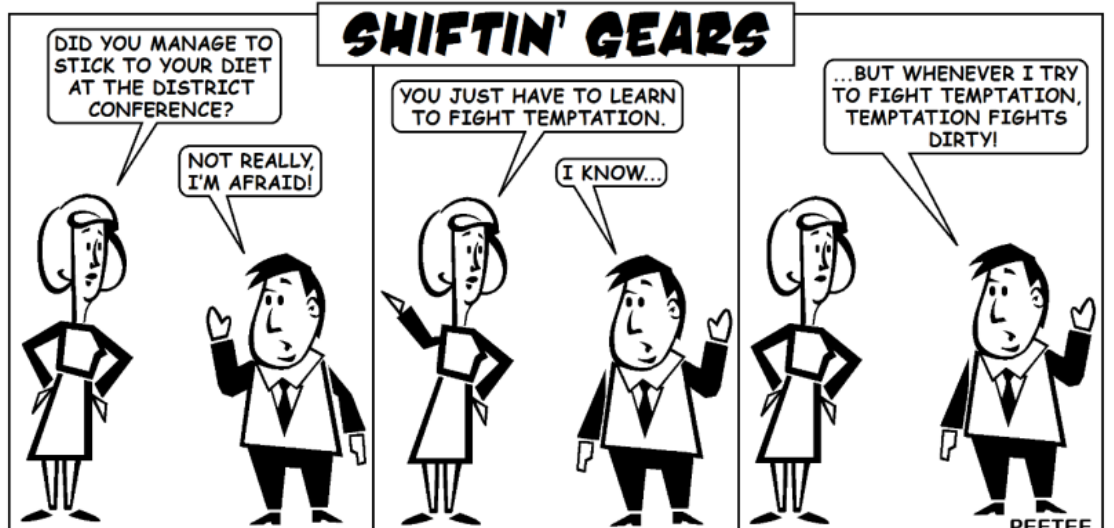
On Christmas Eve, things get weird. Children are tasked with beating the log with sticks while singing traditional songs which include amazing lyrics such as "Poop log, Poop nougats, Hazelnuts and mato cheese, If you don't poop well, I'll hit you with a stick, Poop log!". After Tió de Nadal is properly beaten and serenaded, the log magically poops out presents and candy – after which, he is then considered useless and thrown in the fire for warmth.

Ack: [www.holidayextras.co.uk](http://www.holidayextras.co.uk)

*We wish all our Readers a Blessed Christmas and a successful 2019*

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

**SAVE THE DATE** Guest Speaker on Monday 4th February:  
**Laura Arnold - "Holidaying in Sierra Leone"**



# CALENDAR & DUTIES

## DECEMBER

### Disease Prevention & Treatment Month

17 Dec: Fellowship Lunch 13:00 Kimberley Club

24 Dec: RECESS – No Meeting

31 Dec: RECESS – No Meeting

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*“Success is how high  
you bounce when  
you hit bottom”*

George S. Patton

## DUTIES

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

### WEEK OF 17 DECEMBER

FELLOWSHIP LUNCH: Kimberley Club

Monday 17 December 12:45 for 13:00 - No Duties

### WEEK OF 24 DECEMBER

ROTARY IN RECESS: No Duties

### WEEK OF 31 DECEMBER

ROTARY IN RECESS: No Duties

### WEEK OF 7 JANUARY

FELLOWSHIP: Hein Knoke

CORPORAL: Philip Maritz

TUES COFFEE CLUB: Corlia van Tonder

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE ROTARY GRIQUA  
ARE WELCOMED. PLEASE E-MAIL TO:

[petertee@vodamail.co.za](mailto: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.

## JANUARY

### Vocational Service Month

7 Jan: Social Meeting 12:45 for 13:00

14 Jan: Business Meeting 12:45 for 13:00

21 Jan: Social Meeting 12:45 for 13:00

28 Jan: BOARD MEETING 12:45 for 13:00

## CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS

3 Jan Frances Knoke

9 Jan Charles Parsons (Honorary)

15 Jan Maryna Thomas

22 Jan Amanda Van Zyl

22 Jan Herbie Booth

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

12 Jan Peter & Maryna Thomas

22 Jan Ken & Gill Quinn

### INDUCTION ANNIVERSARIES

24 Feb 2014 Colleen Fairweather

### COFFEE CLUB BIRTHDAYS

20 Dec Alec Woodrow

27 Dec Chris Marnitz

7 Jan Dave Thomas

13 Jan Jannie Jacobs

16 Jan John Paton

## MEME OF THE WEEK

**I DRINK TOO MUCH!  
THE LAST TIME I  
GAVE A URINE  
SAMPLE, IT HAD  
AN OLIVE IN IT.**



**Rodney  
Dangerfield**