

Kromboom Kronicle

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Kromboom



The club building bridges of friendship

Twinned with the Rotary Club of New Malden



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

<https://www.facebook.com/RotaryClubofKromboom/>

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Secretary: Rod Palmer

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December is Rotary Disease prevention and treatment month



Another year draws to a close with Santa (like the rest of us) having to wear a facemask while doing his rounds. And what an up and down year it has been for everyone – from Eskom loadshedding to last minute opening and then closing of international borders.

Our members have been affected by the latter, with trips to the UK and SA and family members about to visit from Abu Dhabi, amongst others, having to be called off.

On the positive side, Kromboom Rotary Club has managed to function reasonably well via our Zoom interface, and this has given us electronic access to members, former members, and visitors who would otherwise have been excluded.

Here's hoping that the latest iteration of the Covid virus will be less virulent than anticipated and that we all manage to enjoy our Christmas and Year End celebrations unhindered. Best wishes to all from the Kromboom Rotary Club.

Meeting report: 1 December 2021:

MC: **Gavin**
4 Way Test: **everyone**
Attendance & welcoming: **Gavin**
- *Members:* **8**
- *Apologies:* **Joolz & Graham**
- *Guests:* **AG Jenny; PDG Carl-Heinz; Peter Major** (guest speaker);
John Clarke (former member now in Jhb)

MC Gavin welcomed members and guests and invited those who could, to join in the recitation of the 4-Way Test. Pres. Steve added his welcome to everyone and called on AG Jenny who had earlier asked to address us. She outlined three mentor programmes, all of which are looking for volunteers (See details below).

Thereafter, Gloria introduced our guest speaker/presenter, Peter Major, who took us through a comprehensive range of slides showing the downward trajectory of our mining activities in recent years, in contrast to those of several other countries.

Sadly, he had to leave the meeting as soon as he had finished which precluded the many questions that I feel sure would have arisen. It equally prevented Alan from being able to pass on our thanks to him from the club. Alan's report is featured on P3.

In a subsequent email from Peter, he has offered to return in the New Year with fewer slides and addressing broader SA economic and social issues. Question time would definitely be possible then. In the meantime, he offered to answer any current questions via his email address.

AG Jenny on the three mentor programme opportunities:

1. **RC Newlands in Association with False Bay College** has for some time provided mentors for young business owners who are doing the FBC Entrepreneurship Programme. The mentees are mostly 25 years of age or older and have started their own small companies. The programme leaders have upgraded the training programme and are now dealing with a new cohort of young business owners and a new (and some old) group of mentors. The mentor focus is supporting and enhancing entrepreneurship and the associated skills.
2. **The Western Cape Education Department** has, or will be, introducing training and teaching of entrepreneurship in schools. Since none of these teachers required to run these courses have had experience running their own businesses, WCED has asked Rotary to partner with them in finding and training mentors for the teachers. The mentor focus is supporting teachers, teaching entrepreneurship.
3. **The Life Choices programme initiated by RC Claremont** is for learners in the age group 16 to 18 years of age who show some academic aptitude and need help developing their capacity to deal with both academic and life challenges. These skills are required for students to progress to successful tertiary education and onwards to their chosen careers. The mentoring is a small part of a much larger programme in which students receive academic tutoring, leadership training and life skills support. The mentoring focus is a dynamic, shared, personal relationship in which a more experienced older person (Rotarian) partners with a young student (Life Choices learner) to provide support, encouragement, and connection.

Speaker report – from Alan:

Subject: “HERO TO ZERO”

Peter Major a veteran mining engineer and an analyst, hailing originally from Vancouver, BC, Canada moved to South Africa in 1982 and has worked in the mining sector ever since.



Peter’s talk was well illustrated with facts and figures, including graphics to demonstrate his theme of “**Hero to Zero. South Africa’s 150-year-old Mining Industry.**”

He started by telling us, inter alia, that South Africa had potentially 50% of the world’s mineral wealth. Over time, SA hit world records with the depth of shaft sinking in mines (gold in particular). In the 1980’s south Africa measured 50% of the world capitalization particularly in terms of gold mining.

NOW IT IS ONLY 5% !!!

The reasons for this decline are almost purely due to the government’s policies (or lack thereof) which has totally discouraged foreign (and local) investment.

Peter also spoke at length about coal. South Africa’s coal reserves are some of the biggest in the world, but production has just reduced to very low levels, due to the failures largely of TRANSNET and ESKOM.

Whilst investment opportunities have escalated, the South African Rand has depreciated at about 12%pa for years.

The main risks to any future improvement are seen to be:

- Legislative – too much
- Unions
- Labour
- Eskom
- Ore body
- BEE – Productivity

No Time for Questions, but my own questions (Alan Budge)

- I would have asked him about the effect of the past and current **EXODUS**, particularly of graduates.
- I would have pointed out that he has painted a real picture of gloom. Surely it is not all bad, and can he suggest any **SOLUTIONS** and roads to those solutions?

Thanks for this comprehensive report, Alan, and I feel sure your questions would have been echoed by other members and guests – Ed.

An artist in our midst.....



This is Janet's latest painting.

It is entitled "Century City" which encapsulates some of the essence of where she and Alan live in Cape Town.

This is very special, Janet. Do you undertake commissions?? – Ed.

RIP friend and PDG John Gomes.



It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing on 3 December of this wonderful man.

He was District Governor in 1994-1995 and the warmth and friendliness he brought both to the District and to the Kromboom Club meetings he attended in that period would be well remembered by members of that era.

Our condolences go to his wife, Mauveen, their children and grandchildren.

Birthdays:
None

Anniversaries:
26 December: Sally & Rod

Duty Roster				
	15 December	22 December	29 December	5 January
Administrator/ meeting host				
Four Way Test				
Attendance & Welcoming				
Speaker Introduction	Club Christmas	No meeting	No meeting	Casual meeting
Speaker Thanks & Report	supper			
Object of Rotary				
Meeting Scribe				

Gavin, or a temporary substitute, will e-mail the Zoom link plus ID & Password prior to each meeting.

Kindly let me know in advance if you are unable to attend a particular session (gavin smith1@outlook.com)

Speaker report (from speaker 'thanker') to above e-mail by the Friday after the meeting.

Club Diary & Events

Wed 15 December

Club Christmas supper at Frances & Gavin's home (from 6.00pm)

Thurs 16 to Sun 19 Dec

CT Carols at Kirstenbosch. Kirstenbosch RC. www.webtickets.co.za

Wed 22 December

No meeting

Wed 29 December

No meeting

Wed 5 January

Casual social meeting. Venue to be determined

Wed 12 January

No meeting

Wed 19 January

Business meeting

Wed 26 January

Board meeting

Thurs & Fri 17 & 18 March

Wynberg RC **Proms-Lite on the lawn** at Groot Constantia Wine Estate

Sat 4 – Wed 8 June 2022

Rotary International Convention in Houston, Texas

All online Zoom meetings will commence at 6.00pm & login information will be e-mailed in advance

Tailpiece:

Japanese Doctor.....

Q: Doctor, I've heard that cardiovascular exercise can prolong life. Is this true?

A: Heart only good for so many beats, and that's it... Don't waste time on exercise. Everything wear out eventually. Speeding up heart not make you live longer; it's like saying you extend life of a car by driving faster. Want to live longer? - Take nap.

Q: Should I reduce my alcohol intake?

A: Oh no. Wine made from fruit. Fruit very good. Brandy distilled wine, that means

they take water out of fruity bit so you get even more of goodness that way. Beer also made of grain. Grain good too. - Bottoms up!

Q: What are some of the advantages of participating in a regular exercise programme?

A: Can't think of one, sorry. My philosophy: No pain...very good!

Q: Aren't fried foods bad for you?

A: **YOU NOT LISTENING!** Food fried in vegetable oil. How getting more vegetable be bad?

Q: Is chocolate bad for me?

A: You crazy?!? HEL-LO-O-O!! Cocoa bean! Another vegetable! It's best feel-good food around.

Q: Is swimming good for your figure?

A: If swimming good for figure, explain whale to me.

Q: Is getting in shape important for my lifestyle?

A: Hey! 'Round' is also a shape!

Well... I hope this has cleared up any misconceptions you may have had about food and diets.



How did this doctor come to the conclusion that exercise prolongs life?

The rabbit is always jumping up and down, but it lives for only 2 years and the turtle that doesn't exercise at all, lives 400 years.

So, take some rest. Chill, stay cool, eat, drink and enjoy your life.
