
Turning Wheels of Bulawayo Rotary Club

Issue No. 2

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President: Rtn Chris Pool
Phone: 77882
E-mail: aewbyo@gatorzw.com

Secretary: Rtn Julie Bonett
65571/81
jbonett@byo.internet.co.zw

Web Site 1: <http://members.tripod.com/pmaksimovich/Rotary/>

Web Site 2: <http://members.tripod.com/premaks/Rotary/>

Notes for Your Diary

The Four Clubs Rotary Quiz

Friday 9th March 2001

Bulawayo Club

Quizmaster: Michael Bullivant.

M.C.: Adrian Feather (RC Bulawayo South).

Time:

6.30 pm for those who would like to partake of Fish and Chips (@ \$150 per head)

or

7.30 pm for those who wish to come for the Quiz only.

All participants - in teams of four.

Bring your spouse and/or intelligent child if you need help. No need for a Master's Degree from Oxford or Cambridge - there will be questions of a local nature amongst the questions.

Rtn Adrian Feather.

International Evening May 2001

We are planning an International evening, date to be confirmed in May (before the District Conference in Harare).

We are hoping to have a variety of dishes for you to taste and to learn something about other cultures from all over the world.

M. Bond

Visit to Dete

Late last year I received a request from Harare. Would Rotary Club of Bulawayo take over 5 cartons of school stationery from Australia. "Sure" I responded, knowing the area they were to be delivered to. "I know where Dete is, on the way to Hwange National Park", Chizhou Primary can't be far from there, we'll deliver."

Harare put me in touch with Thea Harris, an Australian lady who had come to Zimbabwe on holiday. Her hotel in Dete, had organised a tour of the area (VERY rural) which included the local primary school. Thea fell in love with the bright faced children and ached at their poverty and lack of basic school supplies, pencils, paper, crayons etc. She promised them that upon her return to Australia, she would raise funds and send the school goods.

I still remember Thea's first response to my question of 'Where is Chizhou Primary, they're not in the telephone book?' "Oh she replied, I have a postal address and they may remember me visiting around early April last year".

As it transpired, the school address was not the biggest problem, rather the releasing of the boxes from

Each area of officialdom was certain they could accomplish the release.

Zimbabwe High Commission in Canberra, Don Smith of the Australian High Commission in Harare, Rotarians of every senior position and all the while, our Rotarian Nomsa Ncube persevered along the correct channel.

In the end it was a draw between Nomsa who called to say "I've got it" and Don Smith who had drawn a deal of release to the Australian High Commission. The 5 cartons arrived in Bulawayo a few days later.

In our club, we have enormously energetic Rotarians like PPs Charles Chiponda, Eric Rensburg, and Laurie Bond, PADG Malcolm Ross, and Rtn Ally de Souza. These men are always in the fore of any distribution, books, medical equipment, Cyclone Elene disaster relief. Now it was our turn.

I spoke to our lady Rotarians, and the plan was made. Nomsa Ncube, Spiwe Matatu, Marina Johnson and myself would drive up on Sunday, first deliver another load of books (from Canada) to Marist Brothers College and then the next day endeavour to find Chizhou Primary. The journey was 300 kms from Bulawayo and we had decided to stay at Hwange National Park. We arrived safely and unpacked before driving to Marist Brother College in Dete, another 12 kms off the main road. Brother Augustus was delighted with his books and pleased with our efforts, we started back to Hwange National Park.

It was a humble home-made sign on the side of the road, that read 'Old People's Home'. Our vehicle turned into the muddy, grass flattened path leading to the home. There we met Sr. Rosa, a Spanish nun of the Catholic missionary order of The Daughters of Calvary, who had been running the home for the last 15 years. What an amazing woman, how she could keep her charges body and soul together on apparently 'nothing' was indeed a miracle. State funding had long ceased and now her responsibility also included medical welfare as all Government clinics were totally run down and devoid of supplies. We were able to offer some medical help as Jeff Knezel's SAMP

our customs without the correct documentation to effect a duty free certificate.

(Southern Africa Medical Project) was due to arrive shortly.

Sr. Rosa delighted in showing us a great old wood stove, and an enormous laundry machine, organised by the Stipinovitch family.

Joe Stipinovitch is our Rotarian and we felt the blessing in knowing one who had been part of this wonderful lady's commitment.

Elated we returned to our accommodation, unhitched the trailer, now freed of much of its load, and set off on a game drive through the park. After all the rains the grass was really tall and we were lucky to see giraffe, zebra, impala and wildebeest. I had just said, "If we're going to exit the park by closing, we must turn back now", when a tourist vehicle passed us saying, "We've just passed lion, 2-3 kms down the road." Off we were, how could we turn back when there was lion to be sighted? Slowly edging along, conscious of how lion blended with the golden yellow of the long grass, we peered into the thick bush. Nothing. Nothing. Nothing!

And then there they were, lying in the road, posing proudly, ignoring the frantic click of our camera.

Two beautiful males. We crept slowly forward, just 10 meters away, and at 5 meters we stopped. Even with windows half way up and sitting in a closed vehicle, those beasts were able to command respect, or is it fear?

Slowly they stood up and walked towards us, then along the road past us heading back along the road we had to return on. I started the vehicle, and at that moment we all saw level with the driver's window and just 3 meters into the bush, a lion. She had been lying there all the while I leaned out of the car snapping my camera, window right down. We just had not seen her!

We turned the vehicle and drove slowly behind the trio until much later, they gave us a disdainful glance and turned up a game trail which disappeared quickly into the Mopane shrub. Marina had prepared a wonderful

supper and we feasted well on food and tales of our days successes.

The few kilometers of driving to Chizous Primary School Thea had mentioned in her letter had been changed by the rising of a local river due to our heavy rains. We needed instead to work our way along rural roads, through a delightful tapestry of cultivated lands, goats and cattle being herded skillfully by bare-footed children, gullies of eroded land, and the ubiquitous thorn scrub fences.

At last, Chezhou Primary!

The arrival of a vehicle brought a flurry of faces to the classroom windows and almost immediately Mr. Sibanda, the headmaster approached. He remembered Thea well and elaborated on other assistance she had given the school.

As the precious boxes of love, effort and consideration for the less privileged were unpacked, all lessons were forsaken as enquiring pupils poured out of the classrooms to ooh and aah at the wonderful array of school aids.

Humbling indeed.

Spiwi tasked the headmaster to forward possible candidates for an Australian school bursary - Thea will also look into raising further money for another bursary.

One wonders what solace one receives in conflict when the reward of one child's smile can light the day.

One wonders when governments will acknowledge their true responsibility is to their people first.

Thank you Thea for giving us the opportunity to serve.

Rotarian Julie Bonett
Rotary Club of Bulawayo.

Levels of Violence

A Short Excerpt from
Tom Clancy's Net Force - Night Moves
Created by Tom Clancy and Steve Pieczenik

(Headline Book Publishing, a division of the Hodder Headline Group)

This is an excellent book like the rest from these authors. They should be read.

However, this file is an excerpt concerning Code Levels for direct physical violence not involving guns or knives. One of the heroes allegedly learned those Levels from a Commando in South Africa. (<http://members.tripod.com/premaks/Varia/English/levels.txt> or <http://members.tripod.com/pmaksimovich/Varia/English/levels.txt>)

Level One was the mildest, consisting mainly of threats or shoves, intimidation, without physical injury to the subject.

Level Two was the mild to moderate damage, bruises, perhaps a broken bone or two, equivalent to a good bar-fight thrashing. A few stitches in the local doctor's surgery, some pain pills, and a day or two to rest up at home, and you'd be right as rain.

Level Three was damaging enough to require a stay in hospital; you'd be weeks or months recovering. A serious encounter.

Level Four meant you would carry reminders of the attach with you for the rest of your life: you'd be crippled with a torn-out knee or ankle, or perhaps crushed hands; you might lose your hearing or an eye, or be otherwise maimed. Recovery would be slow and painful - and you'd never be as complete as you had been before.

Level Five was terminal. A subject was to be made to suffer much pain, to know what he had done, and to have time enough to regret having done it before passing away.

Valentine's Breakfast Brunch at the Bonds

As Winnie the Pooh once said: "It was a wet blustery day on Sunday February 18th when we held our fellowship breakfast!"

However this didn't deter our Rotarians with friends and family who attended (39 in all) and squeezed onto our veranda that had been decorated with many 'red hearts' for a wonderful morning of 'fellowship and fun'.

PP Laurie, Pres Chris, RTN Alan Cooper were the 'chefs a la cuisine' - RTN Alan Downing the 'toastmaster', RTN JC Dlamani the 'provider of all good things' from his farm and PP Rossie and Les the creators of the 'porridge from the potjie'!

This was washed down with several litres of "Bucks fizz", tea and coffee and roses for the ladies... along with several inches of rain!

Thank you to my steadfast committee and to all those who supported us.

RTN Maureen Bond
Chairman Fellowship Committee

February 2001 % Attendance

NAME	MONTH %	YTD %
1. Andrew Jack	25	47
2. Barbour Celia	75	89
3. Bond Laurie	100	100
4. Bond Maureen	100	100
5. Bonett Julie	75	100
6. Chiponda Charles	100	100
7. Clark Ron	50	81
8. Cooper Alan	25	48
9. De Souza Ali	100	100
10. Dlamini J. C.	100	85
11. Downing Alan	50	70
12. Dube Kingsley	100	74
13. Geddes Gordon	100	100
14. Ilic Jasmina	75	96
15. Johnson Marina	50	53
16. Lazarus Charles	100	74
17. MacDonald Malcolm	50	37
18. Maibvisira Edward	0	29
19. Maksimovic Predrag 'Maks'	100	85
20. Maphosa Norman	75	45
21. Matatu Sipiwe	100	100
22. Naik M.D.	100	100
23. Ncube Nomsa	75	67
24. Ndoro Cecil	50	48
25. Peters Tony	0	45
26. Pool Chris	100	100
27. Rensburg Eric	100	100
28. Ross Malcolm	50	41
29. Scott Rev Noel	100	30
30. Shoko Dennis	0	15
31. Sinclair Brian	0	11
32. Thomas Mark	25	20
33. Vaghmaria Sash	100	100
34. Williams Alban	100	63

EXCUSED ATTENDANCE

35. Katz Basil	0	0
36. Munyoro Nehemia	0	11
37. Stipinovich Joe	25	60
38. Weeger Fr. Odilo	100	93
39. Whitaker Gerry	0	4

CLUB AVERAGE SENT TO DG. 70.50%

TOTAL MEMBERS 38

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD 4