

# OUTA SPACE

NEWSLETTER

ROTARY E-CLUB OF SOUTH AFRICA ONE

[www.rotaryclubsa.org](http://www.rotaryclubsa.org)

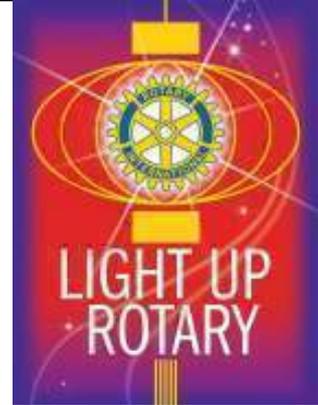
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Rotary 

19th August 2014  
No 4



**August is Membership and Extension month and is followed by New Generations [Youth] month in September.**

Messages from Rotary International regarding membership growth appear to be more and more desperate as each new Rotary year unfolds. It is of course true that membership has been fairly static around the 1.2million member mark for quite a while – probably 16 years.

Although there is a plan in place for Interactors to progress to Rotaract and for Rotaractors to progress to Rotary membership I can't help feeling that the conversion rate is far below acceptable levels. So where does the problem lie – probably in the Rotary clubs

where the liaison between Rotary and the Interact and Rotaract Clubs is sometimes perhaps lacking.

Our E-Club cannot be faulted as we do not have any of those liaison problems because, like 25% of the Rotary Clubs in our District, we have neither a Rotaract nor an Interact Club! We do have close relationships with 2 Interact clubs through members in our Club who are facilitators of Interact Clubs at the schools where they teach. We really need to find a suitable high school where we are able to sponsor an Interact Club – it's hard, but rewarding work.

*Have Fun*

*Gerald Sieberhagen - Editor*

**Please make a concerted effort to attend the next GTM of the E-Club of South Africa One at 7pm on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2014**

Rotarians should always be alert to ASK prospects to join Rotary – they may just be wearing a T-shirt with a big YES on it under their shirt waiting for the question – “would you like to join Rotary?”

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## BIRTHDAYS

### AUGUST

20<sup>th</sup> Brian St Clair

23<sup>rd</sup> David Tilling

24<sup>th</sup> Jeff Watts

25<sup>th</sup> Sue Hawkins; Paul Maistry & Rae Kirton

28<sup>th</sup> Kudzai Mqingwana

### SEPTEMBER

21<sup>st</sup> John Fannin & Errol Martin



## ANNIVERSARIES

### AUGUST

29<sup>th</sup> Nareshini & Rajen Ranganthan

### SEPTEMBER

2<sup>nd</sup> Arlene & Dave Arnold

4<sup>th</sup> Kudzai & Israel Mqingwana

## DATES TO DIARISE

2014

International Rotary Evening – Date unknown

DG'S VISIT – DATE UNKNOWN

5<sup>th</sup> September – Casual Day



PEACE DAY CELEBRATION AT EKUTHULENI  
PRIMARY SCHOOL WILL BE ON 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

24<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER – WORLD POLIO DAY

25<sup>TH</sup> OCT – MEMBERSHIP SEMINAR – DURBAN

2015

24<sup>TH</sup> to 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL – DISCON IN BLOEMFONTEIN

## TOPIC OF THE WEEK – ROSTER FOR/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

25<sup>th</sup> Aug – Aadila Sabat St Clair

1<sup>st</sup> Sept – Janet Rouillard

8<sup>th</sup> Sept – David Tilling

15<sup>th</sup> Sept – Patrick Kleu

22<sup>nd</sup> Sept – John Fannin

29<sup>th</sup> Sept – Pat Draper

6<sup>TH</sup> Oct – Keshia Munsamy

13<sup>th</sup> Oct – Ailsa Kaminski

These are the dates YOU have chosen to provide the TOPIC of the Week. Please send the TotW to either President Irene or Club Service director Gerald by at least the THURSDAY preceding the date of the TotW.

## EVENTS AND PROJECTS

oOo

### PEACE DAY 2014

This year we will once again have peace day celebrations at Ekuthuleni Primary School. Peace day falls on 21<sup>st</sup> September which is a Sunday. This will not be suitable for the school so the celebration will be on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September at around 11 am.

An Essay and an Art competition are two of the activities that will take place. More details to follow.

oOo

### EAST COAST RADIO TOY STORY 2014

Our club will again be assisting East Coast Radio with this project this year. No doubt we will have our A-team of volunteers to lend a helping hand when the volume of toys received for sorting and allocating peaks during the period from 8<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> December.

**GoToMeeting – 19h00 to 20h00**

**26<sup>th</sup> August**

**9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

**7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> October**

**4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> November**

**2<sup>nd</sup> December**

**13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> January**

**DURING THE WEEK PRECEDING THE  
GTM, the log on code will be sent BY  
EMAIL to each member.**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT FROM JULY THE GTM  
WILL BE ON A TUESDAY AND WILL START  
AT 19H00 INSTEAD OF 20H00**

## ADVERTISING IN ROTARY AFRICA MAGAZINE

Have you ever considered advertising your products or services in the Rotary Africa Magazine?

You can obtain the 2014 Advertising rates on the Rotary Africa website @ [www.rotaryafrica.com](http://www.rotaryafrica.com)

## PRESIDENT IRENE'S PAGE



Dear Fellow Rotarians

***A private snippet: The time has come for me to retire and lead the life of "a lady of leisure" (No, not from Rotary!). During September, I will be leaving Garden Grove [after 22 years] and moving to my new home – a lovely flat with breathtaking views in the Hurlingham complex on the corner of Marriott and Currie Roads. And yes, the lounge is big enough to host F2F meetings. This is a new chapter in my life that I am looking forward to.***

During our last GoToMeeting session we had so much fun and laughter that I thought: more of our members should be joining these fortnightly meetings and be sharing in the fun and fellowship and also the fruitful discussions. How can we achieve this? From the very beginning of Rotary, even before the orientation to community service, Paul Harris saw fellowship leading to friendship and fun (enjoyment) as being fundamental to what Rotary would be about. Fellowship happens when we log on to GTM. We might not be conscious of what we are contributing by just being there!

The good news is that during our last 2 GTM's the reception has been excellent – no background gremlins! With our membership being geographically so diverse, we want to hear from members about the projects they are involved in; successes and/or problems. The enjoyment of sharing creates the bond of being a Rotarian.

Last but not least is the care for our members. Illness or hardship can befall any of us and again sharing is a way to help to care for our members. I recently read an article on "Tyranny of Low Expectation". Over time, since you became a member of our E-Club, has HIGH Expectation shifted to LOW Expectation because of what you get from your membership? I sincerely hope not. But, you know, a lot is up to you.

***I leave you with these thoughts.*** Will you be there at the next GTM????? And just for good measure in case you don't consult your diary, an SMS reminder will pop up on your cell phone on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August.

Should we occasionally have a GTM that starts at 9pm SA time which would suit, for instance, Jeff Watts, who cannot attend our current GTM's because the time doesn't suit his eventual return home from his office? August being Membership month, your E-Club President has her own motto: **EACH MEMBER IS PRECIOUS**

***Have Fun, Irene***

[GTM features on www.gotomeeting.com](http://www.gotomeeting.com)

**Screen sharing**

[Watch the GoToMeeting Video](#) ■



**Built-In Audio**



**HD video conferencing**



## **John Germ is the choice of Nominating Committee as RI President 2016 -17**

Posted by [Sunil K Zachariah](#) on August 5

The Nominating Committee for the President for the year 2016–17 has chosen John Germ from Rotary Club of Chattanooga, Tennessee, USA.

John Germ, a graduate of the University of Tennessee, is the president and chief executive

officer of Campbell & Associates, Inc., consulting engineers. He joined Rotary in 1976 and has served Rotary International as President of the Rotary Club of Chattanooga 1993-94, District Governor 1996-97, and International Assembly Training Leader 2000-01.

John served on the RI Board of Directors for 2003-05 and was Vice President 2004-05, member of the International Assembly Committee and Chairman of the Council on Legislation, Vice Chair - Rotary Centers Major Gift Initiative. He was Aide to President Wilf Wilkinson and Vice Chairman of the International Convention, 2012.

Last year, The White House honoured John Germ as one of 12 Rotary International members who are "Champions of Change". John is an active member of the Chattanooga community, where he has served as president of the Chamber of Commerce, Junior Achievement, and Boy Scouts, and as campaign chairman of United Way. He has also served as president of the Tennessee Jaycees and is a recipient of the Boy Scouts of America Silver Beaver Award.

John and his wife Judy are Major Donors to The Rotary Foundation.



## Who's your Tommy?

Posted on **August 11, 2014**

By *William D. Pollard, Jr., Rotary Club of Churchland, Portsmouth, Virginia, USA*

I joined Rotary in 1988 at the age of 25. Whenever I think of why we should invite someone to join Rotary, I think of Tommy.

Two years after starting a banking career in Richmond, Virginia, I was asked to work in my hometown of Petersburg. One of the first people to visit me was Tommy Adkins, a retired banker, who asked me to attend a Rotary club meeting. Tommy lived on the same street as my family when I was growing up, and I even delivered his newspaper.

I had no idea what Rotary was, but I accepted Tommy's kind invitation to visit the Rotary Club of Petersburg. Tommy passed away several years ago and he probably never realized the impact he had on my professional and personal life.

- Because of Tommy, I have made so many wonderful friendships with Rotarians throughout the world.
- Because of Tommy, I have participated in many service projects helping others.
- Because of Tommy, I have lived my life more ethically as I look to The Four-Way Test.
- Because of Tommy, I have had the satisfaction of financially supporting the life-changing work of The Rotary Foundation.
- Because of Tommy, my mother is a Rotarian.
- Because of Tommy, I have enhanced my leadership skills serving as a club president, district governor, district Foundation chair, and in many other club and district roles.
- Because of Tommy, I am helping *Light Up Rotary* this year.

So my three questions to you are:

- Who is your Tommy?
- What impact has Rotary had on your life?
- Have you been or will you be a Tommy to someone else?

### RTN ROB LINDEGGER SEEKING HELP WITH PROJECT – 2 HOURS A MONTH

I am looking for somebody to help with my web-site, [www.wobblingthroughafrica.com](http://www.wobblingthroughafrica.com). A good knowledge of 'Wordpress' or web-site maintenance is required. There would be about two hours a month maintaining the website. I will do the regular blog and photo content. However there are a couple of deeper maintenance issues that I am unable to carry out. My web provider is asking for silly monies that I would rather use towards the ride and the support of Rotary. We can chat on 082 920 4827 or email me at [rob.lindegger@gmail.com](mailto:rob.lindegger@gmail.com) [Ed – see page 6 for more info]

# OUTA SPACE

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## WOBBLING THROUGH AFRICA – ROBYN LINDEGGER – [www.wobblingthroughafrica.com](http://www.wobblingthroughafrica.com)



Here is a rough idea of how I would like to connect Rotary and the 'Wobbling Through Africa' ride. The bicycle ride is personally financed, but donations and support are always welcome.

As mentioned at my induction as a member of the E-Club, I will be promoting Rotary as an organization and the various undertakings in which it is involved; but in particular education:



- This, by visiting clubs, their school projects - especially the school/education projects, and showing the Rotary presence in Africa to the outside world. I will be writing about my visits in various publications. Each article will have contact information for possible donors.
- Discussing personal and community life experiences and motivating creative writing at schools and within communities. Showing how those experiences, when written as stories, can be turned into positive growth helping communities, schools and the individual.
- How life experiences can be used, as stories, to promote the importance of education in eradicating poverty, improving living conditions, establishing opportunity, freedom of choice, ambition/goals and achieve self-reliance.
- Those stories could be written in a fact or fictional form, based on fact. Why can't a region/community put together a series of stories and have them published as a book?
- I would like to publish some of those stories on my website. By seeing their efforts on the web it might act as an incentive to learners and educators.
- I have also had an autograph book prepared that I will be presenting to each club and project leader for their signature. That book will be creating a physical link and further incentive to those involved.

I will be posting this book to the club tomorrow for completion. I will be supplying a self-addressed paid for envelope for return to me.

[www.wobblingthroughafrica.com](http://www.wobblingthroughafrica.com)

Visiting Districts: At the time of writing these are the districts I will be visiting and making contact with clubs in the towns/cities I pass through. I cannot see me visiting every club, but I will visit as many as possible en-route. Obviously, the more I visit the better.

Western Cape; Namibia (Possible – depending on route taken); Maun, Botswana (Possible - depending on route taken); Zimbabwe (Possible – depending on route taken); Zambia; Kigali, Rwanda; Bujumbura, Burundi; Tanzania; Uganda; Kenya (Possible – depending on route taken); Southern Sudan (As with Kenya); Ethiopia (As with Kenya)

What with the Ebola scare and ever-changing wars and skirmishes, the route north of Uganda is questionable at this stage, to be decided. Hopefully I may be offered some form of accommodation from members. I don't mind pitching my tent! Views, ideas and suggestions of the members are most welcome. I will be doing an article for the Rotary Africa magazine as well.

Question: I have been having difficulty in trying to get the geographical addresses and contacts of clubs in Africa. What is my easiest option in doing this, now and when I am on the road? **Ed – see note below**

After watching the video by Brian Rocha, Rotary Club of Goleta, California another thought struck me. Do you have any short sleeve Rotary golf shirts or sweat shirts (with emblem)? **Ed – sure.** Take care - **Wobbling Rob** [www.wobblingthroughafrica.com](http://www.wobblingthroughafrica.com)

**When we return your Autograph book, we will include a printed copy of Rotary Africa's 'Which Club Meets Today' which includes telephone numbers and Meeting venues for the Districts that Rotary Africa covers. You could also request a copy on line by going to the Rotary Africa website @ [www.rotaryafrica.com](http://www.rotaryafrica.com). I presume you have registered on My Rotary on [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) – and if so you could search for Club details there, under 'Club Locator'.**

### Some more on: Benefits of Rotary - Why join Rotary?- from the Rotary family around the World

Whatever your reason, joining Rotary can help you achieve these goals, and so much more. See why these men and women are members of their local Rotary club.

#### **Community service**

*"Being a Rotarian means serving your community, networking, making friends, and building international relationships."*— Mercy Bannerman, Rotary Club of Accra-Airport, Ghana

*"Rotary creates the perfect venue for me to give back to the community I live in while enjoying the camaraderie of positive and active individuals."*

— Tom Brand, Rotary Club of Kenosha West, Wisconsin, USA

#### **Networking**

*"Rotary is a tremendous network. Leaders in the community can connect and reach out to people in need."* — Russel Honoré, Rotary Club of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA

*"Rotary provides an environment for developing strong friendships and business relationships."* — Pete Sinsky, Rotary Club of Kenosha West, Wisconsin, USA

#### **Leadership skills**

*"Leadership is a key focus of Rotary. Through Rotary, you have the opportunity to expand your leadership skills and achieve your goals."*

— Norma Madayag-Reilly, Rotary Club of Newark, New York, USA

*"A week doesn't go by that I don't learn something new from the speaker at our club or just from working on projects with people. It's an opportunity to grow indefinitely."*

— Stephen Brown, Rotary Club of La Jolla Golden Triangle, California, USA

#### **International service**

*"I've become much more internationally focused, and understand that there's so much more I can do as part of a bigger whole than I could ever do on my own."*

— Toni McAndrew, Rotary Club of Mid-Valley (Dickson City), Pennsylvania, USA

*"If you truly want to give back to the community – and to the world at large – you join Rotary. It has an arm that reaches across all barriers. To be part of that is very powerful."*

— Aruna Koushik, Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland, Ontario, Canada

#### **Friendship**

*"Every Rotary club in the world, no matter how big or small, has one thing in common: friendship. And it's from this base of friendship that we serve our community."*

— Kemal Atfilâ, Rotary Club of Ankara-Tandogan, Turkey

*"I found a fellowship where every nation, every color, all of humanity can be like a family. I've got a place where I can serve my people and serve the world."*

— Ailinda Sawe, Rotary Club of Dar-es-Salaam-Mzizima, Tanzania

#### **Family-friendly**

*"We want families with children to join Rotary, so we try to be very flexible. Family commitments always take precedence."*

— Wendy Scammell, Rotary Club of St. John's Northwest, Newfoundland, Canada

*"For me, Rotary is a way of life – one that my husband and I have lived our whole lives."*

— Julia Gereda de Carlin, Rotary Club of Monterrico-Surco, Peru

#### **Opportunities for young people**

*"There's so much diversity in the work Rotary does. It can give you exposure to so many different areas and help you find what your interests really are."*

— Andrea Tirone, Rotaract Club of University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada

*"A great tool Rotary has is its educational programs. I was an exchange student (Rotary Youth Exchange) in Switzerland in high school. That's how I got involved and what made me want to give back."*

— Jorge Aguilar, Rotaract Club of Chicago, Illinois, USA

**Let's hear what our members have to say – what can you add to this TOPIC?**

## ROTARY SUPPORTS WHO DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY FOR POLIO

In May, the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the international spread of polio a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), and issued a set of recommendations to all polio-impacted countries. On 31 July, the situation was reassessed and the Director-General has declared polio remains a public health emergency. Several factors played into this decision, including:

1. Both Pakistan and Equatorial Guinea have exported the virus internationally since May.
2. Polio thrives in areas compromised by conflict. The unfortunate reality is that there are currently several countries whose public health systems have been seriously weakened by crisis, and whose children are now some of the most vulnerable to polio. In fact, the number of people living in conflict-torn states has increased since May, putting these children at greater risk.
3. It is too soon to determine whether the guidelines issued in May have had serious impact in the affected countries.

The measures recommended by WHO in early May help to protect the initiatives overall gains in the fight against polio, specifically working to ensure that international travellers do not unknowingly carry the virus with them, and inadvertently contribute to international spread of the wild poliovirus.

Rotary supports the WHO Director-General's decision to keep these recommendations in place for travellers to/from Pakistan, Syria, Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon (countries who have exported polio in 2014); and Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Iraq, Israel, Somalia and Nigeria (countries infected by polio in 2014).

We firmly believe that through close collaboration, Rotary, its partners and governments will achieve a polio-free world.

### **John Germ**

Chair, International PolioPlus Committee

Rotary International

*Rotary News*

## **GOOD NEWS AND THANKS FROM THE ROTARY FOUNDATION**

### **A record-setting year**

**Owing to the leadership and financial support of Rotarians around the world, 2013-14 was a record-setting year for our Annual Fund. Preliminary results suggest that more than \$250 million was contributed to help change lives locally and in communities around the world.**

**Thank you!**

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## WHEELCHAIR HANDOVER IN KLERKSDORP

A joint handover was made by Rotary Club of Klerksdorp and Sandy Botha from the Rotary E-Club of South Africa One. Lydia has been carrying her son, Zandile, around for 12 long years. Zandile was deprived of oxygen to the brain at birth and suffered serious disability. Lydia had tears of joy and gratification when the wheelchair was handed to her.



Rtn's Horace Mc Bride and Theunis De Bruin, [RC Klerksdorp], Sandy Botha, [E-Club of SA One] Lydia, Zandile, sister Tebogo and Zandile's Granny attended the handover

Sandy Botha, Lydia and Zandile



## Derek Veale gets a set of Wheels.

A chance meeting between Derek & Gerald ended with a happy Derek receiving a new wheelchair from the E-Club of South Africa One.



Above and left – Our members who 'manned' our stand at the Ningizimu Special School Fun Day

In addition to Janet Rouillard, Jeneth van Leeuwen, President Irene Kotze, Jeans daughter, Sivashni and Jean Singh, Bob Kistnasamy and Ailsa Kaminski also assisted.

The LN-4 prosthetic hand demonstration attracted much attention; Little Sun, not much [wrong market] and the ground was too hard for the Tippy Tap to be used.

**I may not be great at bird identification  
but I do know that there are four females and one male**



**Ed – I know  
John Fannin is a  
real authority in  
identifying birds  
so I am sure that  
he will confirm  
the fact stated  
above.**

## **WORDS OF WISDOM**

*"If you want to change the world, do it when you are a bachelor.  
After marriage, you can't even change a TV channel..."*

*Listening to a wife is like reading the terms & conditions of a  
website.*

*You don't understand it but you still accept it.*

**Chess is the only game in the world, which reflects the status of the  
husband;**

**the poor king can take only one step at a time ....**

**While the mighty queen can do whatever she likes**

*All Men are Brave,*

*Horror Movies don't scare them....*

*But 5 Missed Calls from Wife ...surely does*

## **What's Checkmate?**

**You tell your wife "I saw a lady, looked exactly like you" & wife  
asks "WAS SHE GORGEOUS..??"**

**You can't say 'No' and you can't say 'Yes' – now that's  
Checkmate!**

**I look forward to receiving some response to the above - Ed**

### **FELLOWSHIPS & ACTION GROUPS**

*Hi Rotary friends:*

*Many of you are not aware of the opportunity and enjoyment provided through Rotary Fellowships and Action Groups (RAGs). Below is a reprint from the recent International Travel and Hosting Fellowship (ITHF) Newsletter. It provides just one example of how you can travel the world at greatly reduced costs through Rotary colleagues. There are a variety of interest groups available based on hobbies or vocations, so you can engage and enjoy your Rotary involvement by searching [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) for a RAG or Fellowship of interest to you.*

*Doug V - PDG Douglas W Vincent, RC Woodstock-Oxford [www.dougvincent.com](http://www.dougvincent.com) [Speaker Info link](#)*

*Reprint from ITHF Newsletter, July 2014*

### **Friends cannot believe we travelled for a month, without using an hotel.**

We recently returned from the RI Convention in Sydney, followed by a three week speaking tour which included visits with several Rotary friends. Many cannot imagine the power of Rotary connections that allowed us to have this travel experience without using even one hotel room. You can share this same experience, by joining a Fellowship like ITHF.

It was a 32 year mixture of Rotary activities that brought us back to Australia, the country of my 1977 Rotary introduction as a GSE Team Member. Included this time was a visit with ITHF member PDG Allan Church from Townsville, North Queensland as well as other Rotary friends.

In Sydney we were hosted by our friend Geoffrey Little, whom we know through the Police and Law Enforcement Fellowship. Next was Wagga Wagga to participate in their Peace Ceremony and Dinner, in my role as Past Co-Chair of the RI Peace Community Program. In addition to John and Mary Egan, a COL Colleague, and other Aussie friends, we had the benefit of sharing time with previously known India friends who were on a Friendship Exchange.

With a 32 year history of GSE, Friendship Exchange, Youth Exchange and Fellowships activity, one cannot help but experience and enjoy worldwide Rotary camaraderie and fellowship. I cannot imagine why these opportunities often remain unknown to Rotary Club members I meet. Even those in my own club do not understand the concept of global home-hosting to the extent we enjoy.

Our next stop was at Bendigo to catch up with a former Exchange Student from 30 years ago. It was great to rekindle our relationship and catch up on her life experiences. What a delight to see her flourishing and still reminiscing about her much appreciated experience in Canada, years ago. Melbourne followed as we visited a former GSE friend, PDG Jenny Coburn. What a delight to see the Rotary engagement Jenny has developed through the years and now to be hosting a weekly Rotary Radio program.

This brings us to the ITHF connection and our new friend PDG Allan Church. When he heard we were coming to his city he promptly began to roll out the red carpet for our visit. Knowing of our speaking activities, he started by coordinating a multi-club meeting which I spoke at. Through emails and conversations in Sydney, our friendship developed. Through his Rotary connections, we had a grand time with his Rotary Club and other friends. As it turned out, we also had a family friend in this city that helped host us. Together these chaps gave us the royal treatment.

So if you have the urge to travel and want to enjoy the opportunity to be with local native friends on an economical scale, then our Rotary ITHF connection is the key to a great experience. If you don't qualify for a GSE or Youth Exchange, you certainly can qualify for a wonderful time through ITHF.

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John & June [the photographer] Fannin paid a visit to Durban recently



President Irene took John & June to see some of our projects – first stop was Ithemba lethu Educare Centre where our club provided this classroom.

Second stop was at Masakhane Crèche where they are seen with some of the children and the carers. Our club is assisting to replace damaged floor tiles.



The Ziveze Community Gardens was the 3<sup>rd</sup> stop. This project is going to be one that our Club will be proud of. It had a strange beginning in the Rotary year before our E-Club was chartered – was abandoned as a failed project by a Rotary Club – was then taken up by our Club. Perseverance by President Irene Kotze and using expert guidance it is now starting to bear fruits – watch this space!!!



For John & June no visit to Durban is ever complete without a meal at a Curry restaurant. Irene duly obliged by taking them to the INDIAN CONNECTION Restaurant in Windermere Road. Ed – I was sorry that I missed the Fannin's visit to Durban this year, but very pleased that I was not subjected to a 'mild curry' at a CURRY DEN – note the size of the 'fire extinguisher' [camouflaged in blue] on the table!!

By the way, John says the wild flowers up the West Coast this year are the best in 19 years!!

### **Beware the apps you download – Article from Moneyweb Today 13 August 2014**

by Sasha Planting

Users of smartphones beware; the applications you download could compromise the security on your phone. And this includes banking applications.

IT security experts have been warning for months that weaknesses in the applications people download, coupled with basic human error could result in the installation of spyware or malware on smartphones.

This could allow hackers to gain access to your contact list, phone calls, GPS location, and bank information, without you realising it.

In Russia security firm Group-IB recently warned that more than 541 000 smartphones running on Android in Russia, Europe and the US are infected with malware which grants the perpetrators full access to people's mobile devices, according to a report on RT.com.

Another report, this time from the US says that many mobile banking apps, including those of major financial institutions, contain configuration and design weaknesses that leave them with weakened security.

Experts from security firm Praetorian tested 275 Apple iOS- and Android-based mobile banking apps from 50 major financial institutions, 50 large regional banks, and 50 large U.S. credit unions. Overall, they found that eight out of ten apps were improperly configured and not built using best practice software development, according to this report on DarkReading.com.

Among the big-name banks whose mobile apps the security firm tested were Bank of America, Citigroup, Wells Fargo, Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, Capital One Financial, and Suntrust Banks. Praetorian did not disclose how each bank's apps fared in the tests.

The security weaknesses identified in the mobile banking apps are not pure software vulnerabilities, says Nathan Sportsman, founder and CEO of Praetorian. "These aren't business-logic or application-specific issues. They are weaknesses across the mobile apps - things developers should be doing but are not," he says.

Stirring the pot a little further, just last week a research team from IBM uncovered a vulnerability that will affect apps built on a popular platform for application development called Cordova, according to a report on SecurityIntelligence.com.

Up to 10% of the applications built on this platform are banking apps, the researchers found. While a patch has been released the point is that millions of people using apps built on this platform are at risk of having sensitive information, such as their login details, stolen the report says.

A scary fact is that 95% of successful attacks or security incidents are caused by human error, according to IBM's Cyber Security Intelligence Index. As a result hackers continue to aggressively seek out such vulnerabilities to exploit.

These warnings come at time when mobile banking is growing in South Africa. All of the major banks offer mobile banking solutions, and while mobile banking isn't mainstream yet, it is increasingly popular.

"What smartphone users need to understand is that all operating systems are vulnerable," says Vodacom's head of mobile commerce, Herman Singh, who was speaking in his personal capacity. "It's the nature of the space. Operating systems are by design complex pieces of code. The process is complicated further because apps are written to go into an app store and are then downloaded onto an operating system."

At each step – application development, the app store, the operating system – there is the potential for vulnerabilities to be exploited.

At the application level, apps can be deliberately infected, or become vulnerable because the developers have overlooked something.

"You have to consider who is writing the app, and who is vetting it before you just download it onto your phone," Singh says.

At the application store level, not all app stores were created equal.

"The Apple screening process is the most rigorous. All Apple apps are very carefully tested before they are allowed into the store for download. None of the other app stores are as thorough," he says.

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The best-known app stores (digital distribution centres for application software) include Apple, Blackberry and Google Play. But because the Android operating system (launched by Google) is so ubiquitous there are over 30 different app stores flogging their wares for Android devices.

This is because the Android operating system is open and allows for a high degree of customisation. "This introduces vulnerability," says Singh.

"The Apple operating system on the other hand is tightly coupled to iTunes and the Apple apps. The company has kept proprietary control over its system."

First National Bank's heading of bank apps, Giuseppe Virgillito agrees that there are potential vulnerabilities around smartphones and the apps one downloads – just as there are with laptops and PCs.

"We haven't seen any problems [with the banking apps in South Africa]. But it is possible; particularly when it comes to those apps developed using Android. It is open source software after all."

While the banks are taking steps to ensure their own applications are robust, he suggests various steps that consumers can take to protect themselves:

Always be on guard against cyber-attack. Just like with laptops, logging onto an unsecured Wi-Fi connection isn't very sensible, especially if you're going to be working with sensitive information.

Be careful what content you download and what sites you access from your device.

Don't download apps from third party sites – stick to Apple, Google Play or the device manufacturer – Samsung's app store for instance.

Make sure you always have an up-to-date version of the operating system on your phone. The same goes for the banking app.

Don't jailbreak your device. This allows access to the operating system's file system and manager, allowing the download of applications that are not approved by Apple, Google or the handset manufacturer.

### THINK YOU'RE HAVING A BAD DAY....

**A woman came home to find her husband in the kitchen shaking frantically, almost in a dancing frenzy, with some kind of wire running from his waist towards the electric kettle. Intending to jolt him away from the deadly current, she whacked him with a handy plank of wood, breaking his arm in two places. Up to that moment, he had been happily listening to his Walkman.**

**Two animal rights protesters were protesting at the cruelty of sending pigs to a slaughterhouse in Bonn, Germany. Suddenly, all two thousand pigs broke loose and escaped through a broken fence, stampeding madly. The two hapless protesters were trampled to death.**