

---WELL! HOW ABOUT THIS THEN!"

MEETING TUESDAY 20th MAY 2008:

GUEST SPEAKER: Gaynor Larsen introduced Cehill Pienaar who was born in South Africa. Cehill was born in Harrismith, Orange Free State Province, South Africa. Earned a B.A.LLB Stellenosch University, Practised Law in Durban, farmed Merino sheep and wheat in Harrismith, was Provincial Leader of the Conservative Party 1982—1992, a member of the Presidents Council in the South African Parliament 1987, elected M.P. for Heilbron constituency 1989, member of the Constitutional Assembly 1993-1994, Senator for Inkatha Freedom Party 1996-1999, and settled in New Zealand in 1999, and is now the Vice Chair of the Rodney Electorate, National Party of New Zealand.

Cehill in his opening words said, "The subject of my short address is South Africa pre 1994 and post 1994 I managed to get Ceehill's notes which consisted of six typed foolscap pages!! Cehill gave us one of the most interesting addresses we have heard for some time and because of the vast subject it was very difficult to know which part of his address to focus on. Generally speaking Cehill took us through the history of South Africa when European settlement started (not colonisation) which was in 1652, his own ancestors settling there in 1688. He told us of the end of the last white rule in 1994, how he played a small part in making history, playing a part in the drafting of a democratic constitution and getting to know the major players like Mandela, Mbeki, de Clerc, and others. He told us about apartheid becoming the official policy which was formalised in various statutes from 1948.

Since Nelson Mandela left, the policy of restructuring and affirmative action has gained momentum. It is a policy of empowering Blacks, note Blacks, first and foremost, Coloureds, Indians, and whites in that order in all appointments. Legislation compelling businesses to have black directors, shareholders, partners are on the statute books. Even in sport this policy is forced on sports administrators. It is estimated that of the 5 million whites two million have left South Africa. Since 1994 figures are sketchy because a large number have left as tourists and have never returned.

Cehill has gone back to South Africa for the opening of Parliament for the past nine years and he is sorry to say that the decline in almost everything has now become scary. Although a very wealthy country there is a lot of money to be made, the infrastructure is collapsing, roading, postal services, health, the criminal justice system is collapsing, water supply, and sewerage systems in the provinces are almost non-existent in more than 300 towns as big as Orewa or bigger. Cehill finished up by saying that since 1994 2000 white farmers have been murdered and tortured on their farms. Only last week a farmer was killed and his family tortured a few kilometres away from where their friends farm. As Cehill said also "spare a thought for them" Joyce Mohau, who used to be one of my wife's employees asked him a few years ago "When is Madam coming back?" Cehill did not have the heart to tell her, "the Madam is never coming back!!" How very fortunate we all are living in a place like New Zealand!! A wonderful talk and if anyone wishes to read the whole speech I do have a copy of it—Ed. Nigel Rigg very ably gave the vote of thanks.

DO WE TAKE THINGS FOR GRANTED?? On my return to Rotary after been away for 9 weeks I walked into Rotary House, had a walk around and thought to myself, "what a wonderful asset we have, an asset that many Rotary clubs would be very jealous of!" the place was spotless, clean and tidy, the bar sparkled and I felt very proud to belong to a forward thinking club. Rotary House would rate very highly on the Hibiscus Coast as a great venue for seminars, conferences, church groups and for many other uses. Don't let us take it for granted! support the Rotary House Committee in their endeavours to keep it up there with the best. Keep your ear to the ground and pass on to the committee any group that you may know of who may be interested to hire the rooms out.-----Ed Doug P.

"Middle age is when you begin to wonder who put the quicksand in the hourglass of time!"

SO, "WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE TRAPS NOW!"

MEETING TUESDAY 20th MAY 2008:

4 MINUTE SPEAKER: Peter Rigg in his 4 minute talk reminded members just how important the duty of "Host" is and how to look after our Guest Speakers. We reiterate the duties of "Host" printed in the Bulletin some 12 months ago.

The Duties of "Host"

The Host's duty is to look after the club's guest speaker from the time he or she arrives until they leave the meeting. The wearing of a tie for the evening for males is preferable. It is most important that the "Host" is well prepared and makes the effort to obtain a short resume about the speaker prior to the meeting. Generally the Programme Committee will send you information about the speaker prior to the meeting. If this is not available then the "Host" should make enquiries as to the speaker's phone number, e-mail, or fax. This is available from the Programme Committee. The "Host" should contact the guest speaker and explain that he or she is their "Host" for the evening and you would like a brief resume for introduction purposes. It is not good enough to wait until you are seated and then try and find out information about the guest speaker, reasons being that if the speaker is held up and late getting to the meeting you do not have time to prepare properly, and you will be considered far more professional if you are well prepared.

Introducing the speaker should be no longer than two / three minutes maximum.

The "Host" for the evening should be at the clubrooms by 5-30pm and be close to the main entrance looking out for the guest speaker to arrive. Ensure that there is a jug of cold water and a glass on the table in front of the speaker.

Immediately the guest speaker arrives the "Host" introduces him or herself to the speaker, accompanies him or her to the attendance table to receive a visitors/guest speaker name badge. The Host then introduces the guest speaker to the President and enquires as to whether he or she would like a drink. The guest speaker should be accorded the courtesy of a free drink which the club should pay for. The "Host" then shows the guest speaker where he or she will be seated, points out where the toilets are and if time permits introduces him or her to other club members.

When the bell is gonged signalling the start of the meeting the "Host" then accompanies the guest speaker to the Presidents table and seats him or her next to the President. It would also be advisable to have seated with you room permitting, another one or two club members to assist with the conversation, preferably members who have a common interest. Be aware that the President is a busy person and sometimes does not have the time to keep talking to the guest speaker hence it is your job to entertain the speaker. After the grace has been said invite the guest speaker to accompany you to the meal table.

Prior to introducing the guest speaker ensure that the microphone is switched on and working. There is nothing worse than the Host having to fiddle around with the microphone.

Give the guest speaker the respect which they are entitled to by referring to them by their title, e.g. Mr, Mrs, Sir, Lady, Your Honour, Your Excellency, the Hon., the Rt.Hon., His Worship the Mayor, the Minister, Doctor, Father, District Governor, (in his year of office) etc, etc. The same courtesy should always be accorded to club members if they are the official guest speaker and hold an official title.

At the end of the meeting ensure that they have all their belongings, such as papers, folders, coat etc. and then accompany them out to their car in the carpark, especially if they are female, thank them once again and see them off.

--from a 1979 Readers Digest:--

"Safety slogan urging slower driving: Nice guys may finish last, but at least they finish!"

----things haven't changed have they!

