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Meeting Time
17h45 for 18h15

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TUESDAY
5TH MAY
10th Edition

Editor:

Tanya Stone
Rotary Club of Pinelands



Fellow Rotarians

I hope you are all keeping safe and looking after yourselves.

News, articles and documentaries are below.

Enjoy!
Tanya



Rotary.org

Rotary is closely monitoring the pandemic of COVID-19, the illness caused by the novel coronavirus, and continuously assessing the potential impact on Rotary operations, events, and members.

Your health and safety are always our top priorities. Look below for information on Rotary activities that may be affected. We will update this page as new information becomes available.

Read how members are using ingenuity and flexibility to help people affected by coronavirus and to stay connected.



Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak situation
TUESDAY 5TH MAY 2020
20h30

PLEASE NOTE: Figures are time of publish and fluctuate constantly

3,698,308

Confirmed cases
Updated: 5th May

256,252

Confirmed deaths
Updated: 5th May

1,226,235

Recovered
Updated: 5th May

212

**Countries, areas or
territories with cases**
Updated: 5th May

UPDATE



SOUTH AFRICA Tuesday 5th May 2020

South Africa now has **7,220** confirmed cases.
South African statistics from Worldometer and Department of Health SA
on COVID-19

7,220

Positive Cases Identified

Updated: 5th May

2,746

Recovered

Updated: 5th May

138

Deaths

Updated: 5th May

UPDATE AFRICA



Tuesday 5th May 2020

Africa now has **47,463** confirmed cases.

Source: African Arguments: WHO; Johns Hopkins; nCoV.

47,463

Positive Cases Identified

Updated: 5th May

15,827

Recovered

Updated: 5th May

1,849

Deaths

Updated: 5th May

NEWS

SOUTH AFRICA



Ramaphosa on economy: We are now in a post-war situation



By Zintle Mahlati
IOL

Johannesburg - President Cyril Ramaphosa has described the country's fight against the coronavirus as a post-war situation, saying new measures were needed to rebuild the economy.

Ramaphosa was speaking on Tuesday during a visit to KwaZulu-Natal, where he observed the province's preparedness in dealing with the spread of Covid-19.

The province has been one of the hardest hit with rising cases and deaths which have seen the closure of some hospitals due to the spread of the coronavirus.

As of Monday, KZN has 35 Covid-19 related deaths and more than 1 100 confirmed cases.

Ramaphosa said he was pleased with the response on the health front, but called for more to be done on preparing beds. His call comes from advice from scientists and experts who warned the worst was yet to come for the country in terms of rising cases.

"We have to plan for the worst, we have been told that the worst is still coming and more people will be infected. Now we have to ensure that we lessen the pace of the infections. We must continue social distancing and washing our hands and wearing masks," he said.

The country is on Level 4 of a national lockdown which has seen some easing of restrictions with certain parts of the economy being allowed to operate. More than a million people have returned to work since Monday, in line with the eased restrictions.

Ramaphosa said another crisis the country had to confront was the battered economy, which has taken further strain during the lockdown.

Finance Minister Tito Mboweni and the National Treasury have warned of a decline in revenue and possible job losses due to the economic strain caused by the lockdown.

The president said new, innovative ways needed to be cultivated to help grow the economy. He said there may be a need to look at new sectors and industries that might provide solutions for lifting the economy.

"We are now going to have to go for growth and maximise what needs to be done. We are going to be facing a huge problem of unemployment. Covid-19 gives an opportunity for a new beginning that will make us find new ways of functioning. It should enhance what we need to do as a country going forward," Ramaphosa said.

Groote Schuur temporarily shuts two labs after 15 workers contract Covid-19

One of the biggest laboratories in the country has seen a total of 15 lab technicians test positive for Covid-19.

[Read more >>](#)

Hunt for detainees who escaped from police custody on KZN south coast

KwaZulu-Natal police and security companies are on the hunt for two detainees who escaped from a police station on the south coast on Thursday

[Read more >>](#)

Labour minister lays down the 'direction' for getting back to work

By Ed Stoddard
Business Maverick

Minister of Employment and Labour Thulas Nxesi had a briefing on Sunday, 3 May to inform South Africans about lockdown level 4 'back-to-work readiness' as over a million people are expected to return to work this week. For employers, there were enough threats and finger-wagging to set a fire pool alight.

[READ MORE](#)

Pick n Pay extends shopping times for pensioners and Sassa grant beneficiaries

By Nicole McCain

news24

Breaking News. First



Suzanne Ackerman-Berman at the V&A Water Pick n Pay store.

An hour of shopping dedicated to pensioners will be moved this week to accommodate Sassa payouts, retailer Pick n Pay has announced.

The pensioners' shopping hour – a dedicated time for elderly customers to have exclusive use of the store to shop for their groceries and essentials – will move from Wednesdays, and will now take place on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Stores will open an hour earlier - between 07:00 and 08:00 - exclusively for customers over the age of 65 years, and for pension and Sassa disabled grant beneficiaries, before opening to all customers at 08:00.

From Wednesday to Friday, all stores will open early at 07:00 to help accommodate Sassa social grants.

The weekly pensioners' shopping hour will resume on Wednesdays from 13 May.

The move comes as "many shoppers prepare to do their grocery shopping", and would ensure safe shopping and that shelves remain stocked, explained the retailer's marketing executive, John Bradshaw.

"We are opening early to help our customers get their grants in a less crowded environment. All stores will be well stocked and prepared for the week so that customers can get the groceries they want during one shop," he said.

Staff will assist customers to collect their grants and customers are reminded that they can use their Sassa card to pay for grocery items directly.

All stores have safety measures in place, including physical distancing measures, limiting the number of customers in store, hand sanitiser, perspex screens at till points, and staff wearing cloth face masks.

"I don't like the continuous ban on the sale of alcohol and tobacco, but I lost the debate and therefore I have to toe the line."

Finance Minister Tito Mboweni.



By Kabous le Roux
Cape Talk

SA has already lost R1.6 billion in taxes so far. "I lost the debate and therefore I have to toe the line," says Minister Mboweni.

Last week, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the unbanning of cigarettes from Friday (1 May), but the decision was reversed when Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma said the ban remains in place.

Lost tax revenue, so far (according to the South African Revenue Services):
Cigarettes – R300 million
Beer – R664 million
Wine – R300 million
Spirits – R400 million

Delivery services descend on fast food outlets as lockdown rules ease

By Sisonke Mlamla
Cape Times



Cape Town - Scores of food delivery drivers descended on food outlets/restaurants over the weekend after the lockdown regulations were eased on Friday.

Despite the government saying restaurants were open for deliveries only, delivery drivers in cars and scooters had to queue.

KFC in Observatory was one of those outlets, with scores of food delivery services queuing while waiting for their orders.

KFC Africa's chief people officer, Akhona Qengqe, said the well-being of their teams, partners and customers had always been their highest priority.

"In addition to our regular stringent hygiene standards and protocols, we'll implement additional safety measures to ensure a safe working environment for everyone aligned to government regulations and guidelines," Qengqe said.

[READ MORE](#)

An open letter to Ministers Dlamini Zuma, Patel and Cele



***Written by Mike Abel
Daily Maverick***

I am desperate for the poorest of our country. They need to return to work so that the horror of poverty and starvation doesn't dramatically eclipse the potential death toll of Covid-19. At this rate, we may indeed end up with both – as opposed to one.

I write this letter as a committed patriot and someone exponentially more concerned about the plight of the poor, than about myself.

Sadly, some will deliberately choose to judge this letter based purely on the fact that I am a 53-year-old, white male who has done quite well in business.

The first two I clearly had no choice in, and the last was achieved through nothing other than extremely hard work throughout my 30-year career.

It's an unfortunate and deeply sad reality that I need to write this paragraph above, but anyone remotely au fait with social media in South Africa knows the huge prejudice that still comes with the demographics of whomever the author is – without weighing up their proven behaviour, actions and bona fides.

So, let me now get to the purpose of this letter, and I ask for the basic right for it to be received as intended – from someone extremely worried about our country and her people. Especially our poorest.

When President Cyril Ramaphosa asked the country to go into a three-week lockdown, we heeded his call. When he asked for another two weeks, we again heeded his call.

This lockdown had only one purpose. To keep people at home while our health services prepared for an onslaught of what this virus may bring in terms of illness and death. I urge you to reread this purpose because it seems to have been forgotten along the way. Whether deliberately or not, is unclear. But as my mom taught me, "behaviour is truth" and yours is now speaking volumes.

[**READ MORE**](#)

Can gyms keep debiting during lockdown?

***By Wendy Knowler
Dispatch Live***



Under lockdown, gym members are no longer rating their fitness clubs on their facilities, trainers or range of classes but on one thing only — whether they are freezing their memberships at no cost.

Virgin Active, the country's biggest fitness company by far, with more than 130 clubs, led the way in announcing that all memberships would automatically be frozen during the lockdown.

No debit orders were processed this month. Planet Fitness, with 30 clubs countrywide, has done the same, as has Viva Gym, which has seven clubs, most of them in Gauteng.

"All memberships are currently frozen and you will not get charged any fee until we open again," the company tells its members on its website.

But members of many other gym groups, as well as independent gyms, are not benefiting from a total break in fees during lockdown.

Do fitness clubs have the legal right to continue to debit members for a service they cannot provide, albeit for reasons beyond their control?

Consumer goods & services ombudsman Magauta Mphahlele said according to the Consumer Protection Act, a consumer would be entitled to a full refund of services paid for but not received.

Companies do have a legal "out" if they offered a customer a reasonable alternative — such as a voucher, postponement or free months' training.

[**READ MORE**](#)

Meet Marshall Nelson, the Mitchells Plain dad making 3D-printed visors for free

By Qama Qukula
Cape Talk



Marshall Nelson (right) and his young family assemble the face shields they have 3D-printed at their home for distribution in the Mitchells Plain community.

Marshall Nelson and his children are producing 3D-printed visor masks and distributing them in the Mitchells Plain community, free of charge.

The father of three says his children came up with the plan and are assisting him in producing the face shields.

Nelson, who runs a non-profit media training institute, has been using his own 3D printing machines to make the visors.

He prints at least 200 face shields a day, handing them out in his neighbourhood.

Over the last few weeks, he's been approached by the police station and even the day hospitals in the community for face shields.

"I've got 10 3D printers running here, 24/7. The girls and boys don't sleep, we each take shifts during the night to see that the printer is running.

We want to make sure that the community benefits, people are charging our communities enormous amounts of money.

People don't work. There's no money. These things must be given for free if we want to save our communities."

Marshall Nelson, Founder - Youth Media Movement

With South Africa in lockdown, the lions are taking it very easy

By Jack Guy
CNN



Whether it's goats in Wales or wild boar in Italy, animals around the world appear to be adjusting well to life without humans during the coronavirus outbreak.

Even lions are enjoying the peace and quiet, a set of new photos from South Africa's Kruger National Park shows.

The images show a pride of lions lounging on a road, seemingly unperturbed by the presence of the photographer, park ranger Richard Sowry.



Ranger Richard Sowry was able to get up close to the pride. Kruger National Park

"This lion pride are usually resident on Kempiana Contractual Park, an area Kruger tourists do not see," [tweeted](#) Kruger Wednesday. "This afternoon they were lying on the tar road just outside of Orpen Rest Camp."

On a normal day, the area would be busy with tourists, but Kruger has been shut since March 25 as part of South Africa's nationwide lockdown to combat coronavirus.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE WORLD



Mike Pompeo: 'enormous evidence' coronavirus came from Chinese lab

Julian Borger in Washington
The Guardian



The US secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, claimed on Sunday there is “enormous evidence” the coronavirus outbreak originated in a Chinese laboratory – but did not provide any of the alleged evidence.

Pompeo’s claims, made in an interview with ABC’s This Week, represented an escalation in rhetoric. He had previously said the US was looking into the possibility the virus came from a lab in Wuhan, China.

On Sunday, Pompeo said: “There is enormous evidence that that’s where this began,” later adding: “I can tell you that there is a significant amount of evidence that this came from that laboratory in Wuhan.”

At one point, the secretary of state appeared confused over whether he was claiming the Sars-CoV-2 virus (which causes the Covid-19 disease) was deliberately engineered or escaped as the result of a lab accident.

“Look, the best experts so far seem to think it was manmade. I have no reason to disbelieve that at this point,” he said. But when he was reminded that US intelligence had issued a formal statement noting the opposite – that the scientific consensus was that the virus was not manmade or genetically modified – Pompeo replied: “That’s right. I agree with that.”

Donald Trump made a similar unsupported claim on Thursday, saying he was privy to evidence of the pandemic began in a Chinese lab but was not permitted to share it. On the same day, Pompeo told a radio interviewer: “We don’t know if it came from the Wuhan Institute of Virology. We don’t know if it emanated from the wet market or yet some other place. We don’t know those answers.”

Beset by criticism of its response to the outbreak and management of the ensuing public health crisis, the Trump administration has sought to focus blame on China. Most epidemiologists say that while it is possible the outbreak started in the Wuhan Institute of Virology, where coronaviruses have been intensively studied, it is a far less likely scenario than the theory that it was transmitted naturally from bats through an intermediary animal, mutating along the way to become dangerous to humans.

On Tuesday, the chairman of the US joint chiefs of staff, Gen Mark Milley, said “the weight of evidence” pointed to natural transmission but was not conclusive.

Beijing has rejected the suggestion the virus could have escaped from a laboratory. But Chinese authorities have not allowed foreign experts, including investigators from the World Health Organization, to take part in the investigation into the origins of the virus. Nor have they shared samples taken from wild animals at the Wuhan livestock market where they claim the outbreak began.

In 2018, US diplomats and scientists raised concerns in state department cables about safety standards and the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Analysis of the first 41 Covid-19 patients in medical journal the Lancet found that 27 had direct exposure to the Wuhan market. The same analysis found that the first known case of the illness did not.

WHO's Ryan says world is in 'fight of our lives', but there is hope

By Reuters

Reporting by Kate Kelland and Stephanie Nebehay

Editing by Frances Kerry



LONDON/GENEVA - Parts of the world are starting to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic and to cautiously resume some sort of normal life, but the new coronavirus will pose significant risks until vaccines are developed, the WHO's top emergencies expert said on Sunday.

Mike Ryan, executive director of the World Health Organization's (WHO) emergencies programme, said while many countries are still in the eye of the storm, others were beginning to show it is possible to contain the disease to some extent.

"In that sense, there's hope," Ryan told Reuters in an online interview from Geneva.

"At a global level the situation is still very, very serious but the pattern of the disease and the trajectory of the virus is very different in different parts of the world right now," he said.

"What we're learning is that it is possible to get this disease under control and it is possible to begin resuming normal economic and social life, with a new way of having to do that, and with extreme caution and vigilance."

However, some countries in Africa and in central and South America are still seeing "an upwards trajectory in cases" and although they may not appear to have a big problem yet, the availability of tests remains an issue, Ryan added.

More than 3.44 million people have been reported to be infected by the novel coronavirus globally and 243,015 have died, according to a Reuters tally as of Sunday.

Infections have been reported in more than 210 countries and territories since the first cases were identified in China in December.

"We're in the middle of the fight of our lives - all of us around the world," Ryan said. "There's going to be a significant and extended risk until we reach a point where we have a safe and effective vaccine available to all."

Ryan said some countries, including China, South Korea, Singapore, New Zealand and others, had reached what he described as "a steady state" with regard to the spread of COVID-19.

Meanwhile Europe and North America are beginning to emerge from "very intense epidemics" of the disease and are now trying to navigate a safe exit from severe restrictions on economic and social activities imposed in the past few months, he said.

After months of severe lockdown, people in Italy and Spain were starting to enjoy a little more freedom on Sunday. Israel has opened some schools, while South Korea said it would further relax social distancing rules from May 6, allowing a phased re-opening of businesses.

Ryan said this showed "not that the virus can be beaten absolutely, but that we can reach a point where we have enough control over the virus that our social and economic lives can begin again".

He reiterated, however, that any government seeking to relax restrictions should do so with extreme caution.

The WHO warned on Friday that countries must lift lockdowns gradually, while still being "on the look-out" for COVID-19 and ready to restore restrictions if the virus jumps back.

Coronavirus: Aer Lingus review after packed flight complaint

By Kelly Bonner
BBC News



Aer Lingus has said it is reviewing procedures on its Belfast to London flights following a claim it was not observing social-distancing measures.

Passenger Sean Mallon took photos on a flight to Heathrow on Monday, showing most passengers sitting close together. Almost every seat was occupied and there was "no social distancing whatsoever," said Mr Mallon.

Aer Lingus said safety was its "top priority" and any necessary changes would be implemented urgently.

The coronavirus crisis has seen all flights suspended, apart from two London services operating from Belfast City and City of Derry airports.

Mr Mallon, who was travelling to England for work, said airline staff did not offer any guidance on social distancing before or during Monday morning's flight, and passengers were allowed to take their seats as normal.

Passengers were not offered hand sanitiser or told of any extra safety measures as they boarded the plane, said Mr Mallon. The only advice they were given was a reminder to wash their hands after landing.

[READ MORE](#)

By The Guardian

Japan is set [to extend its state of emergency](#) to at least the end of May, over fears that a second wave of coronavirus transmission could overwhelm hospitals in the capital, Tokyo.

Charities are [struggling to support the poor](#) and marginalised groups amid **Spain's** crippling lockdown, in a country that had still not entirely recovered from the 2008 economic crisis.

Italy's lockdown – the longest so far in Europe – is easing at last. The Guardian spoke to Italian medics, survivors and others about [how the coronavirus experience has changed them](#), and their country.

A hospital in **France** has discovered that it treated a man with Covid-19 [as early as 27 December](#), after retesting old samples from pneumonia patients.

A **Singaporean** sailor has been rescued by the navy in Fiji after spending [three months stranded at sea](#), with ports continually turning him away due to their coronavirus closures.

In **Chile**, the lockdown halted six months of street protests, but the disease has only [served to highlight the inequalities](#) the unrest was intended to address, as John Bartlett reports from Santiago.

Russia reports the number of new coronavirus cases has risen by 10,102 over the past 24 hours compared with 10,581 the previous day, according to its coronavirus crisis response centre. The country's tally now stands at 155,370. It also reported 95 new deaths from Covid-19, meaning 1,451 have died in total.

UK coronavirus death toll rises to highest in Europe

BY Matthew Weaver and Nicola Davis.
The Guardian

The UK now has the highest death toll in Europe from coronavirus after new official figures revealed that **more than 32,000 people** have died from the virus.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) said 29,648 deaths had taken place by 27 April in England and Wales with Covid-19 mentioned in death certificates.

With the addition of deaths in Scotland and Northern Ireland, this takes the UK's death toll to 32,313, according to calculations by Reuters.

[READ MORE](#)

At least a million people have recovered from the coronavirus

The Guardian



A teacher holds an outdoor class in Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark, where primary schools reopened more than two weeks ago.

Some better news: more than [a million people worldwide are now known to have recovered](#) from Covid-19, according to data from Johns Hopkins University.

South Korean health officials said on Thursday that a flurry of apparent reinfections were in fact a result of testing faults, providing reassurance that those who recover are most likely immune to reinfection.

Denmark and the Czech Republic have eased lockdowns [without a fresh spike in infections](#).

Nigeria reopens major cities. Lockdown restrictions will be relaxed as of Monday in Nigeria's capital, Abuja, and its largest city, Lagos. The country has been under lockdown for more than four weeks and it will be lifted in phases over six weeks.

The cities will be under the same restrictions as the rest of the country, including an overnight curfew, mandatory face masks and a ban on non-essential interstate travel.

It has reported that 2,558 people have Covid-19 and 87 people have died of the virus since recording its first case at the end of February.

Sicily to subsidise post-Covid holidays as Italy considers reopening to tourists

By Antonia Wilson
The Guardian



Cefalù, Sicily's regional government is offering to subsidise holidays on the island for both domestic and international visitors in an effort to kickstart tourism after the coronavirus pandemic.

A financial pot of [€75m of regional government money](#) has been set aside to boost tourism following huge financial losses after the lockdown came into effect across Italy on 10 March.

Current plans include subsidising visitors' accommodation costs, offering one night of a three-night trip for free, or two nights of a six-day trip, as well as vouchers for cultural and heritage activities.

[READ MORE](#)

UGANDA The Guardian

Uganda began to loosen one of Africa's strictest anti-coronavirus lockdowns on Tuesday after president Yoweri Museveni declared the infection "tamed", reports Reuters.

The country of 42 million reported 97 confirmed cases and no deaths in 45 days of restrictions, and Museveni said it was now better equipped to trace and detect new infections faster.

"We have somehow tamed the virus," Museveni said in a televised address late on Monday. "It is high time we ... start slowly and carefully to open up, but without undoing our achievements."

Uganda, alongside neighbouring Rwanda, had some of Africa's strictest lockdown measures, including the shuttering of all but absolutely essential businesses, dusk-to-dawn curfews, and bans on both private and public transport vehicles. Businesses including hardware shops, restaurants, wholesale stores and others will now be allowed to reopen.

Public transport and most private vehicles would still remain prohibited, however – meaning that workers for reopened businesses will have to commute either by bicycle or on foot. Schools and international borders were to remain shut. After a 14-day period, Museveni said, authorities will announce the next level of reopening.

Covid-19 infections and fatalities reported across Africa have been relatively low compared with the United States, parts of Asia and Europe. However, [Africa](#) also has extremely low levels of testing, with rates of only around 500 per million people.

Malaria 'completely stopped' by microbe

By James Gallagher
Health and science correspondent
BBC



Scientists have discovered a microbe that completely protects mosquitoes from being infected with malaria.

The team in Kenya and the UK say the finding has "enormous potential" to control the disease.

Malaria is spread by the bite of infected mosquitoes, so protecting them could in turn protect people.

The researchers are now investigating whether they can release infected mosquitoes into the wild, or use spores to suppress the disease.

Israel claims "significant breakthrough" in Covid-19 treatment

By Oliver Holmes
The Guardian

Israel's defence minister has claimed researchers in the country have made a "significant breakthrough" in a possible treatment for Covid-19 patients.

Naftali Bennett said the Israel Institute for Biological Research (IIBR) developed antibodies – proteins that help the immune system to fight infection – that "can neutralise (the coronavirus) inside carriers' bodies."

Bennett had visited the IIBR on Monday where he was briefed "on a significant breakthrough in finding an antidote for the coronavirus", his office said in a statement. The treatment was currently being patented, and the IIBR was looking to mass-produce it.

It was not clear what timeframe for the treatment being widely available was, or if animal or human trials were due to be conducted.

The announcement follows a similar study by researchers in the Netherlands, who [said on Monday](#) that they had developed an antibody that can kill the virus within a lab setting.

Roughly 100 other research groups around the world are currently pursuing vaccines, which would provide immunity from infection.

What is this microbe?

The malaria-blocking bug, Microsporidia MB, was discovered by studying mosquitoes on the shores of Lake Victoria in Kenya. It lives in the gut and genitals of the insects.

The researchers could not find a single mosquito carrying the Microsporidia that was harbouring the malaria parasite. And lab experiments, [published in Nature Communications](#), confirmed the microbe gave the mosquitoes protection.

Microsporidias are fungi, or at least closely related to them, and most are parasites.

However, this new species may be beneficial to the mosquito and was naturally found in around 5% of the insects studied.

How big a discovery is it?

[READ MORE](#)

ENVIRONMENT TOPICS AROUND THE GLOBE



Whales are thriving in oceans without cruise and container ship traffic

By Lonely Planet

While humans are chafing under stay-at-home orders and national lockdowns nearly five months after the COVID-19 pandemic began, wildlife are having a whale of a time – quite literally. A reduction in container and cruise ship traffic has provided a holiday of sorts for vulnerable cetaceans, and an opportunity for scientists to learn more about how marine noise pollution impacts ocean species.



[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Take 3 pieces of rubbish with you when you leave the beach, waterway or ... anywhere and you have made a difference

Take 3 is a non-for-profit organisation which aims at reducing plastic pollution in our oceans and promote the circular economy through education and participation.

THEIR STORY

Wherever we are, we are connected to the sea. The ocean provides us with the oxygen we breathe and the climate that sustains us. We need a healthy ocean for our own survival.

Plastic pollution is killing wildlife, devastating oceans and threatening the health of our planet. Plastic represents a disconnection. It's a material designed to last forever that we often use only once. Poorly managed plastic leaks into the sea.

The ocean is downhill from everywhere.

Through education that inspires participation, **Take 3** is building a global movement of people who are connected to the planet.

Take 3 believes in simple actions to address complex problems.

How can we stop plastic pollution from killing wildlife and suffocating our planet?

In 2009, two friends set about answering this question. Marine ecologist, Roberta Dixon-Valk and youth educator, Amanda Marechal developed **Take 3** – an idea where a simple action could produce profound consequences. Joining forces with environmentalist, Tim Silverwood, the trio publicly launched Take 3 as an organisation in 2010.

[READ MORE](#)



SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT

Written by: Stephan Pöltner

I herewith reveal the best kept secret of French Cuisine and the real reason why French Cuisine is considered one of the best cuisines in the world:

In France you go for supper to a restaurant rather late, meaning if you come before 9pm you are already classified as a foreigner, or even worse: as Non-French.



If you nevertheless manage to get hold of a menu you are in for the next obstacle. It takes you, even if you are fluent in the French language, quite some time to read a page per meal and after you have finished the book you most probably forget what you read right at the beginning.

You simply give in and ask the waiter to bring you something to eat, because if you insist on placing your order in French and your French is not perfect you might end up with a crocodile steak in peppermint sauce (poor crocodile).

In addition, French restaurants are normally quite expensive and besides having then to eat the crocodile steak you thought was 'chateau briand a la president de la grand Republique Francaise' you might also have to use all your savings to pay the bill.

The people sitting at the tables next to you are already looking at you because your stomach is making funny noises which you are trying to avoid by having more than one Pernod (a very delightful French aperitif) and when your meal, carrying a name with not less than seventeen words, finally arrives you eat with a voracious appetite because you are starving.

You will declare that the 'pommes de terre en robe de chambre' you just had are the best you ever had, even if they are nothing else than ordinary unpeeled boiled potatoes, the unbeatable proof of the old saying 'hunger is the best cook'.

By declaring that the food you just had was the best you ever had, you'll be declared a 'citoyen / citoyenne de la Grande Nation Française', a citizen of the Great French Nation.



...even if it is only temporary.

Stay safe, healthy and take care.

Till next time....

Tanya