

# Evolution of firefighting!

We know we've come a long way with technology, but sometimes looking at the past while looking at the present really puts things into perspective. That's why the Rotary Club of Rustenburg hosted a Fire Awareness project on Wednesday, 24 May 2017, at Fields College in Rustenburg. Firefighting way-back-when was a very different affair. In the Victorian era the only means of transporting the manual engine to the scene of the fire was either by horse or by

brute man power. In South Africa, the need for a fire brigade in Johannesburg began prior to 1900 when gold was discovered and the town became a mining town. Apart from the engine, the fire brigade also had wagons, as seen in the photo. This they would use to transport fire fighters and equipment such as shovels and buckets. The Rotary Club of Rustenburg showcased a fire wagon

from the Anglo Boer War period, courtesy of Kedar Heritage Lodge, as well as one of the latest fire engines of the Rustenburg Fire Brigade. This fire engine is a Mercedes Benz which has the capacity to transport 10 000 litres of water, more commonly known as a 'rescue pumper'.

Rustenburg Fire Brigade contact numbers:  
014 590 3333 / 3444 / 3232!



From left: Sonia de Ponte and Elisma Nel, both teachers; Robert Forsyth of Kedar Heritage Lodge; Claire Schutte (teacher); and Wilma Lig, Rustenburg's Rotary Club.

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From left: Mannie Grobler of Anton's Towing; Johan Rossouw and Shirley Molefe, both of the Rustenburg Fire Department; Wilma Lig and Hussein Saidoo, both of the Rustenburg's Rotary Club; Dr. Amanda Agathagelou, president of the Rustenburg's Rotary Club; Anton Meerkotter, past district governor of Rotary; Cindy Hales, a teacher at Fields College; Arlene Holding, principle of Fields College; and Themba Mahleka of Kedar Heritage Lodge.

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