



Editorial

Crop Circles – How do they form?

Vol 78, No 23

19 March 2026

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March in Rotary

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
Month

**Wynberg Rotary meets every
Thursday, 6 for 6.30pm,
Western Province Cricket
Club.**

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In 1966, an Australian farmer saw a UFO take off over a swamp on his land. When he went to investigate what it was, he didn't find a flying saucer, but instead circular patterns flattened in the reeds and grass around the swamp. When investigators showed up, they said it was likely caused by a dust devil or waterspout, not quite as exciting as a UFO. Despite the boring diagnosis, the press referred to the site as a "flying saucer nest," and the story took off from there.

For the next few decades, crop circles started to mysteriously show up in fields around the world, most of them in the English countryside. Simple circles started appearing in the '70s and became more complex until they reached a peak in the '90s. Simple circles could be easily explained with odd weather phenomena, but the more complex they got, the harder it became to explain.

The most complex crop circle came in 1996 in England right across from the famed ancient monument Stonehenge, which has its own alien-related history. This circle was formed to depict a Julia Set, a complex mathematical function. Because of its complexity, it could not be passed off as being created by the weather. Someone (or something) intelligent had to be behind its creation.



Some people truly believe that aliens are behind these agricultural patterns. Theories range from UFO landing/takeoff sites to intergalactic lasers. There are even videos of aliens supposedly creating crop circles within seconds. One interesting theory involves crop circles left as messages to the human race from aliens or even time travelers. Despite the many hoaxers that have come forward taking credit for creating crop circles, there are still many people that believe in more alien origins.

There are also other theories claiming that energies from Earth are behind the formation of crop circles. It is believed by some that geomagnetic activity flowing through Earth can cause crops to flatten in certain patterns. Others believe that crop circles are formed by spiritual forces such as sacred sites or buried artifacts.

A Manmade Explanation?



While the alien theories are fun to read about, the truth is far less exciting. Over 80% of crop circles have conclusively been proven to be created by a hoaxer: a person whose goal is to confuse people and make them believe in aliens. Even the 1996 Julia Set, which was believed by many to be too complex for the average hoaxer, was proven to be a fake when the culprits eventually came forward.

Manmade crop circles are made using measuring tools and a garden roller, both of which can be found in almost any hardware store. There are even instructions online to show you how to “create your own crop circle and mystify your neighbours!” The more well-versed in complex mathematical shapes you are, the more attention your crop circle will get.

It’s no surprise that most crop circles form right off major highways or in fields with easy-access roads. If they were created by alien spaceships, they would be able to form even in the most desolate places. According to all scientific knowledge and research, crop circles are nothing more than agricultural graffiti.

Source: Trivia Genius

Submitted by Barry Cleveland.

Minutes of last week's meeting

Date: 12 March, 2026

Compiled by Stacy Edwards

<i>Attendance</i>	<p>13 members present Guests: Caroline and Wendy from the Thula Baba project</p>
<i>Fellowship</i>	<p>A lot of weddings took place in March over the years so in chronological order: 11 March – Frank and Lisa 15 March – Candice and Scot 18 March – Stacy and James as well as Justin and Ruth Happy anniversary to all of the still happy couples Then, many happy returns to Colin Bird for his 81st birthday on the 19th, please do share your secret of how you remain looking so young.</p>
<i>From the President's chair</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A few dates to note in the diary: PR workshop will be taking place on 28 March 2026 The District Conference is scheduled for the weekend of 30 April 2026 Bergvliet High School will be hosting of a celebration of Youth Day within Rotary by holding a social on 11 April from 11h00 to 13h00 for Interact, Rotaract and RotaryHappy birthday to Rotaract who celebrate their birthday on 13 March dating all the way back to 1968.
<i>Member's moments</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">After leaving the start line at 7h15, Stacy crossed the finish line of the 109km Cape Town Cycle Tour 6 hours, 23 minutes and 31 seconds later. There were some stops along the way to stand in queues for the WC, refill water bottles and receive some much-needed physio for a shoulder muscle spasm after cresting Chapman's Peak. This Scribe would like to take advantage of doing the minutes to sincerely and humbly thank the Rotary Clubs of Claremont and Wynberg as well as various members of Wynberg for the wonderful support, which resulted in a total of R 31 000 being sponsored which goes directly to the Cape of Good Hope SPCA.
<i>Slots</i>	<p>Barry – PP Brian Dalton sent correspondence to WRC to communicate that he is no longer serving on the Board of MOT but would like to thank the Board and members of Wynberg for their work and efforts in securing a Global Grant for MOT. This amounted to \$25 629, which will make a huge impact at False Bay College + a new high school.</p> <p>Graham – all is on schedule for Proms, the manpower lists have been sent to all members – PLEASE NOTE WHERE YOU ARE WORKING. The programme of events is looking good, don't forget your whistles. There are still 154 seats available for Saturday evening. Thank you to all of those who marshalled for the CT Cycle Tour, the amount raised for the club was R7200.</p> <p>Dave – please let Dave know ASAP if there are any issues with regards to manpower. All working at the Proms must be there 2 hours before the performances. This means report for duty at 16h00 on Saturday, 21 March and at 15h00 on Sunday, 22 March. Dress code is Rotary or white shirt and black trousers.</p>
<i>Speakers</i>	<p>Dave introduced our speakers who were the recipients of some of the baby clothing that was bought and distributed last year.</p> <p>Wendy and Caroline informed the club that Thula Baba was started 8 years ago. One of the driving factors that played a role in Thula Baba's formation was the rape and murder of Franziska Blöchliger as the question of how babies grow up to become criminals was driven home by this tragic event. An interesting fact is that 50% of children entering the school system are not ready for school.</p> <p>Thula Baba decided to target clinics, safe houses and charities to work with mothers who come to the clinics to bond with their babies. One of the ways of incentivising the mothers to return to the clinic and</p>

continue care and bonding is to give them baby packs with nappies, a homemade toy, books, clothing etc.

They also have appointed Thula Aunties from the community who encourage expectant moms to enrol in a 10-week antenatal class. To date, Thula Baba has assisted 14 000 mothers and babies.

Dave thanked the speakers for their great work and for their fascinating talk.

Swindle

Wendy drew ex-Swindler, Graham's name 🙄. Sadly, for him, he drew the 6 of hearts (ah shame). Frank won the R20 consolation prize.

Presidential Quote

On this day in:

1918 – The capital of Russia moved from Petrograd to Moscow.

1930 – Ghandi began his 200-mile protest against the salt tax.

1994 – 34 female priests were ordained by the Anglican church.

Duty Roster

	19 March	26 March	2 April	9 April	16 April
	<i>Proms planning</i>	<i>Business meeting</i>	<i>No meeting</i>	<i>Business meeting</i>	
Sergeant	Overbosch	Schreiber		Lunt	Jackson
Minutes	Thomas	Barnard D		Cleveland	Edwards
Wynpress editorial	Edwards	Jackson		Klotz-Gleave	Lunt
Grace	Murphy	Overbosch		Schonegevel	Schreiber
Loyal toast	Barnard D	Barnard K		Bird	Cleveland
International toast	Thomas	Todd		Van Heyningen	Barnard D

Dates to Diarise

19 March	NB Proms planning meeting.
21+22 March	Last Night of the Proms, Cape Town City Hall.
16 April	TBA
23 April	Petrus Marais from the Alta du Toit Centre for intellectually disabled adults.

Tailpiece (with Proms just around the corner):

NEW MUSIC TERMS

ALLEREGRETTO: When you're 16 measures into the piece and suddenly realize you set too fast a tempo.

ANGUS DEI: To play with a divinely beefy tone.

A PATELLA: Accompanied by knee slapping.

APPROXIMATURA: A series of notes, not intended by the composer, but played with an 'I meant to do that' attitude.

APOLOGGIATURA: A composition that you regret playing.

APPROXIMENTO: A musical entrance that is somewhere in the vicinity of the correct pitch.

DILL PICCOLINI: An exceedingly small wind instrument that plays only sour notes.

FERMANTRA: A note held over, and over, and over, and over.....

FIDDLER CRABS: Grumpy string players.

FLUTE FLIES: Those tiny insects that bother musicians on outdoor gigs.

FRUGALHORN: A sensible and inexpensive brass instrument.

GREGORIAN CHAMP: The title bestowed upon the monk who can hold a note the longest.

PLACEBO DOMINGO: A faux tenor.

SPRITZICATO: An indication to string instruments to produce a bright and bubbly sound.

TEMPO TANTRUM: What an elementary school orchestra is having when it's not following the conductor.