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D9930 Governor
 Paul Wright

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 Bob Allison
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 Martin Kinder
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 Community:
 Ray Bloomfield
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 Bryce Dunn
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 Don Macfarlane
 Vocational:
 Peter Faulkner
 Membership:
 Peter Spurdle
 Fellowship:
 Peter Spurdle
 Welfare:
 Katrina Allison
 Bulletin:
 Margriet Theron
 Programme:
 Garth Wilson
 Sergeant:
 Denis Marriner
 Perry Stevens
 Publicity:
 Kevin O'Connor
 Webmaster:
 Tony Baker

Meetings on
 Mondays at 12.30 pm
 (except public
 holidays)
 Sudima Hotel
 1000 Eruera Street
 Phone 07 348 1174
 to apologise if unable
 to attend.

Rotary Club of Rotorua

Monday, 4 May 2015

President's Pen



The two-week trip to Japan is over and it's back to work! Thanks to Barry and Ann for running the two Monday meetings in my absence.

Japan is a fascinating country to visit. With a population of 127 million and a land area of 364,000 km² (NZ=267,000 km²) there is a lot of people. However, the Japanese have perfected the mass movement of people with their public transport system (buses and particularly trains) that run with clockwork precision. Bullet trains link the major cities at very regular intervals and travel at 300 kph. Japan has an ageing and falling population but has not encouraged immigration. Fewer than 2% of the population is non-Japanese.

The Japanese are friendly, courteous, tidy and well-presented. They show respect to others. Public areas like parks, streets and train stations are clean and tidy with no graffiti or rubbish. In our travels, including in some packed trains at 11.00 pm, we never observed any signs of aggressive behaviour. Drivers obeyed the road rules and pedestrians would not cross on a red traffic light signal. We saw no sign of the driver behaviour we regularly see here. It was cherry blossom time and the parks were full of people having picnics. Despite there being no rubbish bins in the parks there was no litter, bottles or cans left behind. We can learn a lot from the Japanese!

We were able to stay in traditional Japanese inns (sleeping and eating on the floor) experience the onsens (Japanese baths), attend a dinner with our daughter's Japanese work mates from Suntory, wander the suburban streets around our daughter's apartment, attend a Rotary meeting and visit a Japanese girl who stayed with us as a student almost 20 years ago and meet her family.

The Rotary meeting at the Takatsu South Rotary Club was an experience. We were well received and I was given 10 minutes to speak about Rotorua and our Club. It was very formal – suits and ties. With only 18 members they employ a part-time administrator three days a week to look after Club affairs!!

With the weak yen to NZ dollar, Japan is not expensive, so it's worth putting it on your list of places to visit.

President Russell

Notices and reminders

High School Speech Contest: Monday, 4 May 2015 at 6 pm

The topic for this year's Speech Contest is "Gallipoli and the ANZAC Legend: What does this mean to New Zealand?" This evening meeting will be held at the Sudima Hotel at 6 for 6.30 pm. The meeting will start with the speeches by the contestants from the High Schools, followed by dinner which will be \$20 per person. Please let Sergeant Denis Marriner know if you plan to bring friends and family members along to this very topical event. The organiser of the Speech Contest, Don Macfarlane, has asked the Club members who will be hosting the schools to be at the Sudima Hotel by 5.45 pm. Amanda Gordon LLB, Crown Solicitor for Rotorua, will be the adjudicator.

Civic Bonding: Friday, 1 May 2015 at 5.30 pm at the RSA

Please support the local RSA by coming to our Club's Civic Bonding at the RSA Building at 5.30 pm on Friday, 1 May 2015.

PP Todd Mountfort appointed as AG for Area 5 for 2016/17

Assistant Governor for Area 5 of Rotary International District 9930, Past-President Richard Evans, is pleased to announce that Past-President Todd Mountfort of Rotorua West has been appointed as Assistant Governor for Area 5 with effect from 1 July 2016. Congratulations to Todd from the members of the Rotary Club of Rotorua.

Rotary Club of Rotorua golf tournament

Past-President Richard Pryce reminds members of the golf tournament that will take place on 14 June 2015, starting at noon. Please support this event, and invite friends and family to join you for a round of golf on the day.

Birthday wishes

Happy Birthday to:

- Joy Hampson (7 May)



Governor Nominee for 2017/18

In accordance with our District Guidelines and Rotary International By-Laws Article 13, District Governor Paul Wright, District Governor, has advised the Club that the District Nominating Committee met at Rotorua on 17 April 2015 to select the Governor Nominee to serve as Governor of District 9930 for the year 2017/18. The successful candidate is Past-President Leonie Tisch, nominated by the Rotary Club of Matamata. Any challenge to the selection must be in the hands of DG Paul by 3 May 2015 and must comply in all respects with the appropriate provisions of the Guidelines and By-Laws.

From the previous meeting

Quote from Barry Lane

You, the mother who sent their sons from far away countries, wipe away your tears. Your sons are now lying in our bosom and are at peace. After having lost their lives on this land, they have become our sons as well. – Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, First President of Turkey.

Guest speaker Past District Governor Bruce Scott

Bruce and his wife Janice celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by going on a trip to Russia in September 2014. As a James Bond fan he had, much earlier, bought the car registration plate RTD007 and he wanted to do a From Russia with Love trip. They went with friends on a 1,032 km, 17 locks and three

lakes canal trip from Moscow to St Petersburg, taking in Uglich, Yaroslav, and Goritsy. The Moscow Airport looks 1930s but much of the rest of the city is very modern. There were 140 passengers on the four-deck boat, with two restaurants and comfortable cabins with proper windows. He had not realised before that the Kremlin is a citadel, and that there are Kremains in many Russian cities. In Moscow the Kremlin is walled, with two palaces, offices, the Red Square where parades are held, and modern shopping malls. The Pokrovsky Cathedral is impressive with its decorated domes. In the VIP cemetery there are larger-than-life figures on the graves. The Moscow underground is very modern with chandeliers for lighting. During the cruise they were home hosted; the main wish of their hostess was: "Just to live here in peace". St Petersburg looks far more affluent than Moscow, with lots of gold and important paintings at St Catherine's Palace. They attended the ballet Swan Lake at the Hermitage Theatre and saw the Peterhof Palace outside of St Petersburg. Before departing they had to go to Wellington to get their visas.

Club speaker Tom Davies

Club speaker Tom Davies was a bit perturbed to find out that he, like most other people, might be losing his perfect eyesight in his mid-40s. The Kaharoa Trolley Derby raised about \$12,000 for the local school. Graigs Investment Partners has moved up from No 4 to No 2 in wholesale equities in New Zealand and has a new funds management team. The firm has bought 40% of a securities business with a team of 40 advisers in Australia. Tom believes that the NZ management should remain focused on the New Zealand business.

Duty roster

If you cannot do your rostered duty, please arrange a replacement and advise

Sergeant Denis Marriner on 027 478 3106 or denis@dawson.co.nz

Club speakers to advise Margriet on theronm@yahoo.com if they require the data projector.

	4 May 2015 at 6 for 6.30 pm	11 May 2015 at 12.15 for 12.30 pm
Guest Speaker	High Schools Speech Contest: "Gallipoli and the ANZAC Legend: What does this mean to New Zealand?"	Carol Fisher, Chairman of Community Rotorua: "Stone Soup Food Van – doing business, doing good."
Introduction	Don Macfarlane	Robin Findon
Vote of thanks	President Russell	Garth Wilson
President's table	Peter Faulkner	Allen Foote
Club speaker	-	Bryce Dunn
Fellowship and badges	John Heaton	Tony Hill
Quote of the week	Denis Marriner	Ian McDowell
Fining officer	-	Kierin Irvine
Committee report	-	Peter Faulkner

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Noon on Wednesdays

Phone 347 7211 or 021 172 9697; email: theronm@yahoo.com