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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, 11 May 2015



President's Pen

Last Monday night at our Rotorua Secondary Schools Speech Contest we experienced first-hand the speaking ability of some of the fine young people from our local high schools. The topic was "Gallipoli and the ANZAC Legend: What does this mean to New Zealand?" They were all outstanding and the adjudicator, Amanda Gordon, had a difficult job deciding on the winner. Congratulations to the winner, **Jessie Witeri** from Western Heights High School.

The speech contest continued the focus on the commemoration of 100 years since the ill-fated landings on the Gallipoli peninsula, and on ANZAC Day, when we remember those who have served our country to protect the lifestyle we now enjoy. I attended the Dawn Service at Ohinemutu and was struck by the sheer number of people attending compared to previous years and in particular by the number of young people who had got out of bed, at a time they are probably unaccustomed to, to attend the service. I am sure their experience will only help grow the significance of ANZAC Day for New Zealanders. I am sure Club members will look forward to hearing first-hand from Martin and Maree Kinder when they return from Gallipoli.

The devastating earthquakes and the loss of life in Nepal on ANZAC Day demonstrate once again how vulnerable we are to these natural events. The widespread destruction of homes means that there is an urgent race on to provide shelter before the monsoon rains arrive in a matter of weeks. Rotary International has already responded by deploying Shelterboxes and other emergency kits to Nepal but are urgently in need of more resources. Our Club has sponsored a Shelterbox each year for a number of years now and we will be asking for your generous support this coming Monday to fund another Shelterbox to assist the people of Nepal in their time of need.

President Russell

Notices and reminders

International Youth Exchange student Carmen Schöberl

Carmen Schöberl from Austria has been in touch with me as Louw and I will be one of her host families during her year in Rotorua in 2015/16. She is excited about her trip to New Zealand. Although the family has holidayed in various European countries and in Turkey, Carmen has not travelled away from home on her own before. I have reassured her mother Mel that our Club is very experienced in looking after international youth exchange students. Tony Baker has put Carmen on the email circulation list for the Bulletin, so this is our first opportunity to say: "Welcome, Carmen. We hope that you will have a wonderful year in Rotorua and New Zealand." – Margriet Theron, Bulletin Editor.

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:

- Judi Donnell (11 May)
- Necia Marriner (15 May)



From the previous meeting

Quotes from Denis Marriner

Mankind must put an end to war before war puts an end to mankind – John F Kennedy.

War does not determine who is right – only who is left – Bertrand Russell.

Guest speakers: competitors in the High Schools Speech Contest

The inspired topic for the Speech Contest, chosen by Immediate Past-President Barry Lane, was: "Gallipoli and the ANZAC legend: What does it mean to New Zealand?" The evening and the competition were very ably organised by Don Macfarlane.

Rebecca Colby from John Paul College started off by speaking as if she were at ANZAC Cove. She landed yesterday; the gunfire never ceases; there are wounded all about the beach. She was born 100 years after the 17-year old New Zealanders who fought there. They had a very strong sense of purpose. Gallipoli did not have a big impact on the outcome of World War One, but it has become a prominent event in our history, showing the independence of two young countries: Australia and New Zealand. Now we remember all New Zealanders lost in wars on 25 April each year. Although her reality is very different from those of the young soldiers, they all share a pride in being New Zealanders.

Rawiri Manley from Rotorua Boys' High School opened his talk with a waiata and talked about being reminded of the meaning of ANZAC Day by his kaumatua. Ancient empires were toppled during World War One. As a 17-year old he finds it difficult to speak about death and suffering; we live very far away from war. He finds it hard to imagine a world where the keyboard does not rule. We honour those who fell for us; they had fought for their loved ones, and their lives will live on in our hearts. We are grateful for their valiant efforts. We will remember them.

Montana Mareroa from Rotorua Girls' High School started off with a chant. Words such as those covered the mass of uniformed men like a cloak of aroha. We can all find a connection to those who fought for King and country. She remembered the men who now lie in foreign soil and repeated the words of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, First President of Turkey: "You, the mothers 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.” During the WWI, women stepped up when one-fifth of the workforce was involved in the war effort. By greeting the dawn on ANZAC Day she ensures that she will not forget the sacrifices made.

Bianca Rogers-Mott from Rotorua Lakes High School said that the fight between the ANZACs and the Turks contributed to the stubborn nature of New Zealanders. We have carried their spirit through the last century. Our country was born from the shafts of strife and war. Having fought for our freedom, we stand up every time we are pushed down; we have developed Kiwi ingenuity; and we stand by our team. Kiwis overcome every hardship we face; she used the rowers Eric Murray and Hamish Bond as examples of New Zealanders with a can-do attitude, facing and overcoming struggles. Sam Johnson is another example: having organised the Student Volunteer Army after the Christchurch earthquake, he is now helping in Nepal. The ANZAC spirit lives on.

Jessie Witeri from Western Heights High School sang part of the marching song of the 28th Maori Battalion: “Maori Battalion march to victory/Maori Battalion staunch and true/Maori Battalion march to glory/Take the honour of the people with you.” For her, the ANZAC Legend no legend; it is very real. It is about going away to die for people you love; it is about our ties to Australia; about the soldiers who do come home after war. ANZAC Day is a day to remember loved ones. For her sister it is the joy of ANZAC biscuits. It is the relationship she has with her teacher from Turkey. It is about making poppies for a friend. It is her time of remembrance. During Gallipoli we served under the British Empire; today there are still strong ties with Australia and the UK. She ended with an extract from a poem:

*Fathers, sons and brothers, together they fought and died
That we may live in peace together, while at home their mothers cried,
When that final bugle calls them to cross that great divide
Those comrades will be waiting when they reach the other side.*



Adjudicator Amanda Gordon congratulated all the participants, saying that whereas there was a clear winner last year, she had to add up her scores carefully this year to decide on a winner. Little separated the top three contestants. In all of them, she was impressed by the confidence with which they spoke, and their poised delivery. She declared **Jessie Witeri from Western Heights High School** as the winner and commended her for the lightness of youth she had brought to the topic, and the emphasis she had placed on what ANZAC means to today's young people.

Left: Jessie Witeri from Western Heights High School with Mr Shannon Wrigley, Head of House for Pounamu, with the winning shield for the Rotary Club of Rotorua's High Schools Speech Contest.

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.

| | 11 May 2015 at 12.15 for 12.30 pm | 18 May 2015 at 12.15 pm for 12.30 pm |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Guest Speaker | Carol Fisher, Chairman of Community Rotorua: "Stone Soup Food Van – doing business, doing good." | Brain Gillespie, convener of the Rotorua U3A History Group: "The fascination of history." |
| Introduction | Robin Findon | Margriet Theron |
| Vote of thanks | Garth Wilson | Martyn Craven |
| President's table | Allen Foote | Jim Hampson |
| Club speaker | Bryce Dunn | Peter Faulkner |
| Fellowship and badges | Tony Hill | Kierin Irvine |
| Quote of the week | Ian McDowell | Karl Meyer |
| Fining officer | Martin Kinder | Barry Lane |
| Committee report | Peter Faulkner | Ray Bloomfield |

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Noon on Wednesdays

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