



Rotary Club of Rotorua

Monday, 23 November 2015



President's Pen



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Tony Baker

I was encouraged by PP Russell Dale's report on the success of the Long Lunch last Friday, and the raising of \$90,000 for Rotorua charities. I was even more pleased that he allayed our fears that some of us (including myself) had of what it might have been. I endorse his suggestion that we give serious consideration to being involved with this project next year.

The attacks on Paris have stayed with me throughout the week – absolutely horrific. And yet I believe that they were a part of a carefully thought out strategy. I was watching the news on Thursday morning and saw that the French Police had raided an apartment looking for suspected terrorists and during the fracas a woman blew herself up.

I am fortunate not to have experienced war and find this difficult to comprehend. My heart goes out to the people of Paris, and at the same time I am so thankful to live in New Zealand.

The very fact that we are Rotarians declares that we value and respect all people. We measure what we do against the Four Way Test and as such are welcoming of all people. Please continue to hold the people of Paris in your thoughts and prayers as they struggle to come to terms with what has happened.

The other great tragedy this week – although on a different scale - was the sudden death of Jonah Lomu. I was shocked when I heard of his death on the radio. It was interesting to reflect on my response. It was almost as though I had suffered a personal loss. I was listening to a player who roomed with Jonah the first time he went to play in South Africa. After they had passed through customs in NZ, team members were spending up large in duty free, but Jonah bought 35 packets of lollies. When they arrived at their hotel in South Africa, Jonah opened his suitcase and had another 30 packets. His roommate started to warn him about what the dietician might say, but Jonah had bought those to give to the black South African children. I think everyone had an affinity with Jonah.

Despite these things, let us continue to serve our community in order to make it a better place for all

President Ray

Notices and Reminders

Christmas function

Katrina is organising the end-of-year function, to be held on the evening of Monday, 14 December 2015 at Rainbow Springs. The price will be \$55 per person which includes entrance to the park. Members can pay on the evening of the dinner. We will be able to use the big water slide until 5 pm, just in case you are feeling adventurous! At 9.30 pm there will be a free guided tour around the Kiwi House. Members can bring their own beverages but must take away the cartons, tins and bottles at the end of the evening.

Swim the Lake

Katrina reported that Paul Ellercamp from OceanSwims in Australia had been in touch with her, suggesting that the local Swim the Lake race becomes part of the OceanSwims series. There are six to eight swims in the series. The handicap system applied to times makes it possible for swimmers of all ages and either gender to compete on a level playing field. Prizes at the end of the series include trips to swim in Vanuatu (Espiritu Santo Swim Week in June), and in Fiji (the Mana Fiji SwimFest in October). One prize goes to the winner; the other to a random draw of qualifying swimmers. By becoming part of this series, the Swim the Lake event will receive extra promotion through the OceanSwims website and through their weekly email newsletters.

This is a great outcome after all the hard work by Katrina and the other volunteers!

Civic bonding

An informal get-together of members of the Club for a drink and a chat at 5.30 pm; this Friday at the CT Club in Moncur Drive.

Leave of absence

Noel Lamberton to 23 November 2015

Peter Spurdle to 7 December 2015

Birthday wishes

Happy Birthday to:

Jean O'Boyle (24 November)

Larissa Fullard (27 November)

Martin Kinder (28 November)



From the previous meeting

Quotes from John Heaton

The best argument against democracy is a five minute talk with a voter. - Winston Churchill.

I could not live without champagne; in victory I deserve it; in defeat I need it. - Winston Churchill.

Club speakers Leith Comer and Mercia-Dawn Yates

Leith and Mercia-Dawn gave a presentation on their new education initiative *Nga Pumanawa e Waru* which translates to The Eight Beating Hearts. It refers to the eight children of Chief Rangitahi from whom the Te Arawa are descended, brought together by a common ancestor. Leith is Executive Chairman of the Excel Rotorua Education Trust. They are fortunate to have received funding for this project through NEXT Foundation as there is no Government funding available. The aim of *Nga Pumanawa e Waru* is to bring a 21st Century focus on education. They will use best practice e-learning and teaching methodologies and collaboration between schools to improve educational outcomes for learners and whanau across all of Rotorua's schools. Maori students are 54% of the total roll. So far they have approached 48 schools, with 35 wishing to get actively involved in facilitating e-learning through the use of tablets and computers in 2015 /16. Various technology companies are also supportive of the project which aims to have all their students excelling in their education, at school and at home, supported by parents and the community. In particular, they wish to engage parents more in their children's learning. A long term goal is to have District-wide wi-fi with free access for students to share and collaborate in their learning experiences.

The symbol that *Ngā Pūmanawa e Waru* is a Cheeky E. It will be awarded to people, places and organisations which excel in the kaupapa.

Club Speaker Ian McDowell

Ian gave an update on the residential property market which is seeing the greatest activity since 2006, with no sign of slowing down. Many buyers are from out of town, including many from north of the Bombay Hills. Many appear to want to move to Rotorua, a healthy sign for the District. On a personal note, after carrying out Reserve Contribution valuations for the Rotorua Lakes Council for 48 years, Ian recently relinquished his Valuation Registration, but will continue to be involved in the real estate industry.

Duty roster

If you cannot do your rostered duty, please arrange a replacement and advise Sergeant Richard Pryce on 027 2765478 or rpryce@tomwake.co.nz

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

	23 November 2015 at 12.30 pm at the Sudima Hotel	30 November 2015 at 12.30 pm at the Sudima Hotel
Guest Speaker	Graham Fuller NZ Fire Service	Todd Mountford, Paul Harris Fellow
Introduction	Martin Kinder	President Ray
Vote of thanks	Allen Foote	Tom Davies
President's table	Russell Dale	Tom Davies
Club speaker	Dennis Neilson	Ann Nicholas
Fellowship/badges	Richard Fullard	Bruce Rykers
Quote of the week	Tony Hill	Kierin Irvine
Fining officer	Roger Willard	Richard Pryce
Committee report	Bruce Scott	Tony Baker

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Noon on Wednesdays

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