



Rotary Club of Rotorua

Monday, 14 December 2015



President's Pen

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D9930
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Tony Baker
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Tony Baker

There are lots of things that our members do that go under the radar, but one important thing occurred recently that I was able to assist with. This is not about me, but rather PP Margriet Theron. Margriet wears a number of hats in our community and one of them is Deputy Chair of the Geysir Community Foundation.

Two of the donors to the Foundation wanted to give some money to people with significant needs. Margriet contacted me, and I was able to give her the names of possible recipients. The donors agreed to fund these very specific needs and as a result they will make a HUGE difference in the lives of these families.

I wasn't aware that Margriet held that position. As I reflected on the impact of this gift, I also reflected on the fact that two members of our Club were involved. Margriet, I don't know if you realise the impact that this gift will have on these people, but it really is huge. THANK YOU.

I suspect that other members of our Club are involved in all sorts of work that we don't get to hear about. I also know that generally Kiwis don't like to promote themselves, but these are good-news stories that can go on our website or Facebook page. They will reflect the spirit of Rotary as well.

Please let us know about them.

We are creeping – no, running very quickly - towards Christmas. Not having been President before, I am uncertain if this is my last President's Pen before Christmas. In case it is, may I thank you for your contribution to Rotary and to our community this year and wish you and those you love a very merry Christmas.

God Bless

President Ray

Notices and Reminders

The Club's Christmas function

Date	Monday 14 December 2015
Venue	Wairere Café, Rainbow Springs
Time	6 pm
Cost	\$55 per person
Secret Santa Gift	Please bring a wrapped gift up to \$10 in value with the recipient's name on the wrapper. Please place your gift in Santa's Sack as you enter the café.
Drinks	You may bring your own beverages, but please take all empty cartons, tins and bottles home with you at the end of the evening.
More information	Please contact Katrina at katrinaallison23@gmail.com or on 027 6039784
Note	The member who took Bruce Rykers's name for the Secret Santa Gift, please contact Katrina who will organise a new recipient's name as Bruce is now not able to attend the dinner.

75 Years of Rotary in Rotorua

The book *75 Years of Rotary in Rotorua* written by Past President Gary Spence of the Rotary Club of Rotorua is now available in the archives pages of the Club's website. Click here:

<http://www.rotaryrotorua.org.nz/data/rotary-75year-book.pdf>

Birthday wishes

Happy Birthday to:

- Dennis Nielson (15 December)
- Katrina Allison (20 December)
- Toni Meyer (31 December)
- Bruce Rykers (3 January)
- Roger Willard (14 January)
- Allen Foote (15 January)
- Peter Spurdle (15 January)



From the previous meeting

Quotes from Martin Kinder

People who think they know everything are a great annoyance to those of us who do. - Isaac Asimov.

I stopped believing in Santa Claus when I was six. My mother took me to see him in a department store and he asked for my autograph. - Shirley Temple.

Club speaker Ann Nicholas

For the last six months Ann has been in either Opotiki or Whakatane assisting the District Councils with their District Plans for two to four days per week. She has also been helping Rotorua Lakes Council prepare responses to objections to their District Plan. With changes to the Resource Management Act being discussed, the need for the work and the cost (which for Whakatane alone is over \$2 million!) may be reduced in the future. Ann has also been travelling to Christchurch every four weeks to help look after her 96 year old mother. She also has two children living in Christchurch and a grandson and a granddaughter due in late January 2016.

Guest speaker Gray Mathias

Gray was our Club's first outgoing International Youth Exchange student in 1966. The Exchange was the greatest thing that could ever have happened and set him on a wonderful journey. He had been ably supported and prepared by Rotorua Boys' High School teacher Tom Teague. The airfare to Seattle was

about \$12,000 in today's money: by turboprop to Fiji, then 707 jet to Honolulu and then on to America. He was met by a very grim faced woman who turned out to be his host mother. Mr and Mrs Jenne were in their late 60s and very religious family. Grace averaged 6 to 7, and up to 13, minutes. Mrs Jenne drove a purple 1962 Plymouth Fury. Gray had to address the Rotary Club of Tacoma a week after he arrived: a room full of elderly grim-faced men with ties on; Gray thought they looked like the mafia. His school was Central Kitsap High School. He made lots of good friends and attended the school's 50-year reunion in August. He described new experiences like snow, basket ball and a great graduation party. He took Typing, something that has proved very useful in later life. He came across multi-choice examinations for the first time and came top in American History! On the trip home he spent two weeks in San Francisco, two weeks in Hollywood/Los Angeles, two days in Mexico City, and 10 days in Acapulco. Then back to shorts and long socks at Rotorua Boys' High School! Gray had considered farming but the IYE changed his views. After a short stint with Graham Kerr trying to set up an export business, he got a job in the AFFCO warehouse in Auckland handling butter - long hours but the pay was £100 a week. He then moved to Hellabys at £5.50 a week, assisting with the export of meat to the Pacific Islands. In 1974 he set up Mathias Meats, exporting first to the Pacific Islands and then to the world. After selling to AFFCO in the late 1990s he set up Horizon Meats, specialising in exporting cooked meats. In 2001 he set up Plan B, an IT company specialising in computer backup, currently with 700 significant NZ companies as clients. He and Chrissie live in Russell, mixing business, pleasure and charity work while maintaining his involvement in his long-time passion, motor racing.

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.

		11 January 2016 at 12.30 pm at the Sudima Hotel
Guest Speaker		Harold Holmes scholarship recipient
Introduction		Murray Patchell
Vote of thanks		President Ray
President's table		Tony Hill
Club speaker		John Powell
Fellowship/badges		Bruce Rykers
Quote of the week		Noel Lamberton
Fining officer	Paul Wilson	Bob Allison
Committee report	-	-

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Noon on Wednesdays

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