

I would like at first to acknowledge our very special guests tonight: Assistant Governor Todd Mountfort, the President of Rotorua Lakes Rotary Club Peter Fitchett and his wife Elizabeth, the President of Rotorua Sunrise, Maree Kinder and her husband Martin. Martin of course is also an important member of our club so Martin is doing double service tonight. President elect Noel Hill and Alice from Rotorua North Club, President Preston Moorcroft and Teena from Rotorua West Club, our special guests from Rotorua Girls High School, Laura Falconer with Darleen Roberts, Lyric Le Comte and Tiena Cassidy.

I would also like to introduce Dr John Moore a great friend and colleague who will be providing insights to us on forestry and what it may look like in the future

I also wanted to say a special thanks to Pam Dale for helping me today and also to a young woman who is most precious to me my daughter Rebecca. Rebecca has been masterminding tonight doing the planning and developing the collateral all from Wellington over the past few weeks.

As I stand here I must acknowledge that we stand on the shoulders of those who go before.

An important place therefore to begin is by acknowledging the substantial input the previous club directors and officers have made to the club over this last year.

Of course our leader was President Allen and I do want to acknowledge the work he has done.

Allen started us on a new journey in the beginning of the Rotary year leading to our move to this location, simplification of our processes and accepting that we had to manage our costs. Essentially we needed to live within our means.

We are also conscious that we do not take on these tasks without having an impact or indeed leaning heavily on the support at home. To that end it is appropriate that we all also acknowledge Juleen. Therefore on behalf of those present tonight I would like to present Juleen with some flowers as a tangible way of saying thank you on behalf of the Rotary Club of Rotorua

As I said before we started on our journey a year ago to refresh our approach within the club.

The key messages were:

- Live within our means
- Simplify
- Talk more about ourselves and what we do as a club and celebrate it
- Encourage more fellowship activities and those that support the community and can we do both at the same time fellowship and service the twin pillars of Rotary
- Work more with the other clubs in Rotorua
- Do stuff that we can invite others too – opening our doors to the wider community – who knows they may want to be part of us in the future – Margriet has kicked this off well with a meeting with the multicultural group on the 10th.
- And the biggest change of all move to a project base

This year we will take the next big steps.

Our challenge is to be relevant to our members and those who could be members.

The values of Rotary are still very relevant today but how those fit into our modern lives – there lies the challenge.

If you stand still the only way you can go is backward. Standing still is not an option.

I attended the Māori economic strategy hui about ten days ago. There were several futurists present talking about what will be influencing our lives, how we work, how we interact with others, how we are fed and so on.

It is exciting but also very scary for example:

- The world population is now 7.5 billion and by 2040 it will be 9 billion and by 2050 up to about 11 billion
- One third of the global population is under 18
- By 2040 New Zealand population is likely to be 6 million
- With those over 65 in New Zealand increasing from 700,000 to 1.4 million
- Our demographic will be about 50% Māori, Pacifica and of Asian descent
- Food is likely to be coming from urban farms
- Your beef is likely to come from a plant
- We have the rising gig employment phenomena. Remember the days when we had jobs for life, we then moved to a generation who expect 2 to 3 major career changes in their lives and now we have gig employment where people have short term jobs, part time jobs and often many at the same time. "I have a spare couple of hours might do an hour or so working for Mr Urbo".
- We don't talk about melting pots anymore but about rainbow populations
- There are now about 1 trillion sensors collecting data – cameras etc all connected to the net everything you do will be on record.
- Within ten years computer power will exceed brain power in capacity and speed – this takes machine learning to a new dimension.

On the brighter side

They now talk of Generation Z, technically innate (the millennials were only technology savvy) to when the language of technology is just another language you learn as you grow up. What was reassuring is that they are also strongly socially focused and community focused – we saw that with the student army. Perhaps there is hope for us yet.

And where do we sit in all this. How do we make our club relevant in the face of these changes? The twin pillars of service and fellowship are I believe as relevant as ever – but how we support these and work as a club that is where we must focus.

This year – was personally a very challenging year for me owing to the death of my wife. I won't dwell on this apart from saying the incredible role this club had in helping me, the new friends I have made and the opportunity it has given me to give something back into the community I am part of. That to me lived and breathed the values that is Rotary and this club.

Those are important values how do we sustain those in the face of our changing world?

I do not have the answers – the answers are within the club members and our mission is to continue to refresh our strategy. This will be a live topic over the year.

As for change most tangibly is our moving to a project based structure

- A smaller Board of Directors
- A distributed approach to how we operate – that is everyone will have a job to do – not simply being part of a committee. As you read the club directory you will all see that most of you are part of the Projects group.

I want to ensure we celebrate those amazing things we do – the young leaders speeches, the speech competitions, strengthen the connectivity we have with schools and so on.

How do we create activities or bring in speakers who have very wide and relevant appeal – events where our partners and friends would want to be part.

More activities where we can enjoy fellowship.

That is our collective task this coming year.

And now let me introduce the new or refreshed directors:

Martin Kinder who takes on the role of Administration Director that supports the treasury role and the critical service tasks.

Ann Nicholas – Projects Director - ensuring we have a full agenda and people tasked to make them happen.

Robyn Murphy - as Secretary

Richard Pryce as Membership Director

We also have those amazing people who make all the operational things happen

Tony Baker – man of many talents, archivist, historian and webmaster

Sergeant – **Barry Lane**

Welfare Officer – **Ray Bloomfield**

And of course our Immediate Past President Allen Foote – to bring in his wealth of experience and wisdom.

Please show your appreciation and acknowledgement of this group.

We will also be tapping a few others on the shoulder to undertake other tasks as this evolves.

With that I will close the meeting tonight and thank you for your support and attendance tonight.

Very best wishes

Russell Burton