



ROTARY CLUB OF ROTORUA (INC)
 Monday 16 February 2015

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 Gary C.K. Huang

D9930 GOVERNOR
 Paul Wright

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Welfare
 Katrina Allison
Bulletin
 Margriet Theron
 07 3477211
Programme
 Garth Wilson
Sergeant
 Denis Marriner
 Perry Stevens
Publicity
 Kevin O'Connor
Webmaster
 Tony Baker

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



President's Pen

Last Monday night's bring-a-friend or -colleague meeting with Geoff Williams, CEO of Rotorua Lakes Council as guest speaker, was very successful and there was a good buzz in the room. Well done to those who brought guests along to gain an insight into how Rotary works and what we do. Members of the Rotorua Lakes Club were also welcomed to our meeting and I have passed on our Club's thanks to President Henry van Twuiver for their support.

Club members have generously supported Katrina Alison in her attempt to swim 60 lengths or three kilometers in four hours in the Rotary/Swim Rotorua Swimathon this coming Sunday. Proceeds are going to End Polio. Good luck to Katrina with this.

The latest District Polio Plus newsletter notes that to date in 2015 there has been no reported cases of polio except in Pakistan. There has also not been a case of wild polio transmission in Nigeria since July 2014 and no other wild polio cases in Africa since August 2014. This shows the results of the huge efforts such as **immunising 20 million children in Nigeria every single month!** We estimate that the Kwik Kiwis cycling team's fundraising, with the 2:1 support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, supported the immunisation of 10,000 children. To date Rotarians have contributed more than US\$1.3 billion to the eradication campaign with the NZ contribution being NZ\$5.1 million since 1988.

Remember that the District Conference early bird registration closes on 28 February. After that the registration fee increases by \$35. To date our Club has three registrations. Let's support this and come along to what will be a great conference here in our home town.

We were concerned to hear of Murray Patchell's sudden illness last week but we now understand Murray is recovering well. We wish Murray a speedy recovery and extend our Club's best wishes to Helen and the family.

Regards

President Russell

Notices and reminders

Fishing tournament on Lake Tarawera

The Club is planning a fishing tournament on Lake Tarawera on Sunday, 8 March 2015. Kierin Irvine has found five boat owners (Bryce Dunn, Richard Pryce, Russell Dale, Bruce Rykers and Peter Faulkner) who can collectively take ten to twelve more members on the trip. Fishing will take place between 10 am and 4 pm followed by a barbecue and prize giving at Stony Point. Please contact Kierin on kj.irvine@hotmail.com for more information and to let him know if you will be taking part. Please copy your response to Peter Spurdle.

International Youth Exchange student hosts needed

Don Macfarlane is seeking one more host family for a student arriving from Austria in July 2015. Carmen Schobert, who will turn 16 in October 2015, speaks good English and has good health with no smoking or drinking habits. Louw and Margriet can host her in July and early August and then again in early 2016. Other periods have been covered. Please let Don know if you can host her in August/September.

Swim the Lake

15 March 2015. The Club will be looking for the support of members with boats.

Rotaract fundraising for SPCA and Hospice

24 February 2015 at Lone Star Restaurant: Happy Hour for a Cause. Drinks are \$6.50 each with \$1.50 to \$2 each going to the SPCA.

20 March 2015: Grape Expectations, a wine tasting competition. Venue to be confirmed. Teams of four; \$20 per team. Each team member to buy a bottle of wine. Each team gets three bottles of wine in brown numbered bags. Whoever wins the game gets the extra wine bottles. More instructions to come. Fundraiser for Rotorua Hospice.

No birthdays of Club members or partners for two weeks!

From the previous meeting

Quotes from Fergus Cumming

Don't blame anyone; the buck stops with the Chief Executive. – John D Rockefeller.

The hardness of the butter is directly proportional to the softness of the bread. – Steven Wright.

Club Speaker President Russell Dale

President Russell talked about the changes being made to the Club's annual programme. Evening meetings will be held from time to time, with keynote speakers from the sectors of greatest importance to Rotorua such as Maori business, forestry, agriculture, tourism and local government. The meeting held on 9 February 2015 was the first in this new series.

Guest Speaker Geoff Williams, CEO of Rotorua Lakes Council

Geoff Williams has been in his position as CEO of Rotorua Lakes Council for about 18 months and it was time to present a scorecard on how Rotorua is progressing against the Council's plans for Rotorua 2030 and Rotorua 2016. When he was appointed to his position he was nervous about buying a house in Rotorua and about the education and job opportunities for his daughter. Many business owners were also

worried about the Rotorua economy and some were considering relocating to Tauranga. There were concerns about the safety of residents and tourists in the town centre. Reports about giant rats in Kuirau Park added to the negative perceptions. The newly elected Mayor, Steve Chadwick, asked Councillors what they wanted to achieve and the 2030 and 2016 plans were developed. Revival of the inner city was a priority and there are positive signs: foot traffic has increased by 8%; there is much less talk about crime on streets; there is day parking for campervans near the Polynesian Spa; the sculpture trail has been created; Eat Street is going from strength to strength; there are new businesses in town; major events are being held including TRENZ (300 tourism operators displaying their products to 260 travel buyers and media), the Tarawera Ultramarathon (1,000 participants), the Local Government conference (with over 500 delegates from 78 local authorities) and Crankworx (five days of mountainbiking in Whakarewarewa Forest and at the Skyline Gravity Park – the world’s largest mountainbiking festival); and tourism operators are employing extra staff. Property values have not yet increased but the value of building consents over the past two months is up by 30% over the same period a year ago. Multimillion dollar investments are being planned for the next few years. It has been a difficult year for RLC. There are now 80 fewer staff; development contributions have been eliminated; and \$3.7 million has been saved over two years. Some debt will be retired this year by tight management of the capital works programme. Geoff is happy with his daughter’s schooling at John Paul College; his house has not yet increased in value; business owners are conservatively optimistic. For now, there are no further grand plans; this is a year to deliver on the existing plans. Rotorua is not simply surfing the wave of economic growth in New Zealand; other provincial towns are not growing in the same way. Confidence in the future is driving growth; iwi development is strong; bigger shops are replacing smaller ones in the town centre; spa city developments are being discussed; lakes water quality is improving; the stopping of the Trans Tasman flights is saving RLC \$1.5 million per year, and priority is now given to a direct flight to Queenstown; intersection refurbishments are happening; and small steps are being taken on the Wood First programme.

In thanking Geoff, Kierin Irvine announced that he and Janette have changed their retirement plans and now plan to stay in Rotorua.

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

	16 February 2015 at 12.15 pm	23 February 2015 at 12.15 pm
Guest Speaker	Captain Bernard Commons One Sailor’s Yarns	Alexis LewGor President, Multicultural Rotorua
Introduction	Tony Hill	Ally Gibbons
Vote of thanks	Kevin O’Connor	Margriet Theron
President’s table	Tony Baker	Ray Bloomfield
Club speaker	Russell Burton	Doug Clemens
Fellowship and badges	Martyn Craven	Fergus Cumming
Quote of the week	Tom Davies	Bryce Dunn
Fining officer	Peter Faulkner	Robin Findon
Committee report	Bryce Dunn, International	Don Macfarlane, Youth

BULLETIN DEADLINE: 5 pm Wednesdays
Phone 347 7211 or 021 172 9697; email: theronm@yahoo.com