



Rotary Club of Maungakiekie
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**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**



Monday 22nd of June 2026



June

ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS MONTH

"The foundation upon which Rotary is built is friendship; on no less firm foundation could it have stood"

Paul Harris

Apologies:

Paul Jenner(LOA), Rod Kestle, Tony Bradley,
George Varghese, Heather Latham,
Barry Stafford, Cat Levine, Brian Williams,
Bruce Verrall, George Arulanatham,

Update from Lloyd Albiston on the Te Papapa Primary School Community Garden Project.

The Club along with the Oke organisation helped both fund and construct a community garden at Te Papapa school about 3/4 years ago. Paul Dickson founder of Oke has given a report to my daughter Nicola who works at Fletcher Living (also involved in the original construction) The garden space has been well utilised by a community group called [Tamaki WRAP](#)

Report from Paul Dickson.

"Just as I was leaving our catch up, I got an update from Michelle and Alisi, who were at Te Papapa School this morning, where they replaced the tunnel house cover and fittings and brought it back to life. It's always pretty special seeing these spaces still being cared for and used years after the original working bee. And its Tamaki WRAP who has been working with the school over the past couple of years to make the most of the outdoor space."

Paul Dickson

Good EGG (Executive Go-Getter) & Founder Oke Charity

Meeting with Remuera Rotary Club.

A good attendance from Maungakiekie Rotary members, along with several guests, including representatives of other Rotary organisations from around the Pacific.

President Murray welcomed everyone to the special evening, especially those visitors from Pacific Island clubs or RYLA attendees.

Tonight's Guest Speaker:



Barbara Dreaver has been Television New Zealand's Pacific Correspondent for the last 23 years. Her work has exposed major fraud, drug smuggling, corruption, and human trafficking, leading to multiple arrests and changed laws and policies in New Zealand and around the Pacific. She has also created and delivered a two-year training programme through Pacific Cooperation Broadcasting Ltd (PCBL) to broadcasters around the region. In addition, she was named

an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) for Investigative Journalism and Services to Pacific People.

Barbara who was introduced as an accomplished Pacific journalist, and author of a new book titled 'Be Brave, The Life of a Pacific Correspondent', has dedicated her career to bringing stories from the front lines of the Pacific regions to the world, providing an authentic view of small island communities' struggles, joys, and resilience.

Barbara gave an in-depth address starting with tracing her roots back to her childhood in Kiribati, where her upbringing was shaped by the aftermath of World War II, with bullet shells scattered around her home, and her family's large Catholic family with twelve children, which gave her an idyllic childhood amid a landscape marked by war remnants and survival instincts. Her wide feet, a result of barefoot childhood, symbolize her connection to her Pacific identity, a region that she described as her front garden an area that, although small, profoundly influences the larger world, especially through issues like climate change, which threaten these islands with rising seas, erosion, and displacement.

Barbara's extensive travels across all 18 Pacific Islands have exposed her to extraordinary acts of resilience, such as the islanders' ability to survive prolonged periods at sea due to their familiarity with the ocean, and the unique cultural adaptations.

Her work traditionally involves flying with the military's Hercules aircraft into disaster zones, often under challenging conditions, including in-flight toilet issues or dangerous terrain like erupting volcanoes, yet she approaches each assignment with dedication, humour, and pragmatism. Her reporting often places her in perilous situations; she was detained during Fiji's 2000 coup when the military regime suspected her of being a threat, and she recounted the harrowing experience of being held in a cell with bars and barbed wire, only to be eventually released after diplomatic interventions led by military allies.

She described her process of mentally preparing for adversity, donning her protective gear mentally beforehand, and maintaining resilience through prayer and strategic planning while aware of the dangers posed by the volatile political backdrop, drug gangs, and the ongoing threat of conflict and environmental disaster. Her stories reveal the harsh realities of the Pacific children suffering from measles outbreaks, alarming levels of drug trafficking, and the impact of climate changes. Yet she emphasizes the region's vibrancy, warmth, and hope, exemplified by inspiring figures like Tonga's late Tai Kali, a 15-year-old cancer survivor whose story of resilience and hope was commemorated by a royal visit, showing that even in adversity, there is joy.

Barbara's work also extends beyond reporting to fostering the next generation of Pacific journalists through pioneering training programs on Zoom, emphasizing ethics, storytelling skills, and contextual understanding, vital for ensuring the region's voices are heard authentically and responsibly amid shrinking media resources globally.

She stresses that journalism must illuminate why stories matter to ordinary people, not just report disasters, and she criticized the decline of linear TV and the resource constraints that threaten quality reporting, especially in the Pacific, a region where external influences complicate geopolitics. Her insights touch on complex topics such as the independence movements within Bougainville, PNG, and New Caledonia, where she explained the shifting political landscapes, the importance of strong bilateral relationships, the need for local-driven solutions, and the limits of external influence, emphasizing the importance of respecting regional sovereignty.

She mentioned the devastating effects of climate change, villages submerged, dislocated communities, rising sea levels and the inadequate aid and mitigation programs, urging the world to prioritize climate action because Pacific communities are deeply attached to their ancestral lands and wish to stay, despite intolerable environmental changes.

Her stories of crossing war zones, chemical weapons sites, and volcanoes highlight her adventurous spirit and unwavering commitment to truth-telling despite danger.

Recognizing the need for sustainable journalism training, she established a 10-week online course for Pacific journalists to develop skills that translate into responsible reporting and regional empowerment, voicing concerns over declining resources and the vital importance of good journalism for democracy and regional stability.

She advocates for strong ethics, community engagement, and regional collaboration, urging the next generation of journalists to carry her torch, always asking, Why should we care? Her reflections culminate in an appreciation for the joy, beauty, and resilience amid adversity in the Pacific, and her hope that her stories inspire regional unity, informed advocacy, and continuous pursuit of truth. Her mission remains rooted in reporting fearlessly and fairly, serving as a vital voice for Pacific communities whose stories are critical for global awareness and action, especially at a time when environmental, political, and social challenges threaten to drown out their voices.

Barbara's address was detailed with many personal anecdotes, both humorous and thought-provoking.

Thought for the week. "Don't count the days, make the days count."

(Muhammed Ali)

Programme for balance of this Rotary year.

29th June Change over night with incoming President Tony Rayner.

Duties: All. Enjoy the evening!!

Make the Rotary Foundation your Charity of Choice!





Smile!

It makes people wonder what you have been up to!

House for rent, 5 minutes from the beach. 8 seconds if you trip.



**Can I still use the carpool lane if the other person is in the trunk?
(asking for a friend)**



When I found out I was holding the taser the wrong way, I was stunned.

Farmer Ted lived on a quiet rural highway... until traffic picked up and his free-range chickens started getting hit — three to six a week! 🚗 🐔 🐔

Fed up, he called the police.
"Do something about these crazy drivers!"

They put up a sign: SCHOOL CROSSING
Drivers sped up.

So they tried: SLOW: CHILDREN AT PLAY
Drivers sped up even more. 😬

Frustrated, Farmer Ted asked if he could make his own sign. The officer said yes — anything for peace and quiet.

A week later, curious, the officer drove out to see it... and nearly fell over laughing.

Farmer Ted's sign read:

NUDIST COLONY
Slow down and watch out for chicks! 😂

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End note

A false friend is like a shadow; they are only with you when the sun is shining