



Rotary Club of Maungakiekie Bulletin / Newsletter NL 260 29th of June 2026

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CREATE LASTING IMPACT



Monday 29th of June 2026

Apologies:

Rod Kestle, Tony Bradley, George Varghese, Heather Latham, Cat Levine, Bill Grayson, Bruce Verrall, George Arulanantham, Erie Meyer.



July

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH
MONTH

"Improved maternal health benefits the whole of society"
Isabella Lovin

Club Changeover Night.

Honorary President Barry welcomed everyone to the event. A special thanks to outgoing President Paul Jenner and his wife Leanne.

Barry paid tribute to Peter Mayow and Bill Grayson for their successful steering of the Book Fair. He also thanked Peter for his organisation of the second Epsom ANZAC Day memorial service the Club has run. Barry highlighted success of our longstanding relationship with Onehunga High School. We are committed to helping young people wherever we can. Barry also thanked Richard Ryan, Noel Carey, Gwynyth Carr and Bruce Murdoch, for their contribution day after day, week after week, doing things that are essential to keep the Club going. Barry acknowledged the three new members added this year.

Barry said the main purpose of the meeting tonight was to welcome our new President, Tony, and his wife Heather. Barry said it gave him great pleasure to present Tony with the Presidents badge for the coming year and had confidence in Tony, (with youth on his side,) having a successful year and also presenting Heather with a bouquet of flowers.

Tony Rayner: President 2026-2027.

Address Transcription (with edits)



I feel both honoured and humbled to accept the position, serving as President of the Rotary Club. It's a responsibility that I don't take lightly, I'd like to again acknowledge our honoured guests this evening, Naseer Patel and Bhavesh Patel, from the Rotary Club of Hillsborough, Lynfield and Mount Roskill.

We almost had a name that long too. And welcome, of course, past President Paul Jenner and Leanne Thank you.

And finally, but not least, our club members and partners. Thank you for coming. I'd like to welcome back our board members.

Past Presidents and mentors, Barry Stafford, Bill Grayson, and Craig Jones. I hope you will join us on the board and also provide me with some mentorship as well.

Club Secretary Richard Ryan, who will be Secretary of the Day, Treasurer of course Bruce Murdoch, Rotary Foundation, Bill Appleton, who also does the newsletters.

International Grants and Projects is George Arulanatham, who is unable to be with us tonight.
And Service Projects, Peter Mayo, splendid job as always, continuing with that role. Thank you.

And Club Sergeant Noel Carey, thank you very much for that too. I look forward to leading discussions on our journey ahead when we have our board meetings.

This week, thousands of, literally 36,500 Rotary clubs will be meeting, just like us, to greet the new Rotary year.

Rotary theme this year from Rotary International President Olayinka "Yinka" Hakeem Babalola of Nigeria is Create Lasting Impact. The goal is to create welcoming clubs where people feel they belong, where friendship deepens, and membership grows. That's what we hope with our club as well.

The Create Lasting Impact challenges clubs to act boldly and embrace change within us. Because when we grow as individuals, our clubs grow as well. Stronger clubs can have a greater impact on communities by creating projects that are sustainable and continue changing lives long after we have stepped away.

So that's the goal for us this year. When Paul Harris, who started Rotary in Chicago, Illinois in 1905, the world was very different. There was no internet, no mobile phones, and no social media.

One thing that people needed then, just as much as they need today, is connection, a sense of belonging and the ability to contribute in the way they did to the communities that they came from before they went to the city. That's why they started it up, because they felt they'd lost that community connection in the city. Nowadays, cities are people's hometowns.

We are born in the city, we live in the city, but we also have transient people who come into the city and may feel forgotten or disconnected.

We often hear that younger generations are different. I don't think they're different at all.

They are looking for three things. They want to belong. They want to develop strong connections.

They want to discover who they are and who they want to be. They want to contribute, to see that their ideas and efforts matter in the world around them. One of the things I love about Rotary is that we're not defined by one cause.

We're not just a Sports charity. We're not just an Education charity. We're not just a Health charity.

Rotary gives us the flexibility to respond wherever our community needs us most. That flexibility is one of Rotary's greatest strengths, I believe. For the benefit of members' partners here, who I do recognise, I think you would like to hear a little bit about what we've been doing for the last year.

Sometimes I think things get lost in translation, so hopefully there'll be a few aha moments.

Our guide remains Rotary's seven areas of focus. But within those, we can move quickly, partner widely, and make a genuine difference.

The seven areas are these. Peace building and conflict prevention. Disease prevention and treatment.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene. Maternal and child mental health. Basic education and literacy.

Community economic development. And lastly, supporting the environment.

Each of these projects deliver one of those aspects.

Helping people live their better lives. These are the projects that we've been doing, and they all link back to the seven areas of focus. So, Think and Be Me Foundation, which is set up by Cat Levine, is a Mental health Wellbeing programme set up particularly for young children to manage their anxiety, anger, and big emotions. Because they focus on the outer... So, her activity focuses on the outer reaches of the northern areas of the primary schools, and in Hawke's Bay, the lower-decile schools. Not the high-decile ones, but the ones that really need assistance.

And more recently, she's been visiting the South Auckland schools. And every place she's been to has received very high acclaim from principals. They really say she's made a difference to the kids.

And the good news is that recently it's become... Think and Be Me Foundation has become a recognised supplier to the Ministry of Health. So, now, to get on to the Ministry of Health, you've got to be signed off by the government and well respected. So, well done for Cat.

The Blues Charity Trust. We partly fund the Blues Charity Trust, which targets 60-year-old school students who are identified by school principals. And these kids would have leadership potential, but not the leaders, and not the head prefects or prefects.

They are next layer down, who may be at risk of educational disengagement. So, setting them on this course with the Blues Charity Trust, they're taught resilience and well-being, and to enhance their career readiness. So, basically, they're taking these kids who are potential leaders, they're giving them the confidence to re-engage with their schools and their education, and hopefully to go into further success in their education.

MUNA, and not many people remember what that stands for.

Model United Nations Assembly. The aim is to give high school-age students first-hand experience in diplomacy, international relations, public speaking, negotiating, and teamwork, while simulating the work of the United Nations. Three students represent a UN country, not New Zealand.

They do some research and argue from their perspective in front of other students. An example this year was whether their country should be required to accept a fair share of refugee genes. So, what it is that three students would go from a local high school, they'd join other students from the high schools, and they'd gather in a mock UN environment, and they'd debate these things from another country's point of view.

So, this teaches kids respect of other people's ideas that they may have to argue during this UN gathering that they may not even agree themselves. The other areas we've supported is the annual Rotary National Science and Technology Forum, SciTech. And SciTech is run during the first two weeks of January up here in Auckland University.

And basically, we sponsor senior school pupils to attend a 14-day residential program which introduces what goes on in a typical AUT and University on their courses. So, that's professors talking to the students about lab experiments and what goes on at the University. And because it's a live in experience, they also experience a bit of the culture of the university.

And often, they come back quite inspired to go to the University after that experience.

We also sponsor the Allan Haskell Memorial Fund. It's a trust fund that provides scholarship funding to students from local primary, intermediate, and high schools for scholarship programs.

Kids to Camp.

We fund and transport kids from families who cannot afford to send their kids to summer camp. We take it for granted that we would have gone to summer camp when we were kids. There are families out there who cannot afford to do that or even get themselves to a camp.

And finally, the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, which is RYLA, which is where we fund 21 to 28-year-olds to attend an often life-changing, immersive residential leadership program. This brings young adults together who normally never meet but must work together to achieve a local challenge.

So, again, youth leadership and personal development, which is one of the key things that we support throughout our projects. One thought that stayed with me throughout the preparing for this year, if our club disappeared tomorrow, what would our community lose? Not just money, not just good words, it would lose opportunities. Fewer opportunities for ordinary people, the potential to become extraordinary individuals.

That's something worth protecting. Rotary also offers something incredibly rare as well, a simple moral compass, the four-way test. Before we think, before we speak, before we act, is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned? These four questions remain just as relevant today as it did when they were written almost 100 years ago.

During this coming year, I hope we continue to ask ourselves one simple question, how can we make Rotary even more welcoming? How do we create a club where people don't simply attend meetings, but they belong, they feel they belong? How do we create opportunities for members to use their talents? And how do we ensure that every project has a real and measurable impact? I'm not asking us to become a different club, I'm asking us to become an even better version of our current selves, to remain curious, to remain flexible, to remain outward looking, and to continue serving

our community with humility. Leadership isn't about one president, it's about the people sitting in this room and their partners supporting them. Because every member has skills, every member has experience, and every member has something to contribute.

My role this year is to help bring these strengths together. As I was thinking about this year's Rotary message, which is Create Lasting Impact, I realised that lasting impact isn't always found in the biggest projects. Sometimes it's found in the confidence we give our young persons, the hope we restore to a family, or the friendship we offer to someone who simply needs to move on or to have a sense of purpose.

So, thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your president. I'm looking forward to what we can achieve together, because together we can strengthen our community, and to provide ourselves and others with a sense of purpose.

I really believe people need a sense of purpose nowadays, both young and old. And to leave our corner of the world just a little bit better than we found it.

So finally, my thought for the year.

Mahatma Gandhi said, the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. So could we please charge our glasses and raise a toast to Rotary and create a lasting impression, a Lasting Impact.

Thank you all for coming.



July Programme

6th July

13th July

20th July

Troy Elliot, Consultant: Think and Be Me Foundation

Club Business Meeting

Rob Woodley GM, Blues Charitable Trust: 2026 Update

Duties: 6th July 2026

Attendance: Peter Mayow

Hospitality: Iain McCrae

Meals: Bruce Murdoch-Derek Neutze

5 Minute Speaker: TBA

Host: Ernie Meyer

Guest Speaker: **Troy Elliot**

Subject: **Think and Be Trust.**

Thanks: Mavis Moodie

Thought for the week: Trevor Mosley

Make the Rotary Foundation your Charity of Choice!





Smile!

It makes people wonder what you have been up to!

Vehicles today have so many cool features. I put my car in reverse and it showed me a video of someone getting ran over.

Married life:
Telling your husband the same sentence 10 days in a row, just to have him say
"You definitely never told me that."



People with siblings have better survival skills because they've had experience in physical combat, psychological warfare, and sensing suspicious activity.



Stop leaving your kids with the grandparents
I recently asked my nephew how old he was, he said, God willing I'll be 7 in June



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End note: "It always seems impossible until it is done."

Nelson Mandela