



Rotary Club of Maungakiekie Bulletin / Newsletter NL 261 6th of July 2026

President: Tony Rayner
Email: tonyrayner2@gmail.com
Secretary: Richard Ryan
Email: rich.ryan4475@gmail.com

CREATE LASTING IMPACT



Monday 6th of July 2026

Apologies: Lloyd Albiston, Gwynyth Carr, George Arulanatham, Alan Bannin, Paul Jenner, Rod Kestle, Rob Lyons, Mavis Moodie, George Varghese.



July

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH
MONTH

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

Sergeant: Noel Carey

George Varghese won \$300 as second prize in the 70's club draw at changeover. He's sent a pleasant email to Lloyd.

"I believe everyone at the club is doing well.

Please send my greetings to all. I came to India for a week to visit parents.

We'll head back to Africa next week. So that's this week. Quite delighted to hear on the win. Please contribute my prize money to the club accounts. Kind regards, George"

Noel welcomed back Tony and Heather having separately have spent time in Europe.

last Friday, Jeanette and Jenny and Noel took a tour out to RYLA Willow Park Camp out in Eastern Beach. There we were joined by 120 RYLarians from across Districts 9910 and 9920 . Unfortunately, President Tony couldn't come due to family illness.

RYLA are usually held out in West at the Muriwai Surf Club. Their maximum is about 30 to 35 across 9910 Regional District. So, joining with 9920 this night last Friday was unbelievable. It really was. It was a wonderful night and was very professionally presented.

Even though the music, when they had the montage of photos at the end was deafening. Unbelievably loud. The RYLarians didn't seem to mind.

Jenny and I literally had our ears blocked it was so loud. But it was a lot of fun. Sophie Pyung is our RYLarian. Noel is keen for Sophie to come and talk to us and possibly bring one of her colleagues that she met at RYLA. This is pencilled in for the last week in July.

Noel then ran another successful and entertaining Fining session.

Trevor Mosely, a busy weekend, took the opportunity for a Happy Dollar for the musical successes of his three grandchildren over the weekend. Alice, Soprano, performing in the NZ Secondary Students Choir, national, who immediately set off for competitions in Hong Kong and Singapore.

Hugo, playing trumpet in the National Youth orchestra at the Auckland Town Hall, and Benjamin, currently studying in London, who won the Villafranca International Piano Competition held in Verona Italy. Congratulations.

Kids to Camp is happening on the 12th to the 16th of this month. So, we've got two children from Oranga School going, Onehunga Primary, couldn't provide us with names unfortunately. Jeanette has kindly offered to take the two children from Oranga School out to camp. So, thank you Jeanette.

1 Minute spot: Gary Hays. *"My daughter works at Starship. They have a lot of prem babies of course, always looking for stuff.*

And Maureen, as of late, she's been getting right back into knitting. And in the last two weeks she's knitted about 25 bonnets for prem babies. So of course, she has to go out and buy wool all the time.

Now there must be some people here, the other half perhaps used to knit, and they've got wool sitting there. They're never not interested in using it anymore. So, if you've got any old wool at home, any colour, it doesn't matter.

If you can get it to me and it'll end up as a bonnet for some prem baby Gary's wife Maureen is looking for any spare wool that members may have, as no longer required. That she can use to knit, and they've got wool sitting there. They're never not interested in using it anymore. So, if you've got any old wool at home, any colour, it doesn't matter.

If you can get it to me and it'll end up as a bonnet for some prem baby. Thank you.

Guest speaker. Acting President Barry Stafford.

Troy Elliott was going to come today to talk about **"Think and Be Me, after Rotary"**. In fact, right now Troy is up in North Auckland with the other small team of Think and Be Me because they're in the process of presenting three workshops in three different places.

And these workshops are the final part of the Rotary project.



At the time that the project finished last year, there was \$50,000 of unallocated money in the funds that were provided by Rotary International. And those funds have been used now to pay for these workshops, which are being attended during the school holidays by teachers in the north who find it easier to go to something in the holidays than during the term. It is a follow-up to the material that had been delivered by Cat Levine and her team in the previous two years. So that will see the end of Rotary's direct involvement. It has been organised by Troy Elliot and Cat Levine.

Barry thought that this is quite a fitting end to that project. There was some concern that it finished without suitable characteristics of being sustainable. And this exercise will deal with that concern.

Barry wanted to talk tonight about where Think and Be Me is now. And he was pleased to be able to say that it's in quite a good position. At this stage, there's a lot more going for it than there was six months ago.

Barry was pleased that he can report that to you. He had asked Troy if he could send him the responses to some questions he had asked him. He related what those questions were and relay his answers.

His first question was, what has been done for South Auckland schools?

And the answer was.

We have continued to expand in South Auckland with our contract with Kia Ora Ake, a division of Health New Zealand. So far, we have presented to over 20 schools, as well as presented teacher training workshops.

This contract is anticipated to be extended in the next terms, that's the next third and fourth terms of this year, as well as 2027. Now, the big point about that was the fact that Think and Be Me is now recognised as an accredited provider of the sort of work that it provides. And so, any time the name comes up or a school comes up and wants some assistance, there's no need for Think and Be Me to make any applications.

They are immediately recognised as a provider by the health department. And that is a big step forward.

Barry's second question was about the Wairoa venture.

And the answer there is through our relationship with Kia Ora Ake in Auckland, we were introduced to the Hawke's Bay division of Health New Zealand. Obviously, you need to know about these bureaucratic arrangements. Whilst we were in Hawke's Bay for the tractor trek, Cat and Troy met with Mana Ake, and out of that meeting, we have so far been down twice to both Wairoa and Havelock North to perform shows and educate a training.

This is to increase with another two weeks planned in Napier for the further 15 schools. And when you talk about the tractor trek, it's relevant that Don's here too, because he's been part of the organisation of these treks over the history of the tractor treks, and I think they have done about eight now. And the tractor treks, in fact, have become a vehicle for Cat to get to schools in other parts of New Zealand.

And so, as a direct result of that activity down there, that kind of work for Cat has come to Think and Be Me.

Barry's next question was, what's in the pipeline?

Troy: We currently are completing our application for the **Mental Health Innovation Fund**, which will allow us to complete a further 14 new shows.

That fund is something that's been established by the present government, and the application is for approximately \$179,000, and if granted, it will give Think and Be Me a sound foundation for the next year. And there's a fair bit of to-ing and fro-ing that goes with that, but it's looking reasonably good at the present time.

Apart from that, there's been a grant from the Mount Wellington Trust to do some work in Mount Wellington for a week, and another one in West Auckland.

And then finally, Creative New Zealand has funded Cat to write a book for children, and she has already completed the first draft of that book and is aiming to have it out for Christmas. There'll be more information about that later in the year. And then there's some data that Barry thought interesting.

There was feedback from Hawke's Bay, Wairoa primarily. 208 persons' responses, they're teachers mainly. 100% rated the program good or excellent, and 89% rated it excellent.

And here are the average ratings in that survey. Overall quality of presentation, 4.9 out of 5. Relevance to children's needs, 4.8 out of 5. Improved emotional understanding, 4.8 out of 5. Practical strategies for students, 4.7 out of 5. Would recommend to other schools, 4.9. So that's pretty good responses. And here's a quite detailed thank you, Barry read to the meeting because it covers a lot of material.

"The Think and Be Me puppet show last week was a fantastic experience for everyone involved. The children were absolutely captivated by the performance. It's not always easy to keep them that engaged, but the puppets certainly did the trick.

More importantly, the message really seems to have hit home. We've already received wonderful feedback from parents who mentioned they've been using the Emotions Cube with their children. It's been great to hear how that tool is helping families navigate big feelings and start meaningful conversations in their own living rooms.

Thank you for providing such a creative and impactful way to support our Tamariki emotional wellbeing”.

And that's from the team leader at Te Hauora o Ngāti Hauā Trust, which is, a Māori trust in the Wairoa area, who helped pay for things. So, at this stage, halfway through this year, the Think and Be Me programmes are not fully self-supporting, but they're showing a lot more promise in getting to that position.

There's some merchandising going on, but there are other things that are in the pipeline, and a book is one of them, and the puppets are another. So, when you get into this kind of communication, merchandising is part of trying to get more money for the programme.

In conclusion, Barry's report is that Think and Be Me is in a much better position than he thought it would ever be in. And Cat's reputation is building in a way she deserves. Barry has some confidence that by this time next year it will be a self-supporting operation, notwithstanding that, it will be always looking for extra funds to try and do creative things to improve the programme.

So as something that started five years ago now, we as Rotarians, can be very proud that this is one of the largest projects that we have ever been involved in.

So, it's had its ups and downs. Barry thought that everyone in the process, including us, founded a learning programme, well worthwhile, and hopefully on the way to better results.

It is a charitable trust that runs this, so the information is all publicly available.

Phil Aish responds:

“ Barry, I'd like to personally acknowledge Rod Kessel, who was on the track, what, five years ago, and saw the possibility of this programme and he had a track record with the Rotary Foundation.

He knew what could be done through his experience in Vanuatu, and he lit the fire, I believe. And I just want to give credit for his vision, his energy until sickness overtook him. But I'm deeply appreciative of the insight that he had to catch it and run with it.”

Barry thanked Phil for saying that. Rod certainly was the person who could see the potential, and he knew that Rotarians had systems of building up money from a very small amount to a much larger amount, and he put the two together. And Barry thought that when the project was taken on by Rotary and Rotary International, it was a breath-taking step.

And the thing that, of course, you can be proud of Phil, is how well and how creative and active your daughter Cat, has been in the whole process and continues to be.

Thank you.

Vote of thanks from Ernie Meyer.

“Thank you, Barry.

I think this has been one of the most magnificent programmes that Rotary has been involved in. I've been at Rotary a long time. In fact, it'll be 55 years in October.

So, I've seen some very big projects, but I think this has had a much bigger effect in the community than a lot of those others. So, thank you for filling in for Tony, and I ask the club to join in thanking you. ”

Thought for the week. Trevor Mosley

“Quality is never an accident. It is always the result of intelligent people.”

(Joan Russell).

July Programme:

13th July Club Business Meeting. New President Tony Rayner

20th July Rob Woodley GM, Blues Charitable Trust: 2026 Update

Duties: 13th July 2026

Sergeant: Bill Grayson

Attendance: Ian McCrae

Hospitality: Ernie Meyer

Meals: Derek Neutze – Barry Stafford

5 Minute Speaker: TBA

Host: N/A

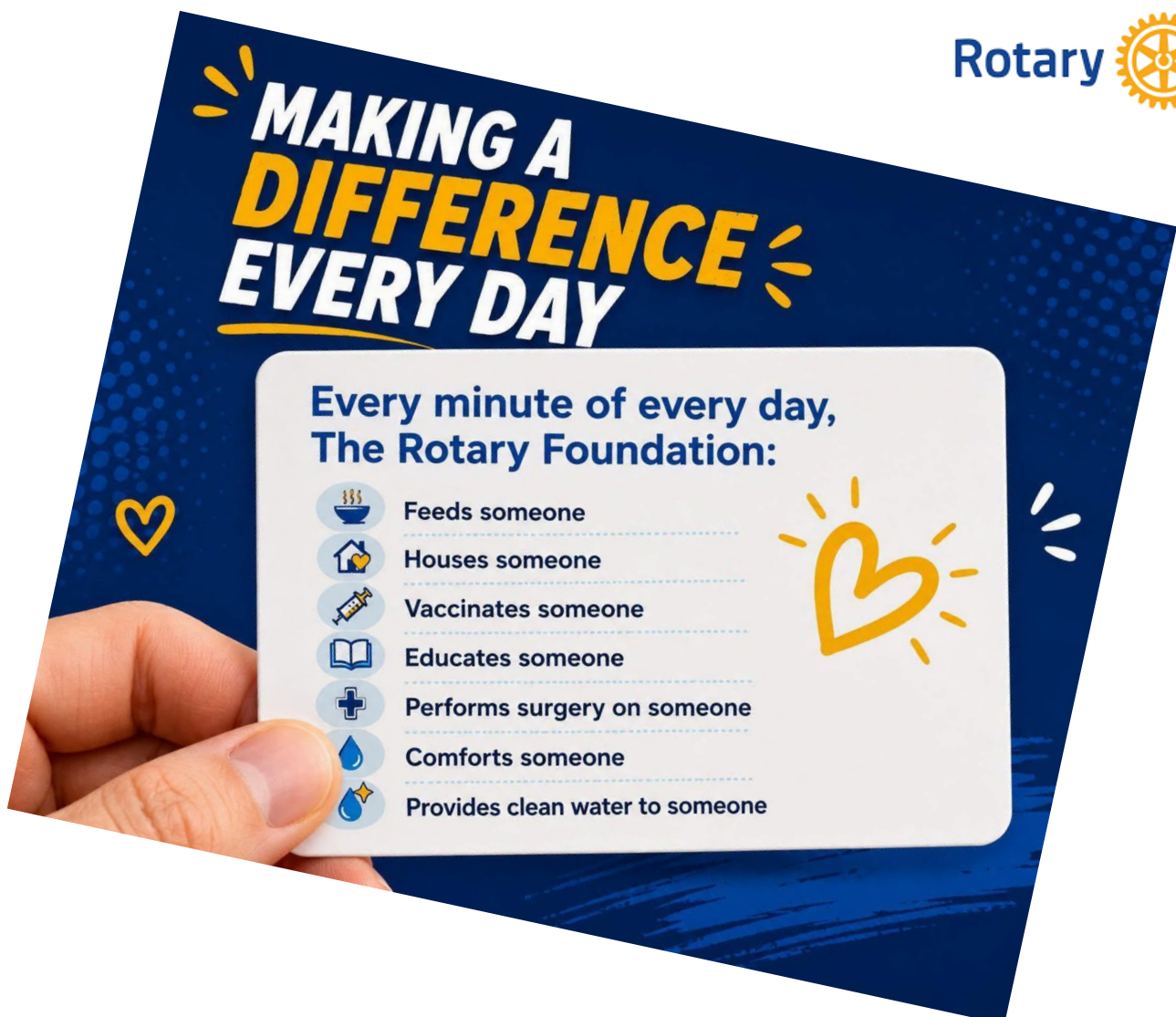
Guest Speaker: N/A **President Tony Rayner**

Subject: **Club Business Meeting**

Thanks: Trevor Mosley

Thought for the week: Bruce Murdoch

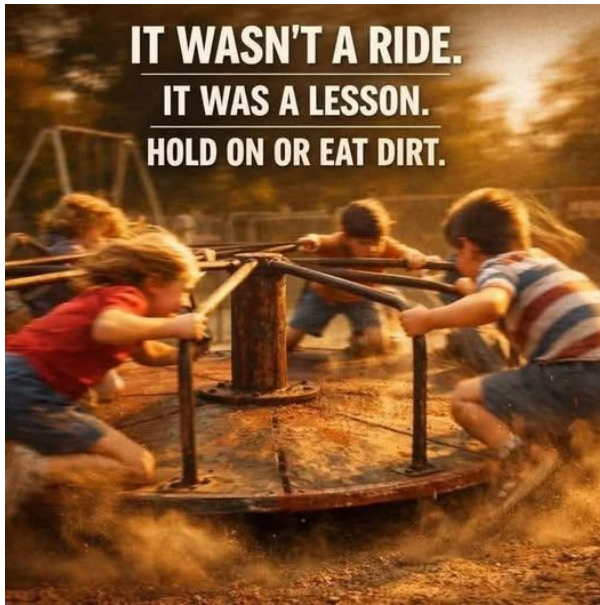
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Smile!

It makes people wonder what you have been up to!



My husband suggested that we go to the pub separately to relive our first date. So he walked over to me at the bar and asked "Hi gorgeous, can I buy you a drink?" I replied "Get lost, I'm not falling for that again"



Rotary Maungakiekie Bulletin Editor: Bill Appleton.

bill.appleton.ri@gmail.com

End note

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

(Deccan Herald)