



Rotary Club of Maungakiekie
Bulletin / Newsletter NL 266
17th of August 2026
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**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**



August

MEMBERSHIP AND NEW CLUB
DEVELOPMENT MONTH

Monday 17th of August 2026

Apologies: Tony Rayner,
George Arulanantham, George Varghese,
Tony Bradley, Gwynyth Carr, Heather Lather,
Peter Mayow, Mavis Moodie, Rhett Stephens,
Bob Campbell,
LOA: Rod Kestle, Paul Jenner.
Visitor: Paul Hulford. Guest of Robin Hulford.

*"None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can
all do small things, with great love and together we can do
something wonderful"*
Mother Teresa

Sergeant Noel welcomed our guest speaker David Vega, representing Amnesty International NZ, and Paul Hulford, son of Robin, and invited acting President Lloyd Albiston to address the club on President Tony's behalf.



Tony keeps sending me notes, so I'll read out his notes and just pretend I'm Tony. So, he says, good evening, everybody, and a special warm welcome to David, of course. Thank you for joining us tonight.

We're looking forward to hearing all about Amnesty International, David, and my time in Rotary. I don't think we've ever had a speaker from Amnesty International.

President Tony says: "Over the past week, and in keeping with the objectives I've previously outlined, Barry and I met with Anne Dunphy, Director of Reading Enhancement Programme, or REP, and Elaine Blair, the Programme Manager and REP's only paid staff member. Now, I'm pleased to say that they're both going to be joining us on the 7th of September, and I will be back for that, to update us on the programme and the progress that's being made."

Tony goes on to say, "Yesterday, I attended the first session of our Rotary Community Group Workshop, led by Carla Bogan from the Rotary Club of Waikato. Carla is a District 9910 to 9913 Community Group Leader, and she brings a fresh perspective as a young leader who's also grown up with Rotary through her grandmother, who has been a long-time Rotarian. The workshop was like the session at 9920 that Barry and Tony attended in July, and Tony says, I wanted to attend both to get a real feel across the two districts for what other clubs are doing and planning. There were some very capable people in the room, including business owners, IT

project managers, and other specialists, many of whom are supporting active satellite clubs.

I'm sure Carla and her group will give us plenty of useful ideas and advice. I should say that REP was adopted as one of the group three areas of external focus. He says, tomorrow I'll be meeting with Matthew Haynes, who we know from the Deputy Principal of the Onehunga High School.

The aim there is to explore the possibility of developing a long-term partnership between Rotary and the school, which is centred on student development and community involvement. So, it's an enhancement and another step up from what we already have. And then finally, Tony says, I look forward to reading all of those completed questionnaires when I return.

Enjoy your evening, and I look forward to being back with you on the 7th of September.

Lloyd mentioned the Seventies Club, which he is going to crank up again, and we'll get that underway next week. So, if you've got a lucky number, just let us know or keep it in mind. That's it.

Noel acknowledged two members celebrating milestone Birthdays.

Derek Neutze and Bill Grayson.

Noel advised that there is a sweep going around for the next All Blacks game this weekend. Contact Noel with your score prediction. Treasurer will collect the \$5 from your meal account.

The 70's club is also to be actioned again this year, so, get your preferred numbers to Noel also.

The club has been gifted some Maths educational books from a private school and these have been made available to PASS school and they are excited to put these to good use.

Bill Grayson was asked to inform members, who might not have been aware of the school, of the history and highly successful achievements of their programme.

The contacts from the school have been a great help in Delivering Bookfair pamphlets each year.

"PASS stands for **P**acifica **A**dvanced **S**econdary **S**chool. It was started by Sir Michael Jones in about 2017.

It was really to take Pacifika kids off the street who hadn't been to school, most of them ever, and they were at home working, doing things like looking after younger siblings and that sort of stuff. It was a charter school under David Seymour's Charter School, and with the change of government, it was then transferred to the standard schooling model where it remains today. It is run by Fatu Enari, and his good wife, Parahuia as school Principals.

Our club had put together a group of REP people, which is a Rotary Educational Enrichment Program, and that's been very successful and continues. I think now we routinely have somewhere like half a dozen members involved on a regular basis. I was out there on Thursday, and it was just a delight to see the place in great shape and growing in numbers. They are having a fundraising event, which will consist of wonderful Pacific food on, the 18th of September.

I love to hear these kids sing and dance and entertain us. So, if any of the club are interested in coming, write it in your diary, 18th of September, and I'm going to lead the charge to being there.

Contact me if you wish to support and experience this event with me."

Noel has been given a name of a candidate for next year's RYLR already. And this is from Sophie Peung, who was our speaker three or four weeks back. We are looking for more candidates. Suggestions to Noel

Guest Speaker:

Barry Stafford introduced our guest speaker **David Vega** who represented **Amnesty International NZ** and is Campaigns Manager.

The first thing that Barry wanted to do tonight was to thank David for making such an effort to get here with only a few hours' notice, and to help us out of what was going to be a big hole.

"The original contact we got from Amnesty International was that they are running a campaign or an education process where they want to find out about how much participation is happening in our own democratic system.

Please welcome David."



"Good evening. I'm David from Amnesty International. My job is campaigns manager.

I coordinate campaigns for human rights on different issues. This year we are doing a campaign in the lead up to the elections to hear from people what they think about our current democracy."

So basically, Amnesty is going around the country to discuss whether if they need to strengthen, to improve their decision-making in government, local government, central government, and if they need to improve our democracy, their participation

as citizens with the government, accountability and transparency of the current government and previous governments.

The focus is on citizen participation in government, transparency, and accountability. David's presentation highlighted global trends of democratic backsliding, particularly reduced participation in elections and governmental decisions, with youth feeling excluded. New Zealand's political landscape is scrutinized, illustrating challenges like voting enrolment policies, laws passed under urgency without sufficient consultation, and decreasing trust in institutions. Amnesty International's campaign aims to hear from citizens about these issues to promote more inclusive decision-making processes that respect human rights and foster social cohesion. David additionally covered questions from attendees about electoral systems and the reliability of statistics, accentuating the complexity of democratic reform debates.

So, the discussion is should we improve the decisions made in government? Do you feel your voice has been heard lately or not? Why is Amnesty doing this campaign to hear from people on this issue? The reason they are doing this is because they believe if we improve how decisions are made, it's a powerful way to protect a broad range of human rights.

So, Amnesty wants people to be consulted. They want people to have a voice heard to be able, if they pass a law, that there is a good process for you to submit your thoughts on the law that is going to be passed on the bill or in any other elections for you to vote. This year you need to be enrolled for elections by the 25th of October. David suggested a vital dialogue on democratic challenges faced both locally in New Zealand and globally, emphasizing the importance of meaningful citizen participation beyond mere voting. Amnesty International's campaign, as represented by David, articulates a clear call for improved transparency, accountability, and inclusivity in governance, addressing barriers like restrictive enrolment policies and rushed legislation. The discussion of New Zealand's political system, especially the nuances of coalition government under MMP, illuminates complexities that affect voter expectations and policy implementation. Importantly, David situates these democratic issues within larger trends of declining global freedom and social cohesion, urging vigilance and active citizen engagement to preserve and strengthen democracy for future generations.

David was thanked, on behalf of members, by Iain McCrae.

Thought for the week: Jeanette Thorne.

The climate is not going to improve unless all our governments meet to agree on changes.

24th August: Meeting at Remuera Rotary Club

Duties: 31st of August 2026

Acting President Lloyd Albiston

Sergeant: Noel Carey

Attendance: Bruce Murdoch

Hospitality: Derek Neutze

Meals: Phil Aish – Brian Williams

5 Minute Speaker: TBA

Host: Barry Stafford

Guest Speaker: Greg Fleming MP

Subject: Maungakiekie Update

Thanks: Rhett Stephens

Thought for the week: Jeanette Thorne

Meeting at Royal Oak Bowls

Please advise by 5pm this Friday if you will be coming, bringing a guest or will be an apology. Remember no reply incurs a meal charge.

31st August: Greg Fleming MP Maungakiekie update.

7th September: President Tony Member Motivation Survey (cont.)

Please remember to bring back the questioner handouts for discussion points.

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Every minute of every day,
The Rotary Foundation:



Feeds someone



Houses someone



Vaccinates someone



Educates someone



Performs surgery on someone



Comforts someone



Provides clean water to someone

"Whatever Rotary may mean to
us, to the world it will be known
by the results it achieves."



Paul Harris
Rotary founder



Smile!

It makes people wonder what you have been up to!

Two biggest
challenges that our
world is facing, :
..... Natural Stupidity
and ..Artificial
Intelligence....!!

**“I JUST OPENED MY ELECTRIC BILL
AND I’M PRETTY SURE THEY
CHARGED ME FOR THE SUNLIGHT, THE
MOONLIGHT, THE STREETLIGHTS,
THE SPEED OF LIGHT, AND THE LIGHT
AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL.”**

We didn't have a 'GPS.'
We had a father who refused to
ask for directions and a mother
holding a map upside down.
And somehow we still got there.



Whoever designed
wet wipe packs where
you pull one out and
four come with it
should have been put
in charge of ATMs.

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End note:

***In those days we had real political democracy led by a hierarchy of
statesmen and not a fluid mass distracted by newspapers.***

(My Early Life. Winston S Churchill).