



Rotary Club of Maungakiekie
Bulletin / Newsletter NL 268
24th of August 2026
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**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**



August

MEMBERSHIP AND NEW CLUB
DEVELOPMENT MONTH

Monday 24th of August 2026

Apologies: Tony Rayner, Lloyd Albiston, Bill Appleton, George Arulanantham, George Varghese, Tony Bradley, Gwynyth Carr, Heather Lather, Peter Mayow, Mavis Moodie, Rhett Stephens, Bob Campbell, Rodney B, Craig Jones, Rob Lyons, Peter Mayow, Ernie Meyer, LOA: Rod Kestle, Paul Jenner.
Visitors: Bev Stafford, Shirley Grayson, and Sharyn Williams.

"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

24th August: Meeting at Remuera Rotary Club

Notes of an address by guest speaker Sir Mark Cooper on 24 08 26 to the joint meeting of the Rotary Clubs of Remuera and Maungakiekie.

Mark said that his judicial career was in three parts. The first as a Judge of the High Court, second as the Chairman of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Building Failures in the Canterbury Earthquakes and third as a member for ten years of the Court of Appeal, New Zealand's second highest appellate court.

His first years as a lawyer were at Butler White & Hanna, a respected Auckland City firm; and he spent most of his time providing resource management advice to Auckland, North Shore, and Rodney Councils. He became a partner in the firm in 1983 after it merged with Simpson Grierson, one of the country's biggest law firms with offices in Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch. He joined the independent bar in 2000 and shortly after became a Queen's Counsel.

He was appointed a High Court Judge in March 2004. Every judge takes turns in dealing with criminal matters. One of his abiding memories is there were about 20 cases a month involving shocking child abuse against children, often by family members or family associates. He remains appalled by that experience. To his regret that situation continues today.

He was also to experience the scourge of cases about meth amphetamine, a class A drug, and inevitably the accompanying misery.

One murder case was of an elderly lady in Marton by a woman recidivist. After a three-week trial the accused was found guilty. Out of prudence Mark delayed his departure from the court to avoid any publicity and was surprised, when he did, to be surrounded by about 40 family members who had attended every day and wanted to express their appreciation of the outcome.

That showed him the importance of justice being seen to be done.

In the civil side of the Court's work, he had a case about the alleged malfunctioning of a boiler at the Kinleith Mill involving the Electricity Corporation and Rolls Royce. Mark was amazed at the world-wide expertise and detail called on by the parties to support their arguments. The hearing lasted 183 days.

In contrast he had a Hamilton case about the importation of palm kernel used for supplementing animal feed. The parties prepared to be settling in for a long battle, when suddenly and unexpectedly after lunch one day in about the third week, the Court Registrar advised him the parties had settled.

Following the Canterbury earthquakes (2010–2011), between May 2011 and November 2012, Mark chaired 33 public hearings and led the Royal Commission to deliver four reports under intense time pressure and public scrutiny, navigating high volumes of evidence including technical, structural, and earthquake engineering evidence.

The citation read by Her Excellency the Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro at Sir Mark's investiture ceremony said the detailed findings and recommendations avoided delay to the Canterbury rebuild and provided a sense of resolution to the community. Mark said that there were 45 staff on the Commission including many capable women who contributed to its efficiency.

One poignant memory was of a visit to the Rewi Alley Centre in Riccarton. There were candles in a heart shape on the main floor of the centre. There were about 30 young Chinese students included amongst the 115 who died in the collapse of the CTV Building on Madras Street. They were mostly the only child of their parents under the One Child One Family Rule in China. The parents were at the Centre grieving the loss of their only child and the childless future they faced. Mark believed that the poor building design was the main reason for that disaster.

The variety of cases heard in the Court of Appeal is very broad and many deal with the most topical legal issues, from the Ownership of the Foreshore at one extreme, to the re-occurring murder appeals like Scott Watson, Tamihere and Lundy at the other. The Court issues about 700 judgments a year. For his last two years Mark was the President which gave him overall responsibility for the successful management of that Court's workload.

Mark replied gracefully and directly to the half dozen questions he received at the end of his address and Rotarians showed their appreciation.

(Scribe: Barry Stafford)

Duties: 31st of August 2026

Acting President Lloyd Albiston

Sergeant: Noel Carey

Attendance: Barry Stafford

Hospitality: Rhett Stephens

Meals: Ernie Meyer -Gary Hays

5 Minute Speaker: TBA

Host: Iain McCrae

Guest Speaker: Greg Fleming MP

Subject: Maungakiekie Update

Thanks: Phil Aish

Thought for the week: Tony Bradley

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.

From Serg. Noel, please note that Greg must leave by 7.05pm at the latest to catch an 8pm flight. I plan to start our dinner at **5.45pm sharp, finishing the meal at 6.20pm and Greg to start his presentation at 6.30pm, finishing at 6.50pm plus 10 minutes for questions.**

We will have Rotary announcements, etc after Greg and Shani have departed. **Please arrive by 5.30pm** at the latest for 10 minutes socialising and move PROMPTLY to get your meal at 5.40pm.

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

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

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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!



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End note:

Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet.