Rotary Club of Maungakiekie
Bulletin / Newsletter NL 274
5th October 2026
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CREATE LASTING IMPACT

Monday 5th October 2026

Visitors:
Apologies**:**
LOA: Paul Jenner, Rod Kestle.
Mavis Moodie, George Varghese,
Heather Latham, Rob Lyons,
Jeanette Thorne, George Arulanantham.

Rotary

October

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MONTH

Iam of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can" George Bernard Shaw

Sergeant Noel Carey welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting that he was still recuperating from his South African journey.

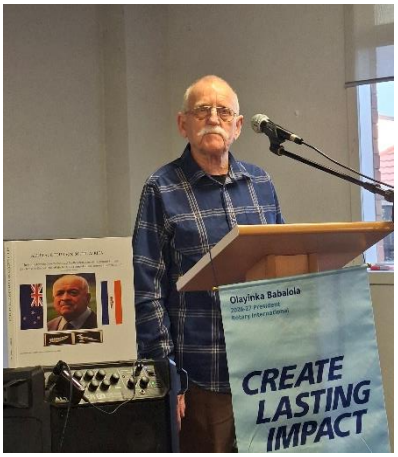
President Tony Rayner.
President Tony welcomed the Guest speaker Peter Robinson. Tony focused on **community connections, Rotary resources, volunteering, and opportunities for greater community impact**. President Tony emphasised that Rotary's strength comes from its extensive network of trusted relationships—with other Rotary clubs, community organisations, specialist groups and international partners.

Tony detailed the programmes of **Rotary Action Groups (RAGs)**, particularly the **Alzheimer's and Dementia Rotary Action Group (ADRAG)**. Tony explained that these groups provide specialist expertise, connections, and potential funding to help Rotary clubs undertake projects in areas such as dementia, mental health, water and sanitation, disaster response, education, and the environment.

Tony also provided an update on the current **District Grant application for the Mental Wellbeing 'Think and Be Me' programme, RYLA, the Onehunga Christmas Parade, the Community House,** and the club's book collection activity for this year's **Book Fair**.

The most detailed part of the presentation concerned **ADRAG — the Alzheimer's and Dementia Rotary Action Group**.
Tony became interested because District is seeking **club champions** for ADRAG.
Potential benefits include connections to:
Alzheimer's Association New Zealand.
Cure Alzheimer's Fund.
CART Fund.
Music Mends Minds.
Tony finished with a question for discussion:
Could Rotary help improve the connections between dementia patients, families, health providers and community support organisations?

Guest Speaker: Peter Robinson discussing his book on the 1976 All Black tour of South Africa.



Peter described how a **50-year-old collection of rugby memorabilia became a major historical research and book project**, centred on the 1976 All Blacks tour of South Africa.

- **The project began with a personal memory.**
While living and playing rugby in South Africa in 1975–76, Peter created two large scrapbooks documenting the All-Blacks tour. About four years ago, he rediscovered them and decided to digitise them before the newspapers and memorabilia deteriorated.
- **The project grew from preservation into historical research.**
Peter initially intended simply to preserve his material but realised that poor-quality newspaper photographs and missing information meant he needed to find additional sources and reconstruct the story.
- **Other collectors became crucial sources.**
Peter discovered that his own collection covered only eight of the 24 matches. He tracked down Paul "Lofty" Wilson, who had attended all 24 games and possessed an extensive collection of tickets, programmes, and photographs.
- **He built an international network of rugby historians and collectors.**
Facebook groups, researchers and collectors helped him locate information and memorabilia. A particularly valuable contact was Barry Nord, who operates the Waterhole Rugby Museum in South Africa and has original jerseys, blazers, team photographs and other historical material.
- **The book brings many scattered historical sources together.**
Each of the 24 matches follows a consistent format covering the date, opposition, venue, referee, and score, supported by programmes, tickets, photographs, team information and other material.
- **Apartheid was an important but sensitive part of the history.**
Peter initially included a short factual section rather than expressing an opinion. Historians advised him that it should remain because it was historically significant, but that his personal perspective should be limited and carefully presented.
- **He learned the importance of historical documentation.**
At the New Zealand Rugby Museum, Peter was advised that historians need to be able to trace every source. His book eventually contained 1,239 separate inputs, including photographs, articles, and other material, with references showing where each item originated.
- **The human stories became as important as the rugby.**
Peter described the extraordinary atmosphere surrounding the matches, including the intense rivalry and hostility during games, followed afterwards by unexpected friendship and hospitality between New Zealanders and South Africans. One South African supporter repeatedly thanked the visiting Kiwis simply for coming.
- **The rugby itself was very different from today's game.**
The 1976 All Blacks were amateurs, playing **24 matches in 86 days**, with only two replacements permitted. The management team consisted of just a coach and manager, and the rugby was described as extremely physical and sometimes brutal.

The central message

Peter's presentation was ultimately **about preserving history, but also about the power of personal connections**. A forgotten scrapbook led to a much larger project involving collectors, historians, museums, and people around the world.

His final reflection was that although the rivalry between New Zealand and South Africa was fierce on the rugby field, it was accompanied by **mutual respect and friendship off the field**—

Peter was thanked by Brian Williams for sharing his unique experiences of two years in South Africa and his amateur Rugby playing career in the northern hemisphere.

Thought for the week: Rodney Foley

Be Good, Be Kind, keep an eye out!

Duties: 12th of October *Meeting at Royal Oak* Bowls

President: Tony Rayner
Sergeant: Noel Carey
Attendance: Craig Jones
Hospitality: Iain McCrae
Meals: Derek Neutze-Barry Stafford
Scribe: Bill Appleton
5 Minute Speaker: tba
Host: Trevor Mosley
Guest Speaker**: Tony Foster Support Service Manager MND NZ**
Subject: Motor Neuron Disease
Thanks: Bruce Murdoch
Thought for the week: Rhett Stephens

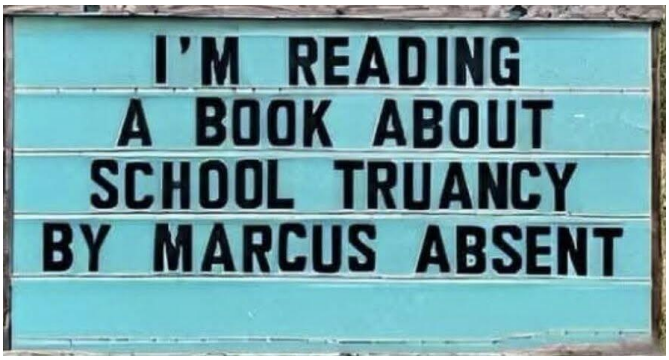
Apologies to Noel by 5.00pm Friday .

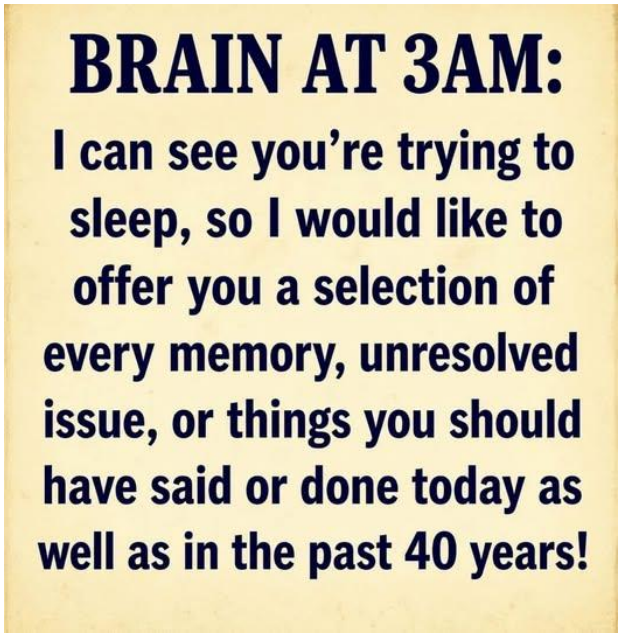
Book Fair.

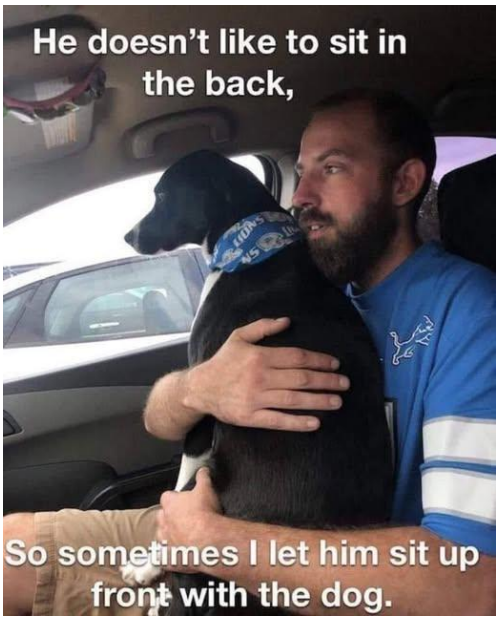
Bill Grayson would really love members to advise him or Peter Mayow as to where they might know of temporary storage facilities for the books prior to the availability of the Onehunga Community House.

Smile!

It makes people wonder what you have been up to!







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End note: ***In Life, it's not where you go-***
It's who you travel with.