

Rotary



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Rotary Club of Onehunga One Tree Hill Inc.

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Club Meets at Royal Oak Bowls 146 Selwyn Street, Onehunga, Auckland

Each Monday evening 5:30pm to 7:30pm, including dinner.

Newsletter to keep the Wheel

NL 62 9th August 2021

August is-

Meeting Report ---

9th August 2021

Apologies:

Ant Martin, Fatu and Parehuia Enari,
Pat Anelay, Duncan McDonald, Peter Mayow

Visitors: Shirley Grayson, Diane McCrae, Penny Kestle

Brian McDonnell, guest of Tony Raynor and Max Rawnsley, guest of Noel Carey.

(Rob Lyons, Brian Williams, and David Taylor. *Ex Epsom Rotary*):

Sergeant Noels Sunshine fund fines. \$88.70.

Scribe: Barry Stafford

President's announcements.

President Robin welcomed the many visitors to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. Robin referred to the Board meeting in the afternoon and the input from Tony Raynor about Rotary Communications. Tony has completed a comprehensive review of the club's digital footprint and presented action steps required to update the club profile and improve the function of our club's media image.

Robin mentioned that we may need to look at a club name change for the digital media.

Robin reminded everyone that there is no meeting at Royal Oak Bowls next week, as we are attending the last concert of 'The Shades' at Q Theatre, Queen Street Auckland City.



Turning!

AUGUST DESIGNATION IS

MEMBERSHIP AND NEW CLUB DEVELOPMENT MONTH

"The things that are worthwhile take time, and it is not the I's of the world but the We's who achieve them."
Past RI President H.J. Brunner 1952-53

TAKE ACTION: Join Rotary, Get Involved

Rotary

Guest Speaker Greg Smith



The billed topic for the day was “**Auckland History and its Volcanoes**”. The address provided was cerebral and stimulating with a lovely gentle touch of humour and humility. Greg’s underlying theme was the difference between history and heritage. His view of history was that it was often to be found in books and museums. The essence of heritage is a quality of inter-generational continuity with things, experiences, ancestors, and events.

He illustrated his theme by discussing with his audience, in a delightful, shared manner and with wonderful assistance from Katherine, the topics of Railways, World War 1, Paua Shell Jewellery and Auckland Volcanoes.

Before embarking on his entertaining discourse Greg enquired of his listeners who amongst us were members of Heritage NZ,

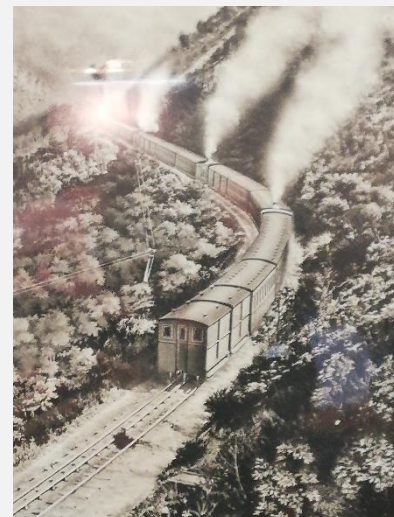
Royal Forest and Bird Society, The Environmental Defence Society, Auckland Volcanic Caring Society, and who watched the tv show “The Repair Shop”? The writer wondered whether it was a subtle way to outing the Philistines amongst us.

He also proudly turned on his old style paua shell alarm clock so that he could remind himself and us when his allotted time was up. As it turned out the alarm sounded when Greg was just getting into his stride. Such was the obvious interest and involvement of us all there was no one prepared to bring the maturing story to an early end.

Greg opened his first subtopic “Railways” by emphasizing what a huge investment and effort went into the building of our railway system. Funded by enormous borrowing on Victorian London’s capital markets we should respect today the investment in the infrastructure built in NZ starting from the 1870s. And most of the system is still with us today with the main trunk line from Blenheim to south of Kaikoura, along with State Highway 1, having recently been restored and improved, in an effort of engineering, expertise and expense on a truly international scale. He asked if we had given enough thought to the sacrifices which had been made by our forebears in creating such a system. Railway construction is always a financial challenge, and invariably expensive, as Auckland folk are currently discovering. The other salient point is that the topography of our country does not provide easy conditions for the construction of railways, as anyone who has travelled on the Christchurch to Greymouth line or experienced the Raurimu Spiral, can attest.

Greg has a special admiration for the Fell Railway built over the Rimutakas to link the lower Wairarapa from Featherstone to the Upper Hutt Valley. He was especially proud of his framed picture of three Fell engines steaming up the steep gradient. He said that this was an amazing feat of engineering and was in use until the 1960s. The only other comparable line in the world had been one linking Argentina and Chile over the Andes. He said that one of the Fell Engines has been preserved and was touched to discover that our own Bede Brittenden had travelled the railway in his youth.

In completing his comments on railways Greg emphasized the importance of the land which carries a Railway Designation, such as the strip running through the heights of Onehunga and upon which the Onehunga Community House is located. The occupation of that site for the first Onehunga Primary School is founded in a lease from NZR to the Education Department. In expressing his firm view that we are on the cusp of a railway comeback he said that that corridor would be essential to an Auckland City Loop line such as the London Circle Line.



He pointed to the renovated Remuera Railway Station, with its unique signal box, and the old Newmarket Station building, now lovingly restored and repositioned in the valley between the

Domain and Parnell, as examples of heritage buildings. They were constructed by our predecessors and are still in daily use.

In moving on to World War 1 he said that it had a broad and lasting impact on our society, even today more than 100 years since Armistice Day 1918, as evidenced by the many in our club who had relatives killed or injured during it. And in travelling around the towns and cities of New Zealand often the war memorials are the most common feature, usually somewhere in the town centre with many in very good condition. These monuments are continual reminders of the enormous sacrifices made by those historic communities, and in part have helped in the resurgence of the celebration of Anzac Day, particularly in the younger generations.

In their visits to the United Kingdom Greg and Katherine have looked for simple ornaments from the War. Greg proudly showed us a small memento he discovered containing the phrase "We've kept the home fires burning", an echo of the famous song "Keep the home fires burning" in 1914 and for which Ivor Novello wrote the score. He also observed that the time preceding the War and during it, was the Golden Age of the humble postcard. Postage to and from the troops was the only contact for family and friends with their endangered offspring. No Facebook for them!

Then there was the emergence of "Trench Art". One example being the "Touch Woods" a small piece of wood worn on a simple chain, to enable the wearer to touch the wood for luck whenever the occasion demanded, most probably in the heat of the terrible carnage. That phrase continues to have the same role in our society today. Another example from the ill-fated Gallipoli campaign are articles made from beads by Turkish prisoners of war during their long periods of inactivity while incarcerated.

In urging us to be careful of heritage Greg instanced paua shell jewellery which came on the back of the War. There are still some paua shell hearts about which were made in the pre-war period. The heyday for these types of ornamentation arose when the RSA sought work for returned, injured soldiers who were otherwise unable to resume their pre-war lives. Small manufactories were established around the country and until about 1925 produced well made products. Demand and interest in them continued until the 1960s and then fell away. Greg says that there has been some recent resurgence of interest in them in recent years.

Greg spoke of paua as possible example of the terrible crossover which occurs when heritage becomes history. He referred to the demise of the Flutey House in Bluff. This was a residential home whose retired owners had decorated the inside with paua shells over nearly 40 years. It was at one time the most popular visitor attraction for visitors to Invercargill. On the Fluteys deaths in 2000 and 2001 the house was taken over by their son. He persuaded the Canterbury Museum in Christchurch to establish a display of some of the house decoration which has become popular with Museum visitors. Greg's final comment on paua ornaments were that the designs were too Eurocentric to last, and he was hoping, as a dealer and collector, that some really good Maori influenced articles would come onto the market.

Greg's final subtopic was the Volcanoes of Auckland. Until recently he had been on the committee of the Volcanic Cones Society of Auckland whose primary role was to keep the remaining cones as the main landscape feature of the city. Those cones previously destroyed by quarrying are now history, their continuity gone forever. He referred to the importance of the Volcanic View Shafts in the Auckland District Plan. They have been in place for some time and their purpose is to preserve the current views over the city which we can enjoy from their summits. He thinks the View Shafts will come under planning pressure with the current push for intensification of residential accommodation in the isthmus. Examples of this are now all around us. Our environment and our heritage will pay the price.

Greg's conclusion to his thoughtful and very entertaining address was that the continuity of our heritage does not happen on its own. You have to make an effort. We need to think about what we want our children and grandchildren to inherit from us. It is also necessary to acknowledge that the protection of our heritage is expensive. But it is important for successive generations to have a sense of continuity with our past to be able to appreciate what we enjoy now.



It will not benefit our issue to find themselves dislocated from their past. To that end we must try and protect our heritage and not allow it to become history.

Greg was thanked, on behalf of those present, by Tony Rayner.

Club Website link

<https://www.rotaryonehungaonetreehill.co.nz/>

Duties

16th August

Equipment: Fatu Enari
Attendance: Bede Brittenden
Hospitality: Rod Kestle
5 Minute Speaker: President Robin
Guest Speaker: Sita Sulupe Principal
Subject: Rise Up Academy
Host: Parehuia Enari
Thanks: Colin Tea
Thought for the week : Tony Rayner

Scribe: *Lloyd Albiston*

(Remember, if you are **not available for a duty, **please organise a replacement** and advise Alan and Noel.)**

23rd August

Social Event .

The Shades Concert
Q Theatre
Queen Street, Auckland City

Brought to you by
Onehunga One Tree Hill Rotary

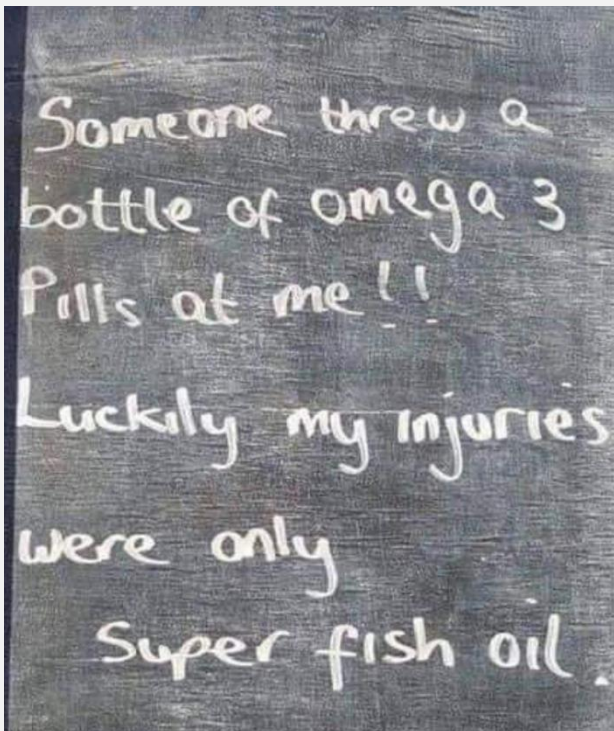
Scheduled programme

30th August	The Journey to being a Judge	Rev Stan Thorburn
6th September	Beyond Water - East Africa	Sharon Crean
13th September	Being Governor General	Anand Satyanand
18-21 September	Neighbourhood /Beach Clean-up Week	District 9910 Event
20th September	Public Speaking	Epsom Schools
27th September	Epsom Normal School	Dillon Rungan



Rotary Club of Onehunga One Tree Hill

Touch of Humour



"The fat guys all run into each other, while the slightly slimmer guys stand in a line watching them. Eventually the fat guys get tired and have a lie down on top of each other.

"The ball comes out the back of this lie down and the skinnier guys kick it back and forward to each other for half an hour. Then the fat guys wake up and start running into each other again.

"Every now and again the referee stops play because someone dropped the ball. That's the only thing you are not allowed to do in rugby. Everything else would appear to be okay.

"Sometimes one group of fat guys pushes the other group over the line and there is some manly hugging, but no shifting like in soccer. After 80 minutes they add up the score and New Zealand wins."



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