



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



Turning!

NL 67 20th Sept 2021

September is-

20th September 2021 Zoom Meeting

Members: 23

Apologies:

Ernie Meyer, Bruce Clegg, Ant Martin, Fatu and Parehuia Enari, Visitors: Min Roche, Lindsay Ford, Sir Anand Satyanand.



Rotary



SEPTEMBER IS EDUCATION & LITERACY MONTH

"EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON WHICH YOU CAN
USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD."
- NELSON MANDELLA



Guest Speaker: The Rt. Hon. Sir Anand Satyanand was introduced by Bede Brittenden detailing many highlights from Sir Anand's illustrious career.



Ladies and Gentlemen, Tena Koutou Katoa. Thank you for your welcome and invitation to contribute to your 2021 year. As a Rotarian of many years, I know that one of the easiest ways to deal with a request to assist a Rotary occasion is to say either "Yes" or "Yes when?"

And when the person asking, is someone who was a sixth former when you were a third former at Sacred Heart College in the late 1950s, it is a matter aided by experience to say, "Yes Bede!"

Although it was not usual to have much to do with a sixth former when in a lower class at Sacred Heart College in the 1950s, Bede Brittenden was well-known because he had done whatever was called for, to become a properly certified Rugby referee whilst still a schoolboy. So, when the Sacred Heart 6th grade C team played other school teams from Selwyn College or St Kentigerns etc the referee was a later teenager, Bede, immaculately turned out in a referee's uniform. His temperament, even then, suited the role and I remember clearly the time when, after an infringement, Bede blew his whistle for a penalty and one of the boys asked, "Who's ball ref?" To which Bede's reply was a succinct "Ours, you silly bugger!"

I should also thank Bede for letting me off the hook to speak last week. I was originally booked to be with you on 13 September. Whilst I was ok with speaking on a night with 13 as its number, it was the beginning of Māori Language Week, and I would have found it difficult to get much beyond saying Onehunga and One Tree Hill. So, it was a great relief when Bede got hold of me and said, "What say we make it on the 20th!"

It is a delight to be welcomed to your Club and I provide greetings from the Rotary Club of Wellington. I can also pass on news that your recent member, Jenilee Pearce, having shifted to the capital, has taken up membership with our Club effective from last Monday.

Onehunga is an Auckland suburb with a history going back to the early 1840s. It holds a valued record by having elected into office the first woman ever, in New Zealand and even in the then British Empire, as Mayor of a local body. That happened in this district, very shortly after women gained the suffrage, when Elizabeth Yates became mayor of Onehunga on 16 January 1894. The election made international news and brought her congratulations from Premier Richard Seddon and Her Majesty Queen Victoria.^[3]

That was not the end, locally, because she was met with strong opposition from a hard core of local councillors, town clerk and members of the public. They often disrupted meetings and orchestrated opposition to every proposal she advanced. It is noted by some critics that she did not help her own cause by being 'tactless' and 'dictatorial' in her manner. In November 1894, when the mayoralty was again contested. Yates ran again but was defeated at the polls by a significant margin.

Mrs Yates later returned as a councillor to the Borough Council for two years between 1899 and 1901. Even her opponents conceded that she had been very effective during her short tenure, having liquidated the borough debt, established a sinking fund, reorganised the fire brigade, upgraded roads, footpaths and sanitation, and having personally lobbied the government to authorise the reopening of the Waikaraka cemetery

In later years Elizabeth Yates suffered with ill health being committed to the Auckland Mental Hospital in Avondale in 1909 until her death in 1918. She was buried with her husband in the cemetery at St Peter's Anglican Church at 184 Onehunga Mall in the township.

To have a launching point (with an account of a local Mayor from over 100 years ago) is connected with Rotary because in 1921, exactly 100 years ago, came the time when the international fellowship organisation called Rotary which had begun in Chicago in the United States in 1905 reached our country for the first time. From small beginnings in Auckland and Wellington in 1921, there was incremental growth over a period of fifty years to a point when it was said that Rotary's penetration into the community was both equal to, and more than anywhere else

in the world. In 1971 a milestone was reached with one in every 250 New Zealanders being a Rotarian. The peak was that of the country then having as many as 243 Clubs and 12791 members in 1985. Two prominent Prime Ministers of the mid-20th century, Sid Holland and Keith Holyoake had spent time as Rotarians before taking on public political life.

How was it that a United States based community group idea was so successful in another far-away country? Many explanations have been offered. New Zealand does not have hierarchies such as exist in the United Kingdom and other European settings. New Zealanders are actively involved in volunteer effort of many kinds. Rotary provided a vehicle for fellowship and community action.

This year, 2021, has provided a very good platform to reflect on the many local organisations that have benefited from or been commenced by people in Rotary. I am not going to list them all, but reference to the Crippled Children's Society now CCS Disability Action, the Asthma and Respiratory Foundation now Asthma New Zealand, the Child Health Research Foundation, now Cure Kids, were all begun by people in Rotary Clubs like your one. It was not only health that benefited from connection with Rotary, because things like Defensive Driving and the Dame Malvina Major Foundation for supporting the advancement of young New Zealand singers and musicians were commenced by Rotarians.

That short list, to which can be added a number of other things – Outward Bound and Probus come to mind - represents things in New Zealand for which Rotary can take pride. Rotary is an organisation that has contributed in many ways to the civic strength of our communities in many parts of the country. I am not sure whether any of you has travelled to another part of the country and gone to Rotary whilst there. I feel sure, if you have, that you will have benefited from sharing a way of life with others on a similar pathway.

To turn away from this central waypoint, it can then be said that from those heady heights of 40 years ago, there has been something of a steady lessening and downturn in Rotary's impact on society and the number of 12 000 plus members in Rotary nationwide has retreated to a point nearly half that size with fewer Clubs and many of those with an age profile that some say does not bode positively for the future. Not even the organisation changing positively in the late 1990s to include women as members has solved this problem.

Smaller size does not necessarily mean an inferior product as a moment's reflection on two items we all access – motor vehicles and telephones establish.

The challenge is for current members to focus on developing an organisation that is fit for purpose in the modern era where people have different priorities to those of earlier years. People today spend more leisure time with families. People today do not favour joining an organisation where there is a governance emphasis on rules and tradition. People today spend much of their time associated with technology and people today have developed different ideas about the outdoors from rivers and streams to seaside and forests.

I want then to approach an end by taking up **five items** and suggesting that they offer a platform for Rotary's future in New Zealand.

The first is technology and the capacity that it has to be engaged in the 21st century. We meet today virtually using the sophistication of Zoom. We are doing so by reason of the Covid pandemic but there is great potential for Rotary Clubs to meet this way on a regular basis and doing all the projects and having fellowship without the added burden of gathering together in groups in premises.

The second item is to emphasise the physical environment of our country and to point to the many initiatives that Rotary has engaged itself with in recent times to do with tree planting of native plants which is a win-win for the land as well as people.

The third is tradition and rules. People do not readily accept as much as they used to the rule of a classification system that you could only have one plumber and one accountant etcetera in a club. Rotary should be permitted in groups that might be all accountants or Bridge players or cricket followers if they choose to do so. The sword able to be wielded by District, Zone and Headquarters should be removed from the lexicon and approach.

The fourth item is membership. We have had one hundred years of individual membership and it seems timely for the organisation to examine the benefits of having husbands and wives as members. An offshoot of this thinking is the development of Passport Clubs where the emphasis

is on participation on a broader basis than weekly connection with just one Club. Passport Clubs have meetings with a variety of formats and can meet less frequently than every week and focus on providing service rather than just gathering.

The fifth and last item is governance which is to observe that Rotary in New Zealand has just kept on keeping the model that served its first fifty years. We have too many Clubs and too many Districts which has made the organisation more than a little like a musclebound athlete – not able to function as well as it ought. Ireland is a country with about 5 million people where Rotary has been going for about the same time as New Zealand. Rotary in Ireland has one District 1160. New Zealand which has the same population has not fewer than six. I am pleased to learn of steps that are being taken right at this time towards amalgamation and consolidation of Districts.

My address has thus covered history with some highpoints and a strong suggestion that there is a need for change. I have ended with the offering of five ways in which this challenge might be met. I for one am optimistic that Rotarians of New Zealand have the resilience to make the necessary changes.

It might be thought that that would conclude what I had to offer. However, Bede Brittenden hasn't changed a great deal over the years and said – if I quote him correctly, that I should cover something of the connection between Rotary and the time I spent with my wife Susan in Government House. It is to that I will turn as I close.

Many New Zealand Governors-General have had some association with Rotary by attendance at Rotary-led occasions over the years. When New Zealand eventually reached a position of appointing locally born and raised people to that office it became a practice begun by the first of that group Sir Denis Blundell to accept honorary membership of a Club. Fast forward to 2006 and to the installation of New Zealand's 19th Governor-General on 23 August 2006, the person who swore the Oaths of Office before the Chief Justice on the steps of Parliament was a member of the Rotary Club of Wellington and the first Rotarian to do so -myself. The practice has caught on because my successor in office, Sir Jerry Mateparae, was also a Member of the Rotary Club of Wellington when he took office in August 2011.

During the five-year term there was ample opportunity to keep a connection with Rotary and Rotarians because, as some will recall, there was a reconstructing and strengthening exercise conducted which meant that we were not able to live in Government House for two and a half of the five years. This actually provided a positive opportunity to spend time in the Government House in Auckland and to conduct a continuing wide range of activities in provincial parts of the country. When these were planned it often proved useful to see if there was a Rotary District Conference or something of that kind occurring and to amalgamate two things.

There were also opportunities to receive the World President of Rotary when Ray Klinginsmith of Kirksville Missouri visited in 2010. I have no idea what impression he took away from New Zealand and Wellington because Susan and I had to receive him accompanied by a small group of Rotary Governors not in Government House but in the lounge room of temporary premises in the grounds in a house usually occupied by the Official Secretary. An almost indecent number of people were squashed into a room with cups of tea and tiny cakes perched on our knees. The same room and house had to serve as the place when I received the resignation of the Prime Minister Helen Clark after the 2008 General Election and a little time later the swearing in of the new Prime Minister John Key. I have a recollection of consummate good manners being exhibited on all sides during the change over which is very different in many other settings. That matter of deciding who has the majority in the House of Representatives and declaring that and inviting the successful person to be Prime Minister is the central role of a Governor-General. Many things like opening buildings or conferring honours could be undertaken by another person but the matter of what Dame Catherine Tizard said was "passing the parcel of power" is reserved to the Governor-General.

Five years is a long time and there are a myriad of things to recall with ease. I restrict myself to four items. The award of the Victoria Cross for bravery is a rare occurrence and I had the privilege

of pinning the medal with its words “For Valour” on the chest of Corporal Willie Apiata. The grant of the award had gone through a lengthy and careful process beforehand and its grant to Corporal Apiata was thought to be particularly apt. There was also another unique formal occasion after the John Key government brought back honours and titles and I had the pleasant task of knighting or daming a total of 66 people in one session at the Old St Pauls Church in Wellington - again because Government House was closed - with a reception that followed at Premier House. The third thing which shows how not everything goes well was when I unveiled the plaque at the front of the Selwyn District Council’s new premises in Rolleston and mistook the difference between lifting and pulling with a result that the seal in the middle of the plaque fell out in front of 400 people and bounced across the stage much to the amusement of most of those in attendance. The last thing to bring to mind tonight occurred in this district – Onehunga on the Oranga side towards Mt Smart and Penrose. I had gone to a local primary school for an occasion and had spoken about the value of reading and making friends with books which was a regular theme I adopted when speaking to children. Whatever I said, had clearly not gone over so well with a 10-year-old Polynesian girl, whose contribution at the question time which followed went “Do they let you stay in the same House as Dame Silvia?”

With your leave, Ladies and Gentlemen, I propose to end my contribution to your Rotary year, there, and to thank you for your attendance and, at least as far as I can tell, your kind and courteous attention.

No reira Tena Koutou Katoa.

Barry Stafford proposed a vote of thanks to Sir Anand or was it ‘an address in reply’.

A number of references were made by Barry to a series of trios.

The first trio that was recalled was that it's useful for us to remember that when Anand became the Governor General of New Zealand. He was the first person of Indian descent. He was the first Catholic, and first knight of the order of St John. And all of those things indicated the breadth of his experience before he ever got to the office.

The second of the trio was Anand’s contemporaries during his life, David Lange, Mike Brown and Winston Peters. Barry expanded on these relationships with Anand, providing interesting anecdotes relating to these friendships.

The third of the trio is that there were three points that Anand always sought to make in his governor general addresses.

The first is the importance of **diversity**. The second is the importance of **engagement**. And the third is the importance of **education**.

Barry related how our club is certainly aware of and has done things about all of those three things. In relation to diversity, we probably haven't done as well as we might. There are a handful of women in our club. And our average age is certainly up there.

Our contact with the schools in the area, particularly Onehunga High School and Deidre Shea is at this meeting today and is a very respected principal of this high school, where if you had the pleasure of attending their annual prize giving you would be immediately struck by the variety of people that are there, the broad range of ethnicity, and the emotional experience of just being there. And, apart from having large representation from the Māori and Pacific community that school also has had a succession of very impressive, children of refugees who come in, obviously, to Auckland, as the start of their life in New Zealand. So, we have engaged with the schools in the area.

We also engaged with a school called Pacific Advanced Secondary School started by Sir Michael Jones. And that was started about six years ago and quite a high echelon of people from the club

regularly go there to help young, 13- and 14-year-old, Samoan, young men and women, improve their reading ability and comprehension ability and associated matters. And we have a close association with them.

So, we do have we do have some diversity we do have an engagement with our community. And we're very conscious about the importance of education.

Barry then conveyed to Anand our heartfelt thanks for spending this time with us today. And as is the custom we think with Zoom now. It's not that we clap, but we give you, appropriately, a royal wave. Thank you very much.

President Robin was going to speak briefly on the Northern Schools Project NZ but took advantage of the fact PDG Lindsay Ford was in attendance to ask him to say a few words on the subject.

"Guys, at the Rotary Club pleased to join you tonight and our very interesting guest speaker. I really appreciate it. Yes, the project is a has become a global grand project. The value of the global grand project is a touch over \$500,000 It is a huge project. It started with a meeting, I guess with Cat Levine and Rod Kestle to discuss a mental health, mental wellbeing project in Northern area.

The main purpose of the project is to be training approximately 450 schoolteachers through a lack of funding or lack of training, find it hard to deal with the process of their mental well-being and the need for those resources to help those children in that area. We will shortly be going out to all the clubs.

The changes that we've had in the in the Rotary Foundation. Regarding global grants over the last five years, especially since January. As my global grants, more interesting and more, probably more difficult to get across the line. They are competitive, lack of funding with the Rotary Foundation has made it that way, through COVID and a lot of the funding that the foundation has had has been apportioned to COVID related programs. And so, where we had funding matches from Rotary Foundation of 50 cents on the dollar for funding. We don't have that anymore. There's no match towards private funding, and our funding match through the Rotary Foundation for district funds has dropped from 100% to 80 cents on the dollar.

So, my biggest hurdle for this project, and I don't normally talk about money because I think that if you have the knowledge of the of the project, and your passionate about the project, and you get your facts and figures clear, the information on the program that we want to be successful with will easily attract the sponsorship or the funding from Rotary clubs.

Also, in that information was a small video is going to be going out either later this week or next week and then we'll go into all clubs and send out to all districts and go into all Rotary Foundation chairs from all districts, Rotary Foundation chairs throughout Australia, and our connections with other international districts. The Korean districts that we've had support from in the past. The passion from people for this project is absolutely fantastic, I think we as an organization. Yeah, we're there to help our communities, but most of all, we're there to bring projects to us, and, and through good connection with your club, and Cat. This program, expose a huge need for this program. And so, we've supported it. We think it's important, we know it's important. We know that it's going to make a difference to a great many lives in North.

I guess our big goal. Our dream is The Rotary Foundation has a Programs of Scale grant, which they issue once a year, and that grant is normally around \$2 million. Last year that grant, went to a malaria type program project in. In Nigeria, and it actually expanded out thru different funding to \$6

million. Our dream is that we're going to use this current Global grant evaluations reporting and all the facts and figures that we can get, because of our successful outcome, to apply for this program as Global Grant. We should be enormous for, not so much just for Rotary but it'll be enormous for the communities not just our district but through areas in New Zealand where we hope to use this template program for other areas.

So, it's extremely challenging. I'm just a draftsman, I just put the information together that has been supplied to me, and, and the information coming from Cat Levine, and the organization has been outstanding. And we've included a large committee of many people throughout the district who have an interest to be on the committee and I invite anyone from your club in particular that would like to be involved and serve on the committee. We invite you to be involved. If you wish, purely because you have the knowledge of not just global grants but all this program that you can then, speak and propose and through sponsorships and things like that so it's huge and I'm just glad to be part of it. And I know your plans made an indicative support for the program. And I thank you for that, and, and we look forward to working with not just your club but our culture, and support. Thank you very much.

President Robin: Thank you, Lindsay,

That's much appreciated. We've got a huge advantage in that Cat Levine lives here in Onehunga, so at the first opportunity we're going to get her to come and talk to the club at the end of the program videos well, so that was really all I had for tonight.

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

District Announcement from DG Grant Smith

Due to the challenges and uncertainty presented by the current Covid-19 alert level settings, we've made the difficult decision to postpone this year's Clean Up event until 30 October to still be part of New Zealand clean up week which runs from 25-31 October 2021. We recognise that this date may clash with some club's other activities but will still do our best to get as many clubs involved as possible.

Guest Speakers

27th Sept Three 5 minutes from: Paul Jenner, Brian Williams and Lloyd Albiston

Oct speakers

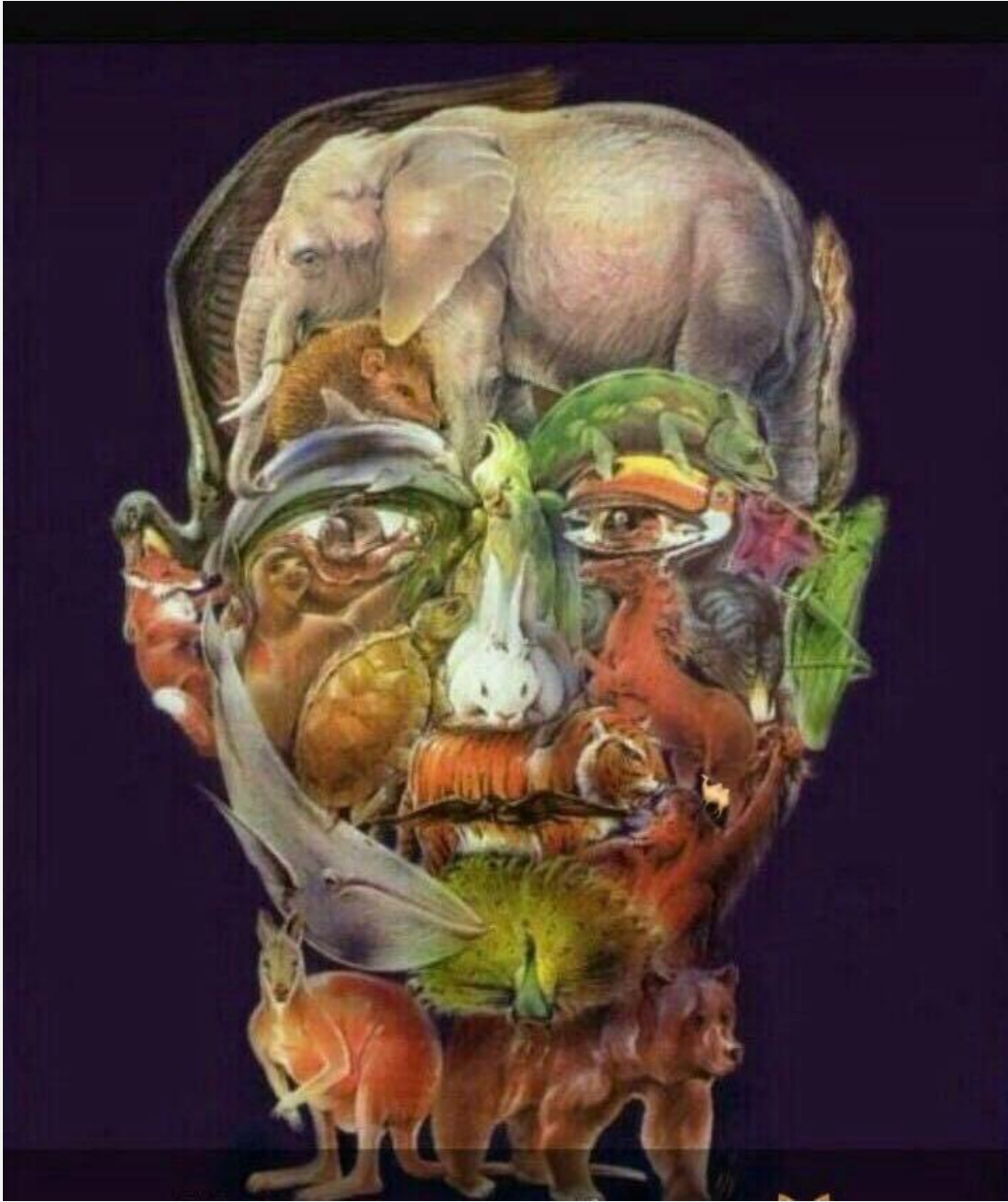
4th tba

11th Viv Beck CEO Heart of the City

Touch of Humour

From Brian Williams

Find the camel and forget Alzheimer's for a few years.



Don't give up ! It is there!!



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