

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 Turning!



NL 72 22nd Nov 2021

November is-

1st November 2021 Zoom Meeting

Visitors:

Members:

Apologies: , Alan Bannin, Trevor Mosley, Ernie Meyer, Bruce Clegg, Ant Martin, Fatu and Parehuia Enari.

NOVEMBER IS

ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

EVERY ROTARIAN EVERY YEAR

"Clean water, the essence of life and a birthright for everyone, must become available to all people now"
Jean-Michel Cousteau

BECAUSE WE CARE
MAKE A CONTRIBUTION, BE THE DIFFERENCE

Rotary

TAKE ACTION: rotary.org/contribute

Rotary



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Presidents Announcements:

President Robin welcomed Judge Stan and our guests to the Meeting.

Robin advised that the Te Tai Tokerau Project fund raising was close to Target.

Robin mentioned that next week's guest speaker is David Downes, who has a personal journey to relate, and was the feature of a recent Television program. Members may wish to invite interested friends.

The Heart Foundation collection is rescheduled for 24th and 28th February 2022

Secretary Iain advised that Peter Hirst, a former member of the Onehunga Club had passed away a couple of weeks ago.

Guest Speaker: Judge Stan Thorburn was introduced by Rod Kestle a comrade in arms of the 'Tractor Trek Mental Wellbeing Awareness' project. This was a Tractor run from Bluff to Cape Reinga and included visits to schools along the way. Rod related the tales of the 'Wooden Spoon' award presented to the winners at dinner each evening. For those most stupid or unfortunate events by somebody on the day. Penny and Rod had each been awarded the Wooden Spoon, (they did not divulge their misdemeanours), and it was also won by Stan for his part in holding up the Tractor convoy one morning.

With the rest of the Tractors sitting idling noisily in the campground at 8.00am, Stan's Tractor was silent. Stan could not find his keys. After much rummaging through luggage Stan remembered his washing from the night before, and sure enough there on the ground beneath his trousers was the very-clean tractor key. Wooden Spoon presented that night.

Rod said he was pleased to present to the meeting the Tractor Trek partner and District Court Judge Stan Thorburn.

Judge Stan thanked Rod for his introduction and said that he had been a friend of Rod's for some time and was thankful for his discretion in reporting 'what goes on tour stays on tour'.

Stan was a District Court Judge for 27 years and before that a practising lawyer for 17 years with court work on criminal, matrimony, and child custody cases.

Stan said the work involved in being a defence lawyer was very tiring and he discussed the dynamics between Judge and defence Lawyer duties. When he got the job as a Judge the dynamics of his contribution changed, he did not have to do the research and think up the arguments to put to the court, it was like a breath of fresh air to sit and let the lawyers do what he was familiar with, and at the end to resolve the case with a decision on who was the winner on the day.

The district court has different compartments, and his tenure was in Criminal cases and Civil cases, which were in the District Court's jurisdiction. All sorts of statutes are argued in the district court, not just crime. For example, a dispute between residential and farming communities. with the 'movement' of cows up a Lifestyle block sealed access road and the problems this caused for garage floors of the residents.

In the end the council was able to provide the solution of a tunnel under the road.

Stan decided that the Juvenile court would interest the members and detailed some aspects of the courts work in this area.

This is where 14- to 17-year-old youngsters are brought in, you graduated to the adult court once you had your 17th Birthday. This dealt with some extremely tough stuff that had been perpetrated by these boys and girls. This led one to try to define where this gross behaviour was coming from and try to piece together the facts about their background that may provide a common thread to explain this situation. Horrible burglaries, horrible crimes of violence.

At the end of his 27 years he would have to say that juvenile crimes of violence got worse, but most concerning was the increased prevalence of girls that were involved in horribly violent crimes. The assumption that boys were the main offenders was seen to be wrong as the girls were the most violent offenders, really really tough girls.

You wonder what can be done as these are forming adults and you wonder if you can be a fence at the top of the cliff. and not the ambulance at the bottom.

Early intervention would be the key, and it was realised that the damage can be done by the time they reach 4 years of age and it has been realised, largely due to some investigative journalism, mainly by Lesley Max and a couple of paediatricians from Auckland who postured that child abuse was violence and also to do with the lack of nurture in the early part of their lives.

Most of the children coming into the court were from unstable homes, many of them did not know who their father was, and the only role models they had were close family relations with dubious behaviour. They had all being shifted around and by the time they were 12 years old might have had 20 temporary foster homes. Their research led to a conclusion, that is now accepted around the world, that the empathy centre in the frontal lobe of the brain and the development of this empathy centre, in a normal situation tends to produce adults who understand how it feels for others, in some way or other, and by the time they are adults they have a good grip on the consequences of their behaviour on others, because they can correlate, they have empathy.

The empathy centre is developed in boys by the age of 22yrs, and for girls it is 18 to 20 yrs. If there has been no close loving nurturing contact during these early years, the empathy centre is not kickstarted. Experiments were carried out that proved conclusively that difference in behaviour between well nurtured kids and kids that lacked this experience was profound. It is very hard to reach these kids to alter their reactions to life's experiences. To try to do this with punishment is a waste of time as they have been punished all their lives.

When it comes to adults who may be recidivist offenders the duty of the court is to protect the public and raises the question of how prison affects these people. .Is there something that can be done to improve their outcomes, or are they a lost cause., Stan pointed out that when the prison term in New Zealand gets to about 2 years, there is about a 70% chance that this person will reoffend. Once they go in for a third time the chance of reoffending is nearly 100%. This has been the statistic for many years. Stan said that as long as he has been reading these statistics, since 1990, they prove that prison does not modify people's behaviour,

This is obvious in that how can you dislocate people from society and then put them back into society and expect them to be better.

Towards the end of his role as Judge Stan got very involved in a new model of dealing with criminal behaviour and that was Restorative justice. That was a way of thinking differently and wondering whether or not this empathy lack which all prisoners seem to have can be invaded with something they have never had before, and that intercept is a real experience with a real victim.

So that a prisoner who is in prison because they have a victim, is made to sit down and look into the eyes of a victim, maybe even theirs. They hate personal connection with victims because there is nowhere to go. And so, it is a dynamic way of forcing those, who are approachable and may be softened a little, to get them to meet with victims. This has been very successful, and New Zealand has led the way.

This has led to people writing letters of apology, getting jobs to pay their victims reparation along with other actions that don't sound like people with a lack of empathy. So restorative justice is a way we have tried to introduce the possibility that the behavioural change that we all seek in criminal cycles of behaviour is somewhere in giving them the understanding of what their behaviour does to others, which is actually what empathy is.

Restorative Justice pulls aside the curtain of anonymity and makes them aware of the personal context of their offending. Stan finished with the comment that these were a few reflections of his time in the Judiciary. Several questions followed and were well addressed by Stan.

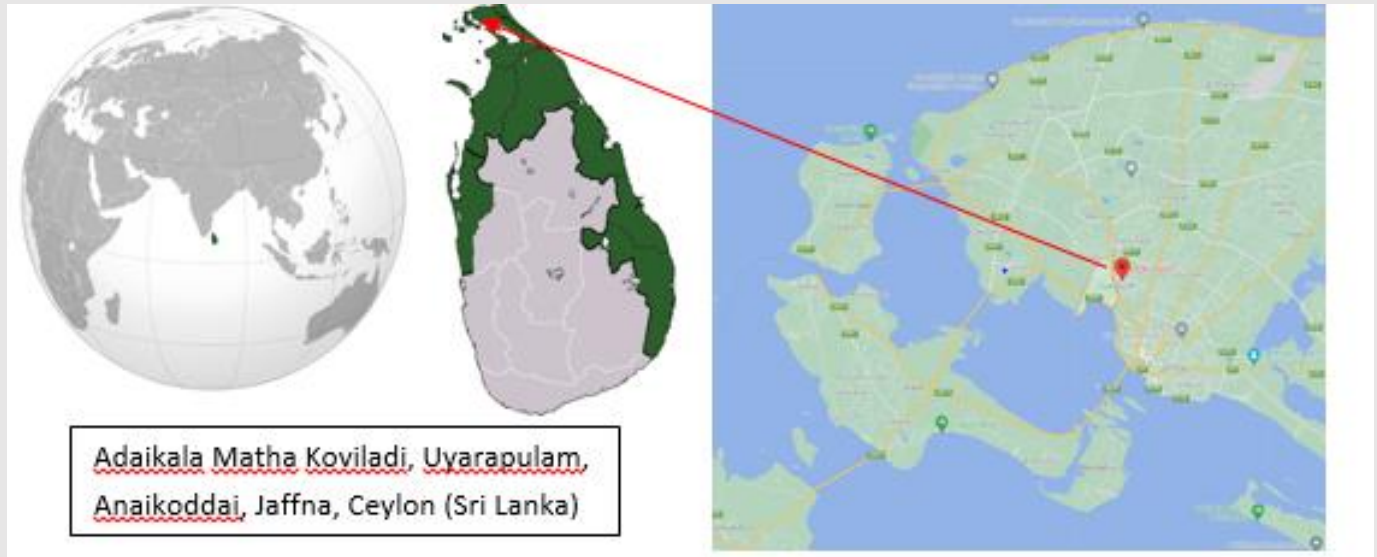
Stan was thanked by President Robin for his insightful presentation.

1 Minute spot from Rod Kestle who advised that he had items that were destined for the Vanuatu Hospital Project and no longer required. Mostly office supplies. If anyone is able to help dispose of these please contact Rod.

Five minutes George Arulanantham

This is a true story passed down through a few generations.

It happened in 1890s in the small fishing village in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). According to the caste system in Ceylon Tamils, the people from the village belong to a cast call Karaiyars also called as Kurukulam.



One of the ladies in the village uses to collect money from fishermen fishing and returning back from the sea in the early mornings. She gets up early as 4:00 AM and walk to the sea, 2 km away from the village.

One day in the mid-1890s, when this lady was going to collect money, someone called her name from the nearby cactus bushes. She looked around and no one was there then she went. It happened the next day and continued to happen for a few days. She felt strange and she told a young man called Rappiyel in the village. Next day Rappiyel went with her, and the same thing happened. Somebody called the lady. The voice came from the bushes. They both were scared but went and started looking into the bushes. They found a miracle. They found a statue of Mother Mary. They went back home and had shower and came with a few other villagers and took the statue of Mother Mary and kept it in the nearby land belonging to Rappiyel

The villagers made a hut and kept the statue of Mother Mary and started worshipping Mother Mary. Meantime Rappiyel brought this matter to the Bishop in the city Jaffna. The Church became Parish and Fr Louis Poologasingham became the first Parish Priest in 1892.

Rappiyel started leading the community and earned the nickname Chaddampiyaar. One of the meanings for Chaddampiyaar in Tamil is who makes the laws and enforcement.

Chaddampiyaar donated his land to the church and built the permanent building for the Church in early 1990. Building materials for the church were brought from Kerala (India) and moved from the nearby small harbour by a human chain (about 2 km).

Chaddampiyaar also donated the land to build the School.

Chaddampiyaar passed away at the age 78, just a day after the big festival at the church on 9 September 1938. When he died, he didn't have any property or land. He donated all his land and property to church and school. He didn't give anything to his two sons.

Chaddampiyaar received the medal for his service from His Majesty King George V of Great Britain

Chaddampiyaar is my Great-grandfather.



Church in 1940s



Chaddampiyaar
(in 1933)



Church now (in 2020)

Thought for the week from Peter Mayow. Delivered by Robin).

**How to donate to the club special account for the Te Tai Tokerau Project.
Target \$50,000.00**

Rotary Club of One Tree Hill Trust Account 02 0400 0009047 04
Code Tai Tokerau

To Receive a tax receipt: email Bruce Murdoch bbmurdoch@xtra.co.nz

Name Address Contact Number

Programme for balance of 2021

Date: 8th November **Guest Speaker** David Downs **Subject** A Mild Touch of Cancer

Introduced by: Bede Brittenden **Thanks** Barry Stafford .

5-Minute Speaker: Bill Grayson

Thought for the Week: Rod Kestle.

Date: 15th November **Guest Speaker:** Keith Quinn **Subject** 5 Minutes Each Way

Introduced by: Bede Brittenden **Thanks:** Iain McCrae

5-Minute Speaker: Barry Stafford

Thought for the Week: . Rob Lyons

Date: 22nd November **Guest Speaker** **Subject**

Introduced by: **Thanks:**

5-Minute Speaker: David Taylor

Thought for the Week: . Tony Rayner

Date: 29th November **Guest Speaker** **AGM** **Subject**

Introduced by: President Robin Hulford **Thanks:**

5-Minute Speaker: n/a

Thought for the Week: . Paul Jenner

Date: 6th December **Awards Night** **Event at Royal Oak Bowls Cancelled**

Introduced by: Robin Hulford / Ernie Meyer/Diedre Shea (Zoom Meeting format TBA)
Thanks:

5-Minute Speaker: n/a

Thought for the Week: . Neil Reid

Date: 13th December **Guest Speaker** **Christmas Function**

Host: President Robin Hulford

Thought for the Week: . Iain McCrae

Date: 20th December **Guest Speaker** **Informal Meeting** Last for 2021

5-Minute Speaker: n/a

Thought for the Week: . Lloyd Albiston



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THE ROTARY FOUNDATION
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Foundation



*Make the Rotary Foundation
your Charity of Choice!*



Touch of Humour

Have you ever noticed that
all instruments searching
for intelligent life...



**Are pointed away
from Earth**

In the 1980s, A&W tried to
compete with the Mcdonald's
Quarter Pounder by selling a
1/3 pound burger at a lower
cost. The product failed,
because most customers
thought the 1/4 pound was
bigger.

This is why I don't argue
online.

Whenever my wife uses
the phrase:

"I Was
Thinking."



That means I have to
move, build, paint, or
buy something.



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