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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! March is-

#### NL 87 21st March 2022

### **Apologies:**

: Trevor Mosley, Bruce Clegg, Ant Martin, Fatu and Parehuia Enari, Derek Atkinson, Ernie Meyer, Deidre Shea, Deiter Dyck, Gwynyth Carr, **Barry Stafford** 

Members: 22

#### **Visitors:**

**Sergeants Fines:** 

# **Presidents Announcements**

**President Robin** welcomed everyone to the Zoom meeting

Congratulations to Peter Mayow, Tony Rayner, Lloyd Albiston and their team who have now completed the production and delivery of the Child Cancer appeal Flyers

This March, thousands of volunteers were going to take to the streets with buckets all over New Zealand to collect donations for our 2022 Street Appeal.

Due to the ongoing uncertainty around COVID-19, and with the aim of keeping our volunteers and community safe, we've unfortunately decided to cancel our biggest fundraising event of the year. We risk losing around \$300,000 in vital donated funds.

369 Kiwi kids with cancer still need your support. Please donate now to help us urgently fill ou virtual buckets.

was proudly delivered by: Onehunga One Tree Hill Rotary



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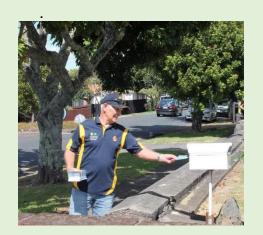
Special thanks to Tony Rayner for the media work and the posting on the club's Facebook Page.

ence of life and a birthright for everyor Il people now."

Rotary 3

www.rotary.org

https://www.facebook.com/rcooth/





### 1-minute Spots

**Neil Reid** advised that the new member meeting will be in May. Currently 12 attendees. Please keep the names rolling in.

**Bill Grayson** has provided an update on the Progress/ Success of the Te Whaka Ora Tangata Project from Kaitaia. These are fantastic results and reflect the amazing .work done by the Team at the Kaitaia project office. (Document attached)





Rotary Club of Onehunga One Tree Hill

# **Guest Speaker. George Arulanantham** ONZM, QSM **Subject:** "This is my life".

George was introduced by Lloyd as a remarkable guy and a man of many attributes, now including "Marriage Celebrant", He was included, with his wife Ann, in the New Year's honours list.

George presented a chronological power point presentation about his life in New Zealand after leaving Sri Lanka.

(PDF copy of content has been sent to all members, also attached)

1983 – New Zealand sponsored people affected in the 1983 Pogrom Formation of the 'New Zealand Tamil Society

Mid 1990s – Refugees and asylum seekers

Professionals arrive on the immigration points system

July 1994 – New Zealand Permanent Resident
Visited New Zealand from Thailand Organised a Visa and went back.

January 1998 – Migrated to New Zealand and Settled. (Second daughter born in Thailand)

At that time, there was an influx of Sri Lankan Tamils to New Zealand as refugees. Many young Tamil boys, most of them partially stopped their studies and came here scared of their life in Sri Lanka. He helped these boys in some matters related to the new life in New Zealand.

#### **Community Work**

2001 - Elected as a President of the 'New Zealand Tamil Society' and changed the focus to **Integration** 

Worked to help Tamil refugees and migrants settle down and **integrate** into the New Zealand way of life.

George was instrumental in establishing a Tamil school and formed 'Poonga' (Tamil Community Education) as a settlement strategy.

This consisted of:

Playgroup

Youth Group

Tamil Talent and Examination

Parent Support Group (Empowering Women).

**Bridging Education** 

Subsequently an umbrella organisation was formed called the Consortium of Tamil Associations New Zealand (COTANZ)

COTANZ was designed to bring together the various organisations in the Tamil community and act as a united voice for the community throughout New Zealand mainly for the human rights issues of Tamils living in Sri Lanka

Instrumental in increasing bilateral relations between Tamil Members of Parliament in Sri Lanka and New Zealand MPs by arranging Tamil MPs to visit NZ and talk to NGOs and MPs here about the human rights situation in Sri Lanka:

George has been involved with several organisations, among them were roles as:



Executive Member of the New Zealand Refugee Council, Board Member of Ethnic Voice of New Zealand, Executive Member Auckland Regional Ethnic Council, and Board Member Asian Social Services New Zealand.

Liaising between ethnic communities and the Department of Immigration to build a better relationship between the two so that they may work together

George ran seminars on multicultural integration aiming to get various ethnic communities to interact and help each other integrate into New Zealand and was Instrumental in publishing a book about the experiences of young New Zealand migrants with support from the Human Rights Network. His work also included organising seminars for parents and children on the various issues faced by migrants who are trying to integrate into the New Zealand way of life.

In 2012 George was awarded a QSM in the New Year Honours List in recognition for his community services. (A video link has been sent to all members)



Family. Sisterly success!

Nirupa George left, was selected for an internship at the Jimmy Carter Centre in Atlanta in the United States, Her sister Nirusha was chosen to represent New Zealand at the Hague International Model United Nations Assembly 2013.

George was thanked by Paul Jenner for his great effort over the years in Community Service and his presentation to the club tonight.

# Thought for the week from Neil Reid

"Freedom isn't free. Thank you all who paid the price "

- Unknown



## **Duties for - March**

Date: 28th March ZOOM MEETING

Attendance 1 N/A

Attendance 2 Verifier and Vaccination List Ticker Off: N/A

Equipment: N/A Hospitality: N/A

5-Minute Speaker N/A
Guest speaker: Neville Lane

Subject: Senior Net Host: Rod Kestle

**Thanks:** . Peter Mayow

**Thought for the Week: Brian Williams** 

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> April ZOOM MEETING

**Attendance 1 N/A** 

Attendance 2 Verifier and Vaccination List Ticker Off N/A

**Equipment: N/A Hospitality: N/A** 

5-Minute Speaker N/A Guest speaker: TBA

Subject:

Host: Bruce Murdoch
Thanks: Alan Bannin

Thought for the Week Bede Brittenden

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

Note: Noel is away for the next two weeks



