

Onehunga-One Tree Hill Rotary Club



President: Robin Hulford - Ph: 09 624 9102 mob: 021 228 8289 Email: robin@thehulford.com
Secretary: Iain McCrae Ph: 09 625 8035 (h) Mob 021 963 899 - E-mail: diainz.mc@gmail.com
Web address: <https://www.rotaryonehungaonetreehill.co.nz/> PO Box 29086 Greenwoods corner. Epsom
Club Meets at Royal Oak Bowls, 146 Selwyn Street, Onehunga, Auckland
Each Monday evening 5:30pm to 7:30pm, including dinner.

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

Newsletter to keep the Wheel Turning!



May is-

NL 92 9th May 2022

Apologies:

: Trevor Mosley, Ant Martin, Fatu and Parehuia Enari, Deiter Dyck, David Taylor, Cat Levine, Alistair Grundy, Gary Bromley, Tony Rayner, Jeanette Thorne, Peter Mayow, Gwynyth Carr, George Arulanantham, Paul Jenner

Members Present 22

(Scribe Lloyd Albiston)

Visitors:

Sergeants Fines: N/A

President's Announcement

President Robin welcomed everyone to our meeting with special mention of our keynote speakers **Derek Atkinson**, **Gary Hays** and **Barry Stafford**. He advised this year's Changeover evening will be held at Parkside Village (formerly Selwyn Village).

1 Minute Spots

Sergeant Noel Carey advised **RYLA** concluded last week. Due to Covid 19 issues RYLA this year was held via Zoom. Our Club had 2 candidates who he has yet to speak with to see how they went. Noel also mentioned whilst he has no **more Rat/Wasp traps** he is endeavouring to get another 6 of each. If anyone missed out on the original order/wants another, please see Noel.



Lloyd Albiston conducted the second **70's Club Raffle** draw for the year. Winners were Gwynyth (1st), Peter Mayow (2nd), Bill Grayson (3rd), and the special Kovid Kindness prize which went to Brian Williams. Congratulations to all our winners. Commiserations to everyone else.....there will be another chance for you in a few weeks' time !

Bill Grayson said he had received an email from PASS and invited anyone who wished to get involved in this wonderful programme to contact him. Bill went on to say as the Convenor of our **Rotary Bookfair they have decided to hold it on the weekend of 15 and 16 October**. Books are now being collected and stored. He requested us to please note the date in our personal diaries.

Neil Reid gave us an update on the **New Members Interest Group meeting** which is being held on Tuesday 10 May. There are 8 potential new members coming. He thanked everyone involved for their interest and participation. Good luck !

Guest speakers

Our guest speakers were 3 of our own members Derek Atkinson, Gary Hays and Barry Stafford. Derek and Gary as new members to the Club spoke on 'This is My Life' and were introduced by **Bede Brittenden**. Barry's subject of choice was his recent visit to the South Island which he titled 'The Gratitude Tour.'



Derek advised he was born on the mainland (Christchurch) and got off to an early start in life by being born 3 weeks premature. He was educated at Hurunui College, Tuatapere, Pukekohe and Kings College where he obtained a pass in School Certificate. His first job was at the Maple Furnishing Company, a well-known furniture retail store back in its day. He subsequently joined the NZ Army where he fared well being promoted to Sergeant before he turned 21. His principal function was to give firing co-ordinates. Following 5 years in the Army Derek decided he wanted to see the big wide world and set off on his OE (overseas experience) by travelling to Europe. He regaled us on how he was accosted by a hostile East German soldier in East Berlin who eventually 'let him off the hook' but not before giving him the 'once over'. Europe was followed by trips to England, Scotland, and Ireland.

Derek returned to NZ, got married, had 2 children...a daughter (now 28) and a son who sadly died at age 20 years. He later divorced. He turned his interest to Scouting where after many years of service to the Scout movement he rose to be Leader in Charge of a District. His other interests were Jaycees (14 years) and Rotary service at the North Harbour, Whangarei South and now Maungakeikei Clubs. On the job front Derek was head hunted by a British Book seller who employed him to travel the length and breadth of the country visiting schools and selling books. He eventually retired 4 years ago to Whangarei before moving to Auckland where he now resides at the Ryman Retirement Village in Lynfield.

Derek finished by saying he thoroughly enjoys our Club and is looking forward to being an active member. As a final aside he said a recent DNA test showed he had a Viking heritage...Wow !



Our second Speaker **Gary Hays** chose to talk about his 44-year career with the Guardian Trust. Gary joined GT in 1968 after getting University Entrance Certificate and in response to a newspaper advert. His Mum accompanied him to the job interview (not uncommon in those days). He initially enjoyed the job but felt it lacked diversity. However, he must have done well as he was promoted to a Trust Officer making Wills for clients. Trust Officer positions were gender specific with all staffed by men back then. After 5 years like Derek (above) Gary went off on an OE and offered to resign, but the Company rather than lose him offered him Long Service Leave which he gladly accepted.

In due course Gary returned to NZ and back to his former role as a Trust Officer. He found the work both fascinating and challenging and loved helping clients with Estate management and family issues. Estate Duties (abolished in 1992) were still relevant but required a great deal of form filling and liaison with the Inland Revenue Dept. which Gary described as 'a bit of a nightmare'. He gave an example of an Estate of English gentleman client, who Gary knew absolutely nothing about, so he wrote to the IRD for details of income which resulted in a visit from a Lawyer and a Forensic Accountant. Apparently the IRD had suspicions about the client who they believed had drug connections. In the absence of any firm information the IRD eventually did a proforma assessment resulting in the client's house being sold and the tax liability paid.

Regarding Rotary, Gary had an early working relationship with NZ Rotary Districts with all tax-exempt donations to various overseas charities being routed through him. After many years in this capacity PDG Stuart Batty invited Gary to a special function in Newmarket to thank and recognise his efforts in managing the flow of donations. He received a well-deserved Paul Harris Ruby Award for his sterling efforts.



Our third Speaker was **Barry Stafford**

The Gratitude Tour 2022

Because we have strong southern links, we had almost five weeks away in March and April "down south".

Now that we have been home for three weeks, I have had time to collect my thoughts. Four lasting experiences have emerged. First is how impressive our transport links are. Then there is the dominance of food and forestry production in the landscape everywhere. Third is the good quality of services we enjoyed countrywide. And last, and personal to my wife and I, is how noisy and energetic our daughter and son in laws' three

children are. In the last 12 months they have been enjoying a new pet Springer Spaniel which adds to the sound and the activity.

Usually, we fly south to Blenheim where the family live and base ourselves there. This time with the arrival of Omicron and its spread we drove down to give ourselves greater flexibility. Sure enough a couple of times this worked out to be what we needed.

We left on 16 March and got back on 17 April Easter Sunday. In the end, courtesy of the Inter Island ferries, we drove as south as Lake Tekapo and back with some side trips added. I don't have an accurate tally but probably close to 3000kms, two thirds

of that being on State Highway 1 (“SH1”). Along with the rest of the country the weather was sunny and clear except for about 2-3 days of high cloud.

SH1 is a very good road for most of the way from Auckland to Temuka in South Canterbury. You need to leave it there or earlier to go inland. The best parts are the recently completed Huntly Bypass, Transmission Gully (“TG”) and the coastal road destroyed in the Kaikoura earthquakes of 2017. On all these sections the finished route is impressive and the experience travelling enjoyable.

TG is 29kms long and you join it close to the coast at Waikanae and re-join the old SH1 just south of Johnsonville. Now that we have driven it 3 times, I think I appreciate that despite the notoriety it has generated because of the \$1.4B price and the ten years’ build time, the end result is very good. I hesitate to say spectacular because it is probably too early to say that yet. It is immediately obvious that it will have a big influence on how the suburbs to the south and west, such as Porirua and Plimmerton, and those on the Kapiti coast, develop. For example, on Saturday 9 April we wanted to be in Palmerston North for a special family celebration at midday. After a 15-minute flight from Blenheim to Wellington airport, we drove to Levin in 45 minutes. The traffic was light all the way but without the TG road it would have been 20 - 30 minutes longer. Getting to our destination at PN was a breeze.

The rebuilding of SH1 from Blenheim to Christchurch, after the Kaikoura earthquakes in 2017, appears to more than match TG in costs. In 2017 the then transport Minister, Simon Bridges, said it was estimated to cost \$2B. Most of the work appears to have been done, and the road is open nearly fulltime. There are still one or two places where traffic lights are used to control traffic flows. When driving the route there are many points where you can marvel at the challenges which have been breath taking.

As a consequence of the Christchurch earthquakes, now 11 years ago, SH1’s route around the city has been worked on constantly. While it doesn’t compare to Huntly or TG it is reasonably efficient and at the same time gives good access to the city and its suburbs. Once south of Lincoln the road is a straight line for the rest of the way across the Canterbury Plains until the hills of Timaru arrive.

From past experiences over many years, I know that the network of roads south of Timaru and inland Canterbury to the bottom of the South Island, including the routes to and along the West Coast, are of a good standard and where you can easily and safely maintain high average speeds.

All these observations have led me to that first impression I mentioned at the start. All our transport links in NZ including air and ferry links are of a high standard and get you where you want to go efficiently.

My second impression is doubtless due to the fact that for most of the last 50 years I have lived and worked in Auckland with a lot of holiday travel in NZ to the Coromandel or north of the city.

The journeys we have just enjoyed reminded me every day, of the huge areas of the country under intense cultivation for food and forestry and ancillary products, as well as the massive developments in place to generate energy from natural and renewable sources. Hydro and steam in the Waikato and central North Island. Wind power in the Manawatu and Wellington, and hydro all over the South Island.

The rich farming land which starts on the Bombay hills stretches through the Waikato to Taupo, from Waiouru down to Bulls and the Manawatu plains and onward to the rich soils of Levin horticultural businesses.

In spite of the strong and large presence of the Southern Alps in the Mainland, the vineyards of the Wairau and Awatere valleys in Marlborough are spilling further south beyond Seddon to Ward and resume again in North Canterbury. 70% of all the grapes grown in NZ including Gisborne, Hawkes Bay, the Wairarapa, Canterbury and Central Otago, come from the Marlborough District. This year's vintage was being picked 24 hours a day, seven days a week while we were there. I was told by a local vintner that, although there have been some concerns about botrytis, the 2022 vintage will be a good one.

Dairying is present nearly everywhere you go and periodically the large manufacturing plants which make cheese, butter, milk powder, casein and other dairy products appear in the landscape. And from Manawatu onwards there are the long irrigators pumping water in huge circular patterns over the land. And while they are considerably less in numbers, there are still plenty of sheep and lambs, especially on the hill country. Based on recent prices for lamb the sheep industry looks due for a pickup in the near future.

As well as the above forestry is plentiful. The plantations in Marlborough and Nelson are growing wood faster than it is being harvested. The pollen from the forests in the Wairau valley drift into Blenheim in springtime and coat the cars and cause allergies. Mussels and salmon are growing in the Marlborough Sounds, Nelson and Golden Bays, and in the harbours of Lyttleton, Akaroa and Otago and in the rivers and canals of the McKenzie Basin. High quality seeds and onions, beetroot and peas are filling some of the land around Ashburton and being packed for export by Talley's in a nearby converted meat works. Sea salt from Lake Grasmere, pine nuts from Cape Campbell and hops, berries and apples from Motueka all add to the cornucopia coming from NZ farmers and NZ aquaculture. And then there are the bees and their hives.

All the above impressions coming at you as you drive through the land keep underlining the implicit message that NZ is a land of plenty and will continue to be so.

As for the services we enjoyed there were invariably of the best. Although the shops of Blenheim, and Christchurch were not full, the service provided in Ballantynes Department Store, Scorpio Book shops, and the shops in Merivale Mall, were friendly and helpful. And the meals we enjoyed in Tutto Bene Restaurant in Merivale and Wairau River Vineyard restaurant were very good quality as to content, presentation, and taste. The services from Air NZ, Interisland Ferries, James Cook Hotel Wellington, the Christchurch Gondola, Avis at Wellington airport, the Fairlie Pie shop and especially from our favourite place to stay in Christchurch, Merivale Manor, were of the best and helped us to get the most enjoyment from our travels.

Of course, we got a lot of enjoyment out of our Blenheim based family, including two magical days boating on Queen Charlotte Sound. The grandchildren are enjoying a wonderful life in Blenheim and it surrounds. They are so fortunate to be there, and I cannot help comparing their experience to many other youngsters around the world, especially as one new young friend of my 9-year-old granddaughter is from the Ukraine.

The title I gave these notes I borrowed from John Tapu and the Shades, without his permission. It is "The Gratitude Tour 2022". I hope that I have conveyed to you the reasons why I am so grateful and full of hope for the future.

Derek, Gary and Barry were thanked by **Brian Williams** for the time and effort put into preparing their speeches. He congratulated them for sharing their experiences with members which he described as most interesting and uplifting.

Thought for the Week Ernie Meyer

"No matter how old a mother is, she constantly watches her middle aged children for signs of improvement"

Duties

<p><u>Date:</u> 16th May <u>Attendance</u> Brian Williams <u>Equipment:</u> Bill Grayson <u>Hospitality:</u> Neil Reid <u>5-Minute Speaker</u> Bruce Murdoch <u>Guest speakers:</u> Gerry Goodwin, Assurance Manager Tunnels & Stations, City Rail Link Limited</p> <p>Rachel Blundell, Communications & Engagement Manager, Link Alliance</p> <p><u>Subject:</u> City Rail Link <u>Host:</u> Peter Mayow <u>Thanks:</u> .Quentin Jay <u>Thought for the Week</u> Gary Hayes</p>	<p><u>Date:</u> 23rd May <u>Attendance</u> Gary Hayes <u>Equipment:</u> Alan Bannin <u>Hospitality:</u> Barry Stafford <u>5-Minute Speaker</u> Tony Rayner <u>Speaker,</u> TBA <u>Subject:</u> TBA</p> <p><u>Host:</u> Bede Brittenden <u>Thanks:</u> Neil Reid <u>Thought for the Week</u> Rod Kestle</p>
--	---

(Please send apologies to Alan. (Remember, if you are **not** available for a duty, please organise a replacement and advise Alan Bannin Ph 09 624 9020

Note: District Conference is cancelled, and aspects are to be incorporated into the District Governors Change Over at Orewa on **2nd July** Cat Levine will be a presenter
Details in the District 9910 Newsletter. (link) **April 2022 Newsletter**



Rotary Club of Onehunga One Tree Hill

A Touch of Humour! **The written word!!**

John invited his mother over for dinner. During the meal, his mother couldn't help noticing how attractive and shapely the housekeeper was. Over the course of the evening, she started to wonder if there was more between John and the housekeeper than met the eye. Reading his mom's thoughts, John volunteered, "I know what you must be thinking, but I assure you, my relationship with my housekeeper is purely professional."

About a week later, the housekeeper came to John and said, "Ever since your mother came to dinner, I've been unable to find the beautiful silver gravy ladle. You don't suppose she took it, do you?"

John said, "Well, I doubt it, but I'll write her a letter just to be sure."

So he sat down and wrote:

"Dear Mother, I'm not saying you 'did' take a gravy ladle from my house, and I'm not saying you 'did not' take a gravy ladle. But the fact remains that one has been missing ever since you were here for dinner."

Several days later, John received a letter from his mother which said "Dear Son, I'm not saying that you 'do' sleep with your housekeeper, and I'm not saying that you 'do not' sleep with your housekeeper. But the fact remains that if she was sleeping in her own bed, she would have found the gravy ladle by now.

Love, Mum"

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the back country. As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost and being a typical man, I didn't stop for directions.

I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch.

I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late. I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play.

The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man.

And as I played 'Amazing Grace,' the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together. When I finished, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head hung low, my heart was full.

As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say

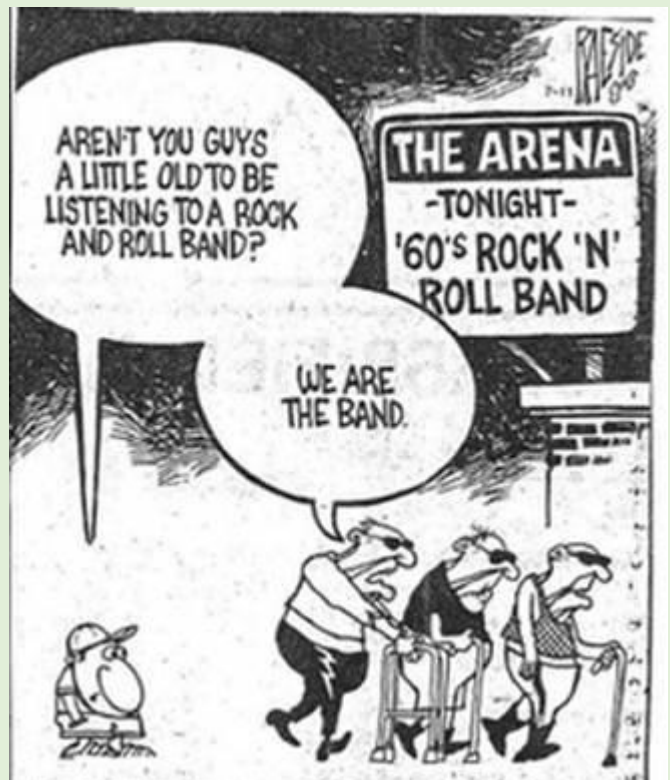
"I never seen nothing like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years.'



I signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose fitting clothing...

If I HAD any loose fitting clothing, I wouldn't have signed up to begin with.

I NEVER CALLED YOU STUPID, BUT WHEN I ASKED YOU TO SPELL "ORANGE" AND YOU ASKED ME THE FRUIT OR COLOR IT KINDA CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD.



Rotary Club of Onehunga One Tree Hill

Newsletter editor: bill.appleton.ri@gmail.com