



*(As of 1 July 2022, the Rotary Club of Onehunga One Tree Hill was renamed the Rotary Club of Maungakiekie)*

## Newsletter to keep the Wheel Turning



**President:** Quentin Jay

**Secretary:** Iain McCrae (Hm) 09 625 8035, (Mb) 021 963 899, email: [diainz.mc@gmail.com](mailto:diainz.mc@gmail.com)

**Club Meeting location:** Royal Oak Bowls, 146 Selwyn Street, Onehunga, Auckland

**Time:** Monday evening 5:30pm for 6 p.m. start to 7:30pm, includes \$21 dinner

**Mail:** PO Box 29086 Greenwoods Corner, Epsom

**Web:** <https://www.rotarymaungakiekie.org.nz/>



## Newsletter 127, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023

**Present:** 24

**Apologies:** Phil Aish, Derek Atkinson, Gwynyth Carr, John-Paul Goulding, Gary Hays, Robin Hulford, Cat Levine, Ant Martin, Trevor Mosley, Derek Neutze, Tony Rayner, Richard Ryan

**Sergeant's fines:** \$67.60

## PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

**President Quentin** (yes, the real in-person Quentin) was with us tonight who stated, "it's nice to be back, and I really do like Auckland believe it or not!" Quentin regaled us with what he has been doing in the Greymouth community with various local projects.

Quentin then shared photos of before and after shots of the Napier flood damage that **Phil Aish** is working on with his heavy machinery. Phil's apparently going well (apart from a broken radiator on his excavator) and is getting a lot of local support.



(Before and after photos)



Keeping with his pictorial presentation Quentin shared historical photos of Onehunga/Royal Oak in the 1970's and the trams of that era (nice one Quentin, many of us can relate to this).

Quentin reminded us of:

- **District Conference on 28-30 April** and the need to register.
  - **Changeover is scheduled for 26 June** - details to come.
  - **Bede needs more Guest Speakers** - please let Bede know of anyone who would be fascinating and/or interesting Speaker.
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**Barry Stafford** advised he is organising a table for the dinner scheduled on 29<sup>th</sup> April at the District Conference. Cost is \$100 per person. If you are interested, please contact Barry by email/phone asap. He mentioned it is possible to go just to the dinner.

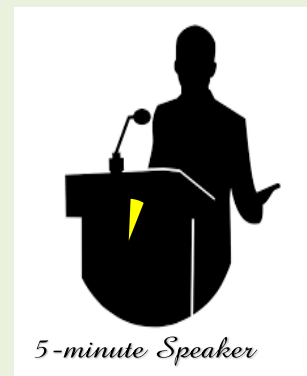
**60**  
**SECOND**  
**SPOTS**

**Bill Grayson** informed us he has booked the Onehunga Community House for this year's **Book Fair** which will be held on the weekend of **24 – 26 November**. Please note your diaries!

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**JEANETTE THORNE**  
**Community Update**



**Jeanette Thorne** spoke eloquently of her “**dream to feed the people of Oranga**” - to have community fruit/veggie gardens which people in local communities maintained, nurtured, and fed from.

The first community garden planted was in **Ferguson Park**, but unfortunately the young plants were accidentally mown down.

Jeanette's next attempt was to develop a **Oranga Kai Ora Community Garden** at 63 Oranga Avenue. In her capacity as Onehunga District Community Organiser of Social Services (**ODCOSS**) she is applying for funding to have the Ferguson Park Community Garden reinstated.

Jeanette is clearly a busy lady and spoke of loneliness amongst older people and the need to have regular social gatherings for them. She is organising a function for Seniors on 4<sup>th</sup> May with a guest speaker.

Finally, Jeanette said as President-elect of our Club one of her aspirations when she takes over the mantle of presidency is to **get younger people into our club**.

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guest  
speaker

## SEAN MARSTON

### Notes from Nepal

Guest speaker **Sean Marston** was introduced by **Craig Jones**.

**Sean** lives in Titirangi, is married, and has a son in Rotary in Queen St, Auckland.

Sean has worked in aid and development in Africa and Asia for the past 25-years. In the 1980's he **assisted set up a leprosy hospital in Nepal** along with a number of other Europeans. The hospital is now run by Nepali for Nepal people and has grown to three hospitals (400 staff) of which two are devoted to leprosy care. Leprosy in Nepal is a major disease and according to Sean affected people are still considered outcasts in the community.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> major cause of hospitalisation in Nepal is injury from falling out of trees as a result of people looking for firewood. Given the mountainous topography of most of Nepal some 26 million or 87% of the population live in mountains making access very difficult. Earthquakes are a major problem. Sean said our late Sir Edmund Hillary is still revered in Nepal for his work building schools and hospitals.

Sean works for the **International Nepal Fellowship (INF)**, a Christian based organisation where he recruits people with specialist medical skills and experience. He showed us several videos of life in Nepal and the work of INF whose goals are to transform, empower, renew, construct, enable and essentially "bring life in all its fullness to the people of Nepal."

Most Nepalese are traditionally bound by the caste system which although officially unconstitutional is still widely practised and discriminates against lower castes, for example the Dalit caste and women in particular.

Sean stated much of the work of the INF in the past 20 years has been **educating people to accept change**, the premise being that **education creates self-help**. The organisation gets disadvantaged groups together to work out how they can help themselves using existing resources. Solving their own problems is a key goal. Women are considered in Sean's words "to be the lowest of low".

Sean stated their efforts are paying off with children now attending school and many new startup businesses commencing. This is raising self-esteem and giving people a voice.

INF estimate 1,000 self-help groups are demonstrating the power to break poverty. Good housing is another goal of INF who last November helped 20 families rebuild homes that had been destroyed by earthquake.

Sean felt NZers nowadays exhibit a lessening sense of responsibility to the world compared to the 'old days' - probably brought about by an ongoing bombardment of media stories on world poverty. He believes many people now "feel disconnected", and that our world view has "reduced to 1-metre." Unless it directly impacts us individually, we quickly become disconnected from the realities of world issues.

Members had follow-up questions around leprosy (now curable) and the caste system.

Sean finished by saying he believes "change in Nepal has to be bottom up with the help of resources from other countries".

Sean thanked Members who donated foreign currency together with the swag of foreign currency coins accumulated in the Sargeant's Fund. These will be sold on Trade Me and used to assist the INF.

**Bill G** thanked Sean for his most interesting address and quoted statistics on the incidence of leprosy which is reducing globally and the relationship it has with poverty.



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**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK** – provided by Robin Hulford

**Anyone can hold the helm when the sea is calm**

*Publius Syrus, Maxim 358 (fl. 85-43 BC)*

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## DUTIES

Unable to attend? Apologies to Noel Carey: [noelcarey@hotmail.com](mailto:noelcarey@hotmail.com)

Unable for a duty? Arrange your own replacement & text Noel Mb: [0274 509 845](tel:0274509845)

**Meeting: 6pm, Mon. 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**Acting President:** Barry Stafford

**Sergeant:** Noel Carey

**Attendance:** Craig Jones

**Hospitality:** Rod Kestle

**Equipment:** Duncan Macdonald

**Scribe/Photos:** Lloyd Albiston

**5-min Speaker:** **Colin Tea:**

**Elephants by the Ton**

**Host:** Rob Lyons

**Guest speaker:** **Christopher**

**Theunissen: Onehunga CAB**

**Thanks:** Colin Tea

**Thought:** Paul Jenner

**Meeting: 6pm, Mon. 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**Acting President:** Barry Stafford

**Sergeant:** Noel Carey

**Attendance:** Rhett Stephens

**Hospitality:** Bill Appleton

**Equipment:** Bruce Murdoch

**Scribe/Photos:** Tony Rayner

**5-min Speaker:** **Bill Appleton: Polio**

**Plus**

**Host:** Richard Ryan

**Guest speaker:** (TBC)

**Thanks:** Jeanette Thorn

**Thought:** Bill Grayson

## toUch of huMoUr

