



*(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/>



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

## Newsletter 128, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023

**Present:** 24 + 2 visitors

**Apologies:** Phil Aish, Derek Atkinson, Alan Bannin, Gwynyth Carr, David Eastwood, John-Paul Goulding, Rod Kestle, Cat Levine, Ant Martin, Peter Mayow, Sharlene Wagner

**Sergeant's fines:** \$82.20

## PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

**President Quentin** 'Zoomed' in from Greymouth (or was it Hokitika?) and asked the question 'who is the most dangerous animal on earth?' Answer - why humans of course!!

Quentin advised:

**Anzac Day service**  
**11 a.m. Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Ranfurly Road Park**

Traditionally the service was ably supported by the former Epsom Rotary Club. Members are asked to continue the tradition and attend if they can.

Quentin spoke with **Phil Aish** during the week and showed further slides of the great work he is doing in the **Hawkes Bay rural community**.

The **Kumeu Rotary Club** is organising a fund raising 'State of the Nation' function at which the keynote Speaker will be David Seymour, Leader of the Act Political Party (sounds very similar to the one recent hosted by our Club). If interested, please see Quentin.

**Rotary Youth Exchange Scheme** is looking at doing a youth exchange in 2024. There is a **student from Switzerland who is looking for a host family** in Auckland. If you can oblige or are interested in more information, contact Quentin.

**MUNA** (Model United Nations Assembly) will be held on 26/27 May. Our Club is sponsoring **two teams from Onehunga High School**.

**Vice President Barry Stafford** advised following consultation **there will be no Club meeting next Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April** due to ANZAC Day commemorations on Tuesday.

**Barry along with Iain McCrae and Trevor Mosley** last week safely delivered four children to 'Kids to Camp' at Willow Park. By the time they left all appeared to have settled down well and were looking forward to the camp.

The upcoming **District 9910 Conference dinner** at Alexandra Park on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April** looks to have 10-12 members attending from our Club. Barry advised there were still places available if anyone else is interested in attending.....**see Barry if you wish to attend**. Cost is \$100 per person.

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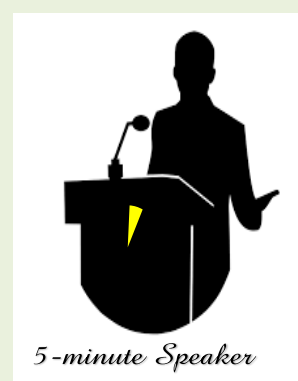
**Robin Hulford** gave us an update on Phil Aish. He returned to Auckland for Easter and had a medical health check. Rod Kestle is currently in Taupo and will catch up with Phil next week....no doubt he'll give us feedback.

# 60 SECOND SPOTS

**Sargeant Noel Carey** advised Alan Bannin broke his hip playing bowls recently and is currently in Auckland Hospital (Rangitoto Ward). He is very happy to receive visitors.



**COLIN TEA**  
**Elephants by the ton**



**Colin Tea's** topic of choice was elephants, but as an aside he preceded it by saying he recommends the wearing of Hip Protectors for anyone who is feeling a little unsteady.

Back to the elephants, Colin and wife Hazel lived and worked in South Africa for many years and took the opportunity to go on a safari to a Lodge at Kasaba Bay, on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, Zambia in central eastern Africa. Colin described Lake Tanganyika as very long and narrow, approximately 700km averaging 50km in width.

They flew in but had to wait for the dust to settle on the runway before alighting from their plane, the effects of successive years of harsh droughts.

The resort had all the mod/cons and was very comfortable. On arrival they were welcomed by a lady with bananas who called out to the nearby elephants (who are very partial to bananas) who came readily at her call.

Colin shared some info about elephants e.g. they apparently have a variety of temperaments, and walk a very narrow track due to their lumbering gait.



He illustrated their huge strength by sharing an anecdote on how elephants broke into an iron bar reinforced food store using their tusks and body weight where they partook of a feed of yeast. The result...no bread.

On another occasion he went for a shower only to find the shower room very dark due to an elephant leaning against the shower back window totally obliterating all daylight.

The elephants influence extended to the nearby beach which was unswimmable because of their presence. This meant he and Hazel had to travel to another beach only to find there were hippos resident 150m offshore. Their guides had to fire gunshots to frighten them off before they could swim. Another obstacle was a huge black snake on the path which was given a wide berth.

Apart from all that Colin said they had a very pleasant holiday. Good one Colin, most interesting!



guest  
speaker

**CHRISTOPHER THEUNISSEN**  
Manager: Citizens Advise Bureau, Onehunga

Our guest Speaker **Christopher Theunissen** was introduced by Rob Lyons. Chris is the **Branch Manager for Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) at Onehunga**, which is one of 32 Bureaus in Auckland. Chris originated from South Africa.

Chris introduced his subject by saying there has been some misunderstanding in recent times about the funding and functions of the CAB. Media had made them the subject of discussion following comments from Auckland Council on possible funding cuts.

Chris stated their role was to help and assist the public by giving advice and empowering people to solve their own issues. They also act as advocates when necessary. For example, CAB approached Government last year regarding Government Department requirements for on-line document processing rather than paper applications. As Chris said not everybody has access to computers.

Regarding funding Auckland Council are currently looking at their budget and are considering reducing the annual \$2m grant to CAB (spread across 32



Bureaus) in the belief they should be funded by Central Government. The Government of course believe it is the responsibility of local government to fund CAB. As Chris said, “when elephants fight the grass gets trampled”. But as Chris noted CAB has been in existence for 50-years and it’s critical we retain our funding without which we could not operate as we do currently. He believes neither local or central government want to see us close as we assist many people with local and central government issues and problems. The CAB has access to a huge database which is maintained by the CABNZ National Office, Wellington.

Chris was questioned on the \$ value of CAB services and replied saying a recent report quantified the \$ value of their services as “for every \$1 spent the community receives \$13.20 back in value”. While reluctant to get into the specifics of overhead costs it is sufficient to say the collective cost of running the 32-bureaus was under \$1m p.a.

As a Charity with public funding (plus some minor corporate funding), CAB is required to comply with the rules and provisions of the Charities Act and publish annual reports which are available to the public.

Questioned on the numbers of people helped annually, Chris said every client interaction was logged and peer reviewed. Whilst he didn’t have figures for the Onehunga CAB, he did say 1,000’s of people were assisted each month. A recent public petition attracted 20,000 signatures to retain the services of the CAB.

In answer to questions about local costs Chris said he was the only paid worker at CAB Onehunga and worked part time. However, Chris manages 45-volunteers working at the Bureau including specialist services such as Justices of the Peace and financial budgeting.

Chris ended by saying the CAB was not a political front for Government. They are independent and impartial and beholden to no-one. CAB is reluctant to seek corporate sponsorship as they wish to retain their independence.

**Colin Tea** thanked Chris for his most interesting address commended him for the excellent work at the CAB.

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## **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

**“You will either step forward into growth, or you will step back into safety”**

*Abraham Maslow*

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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**

**Meeting: 6pm, Mon. 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023**

**President/ Acting:** Quentin Jay/  
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: Dr Jayaraj: My life  
as a Rotarian** (with Min Roche and  
Keith Farlow)

**Thanks:** Jeanette Thorn

**Thought:** Bill Grayson

**Meeting: 6pm, Mon. 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

**Acting President:** Barry Stafford

**Sergeant:** Noel Carey

**Attendance:** Alan Banin

**Hospitality:** Bede Brittenden

**Equipment:** Ernie Meyer

**Scribe/Photos:** Tony Rayner

**5-min Speaker:**

**Host:** Gwynyth Carr

**Guest speaker:** (TBC)

**Thanks:** George Arulanantham

**Thought:** Paul Jenner



## toUch of huMoUr

### **Jokes generated by ChatGPT Open AI (Artificial Intelligence)**

(with a bit of prompting and several attempts).

Question posed: Create four jokes about the Rotary Club of Maungakiekie. Avoid "Dad jokes" and "over use of puns"

Why did the Rotary Club member bring a map and a compass to the meeting? Because they wanted to make sure they were always heading in the right direction of community service!

What do you call a group of Rotarians who are also avid gardeners?  
The Rotary Cultivators!

Why did the Rotary Club member bring a ladder to the charity event?  
Because they wanted to help raise funds for their community one step at a time!

Why did the Rotary Club member bring a shovel to the meeting? They wanted to dig deep into their community service projects!

*There's hope for us yet. Following is one written by a human, courtesy of Beechworth Rotary District 9790...*

After a morning fishing, a Rotarian left for a District meeting in the afternoon and his wife decided to motor out into the lake, drop anchor and read her book.

A Game Warden pulls up alongside the woman in his boat. "Good morning, Ma'am. What are you doing?"

"Reading a book" she replies.

"You're in a Restricted Fishing Area" he informs her.

"I'm sorry, officer, but I'm not fishing, I'm reading".

"Yes, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment. I'll have to take you in and write you up."

"If you do that, I'll have to charge you with sexual assault," says the woman.

"But I haven't even touched you," says the Game Warden.

"That's true, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment."

"Have a nice day ma'am" the warden said as he left.