



Rotary
Club of Maungakiekie



(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: djainz.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 134, 19th June 2023

Present: 22

Special Guest: PDG Pater Garnett (RYLA Chair)

Apologies: Bill Appleton, George Arulanantham, Bruce Clegg, David Eastwood, John Paul Goulding, Shameen Hayat, Rod Kestle, Cat Levine, Duncan Macdonald, Ant Martin, Richard Ryan, Colin Tea, Jeanette Thorne, Sharlene Wagner.

Sergeant's fines: \$107.40

PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Quentin is back in town and was pleased to be present, although he did say he missed the West Coast orange roughly. Quentin mentioned that it is difficult to find guest speakers down there and meetings generally consist of general conversations. Maybe ZOOMing them in could be an answer.

Quentin read another letter of thanks for Phil and George's time helping those impacted by the recent floods in Hawkes Bay.

Both young and old affected by health recently with Rod back from the hospital, Cat home after a back operation and making progress, Jeanette off work due to illness, George recovering from his recent treatment, and Quentin up for his scheduled op. this week while others are being kept away with touches of flu and colds.

Next Sunday there will be a working Bee at the Onehunga Peoples' Garden, Author St, Onehunga. Quentin hoped the club might be a regular attender.

Phil – Hawkes Bay

Phil Aish is back in town after his extended period in Hawkes Bay. While in the Esk Valley, he met with Estimators who are running the Hawkes Bay Flood Relief who relayed some sad stories they have come across including a buried watch being found in a house with floors completely caked in mud. Many people are helping there, and the question is, is there a limit to how much help individuals can be provided?

60
SECOND
SPOTS

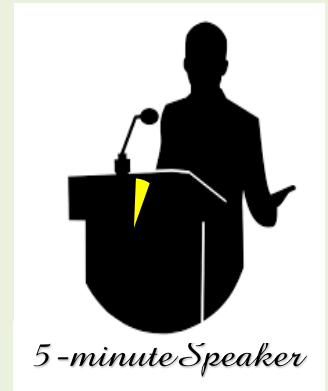
People who help there don't just do the job but link in with the people affected there. Some just go into hiding because it was too much. Now those who have lost everything are facing the prospect of competing with 20-30 others looking to purchase the same block.

Phil then asked members, "What do we as a club, want to do next down there?".
(A question I'm sure that will continue into the next Presidency – Ed).



Bede Thoughts

18th May 1940 – 13th June 2023



A time of reflection was set aside to reflect on our dear Bede who passed away last week. A minute's silence was followed by an invitation for members to say a few words. I'm sure Bede was smiling at the irony as members finally got their own back by going way over the 5-mins allotted, that Bede used to monitor to the second.

Gwynyth recounted how they were best mates from her early day back in the rugby referring days and then later working for him in, in his insurance business. Bede was always on the lookout for the best eggs benedict.

Trevor recounted Bede fulfilling what seemed an impossible request to obtain 2-tickets to a sold-out Wales v NZ rugby international ticket at Cardiff Arms Park. Bede managed this by recalling a favour from a Welsh referee and then delivering the tickets to the ticket gate. Trevor said this was the closest to rugby heaven one could get.

Bruce mentioned Bede joined the One Tree Hill club in 1987 after visiting as a Guest Speaker and which turn out to be a very entertaining evening. Bede then became a member and later set our organising guest speakers for the next 34yrs. Bede quickly adapted his skills in sales and along with a bit of flattery, managed to hook guest speakers who could just not refuse to come.

Paul remembered a certain wedding anniversary and **Bill** offered a story as well.

Finally, **Vice President Barry** recounted buying health insurance from Bede which turned out to be a worthwhile investment. Barry also offered to represent the club at Bede's funeral with the following words:

Notes for the funeral of William Joseph Bede Brittenden, 20th June 2023 (by RCM member Barry Stafford)

Introduction

Bede Brittenden was an outstanding Rotarian, and member for more than 36 years of the club One Tree Hill, Onehunga, now known as the Rotary Club of Maungakiekie (RCM). Bede's ebullient personality and positive attitude ensured that he made a tremendous contribution to Rotary and to our club right up until the end.

He was a member of the Club Board for years. He took an active role in

the search for new members, including putting together a very useful booklet about what Rotary does and what it offers prospective members.

He was a successful and colourful Club Sergeant, which allowed him to show his sense of humour while ensuring that meetings were well run and kept to the timetable. I managed to persuade him to succeed me as club President, while at the time he continued to hold positions of responsibility with the other entities we have heard from or will hear from today.

Looking back on it now, I wonder how I managed that. In the Rotary organisation, there is an award for a member whose contributions to Rotary are judged as outstanding. These are called Paul Harris Fellowships. Bede was awarded three of these and could have had more.

Organisation

Bede was an excellent organiser. For much of his time at our club, he ensured that we enjoyed a constant flow of interesting Guest Speakers at our regular Monday evening meetings. In doing this he helped make our Club more attractive to visiting prospective members.

Bede loved organising (with much assistance from his close friend and assistant Gwynyth Carr) social events for members. These included Guess Who's Coming to Dinner? If you were going out you didn't know who else was going, and your challenge was to provide a course for the meal. And if you were hosting you didn't know who was coming or what they were bringing. Another of his popular ideas was the Wanderers Weekends. In these, you agreed in advance to go and stay overnight on Saturday without knowing necessarily where. Considering that it was recommended that you take golf clubs, tennis racquets, swimming gear and good walking shoes, you could guess that you would be somewhere near a golf course, tennis courts, and or swimming facility. And in the evening, there was likely to be a big Rugby Game to watch. I have fond memories of one weekend spent at the Okoroire Hotel, deep in the Waikato countryside.

His most ambitious and successful project one winter was to lead about eight couples to Fiji for about a week. His love affair with the place shone through on that occasion. At the other end of the scale, he loved holding quizzes or taking part in them, and sweepstakes were another forte of his.

Hospitality

Bede and Mary were very hospitable. Many Club members enjoyed their Mangawhai houses - the second being the Sea Breeze, with built-in accommodation for three couples and wonderful avocado trees. Unsurprisingly it was only a pitch and putt from the sixth green of the picturesque Mangawhai Golf Course, or in Bede's case only a short ride, through a very convenient gap in the boundary fence.

It was at the Sea Breeze that we experienced Bede's TV sport-watching habit. The arrival of the feature that allowed one to a record programme or an event, especially in the middle of the night, was tailor-made with

Bede in mind. His tight hold of the TV controller the next morning ensured that a two-hour closely fought rugby test match, with all the real-time replays - could be over in just 10 minutes! Gone were the tension-building moments, and the savouring of seeing carefully practised key moves executed successfully in the context of the whole match. Of course, if you wanted to be mischievous, then you could tell him the final score, with your first greeting of the new day.

The Rotary Polio Plus Program

Bede never allowed the polio he experienced as a child to stand in his way. His success as a young tennis player and later at golf, his long career as a Rugby referee, his achievements with Mary and his family, his business and all his other interests, including with Rotary, are testaments to a person who never allowed such a life-long legacy to impede him becoming an outstanding contributor to his community.

The only time Bede may have used his polio experience to avoid doing something was to be unenthusiastic about the suggestion that he might like to help tidy up in the kitchen.

One of the things that interested Bede about Rotary was Rotary's huge and ongoing worldwide project to eliminate the polio virus from the planet. This enormous program is about 45 years in the making and currently, there are three countries in the world still experiencing some polio cases. In more recent years the program has been very well supported by Bill Gates who has praised its ambition and success.

Bede was a great supporter of PolioPlus and as a mark of our Club's respect for Bede and as a thank you to him, the Rotary Club of Maungakiekie will make a gift to the PolioPlus program of \$15,000.

And my final comment is that William Joseph Bede Brittenden was truly a Man for All Seasons.

(Barry Stafford on behalf of the Rotary Club of Maungakiekie)



guest speaker

**ELLIE FLETCHER &
MIKEY MCKILLOP**

RYLA 2023

Lloyd introduced the two RYLKA 2023 attendees sponsored by our club and provided a prelude to their graduation night.

Both said it was an incredible week and described it as “very awesome in a wholesome way”. Ellie provided a solemn introduction in Te Reo which described her ancestry whose heritage is from all over including Italy and Ireland. Mikey also introduced himself in Te Reo and is from Taranaki.

Ellie was most taken by the practical aspects of the course and shared one aspect of what she learnt regarding how people think using the various sides of their brains and to “think left” when it came to controlling one’s emotions.

They enjoyed the leadership of one of the leaders called Peter who lead the candidates for the week but kept what was coming up quite secret, which was part of the learning strategy.

The new RYLArrians quickly introduced themselves and found all got along very well after the first day.

The first part of the week was about “understanding ourselves” followed by “creative thinking” and getting the candidates out of their comfortable zones and into a more open and creative mode.

A key learning, they found was “If your actions cause others to do more and see more then you are a leader.”

PDG Peter Garnett did an exceptionally good bit of intervention to resolve a conflict that arose among the group that Ellie had never experienced before and took away as a valuable lesson.

Mikey enjoyed “giving back to the community” on Friday which involved planting cuttings in the sand dunes of the host community.

One of the challenges Mikey found was a time-limited challenge to produce a business plan and sales pitch which they found particularly challenging and

character-building. This was especially challenging for Mikey who said it was quite scary for the 24-hrs of the exercise but later recognised that being pushed that way was beneficial for him and found renewed self-confidence. It was because he had to instigate something so took something he learnt from one part of his life and planted it into this part of his life.

One big memory was when once everyone got more familiar with each other, the language got a bit coarse so Mikey tried to address it and wondered if he could change the culture of the group and stepped up and spoke about it. He went to bed worrying about it overnight but over the next two days, various individuals came up to him and after mulling over it themselves gradually the culture changed.

Mikey ended up MCing the final evening with another and had a bucket of fun.

Out of 10 they both gave the course a 9.5.

PDG Peter Garnett congratulated and thanked the two speakers and said after being the RYLA Chair for the past 4 years, he was pleased to have the opportunity to make a difference.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK (Gwynyth Carr)

Although it is difficult today to see beyond the sorrow.
May looking back in memory help comfort you tomorrow.

DUTIES

Unable to attend? Apologies to Noel Carey: noelcarey@hotmail.com

Unable for a duty? Arrange your own replacement & text Noel Mb: 0274 509 845

Changeover dinner

Monday 6pm for 6:30pm start, Parkside Village

Meeting: 6pm, Mon. 3rd July 2023

President: Janette Thorne

Sergeant: Noel Carey

Attendance: Alan Bannin

Hospitality: Quentin Jay

Equipment: Craig Jones

Scribe/Photos: Tony Rayner

Host: Iain McCrae

5-min speaker: Craig Jones

Guest speaker: RI President

Gordon McNally: 2023 RI
Convention, Melbourne (Video)

Thanks: Brian Williams

Thought: Phil Aish

Meeting: 6pm Mon. 10th July 2023

President: Janette Thorne

Sergeant: Noel Cary

Attendance: Bill Appleton

Hospitality: Bruce Clegg

Equipment: Rob Lyons

Scribe/Photos: Tony Rayner

Host: n/a

5-min speaker: Rob Lyons

Guest speaker: (Club Forum)

Thanks: Barry Stafford

Thought: Alan Bannin



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