



Newsletter to Keep the Wheel Turning



President: Jeanette Thorne

Secretary: Richard Ryan

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/>

Rotary 

**JULY IS
LEADERSHIP MONTH**

"IF YOUR ACTIONS INSPIRE OTHERS TO DREAM MORE, LEARN MORE, DO MORE AND
BECOME MORE, YOU ARE A LEADER."
- JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

Newsletter 137, 10th July 2023 Club Forum night

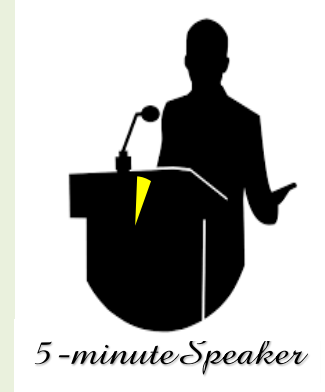
Present: 22

Apologies: Lloyd Albiston, George Arulanantham, Gwynyth Carr, Bruce Clegg, David Eastwood, Shameen Hayat, Rod Kestle, Cat Levine, Ant Martin, Sharlene Wagner.

Sergeant's fines: \$61.40



ROB LYONS
Lessons from Canada



When Rob spoke to us back in October 2021, we learnt a bit about his 1970's OE in Canada. While there, he casually mentioned being employed as an electrical engineer in an Ontario Nuclear power station. Tonight, we learnt a bit more.

NZ in the mid-1960's was rapidly developing and needed more power. At the tender age of 22yrs Rob started as an apprentice electrician with the NZED. There, Rob and others were tasked to undertake a scoping study to build a Nuclear Power plant in Kaipara Harbour. As it turned out, not surprisingly, no one in the team knew anything about nuclear power plants, so not much happened in the following 6-months. *(The site investigation work at Kaipara was closed down in 1971, and New Zealand remained nuclear-free – Ed).*

Rob and wife Marney then decided to live in Canada and so left for Vancouver. Rob upskilled with further electrical engineering studies, earning money working as a tech at the Vancouver General Hospital. 12 months later he passed his exams with honours.

Rob applied for and secured a job in Ontario, 2,600km to the east, which would require travel in the Canadian winter. While obviously a bright chap, the smart Kiwi was about to learn what Canadian winter travel was really about, and the two set off:

- Broke down along the way in his new Toyota due to a strange clunking sound from the wheels. **(Lesson 1: Unbeknownst to Rob, he had driven through black ice in -32deg C temperatures and the tires had frozen).**
- While getting help from a local Alberta mechanic, Rob was asked, "Where are your frost plugs?" "What are they?". **(Lesson 2: Frost plugs are small heaters screwed into the engine block and submerged into the coolant to keep it from freezing and the oil in other areas from thickening. This results in faster/easier start-ups).**
- A bit further along, every few kilometers the car would just stop. Enquiring at another garage, Rob was asked, "Are you using anti-freeze in your fuel?" "No." **(Lesson 3: Petrol freezes at -40°C to -50°C. Ethanol is an effective anti-freeze and is regularly added to fuel there).**
- Next stop was at the Royal Mint in Sudbury which was located at the top of a steep hill. Parking at the bottom they ran to the top where locals looked at them in surprise. **(Lesson 4: Little did they know that heavy breathing in freezing temperatures can be quite hazardous. Luckily no one had asthma or COPD).**

- Finally, upon reaching Ontario the two moved into company-provided accommodation. Rob went to park his new car in the garage and was told “You don’t want to be doing that”. (**Lesson 5:** Any car parked in a garage would rust out in one year due to road salt. Instead, Rob was advised to park it out in the freezing weather where it would last at least 3 years).

Rob became Commissioning Engineer at the new 750MW Bruce Nuclear Generating Station on the shore of Lake Huron Ontario and was tasked to fully test it before handing it over to the Running Committee. (*Benmore, NZ has 850MW output - Ed*)

After that Rob next went on to train the operational staff at another Nuclear Power station. By that time Marney was pregnant and her Mum thought they’d been away quite long enough so flew over to bring them all back to NZ.

CLUB FORUM 2023-24



President Jeanette led the Forum and recapped who was on what Committee and where the gaps lay and volunteers sought.

Note: The Board may assign members who are not already on a committee.

Foundation: Bill Appleton

International: George Arulanantham, Bill Appleton, Tony Rayner

Publicity: Tony Rayner, Bill Appleton, Robin Hulford

Fellowship/Social: Gwynyth Carr, Gary Hays, Noel Carey, Craig Jones

Gardens/Cleanups: Jeanette Thorne

Membership: Paul Jenner, Ernie Meyer

Speakers: Barry Stafford

Brainstorm session

- **Strategic plan:** Review and focus on delivery.
- **Rotary Warkworth:** Invitation to a night out at the Dolphin Theatre
- **Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner:** A mystery couple turns up at a pre-invited dinner. A good way for members to get to know each other.
- **Progressive Dinners, Bowls night. Partners night:** do this when a particularly good speaker is booked.
- **Quarterly visit to Everybody Eats**
- **Deliver one high-quality local project.**
- **Peoples’ Garden:** Our donated recycling bin is doing well, but garden still

needs support.

- **Inspiration from other District 9910 Club projects**
- **Revive the Fishing competition:** This was a good revenue raiser .
- Ongoing support of the **4x schools in our area. (Include Epsom schools?)**
- **Board Meetings open invitation:** Members in future are invited to attend unless otherwise advised.
- **Local projects:** What is a project?; How does it serve the community?; Need to respond to requests that come to us; Need more support from other members; Need to find out what the community needs (this is an area we have a problem with. Paul will contact all members about contributing to a project.
- **Review what Guest Speakers** have told us about what is going on in our community.
- **Undertake a School-based project;** Get them involved in one of our Working Groups; Find out what they need in the community. Jeanette has a good relationship with the local schools.
- **Focus on increasing women member numbers:** Explore what other clubs are doing right, what we're doing wrong.
- **Meeting format change:** Come up with a more modern format for the club.

COMING UP



Peter Mayow has asked members to pencil **Friday 25th and Saturday 26th of August** into their calendars.

We need 12 or more collectors who will be stationed at a stand outside the Onehunga Countdown. Volunteers would be rostered on one or more 2hr shifts.

This is a most enjoyable and fun experience especially when meeting the very friendly and supportive Onehunga community.

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**

Meeting: 6pm Mon. 17th July 2023

President: Jeanette Thorne

Sergeant: Noel Cary

Attendance: Bill Grayson

Hospitality: Rhett Stephens

Equipment: Derek Neutze

Laptop: Bill Appleton

Scribe/Photos: Lloyd Albiston

Host: Ernie Meyer

5-min speaker: Richard Ryan

Guest speaker: Maria Meredith

Local Board Chair, Maungakiekie-

Tamaki Local Board: Draft Local

Board Plan

Thanks: Duncan Macdonald

Thought: Robin Hulford

(The following replaces the 24th July
Club meeting)

Thurs. 20th July 2023

**Event: Senior Citizens Health and Retirement
Living - Course**

Time: 11.30am to 1.00pm

Date: Thursday, 20th July 2023

Venue: Onehunga Community House, 83 Selwyn
Street, Onehunga

Speakers: Dr Richard Busfield (GP)
Jeanette Thorne (Ex-Physio)

Synopsis: The course is for senior citizens, retirees,
families and caregivers. There will be Q&A
throughout (physical/mental).

LUNCH SUPPLIED

RSVP: Jeanette Thorne

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