



## 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/>

## Newsletter 145, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**Present:** 25

**Apologies:** Phil Aish, George Arulanantham, Alan Bannin, Bruce Glegg, Shameen Hayat, Rod Kestle, Cat Levine, Rob Lyons, Ant Martin, Peter Mayow, Tony Rayner, Barry Stafford, Sharlene Wagner.

**Sergeant's fines:** \$94.80

## PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

**President Jeanette** warmly welcomed everyone to the meeting with a special welcome to our visitors **Lara and Clive Fagan, George Varghese and Neil Donaldson.**

Jeanette reminded members of the upcoming Scottish Heritage evening on 24 September at University of Auckland and the Community Cleanup at Onehunga Bay Reserve on Sunday 24 September from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm.....all welcome. Rotary has had a big presence in the past at this event.

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**Sargeant Noel Carey** advised the 'Kids to Camp' program this year has attracted two student nominations each from Onehunga and Te Papapa Primary schools. This year's camp will be a Willow Park between 1 October and 5 October. Our aim is to have 4 children attending.

**1-MINUTE  
SPOT**

Noel also said following a recent show of hands from members we will not be singing the National Anthem from now on apart from special occasions.



**PAUL JENNER**  
**'Me'**



Our 5 Minute Speaker was **Paul Jenner** who stated his subject was 'Me'. Paul said he was conscious we had several new members in the Club and felt it was timely he reintroduced himself.

Paul was born in 1948, attended Onehunga Primary School and Onehunga High School where he met, courted, and wooed Leanne who he married in 1972. Leanne and Paul have one son David who was born in 1979 and with his wife has produced two grandchildren.

Paul started as an apprentice Fitter and Turner at Repco Engineering and after getting his 'ticket' started his own business making furniture. He subsequently sold

the furniture enterprise and following a trip to Singapore, where he investigated hose manufacturing, he set up a successful hose and flexible ducting business. He recently sold this to fellow Rotary Club member Rhett Stephens. Following his 'retirement' Paul has reflected on his 75 years of living and on looking back has come to the realisation that 'Life is for Living and it doesn't really matter what you do.'



*Lara and Clive Fagan with  
President Jeanette Thorne*

guest  
speaker



## LARA FAGAN

Editor, Onehunga Community News (OCN)

Our Guest Speaker was **Lara Fagan, Editor of OCN** who came along with husband **Clive**.

Lara emigrated from South Africa four years ago, with husband Clive and two sons, essentially to provide a better future for her family. Lara starting as Editor for the Onehunga Community News (OCN) in March 2023 and has been in the newspaper industry since she was 19yrs (and claims she has blue and black ink running through her veins).

The subject of Lara's talk was **the role of community newspapers in an era dominated by instant news**. She described how we can get any information at the touch of a button at the speed of light. We have unprecedented connectivity and access to information which is available from a multitude of sources in real time.

Social media platforms have emerged as powerful vehicles for circulating news and provide space for people to share their perspectives and offer instant updates on local and global events. This all impacts on the relevance of community newspapers and their ability to compete.

Lara asked the question, **"so why choose to trust a community newspaper rather than an unknown online news site?"** The answer is simply, **trustworthiness**, which Lara described as the cornerstone of any credible news source and Community newspapers have a remarkable track record in this regard.

Lara's commitment to accuracy is especially vital in an era where misinformation and rumours can spread rapidly on social media. She quoted Mark Twain who once said, **"a lie can travel around the world and back again, while the truth is lacing up its boots."** She went on to illustrate this by giving recent anecdotes on various celebrities e.g. Prince William having an affair and Joe Biden who reportedly sold state secrets - both lies and neither originating from reliable news sources - yet people still choose to believe them.

Lara stated community newspapers are accountable for what they publish, and the majority print the name of the Journalist making them directly responsible for the accuracy and fairness of their reporting. Community newspapers have a long-standing tradition of journalistic integrity and are accountable to their readers. In an era where misinformation and fake news is spread like wildfire, **Community newspapers however serve as trusted sources of verified information.** Their prime goal is to inform and serve their community.

Onehunga Community News (OCN) was founded in 1992 by the Onehunga Business Association beginning as a 5-6 page black and white Newsletter, and today is a 28-page glossy colour magazine. All the OCN reporters live locally and have a keen understanding of local issues and nuances of community dynamics. Unlike social media platforms, **the OCN cover stories that matter to them and the community** from schools, council, local events to members of the community and their achievements. All journos at the OCN have undergone formal training in journalism ethics and are committed to upholding the highest standards of their profession.

Lara described community newspapers as providing a counterbalance to the sensationalism and misinformation that can proliferate in the digital age, ensuring that our communities have access to accurate, well researched and balanced information, that **empowers residents to make informed decisions and engage actively in civic life.**

As Editor, Lara oversees the editorial process, reviews, refines articles and ensures the publications are accurate, fair and have clarity.

In conclusion Lara stated while the digital age has transformed the way we access news, community newspapers remain essential pillars of our information landscape. We need to support and cherish our community newspapers as they are not only a source of news but **provide a vital thread that bind our communities together.**

Following some questions Lara was thanked by Bill Grayson who said he “was in awe of her ability to support a business of size and turn it into a profitable enterprise.” He thanked her for her time and effort in coming to talk to us.

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## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK (Ernie Meyer)

**Destiny is all about the choices we make and the changes we take.**

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## DUTIES

Unable to attend > apologies to Noel: [noelcarey@hotmail.com](mailto:noelcarey@hotmail.com)

Unable for a duty > arrange own replacement & text Noel: Mb: 0274 509 845

**Meeting: 6pm Mon. 18<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023**  
**Special Rotary Guest: DG Neal Murray**

**President:** Jeanette Thorne

**Sergeant:** Lloyd Albiston

**Attendance:** David Eastwood

**Hospitality:** Bruce Murdoch

**Equipment:** Bill Grayson

**Scribe:** Barry Stafford

**Photos:** Rhett Stephens

**Laptop:** Bill Appleton

**Host:** Gary Hays

**5-Min Speaker:** (none tonight)

**Guest Speaker:** Epsom Normal School.  
Dillon Rungan Dep. Principal and Speech finalists.

**Thanks:** Craig Jones

**Thought:** Colin Tea

**Meeting: 6pm Mon. 25<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023**  
**Club Forum, Club Operation Review**

**President:** Jeanette Thorne

**Vice President:** Barry Stafford

**Sergeant:** Craig Jones

**Laptop:** Bill Appleton

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