



Rotary  
Club of Maungakiekie



## 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**

**SEPTEMBER IS  
EDUCATION & LITERACY  
MONTH**

"EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON WHICH YOU CAN  
USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD."  
- NELSON MANDELLA

## Newsletter 146, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**Present: 22**

**Apologies: 13**

**Sergeant's fines: \$69.10**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

A warm welcome to our special guest tonight, **District Governor Neil Murray** and to our Guest Speakers, **students from the Epsom Normal Primary School**.

**Bruce Murdoch** reported that he had a meeting with **Rod Kestle** on Friday 15 September shortly after Rod had received his second chemotherapy treatment. He seemed to be coping well.

**Gary Hays** advised that **Brian Williams** had just returned home from hospital and faced a long recuperation.

---

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### Monday 25 September 2023

Completion of review of **Club's 2023-24 Strategic Plan**. This includes consideration of possible change of venue for meetings, and review of current meeting procedures, as well as how we improve our public image and membership. Also on the agenda is our support of activities for seniors, and the policy about the funds we are holding for this purpose.

### Monday 2 October 2023

**Bike Hubs in Auckland City** including news about the latest one for the Onehunga Station Car park.

Arrangements for future meetings - to be arranged after decisions made at meeting on 25 September 2023.

---



*Speech finalist Aayan Rai (left),  
Loisi Liava'a (centre) with Club  
President Jeanette Thorne.*



**EpsomNormal**  
primary school

Kia ngātahi ai te tu  
E pakari ai te tuarā  
*Together we are strong*

guest  
speaker

**BOB GRIGOR AWARDS\***  
**SPEECH FINALISTS**  
**Epsom Normal Primary School**

Following on the annual tradition of the **Epsom Rotary Club** awarding children who had achieved success in primary school speaking competitions, the meeting opened with short addresses by **Epsom Normal Primary School** students Loisi Liava'a and Ayaan Rai.



**Loisi** spoke about “**Climate Change in the Pacific**” and her former home Kiribati, which is a series of small atolls and one raised island, in the South Pacific. They were once part of the Gilbert and Ellis islands and are stretched over about 3.5M square miles of ocean. The group has a population of about 117,000. Because of the combined effect of melting ice poles and rising tides there is a real prospect of the islands disappearing.

Loisi spoke clearly, succinctly and with conviction about the need for the change to our treatment of the climate and land, to avoid catastrophe for Kiribati. She set a high standard for our own speakers.



**Ayaan Rai’s** topic was “**The Hole in the Earth’s Roof**”. He spoke with controlled fervour and warned us about dangerous heat in the coming summer. It would be hotter than usual and because of the hole in the Earth’s ozone layer, the Sun’s rays faced less filtering before reaching us. He challenged us to do something before it was too late.

Ayaan was standing in for **William Fry** who was unable to attend.

The Club gave the students Commemorative Certificates to mark their success and donated \$150 to the school for prizes for them.

## \***BOB GRIGOR AWARDS**

**Bob Grigor** was a Charter member of Epsom Club and retained Rotary membership until his death a few years later at a relatively early age. Bob was a Medical Specialist (rheumatologist) who lived in Epsom and his children were all past pupils of Epsom Normal Primary School. Bob’s father (Renton) was also a doctor and practiced from Mt Eden for over 50 years. Renton was a member of Mt Roskill Rotary for many years.

Bob was a member of Toastmasters and **an excellent public speaker** and storyteller. He enjoyed the English language and was able recite poetry and extracts from classical books at length. He was a respected **member of Epsom Rotary**.

Epsom Rotary also had a close association with **Epsom Normal Primary School** – the headmaster at the time was a member of Rotary. Following Bob’s death, the Rotary Board decided to create an award in Bob’s memory and in consultation with the school decided on the **Bob Grigor Award** that was presented annually to the **top three or four children who had achieved success in primary schools speaking competitions**. The successful speakers (and their parents) were required to attend a Rotary Club meeting, present their winning speeches and were each given a certificate and small cash payment.

The tradition was passed to the Rotary Club of Maungakiekie after the Rotary Club of Epsom closed in July 2021.



*Special*  
**guest**  
speaker

**NEIL MURRAY**  
District Governor, District 9910

**Neil** joined the Rotary Club of Takapuna in 1980. He described himself as a staunch Rotarian and has been Club President twice and been very involved with **Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE)**, which he regards as one of Rotary's best programs.

When 17, Neil was an RYE student himself in New York State. The year was 1969 and his host family took him to Cape Canaveral in Florida in July to **watch Apollo 11** blast off for the moon. While there, witnessed Neil Armstrong pilot his craft down to land and take man's first step on the moon. Neil said that was a life changing experience for him.

Neil's father was a doctor on the North Shore and a member of Milford Rotary. Neil's Grandfather was rector of Palmerston North Boys High School for thirty years and a Rotarian.

**Neil** retired as a lawyer in 2020 and undertook everything that came his way including court work. It was not unhelpful to have an uncle who was the local District Court Judge. He acted for the families of those killed in the Mt Erebus Disaster and recalled the infamous phrase "an orchestrated litany of lies" which was at the heart of Mr Justice Mahon's inquiry report. At the time of his retirement in 2020 Neil was more involved with property and trusts, including charitable trusts.

To use his own description, he is also a **cricketing tragic**. He has a deep-seated love of the game and particularly enjoyed **coaching to Level 3 standard**. He was involved with an Auckland under 19 team, the Auckland Aces, which had several future NZ players including Martin Guphill, Jeet Raval and, Ajaz Patel who became only the third person to take all 10 wickets in one innings in a Test match, 10 for 119 against India on 4 December 2021.

Neil and his wife Jan had four children two boys and two children. Jan sadly died last year.

Neil discussed the **objectives of RI President Gordon McInally**. The first was the **promotion of peace**. Although Neil didn't say so, one supposes that that could be our objective in our near neighbours in the South Pacific.

President Gordon's next objective is the **eradication of Polio from the World**. The Rotary Foundation has a target to raise \$50M so it can get a matching sum from the Gates Foundation in a final drive to achieve this. There are still two countries with wild polio, Afghanistan and Pakistan. In the current year perhaps, we should make a provision out of our two fund raisers, of an agreed percentage to apply to this.

Gordon also has a close interest in the **better mental health** of the peoples of the world.

Gordon's brother committed suicide, and Gordon's message is that we need to look after ourselves as well as others. When we enquire of someone "how are you?" we need to ensure that is a genuine enquiry ("**How are you, really?**") and take care to measure the response. He wants to remove the stigma which sometimes arises when someone admits to having mental health issues. In speaking about this he acknowledged the District's current Mental Health and Wellbeing programme in our Northland primary schools led by **Cat Levine**. The fact that this has been funded by a Global Grant can be used to advertise Rotary.

Gordon's final goal is the **empowerment of women and girls** and the creation of urgency about this and thus engender hope.

Neil had a special comment about the **RYE programme**. He has been involved with this for many years and has lots of positive experiences with young people from all over the world. As mentioned above he was an exchange student himself. He noted that Neil Armstrong's Apollo 11 spaceship was named Endeavour after Captain Cook's ship.

He acknowledged that hosting a student for a year is a challenge but instanced **how the small Dargaville Club deals with this**. It approaches the local High School for the names of families who might be able to help. The school principal is a Club member. The Club then writes directly to those families explaining what is involved in hosting and asks if they could consider looking after a visiting student for 3 months. They follow up this approach very soon thereafter and then find that they have enough interest to take on a visiting student. The club appoints a couple of members to ensure that the visitor come regularly to meetings and takes part in Rotary activities in its area.

The pandemic has seen RYE in suspension for two years, but the programme is returning this year. Another plus is that the Club strengthens its association with the school and with parents. **This is something we could try with OHS and Marcellin**.

Neil also urged us to connect with young people by doing projects in schools and making them aware of Rotary programmes such as MUNA and RYLA. We have a responsibility to show what can be done and we have the gift of time. In doing this we can "**Create Hope in the World**".

Our Club's involvement in the **Rotary Enrichment Programme** at the **Pacific Advance Secondary School (PASS)** in Otahuhu for the last six years, is a very good example of this at work. There are up to eight members/partners/friends engaged in this on a twice weekly basis during term time. From the comments of Marcellin's head, on her recent visit to us, there is an opportunity to start another one at Marcellin.

(Thanks to Barry for penning this week's report - Ed)

---

## **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK (provided by Colin Tea)**

Love many things, for therein lies the true strength, and whosoever loves much performs much, and can accomplish much, and what is done in love is done well.

**Vincent Van Gogh**

---

## 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. 25<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023**  
**Club Forum, Club Operation Review**

**Vice President:** Jeanette Thorne

**Sergeant:** Craig Jones

**Laptop:** Bill Appleton

**Meeting: 6pm Mon. 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2023**

**President:** Jeanette Thorne

**Vice President:** Barry Stafford

**Sergeant:** Noel Carey

**Attendance:** Paul Jenner

**Hospitality:** Ernie Meyer

**Equipment:** Gary Hays

**Scribe:** Lloyd Albiston

**Laptop:** Bill Appleton

**Host:** Aalan Bannin

**5-Min Speaker:** Brian Williams

**Guest Speaker:** Brent Bielby:

Community Bike Hubs, intro Onehunga Hub

**Thanks:** Craig Jones

**Thought:** Ernie Meyer

## Photos

