



## 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** 

**OCTOBER IS  
COMMUNITY ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT MONTH**

"IF YOU WANT TO GO QUICKLY, GO ALONE. IF YOU WANT TO GO FAR, GO TOGETHER."  
- ANON

## Newsletter 148, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023

**Present:** 21

**Apologies:** Bruce Clegg, David Eastwood, Jhn Paul Goulding, Shameen Hayat, Robin Hulford, Rod Kestle, Cat Levine, Rob Lyons, Iain McCrae, Ant Martin, Petr Mayow, Tony Rayner, Colin Tea

**Sergeant's fines:** \$65.50

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Paul and Bill** took four kids to the **Kids To Camp**.

Bill related a story about his trip with the two boys he took. Half way out from Pakuranga the car in front ran out of petrol along the Pakuranga Highway so Bill pulled over and gave the guy a hand and took him down to the gas station. Much to the delight of the two boys they got pies and drinks on the fellow they helped out which the boys thought was terrific.

On arrival at the camp there was three of Phil Aish's US vehicles: his US Army Jeep, Unimog and a massive tractor with a big face on its front which delighted the kids.

Bill is expecting many stories on the way back home when they pick the kids back up on Thursday.



**BRIAN WILLIAMS**  
"Why Businesses Should be Watched".



**Brian** shared with members an example of why businesses should be carefully watched.

In August Brian and Sharyn received the usual printed policy renewal schedule for house insurance that had been in place for 15 years and paid annually by direct debit. They expected to see the policy amount disappear from their bank account in September as per schedule. Upon checking three days later they noted no funds had gone through. This was the start of many phone calls to the insurance company and bank.

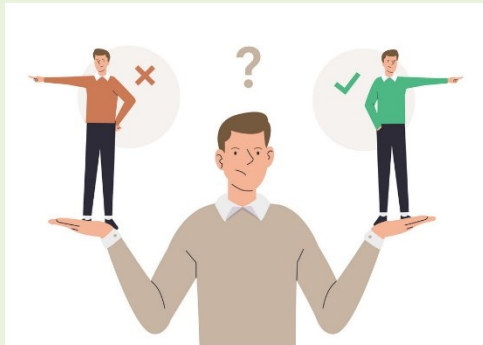
Every communication became more confused and counterproductive. They were finally told it was a IT problem and both parties were very, very sorry and we will get a update scheduled. Waving a letter to Club members, Brian said, "This letter arrived addressed to myself and the estate of the 'late' Sharyn Williams, who at that stage did not know that she had died!" (much laughter from the members).

After another belt of communications and the standard apology and "thanks for their patience" was received. Continuing the saga, they were notified a discount was due and was received with adjustments three weeks after the original due date along with documents and Sharyn was confirmed 'alive' by

the bank and Insurance Company (more laughter).

Moral of the story, don't assume things will be done correctly and on time.

When probed by Bill who the offending bank and insurance company were, Brian tactfully refused, answering "I do not wish to go to jail!" (more laughter).



1-MINUTE  
SPOT

### What should we do when faced with the changing ethical norms?

**Duncan** related how he and Julie were recently contemplating moving to another house, but ethical concerns arose during their search.

They hired a reputable lawyer to scrutinise a property's title, and the lawyer's verdict was a clear "**stay away.**" They discovered that the house they were considering was built on a stream bed and came with severe restrictions, including no planting or decks, even building the house.

To compound matters, another council department approved the property after construction, and the real estate agent was fully aware of these issues. The builder, it turned out, intended to flee to Australia.

**The situation posed significant ethical dilemmas** for Trevor. It revealed an incorrectly built house, disregard for original specifications, a city authority signing off on an improper structure, and a real estate agent selling the property deceptively. For Trevor, it **raised a moral question**: should he confront the real estate manager and challenge this behavior, or should he involve higher authorities in Auckland City, albeit uncertain about their integrity?

Trevor's inquiry extended to broader societal ethics, where **the prevailing sentiment seemed to be "anything's alright if you can get away with it."**

As a conscientious Rotarian and citizen, he urged the members to consider their stance on such issues and asked for their thoughts on how to navigate these complex moral and ethical challenges.



guest  
speaker

**BRENT BIELBY**  
**Bike Hub Manager,**  
**EcoMatters Environment Trust**

Alan introduced tonight's Guest Speaker **Brent Bielby**. Brent Bielby is the Manager of the award-winning community **Bike Hubs** that operates on behalf of **EcoMatters Charitable Trust**. He's led the development of the service since it began in early 2017. A keen cyclist and rides as it's just as a good way to get around in day-to-day activities. He's also participated in road and mountain bike competitions and has cycled extensively in Europe and parts of New Zealand.

Brent believes that riding a bike is a simple solution to many of the complex challenges we face as a society. The Bike Hub started in early 2017 with the idea for the community to be able to ride bikes, more.

The core deliverables are **to provide free help and advice on how to fix, repair and maintain a bicycle**. They don't want to compete with the bike shops and have a really good relationship with the retail sector.

It was noted that since the 1980's, parents and kids lost those basic bike maintenance skills which weren't being passed on. Kids didn't have the space, garage or tools where they could play around and pull a bike to bits and put it back together again, repair a puncture, replace brake pads, oil a chain - the real basic stuff.

They found bike shop personnel often didn't have the mechanic skills to provide on the spot advice like they did and that you might have to wait two to three weeks to be able to get your bike serviced anyway.

**Bike Hubs are funded from the sale of donated bikes and Funding Partners.** Key partners are **Auckland Transport** who chip in a bit and **Local Boards** who take a more holistic point of view like health, well-being and connectedness all of which cycling brings into the community.

All their bikes are serviced, and safety checked before being sold at lost cost. Some customers have been known to give quite generous koha.

A number of the Bike Hub entities operate just with volunteers, but they might only be able to open the first Saturday of the month, for one or two hours. The more **sustainable model is a mixed model** with paid staff working alongside volunteer. This model also ensures a degree of professionalism.

The idea of the community donating bikes provided a reliable stream of bikes which have been continually coming through since the day they start in 2017. Besides supporting them financially the recycling of donated bikes also **reinvigorated the second-hand bike market**.

The late 80s, early 90s saw a flood of cheap, overseas imports into New Zealand which made it very hard for second hand bike shops to remain sustainable which resulted in their decline. The earlier made bikes last well post repair - at least for a further 10 or 15 years if looked after.

The Bike Hub therefore is a good place to go for parts as some bikes are stripped down for spares.

As previously mentioned, Bike Hubs are not trying to compete with existing bike shops but are trying to grow the cycling sector of the community.

An important point to note is the **Bike Hub focus on people who want to learn how to repair bikes, rather than just acting as a drop-off repair shop**. This ensures bike owners gain the necessary skills to fix bikes themselves and carry on riding.



Bike Hub staff and volunteers are all passionate cyclists, often living locally, so it can be a really nice place and easy-going environment to visit to get a little bit of advice. It often it starts with a conversation about your riding habits and routes you take which can lead to tips on the best back roads to take.

The hubs also provide additional information about other cycling services, such as from **Auckland Transport** who provide similar services like bike maintenance and how to learn to ride courses. (See: <https://at.govt.nz/cycling-walking/courses-events/adult-bike-courses>).

Bike Hubs generally operate out of 2-3 shipping containers, two for storage and one for the workshop space, often on Council owned land. **Hubs are open Thursday to Sunday 10am to 2:00 pm** and normally located in highly visible locations.



**Henderson hub** originally started around the back of a building which was neither visible nor accessible and had no passers-by, so they relocated right next to a main roundabout. So now they have about **35,000 vehicles passing-by** which has ramped up business. Hubs enjoy free word of mouth publicity from happy visitors.

**So why support cycling?** It's a low carbon form of transport, particularly for non-electrified bikes especially when compared to a car, bus or a train. There are also the expected physical and mental health benefits.

Brent took a quick poll from our members to see how many rode to school in their youth which was pretty much everyone. Nowadays parents have become more cautious due to safety concerns.

So, the idea is to replace the occasional car journeys, like going to the shops, place of work or study with taking a bike from time to time. Interestingly biking it's also the most reliable form of transport as **bikes can easily bypass road works and traffic jams which means you can pretty much always leave home at the same time.** Bike riding also connects people to their community more.

**Go eBike loan scheme:** In the last two-weeks Bike Hubs started **to offer a free eBike** loan scheme partnering with Waka Kotahi. What they're doing is offering a range of single commuter bikes, bikes with seats for kids and some cargo space. And they're loaning them out free for two weeks. You pay \$100 deposit, but it's refundable when returned. They found one of the barriers to buying electric bikes is they're not cheap selling between \$4,000-10,000 which is putting people not sure what to do, off. They found if people had two weeks to take one home and try it out then they may feel more confident to commit to owning one.

For some people it might be a decision like, “**I can sell one of my family cars and have a cargo bike or an E bike instead**” and get by with just one car. The Go-eBike scheme is operating from two trial sites at the moment – Glen Innes and Queens Wharf locations.

Q: What is another name for a non-electric bike?  
A: An **acoustic bike** (after the guitar analogy)

**Stats (since 2017):**

- Had more than 50,000 visitors.
- Fixed more than 17,000 bikes.
- Redistributed over 3,000 bikes back into the community.
- 9,000 hours of Volunteer support

**Awards:** Trafanz Leadership Award 2023 for Sustainable Transport

**Bike Hub contact:** <https://www.ecomatters.org.nz/on-bikes/bike-hubs/>

**Donate a bike:** Feel free to donate unused, old bikes

**Volunteers wanted:** Walk in and ask, bring basic bike repair skills, 2-hrs a day a couple of days a week, training provided,

**Auckland locations:** New Lynne (first), Henderson, Glen Innes and Queens Wharf.

**Launching soon:** In partnership with Auckland Transport, five more hubs are opening up in: Onehunga, Forest Hill, Manukau, Pakuranga and Grey Lynn.

**Onehunga Bike Hub opening October 2023:**

**Location:** Footpath outside the Onehunga Train Station Car Park,  
109-111 Onehunga Mall.



Brent was thanked by **Craig Jones** who said “we (Rotary) could help with donated bikes”.

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## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK (provided by Ernie Meyer)

“Let nothing stop us achieving our Rotary Goals”

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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. 9<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023

President: Jeanette Thorne

Vice President: Barry Stafford

Sergeant: Noel Carey

Attendance: Bruce Murdoch

Hospitality: Derek Neutze

Equipment: Ernie Meyers

Scribe: Tony Rayner

Meals1: Lloyd Albiston

Meals2: Bill Grayson

Host: Colin Tea

5-Min Speaker: Lloyd Albiston,

Guest Speaker: Adele Hall, Programme Coordinator Auckland & Northland, Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA).

Thanks: Rhett Stephens

Thought: Bruce Glegg

#### Mon. 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023

In lieu of the regular meeting we will support the local community by dining and donating at Everybody Eats.

**Everybody Eats**  
**306 Onehunga Mall**  
*Pay-as-you-feel*  
**Guests welcome**

**RSVP Noel by 5pm Fri 13th Oct.**

**Email: [noelcarey@hotmail.com](mailto:noelcarey@hotmail.com)**