



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 \$25 dinner

Mail: PO Box 29086 Greenwoods Corner, Epsom

Web: <https://www.rotarymaungakiekie.org.nz/>

Newsletter 149, 9th October 2023

Present: 25

Apologies: Gwynyth Carr, David Eastwood, John-Paul Goulding, Shameen Hayat, Craig Jones, Rod Kestle, Gareth Leadbetter, Cat Levine, Rob Lyons, Ant Martin, Peter Mayow, Trevor Mosley, Rhett Stephens (late arrival).

Sergeant's fines: \$143.90

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NO MEETING 16th OCT – DINNER AT EVERYBODY EATS

President Jeanette reminded everyone there will be no meeting on the 16th Oct as we'll all be at **Everybody Eats**, Onehunga for dinner. Bruce will pay \$20 per head from our club meal contributions while members are welcome to make any additional **Pay-as-you-feel donations** at the counter there.

Bill thanked **Noel** the **Kids to Camp** primary organiser. It was a 4-day live-in event and the kids were absolutely stoked. Ironically one of the boys in each of the Club Member's cars that took the boys to camp were from different schools (Onehunga Primary & Te Papapa School) but knew each other as they were in the same Rugby team. Our four-boys in Cabin 15 were winners of the "Best Cabin" along with their Leader. They had the best of times with lots of outdoor activities including a swim at Maraetai Beach. One of the boys raced home to tell his mum about "Treasure Island" camp in January – he didn't want to miss out!

We will continue to seek candidates from Primary Schools in our area.



Our boys with "Best Cabin" Certificates



Camp kids watching their "Road Trip to Maraetai" video.

Noel is seeking **RYLA nominees** between the age of 20-28yrs, one of which will be selected attend at the Muruwai Surf Club in May 2024. Our club will sponsor one delegate. Please contact Noel if you find a nominee.

Ernie announced tonight is the last night the **Club Honours Board** will be present during meetings, after which it will relocated to the Onehunga Community House. Many thanks to Ernie for making this happen and taking care of our history.

Some smarty pants called out, "Don't drop it or put any white powder on it!". (ref: recent Ranfurly shield incident).

District AG Judy Lawley asked us to help sell 4-5 tickets to the **Rotary Foundation Recognition Dinner** on Saturday Nov 4th - **see details at end of Newsletter.**



LLOYD ALBISTON,
Bombed, battered but not
beaten



Lloyd shared details about a recent trip he and his wife, Kathryn, took to Australia. They flew to Darwin and Kakadu which is pretty much the top dead centre of Australia's Northern Territory. Darwin is the state capital and Kakadu lays 250km to the east.

A quick pole from members present revealed only one or two had ever visited Darwin.

The local wildlife and annual Aboriginal Art Fair in the Darwin Convention Centre had always been on their 'bucketlist' - anywhere to escape Auckland's miserable, wet and windy Autumn weather.



Darwin is located in, what is locally known as, the "Top End", for good reasons. It essentially has two seasons: Summer, normally hot and wet; and Winter normally dry and the best time to visit with daytime temps averaging a comfortable 32-34°C. In Winter nobody talks about the weather because every day is much the same - sunny and warm. Every dusk is greeted by the same beautiful orange and golden sunset, and dawns are just as magnificent.



Darwin essentially was occupied by indigenous Aborigines called the Larrakia People, where there is the highest concentration of Aborigines in Australia (30%). The Larrakia People have been the traditional owners and the custodians of that region, occupying it for some 65,000 years. They are very friendly and have always welcomed visitors into their area.

The first European was Lieutenant John Stokes, who sailed in into the harbour on the HMS Beagle in 1839 naming it Port Darwin after a previous shipmate, Charles Darwin (who incidentally never visited Darwin).

Darwin was fairly 'wild west' at one time however it's now evolved into quite a laid back, sort of 'frontier town'. It's very much a multicultural with around 60 nationalities and 70 different ethnic backgrounds.

Darwin is also the closest city to Asia. In fact, it's closer to Jakarta, Indonesia than it is to Canberra. Its population of 135,000 is growing slowly making it slightly larger than Dunedin.

Darwin has been shaped by two significant events. The first event was the bombing of Darwin during the Second World War by the Japanese, and the second was the destruction fettered by Cyclone Tracy Christmas Day 1974.

Two months after Pearl Harbour on 19th February 1942 during WWII, Darwin was extensively bombed. A strike force of 188 Japanese aircraft from an aircraft carrier, dropped their bombs on Darwin, killing more than 240 people. The first air raid destroyed many public buildings, including oil reservoirs. One of the casualties was the postmaster, who ironically while the only resident to build a bomb shelter, was killed when it suffered a direct hit.



Numerous allied ships were sunk in the harbour, along with allied aircraft. In fact Darwin was bombed 2½ xs more than Pearl Harbour. The epic 3-hour film 'Australia', starring Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman was all about the bombing of the of Darwin at that time.

The second event was Cyclone Tracy that happened on the early hours of Christmas Day in 1974, and which devastated 80% of the city. The cyclone killed 71, injuring thousands more.



The population then was around 65,000 but reduced to 5,000 after most were evacuated.

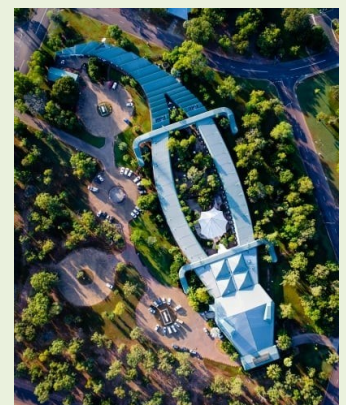
While visit a mall there Lloyd got chatting to a local who experienced Tracy's devastation, and explained how his family hid in their bathroom and the injury his father suffered and the subsequence family separation that occurred in the confusion.

So, between the WWII bombing and Cyclone Tracy 33-years later Darwin had to be rebuilt. Today, the city looks very modern, and surprisingly so.

After Darwin Lloyd and Kathryn drove 1,000 kilometres into Kakadu, which itself is 20,000 km². The original 20,000 Aboriginal population fell to 5,000, not necessarily due to moving away or perishing from European born diseases. Aboriginals are very good stockmen but suffered greatly from zoonotic contracted diseases such as brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis from Asian Water buffalo introduced by the Europeans.

Next stop was a small town called Jabiru where they stayed in a modern hotel in the shape of a crocodile.

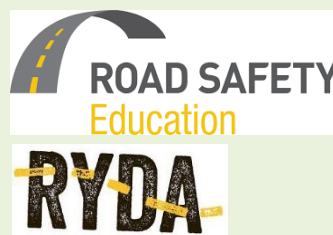
From there on to Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve, a bird (and water python) watchers paradise. But it was nothing more than just a reservoir, first built with a view to growing rice there. But the plan didn't work due migrating birds eating all the rice, and so was a bit of a failure.



Beyond Kakadu Cahills Crossing is a popular tourist site for experiencing a crocodile feeding frenzy. When fish are washed upstream by the nearby tidal inlet, the water flows over the road forming a ford. The crocs wait on and around the ford for lunch to swim its way on by. They witnessed about 35-crocs watching the fish, who in turn were watched by about 350 tourists (*the deadliest of the species, Ed.*).

The two didn't see many other animals, just crocs. There were no kangaroos, no koalas, no emus, no camels - just crocs and birds, which was a bit unexpected.

All in all it was a great trip, and although a long way to go, Lloyd and Kathryn highly recommend it.



guest
speaker

ADELE HALL

Programme Coordinator Auckland & Northland:
Road Safety Education (RSE)

Adele grew up in Maungakiekie Ave, One Tree Hill until she was 20yrs old. Her profession career lay in Sales & Marketing across the property, media, hospitality and education industry.

Adele started with RSE during COVID lockdown, and this is her first full year running the RYDA Programme across Auckland and Northland. This role allows her to apply her expertise in sales, event management, and people skills. What she treasures most is the opportunity to contribute to the betterment of young lives, making her work truly meaningful.

RYDA is the leading and only national road safety education programme for youth in NZ and provides young people with the practical skills and strategies they need as both drivers and passengers throughout their lives.

Rotary is a Community Partner of RSE who delivers the RYDA programme.

Q: Who are the safest drivers on the road?

A: The Learner, they are so nervous.

RYDA STATS (AUST & NZ)

FY22 to date

- 100,000 record breaking number of students have attended courses in 2023 (normally 30-50K p.a.)
- >800k students to date since the beginning of RYDA.

FY22 Annual Report

- 81% of students used 1 of the 19 strategies.
- 66% of students used >9 of the 19 strategies.
- Kids still retained 20% - 66% better understanding of the core safety factors 3-months post course attendance.
- 81% parents noted a reduction in their child's risk-taking behaviour as a passenger/driver.
- 49% parents noted an immediate change in child's learner driver behaviour.

How does RYDA stay relevant?

- RYDA programme has its own Advisory Council.
- Use external safety experts, university professors, current thinking.
- Gather ongoing feedback from the facilitators to improve the programme.
- Utilises highly interactive content to directly engaging the kids.

NZ Situation

- Road toll: Up 11% in last three years

What is Waka Kotahi doing to reduce the Road Toll?

- Introduced Road-to Zero (1997 Swedish initiative used throughout the world):
 - NZ Govt goal: 40% reduction in death and serious injury by 2030.
 - NZ not doing well.
- 80% reduction in deaths on SH6 (Blenheim-Nelson) when speed limit reduced from 100kmph to 80kmph.
- Reduction in serious crashes/deaths in Dome Valley after installation of flexi-median barriers (2018-22: 37 > 2023: 2). *Please National Party– don't pull funding for this!*
- Installing 'traffic calming' Roundabouts at major intersections

What does RSE NZ do to reduce the Road Toll?

- Teach year 11 and 12 (15-17yrs) age group who are in the process of obtaining their drivers licence (RYDA is NOT about driving)
- Teach Gateway students (transitioning school students who are offered workplace learning while still at secondary school).

- Present courses on attitude and awareness (NOT how to drive)
- Provide tips and Insights into **safe driving and staying a safe passenger.**
- Present a 1-day course (9am – 2pm) away from school

What do the Kids Learn?

They attend six workshops over a 5-hr session.

1. Speed vs stopping distance demonstration (with a dummy being hit)
2. Looking at the road from the point of view of other road users
3. “I-in-Drive”: Tools to analyse risky situation, practice speaking up and tips on what to say as a passenger to mitigate a potentially dangerous situation.
4. Police Officer lead discussion in young driver risk areas, high impact video demos.
5. How state-of-mind (mood) changes risk level.
6. Chance to speak with a ‘Crash Survivor’ and how it has impacted their lives.
(An Auckland ‘Crash Survivor’ tells how as a 20yr old Uni student she had been up studying for 17 hours, which was the same as driving drunk, so she was impaired. She got bad news about the family dog dying in Tauranga, so she made the decision to drive to the home to bury the dog. She fell asleep half an hour after leaving and hit the only tree that was left on the Southern Motorway. Her car had a one-star safety rating with front only airbags and hit the tree side-on).

During Session 6, students use what they've learnt during the day to investigate the Crash Survivor's incident (*you can see the pieces clicking into place in their brains - Adele*).

What Certificates are awarded?

- Starting 2023, the RSE RYDA course has been linked to the New Zealand Curriculum.
- Students will earn NCEA Level 2 credits by attending the programme (*which is often one of the first questions students ask about the course - Adele*).

What does RSE provide?

- Tutors and Co-ordinators
- Sponsors (who cover major costs)
- Seek grants from Local Government.
- Seek grants from Corporations, Clubs and Foundations.
- Morning tea and lunch.

What are the benefits?

- Lower road fatalities/injuries of our youth.
As soon as kids get their Restricted licence, road statistics skyrocket. They lose mum and dad or their supervisor in the car and start crashing. Having 2-friends in a car x2 chance of a crash as the child is distracted. Having 4-friends on board increases the risk x4. RYDA teaches kids how to mitigate these risks.
The State of Tasmania, Aust. pays for every child to attend RYDA. Deaths

and injuries in that age bracket have been reduced something like 75%.

- Businesses like to employ kids who have a **RYDA programme in their c.v.**

How do Rotary Clubs help?

- **Introduce the RSE RYDA programme to local high schools.**
 - Our club will connect RYDA to Onehunga High School, Marcellin College
 - Approach other Central Auckland colleges: Mangere, Tangaroa
 - One Tree Hill College is already set up (Adele)
 - Rotary Papakura looks after South Aucks
 - Rotary Hendsen looks after West Aucks
- Assist **identifying a suitable course venue** (Mt Smart Stadium?)
- Manage up to 240-students (6x bunches of 30-kids)
 - **Provide 6x Member/Helpers**
 - Help prepare the various road layouts
 - Rotate students around the different workshops
- **Funding help:**
 - Any supplemental Venue costs
 - Any supplemental school bus costs
 - Any supplemental course fees that can't be paid by parents/school
- **Book the exercise as an annual Club event.**

Trevor thanked Adele for her talk and work in delivering RYDA to school kids in Auckland and Northland and quoted Ralph Waldo Emerson "What you do speak so loudly I cannot hear what you are saying" meaning Adele's actions speak volumes about her commitment. The club presented Adele a copy of "Onehunga's Changing Foreshore by Stephen Lasham as a gift for her time with us.

RYDA - How it began.

RYDA originated in Australia following a tragic car crash that claimed the lives of four teenaged boys in Dural, a suburb in northwest Sydney, in July 2000. The accident occurred when the 17-year-old driver, who had recently obtained his provisional license, collided head-on with a 4WD vehicle. The car carrying the teenagers was estimated to have been travelling at 110 km/h in a 60 km/h zone and was virtually torn in two on impact.

At that time three Rotarians were key to the start of RYDA:

Paul Pixton (RYDA founder, now RSE Director), a Rotarian who lived next door to one of the boys;

John Loughlin (RYDA founder, now RSE Board member), a Rotarian with a young family at driving age and involved with the local schools;

Terry Birss (RYDA founder, now RSE Board member), a Rotarian who noted, "an absence of proper, effective education in relation to understanding personal risk and safe driving - there was a vacuum".

They held a meeting with the Community, who agreed “something must be done”.

It is recognised Rotary attracts people from private enterprise, who are particularly good at making things happen quickly and it was those three who kicked into gear (with many others) to make RYDA happen.

RYDA in Australia effectively ceased to be a Rotary program when the independent not-for-profit organisation, **Road Safety Education Limited (RSE)** was established in Australia in 2001. Back in New Zealand, RSE NZ was established as a Charity in 2005 and Incorporated in 2006, to be the official provider of RYDA.

The RYDA programme was rolled out in New Zealand in 2007 with New Zealand Steel as NZ co-founding sponsor alongside with BOC who were the original Australian founding sponsors in 2004. Other NZ co-sponsors include Bridgestone who joined in 2016, VTNZ in 2022 and Toyota in 2023.

Rotary now operates as a **Community Partner of RSE** who deliver the RYDA programme.

Typical day out at RYDA



COMING UP

Sat/Sun 25-26th November



BOOK FAIR deadlines:

09 Oct: Flyers handed to Members to deliver.

05 Nov: Flyer delivery to be completed.

13 Nov: Drop-off locations open (Horse Float, College Rifles Car Park, Haast St, Remuera & Onehunga Community House, 83 Selwyn St., Onehunga)

tbc Nov: Book Sorting: Onehunga Community House

25-26 Nov: BOOK FAIR OPEN

Sat 4th November
ROTARY FOUNDATION
RECOGNITION DINNER

A night to remember and to celebrate, as Barry Rassin, World Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair, recognises our major donors.

Join Members of Westhaven Rotary and Hillsborough-Lynfield-Mt Roskill for a wonderful night out.

Ticket: \$170 per person

Dress Cost: Black Tie

Venue: 6:15 for 7:00 PM to 11:15 PM

Cordis Hotel, 83 Symonds Street, Grafton, Auckland 1010

Contact Judy Lawley NOW

judylawley18@gmail.com. Ph 0272 931 747

Mon 4th December

Rotary Club of Maungakiekie

PROUDLY PRESENTS

THE 2023
MCKEEVER
HASKELL
WALL
STUDENT AWARDS

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK (provided by Bruce Clegg)

“Keep your face to the sunshine and you can never see the shadow”.
Helen Keller

DUTIES

Unable to attend > apologies to Noel: noelcarey@hotmail.com

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

Dinner Event
Mon. 16th 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

No Meeting Labour Day
23rd Oct 2023

Meeting: 6pm Mon. 30th Oct 2023

President: Jeanette Thorne

Vice President: Barry Stafford

Sergeant: Noel Carey

Attendance: Colin Tea

Hospitality: Duncan Macdonald

Equipment: Bruce Clegg

Scribe: Tony Rayner

Meals1: Gary Hays

Meals2: Paul Jenner

Host: George Arulanantham

5-Min Speaker: Iain McCrae

Guest Speaker: Thornton & Campbell

Williams: The Outward Bound Experience

Thanks: Peter Mayow

Thought: Alan Bannin

toUch of HumoUr

