



Newsletter to Keep the Wheel Turning



President: Jeanette Thorne

Secretary: Richard Ryan

Meeting location: Royal Oak Bowls, 146 Selwyn Street, Onehunga, Auckland

Time: Monday evenings 5:30pm for 6:00pm start, \$25 dinner, ends 7:30pm

Mail: PO Box 29086 Greenwoods Corner, Epsom

More info at: <https://www.rotarymaungakiekie.org.nz/>



Newsletter 160, 12th February 2024

Present: 21

Apologies: George Arulanantham, Derek Atkinson, Bruce Clegg, David Eastwood, John-Paul Goulding, Gary Hays. Shameen Hayat, Paul Jenner, Rod Kestle, Cat Levine, Rob Lyons, Duncan Macdonald, Ant Martin, Ernie Myer, Tony Rayner, Colin Tea, George Varghese.

Sergeant's fines: \$72.60

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Unfortunately, **President Jeanette** took ill prior to the meeting and had to depart.

Acting President Richard Ryan ably deputised for her and welcomed everyone including **Guest Speaker, Katarina Burgess** along with guest **Shirley Grayson**.

Club Sec. Richard apologised for the volume of emails he was forwarding to members to “please read, but if you don’t ... so be it”, as follows:



- **Club of Mount Eden Quiz evening**
Saturday 17th February
Members are welcome to join them.



- **Rotary Women's Day Brunch**
Saturday 9th March
Guest Speaker: Paula Whetu Jones - Director of Whitiora Productions.
Time: 8:30 am - 10:45 am
Venue: Wynyard Pavilion, 17 Jellicoe Street, Auckland CBD
All are invited - **Entry \$45 each**.
Tickets: <https://events.humanitix.com/international-women-s-day-brunch-rotary-district-9910>
- **Nominations for District Governor 9910 (2026-2027)** are being called for. If you are interested or would like to nominate someone, please be guided by the process set out in the email sent:
Subject: DISTRICT 9910 - NOMINATION FOR GOVERNOR 2026 – 2027
Date: 11 February 2024.
- **President Elect Training (PET)** for this year's (1 July 2024 >) President elects. We have a problem - our Club has no President elect!!! Richard invited anyone interested or maybe happy to attend the training as a proxy to see him asap.
 - **President Elect Training (PET):** Saturday 17 Feb 2024.
 - **South Pacific President Elect Development (SPPEDS):** Sunday 3 March 2024 (Online)
 - **Club Leaders Seminars:** tbc May, Auckland.



Iain McCrae spoke about the **PASS School** at which a number of our members and partners were involved as mentors/tutors. The 2024 **program restarts on Tuesday, 5th March** and Iain is keen to see more members involved. He

welcomed anyone to try it out stating he found it personally very rewarding as well as helping the students and school. Please see Iain or Bill Grayson if you are interested.

Barry Stafford co-ordinates our Guest Speakers and gave us a heads up on upcoming Speakers such as:

- ❖ **Greg Fleming**, newly elected Member of Parliament for Maungakiekie (this will be a partners night).
- ❖ **Dr Harley Aish**, Phil Aish's nephew. A GP working in Otara.
- ❖ **Rose Lasham**, daughter of Stephen Lasham (author of the book *Onehunga's Changing Foreshore*, sponsored by our club) will be talking about her recent trip to the Antarctic.
- ❖ **Summer Science Forum** students who will report on their club sponsored course attended in January 2024.

Sergeant Noel advised members of the upcoming annual **Moodie BBQ** with Mavis at **3:00pm, Saturday 2 March**. Please RSVP Noel by 26 Feb. Further details to come.

Noel also read an email he'd received from **Cat Levine** giving an update on her health (improving) her work on our club's and Rotary Foundation sponsored **Te Tai Tokerau Tamariki – Northland Project s For Life'** and her work/life balance. Noel has forwarded this email to all members.

Noel also looks after RYLA and this year is scheduled to take place at Muriwai Surf Club on the week of 28 April to 4 May. He is looking for suitable applicants i.e. young aspiring leaders aged between 20 and 28. The cost is met by the Club. This is a proven top Rotary program. Please see Noel if you know of anyone who would be suitable.



guest
speaker

KATARINA BURGESS

Ukraine-Russia Conflict - Why It's Personal

Our Guest Speaker **Katarina Burgess** was introduced by **Bill Grayson** who reminded us Katarina manned a food stall at last year's Rotary Book Fair selling



ROTARY BOOK FAIR, Nov. 2023, Onehunga Community House

Ukrainian delicacies to [raise funds](#) toward the Ukrainian war conflict.

Katarina informed us she was born in [Kyrgyzstan](#), a small landlocked republic in the Soviet Union where she received her education. Her upbringing was very strict, and she was expected to comply with the rigid Soviet schooling system. She described her childhood as basic, dull and without choices. They made all their own clothing. They couldn't openly criticise anything and although a sub- culture of protest existed, it wasn't open. Her grandparents were Ukrainian.

She described Kyrgyzstan was one of 15 Soviet republics, very small, mountainous and one of the least crowded countries in the world with one of the smallest railway networks. It was on the route of the 'Silk Road' and had three UNESCO World Heritage sites. Although there was no religion in her childhood (90% Muslim (majority Sunni), 7% Christian), she described Kyrgyzstans as being very hospitable and

friendly people who reached out to anyone in need and accorded a great deal of respect to their elders. She also lived and worked in Ukraine for six years.

Katarina studied medicine and graduated around the time the USSR collapsed (1989-1992). After graduation she worked as a doctor where her remuneration was a paltry USD25 per month. She said they frequently ran out of medical supplies which forced families of patients to provide their own medicines. Bribes and corruption were rife. She came to the realisation she didn't want to be part of this system and after a couple of years decided she had to get out of the Soviet Union. Accordingly, she decided her exit strategy was to marry someone outside Russia. She searched the globe settling on NZ where she met her future husband online. She persuaded him to come to Europe where in his words "he travelled halfway around the world to get a date, then proposed and married her." This was the start of a new life for her in NZ where she has lived for the past 24-years raising three 'beautiful' children.

Katarina is involved in Russian/NZ Christian fellowship where she is active in counselling children. She is also a member of the [Zonta NZ](#) (*a global organisation that works to advance the rights and status of women worldwide*).

She then went on to talk about Ukraine and the vast scale of humanitarian needs resulting from the current conflict with Russia. Some alarming statistics given were; 40% of the population (14.5 million) require humanitarian aid; 4 million people including 1 million children are currently displaced; over 6.5 million have fled the Ukraine and live as refugees in neighbouring countries; the current conflict is causing havoc and is very stressful with death, destruction and the loss of many lives including children who have lost their parents.

Although she is Russian, Katarina said her sympathies lay with Ukraine. Many Russian people living in NZ were conflicted and are on different sides. Some of her friends were pro-Putin which she struggles to understand. According to her they feel depressed, conflicted and don't feel part of NZ...they were living in a bubble.

Katarina along with other pro-Ukraine volunteers decided she needed to get involved with [fundraising](#) to support vulnerable victims of the conflict and leads an organisation providing physiological help (*a type of professional help that involves talking with a trained therapist. It's also known as talking therapy or psychological treatment*) to Ukrainian soldiers and sending much needed medical equipment and supplies for Ukrainian hospitals. She described her group of volunteers and supporters as "amazing." To date they have raised over \$26,000 through cake stalls etc. In her words, "it may be small, but every dollar raised helps."

Katarina concluded her talk by saying "there is no justification for the invasion of another country."

Katarina was thanked by Rhett Stephens who urged Katarina to keep up the great work she and her colleagues were doing.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK (provided by Alan Bannin)

“A conservative is someone who believes nothing should be done for the first time”.

NEXT WEEK 26 FEB



The graphic is a blue rectangular box with white and yellow text. At the top left is the Rotary logo with the text 'CREATE HOPE in the WORLD'. At the top center is 'Rotary Club of Maungakiekie' with the Rotary wheel logo. At the top right is 'TOGETHER, WE CONNECT'. In the center, 'INVITATION TO MEMBERS & PARTNERS' is enclosed in a yellow-outlined box. Below that, 'SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER' is written in small white text, followed by 'GREG FLEMING MP for Maungakiekie' in large white text. At the bottom, the date 'Monday, 26th February 2024' is followed by a yellow box containing '(Note: earlier start at 5.45 pm)'. Below that, 'At: Sports Club, Royal Oak Bowls as normal' and 'RSVP 23rd February: noelcarey@hotmail.com' are written in white.

DUTIES

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

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

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| <p>Meeting: 6pm Mon, 19th Feb 2024 President: Jeanette Thorne Vice President: Barry Stafford Sergeant: Noel Carey Attendance: Derek Neutze Hospitality: Iain McCrae Equipment/ Scribe: Bill Appleton Meals: Gary Hayes Ernie Meyer Host: Phil Aish 5-Min Speaker: Cat Levine Guest Speaker: Dr Harley Aish, South Auckland Reflections Thanks: Craig Jones Thought: Peter Mayow</p> | <p>Meet: 5:45pm Mon, 26th Feb 2024 President: Jeanette Thorne Vice President: Barry Stafford Sergeant: Noel Carey Attendance: Alan Bannin Hospitality: Gwynyth Carr Equipment & Scribe: Bill Appleton Meals: Peter Mayow Brian Williams 5-Min Speaker: tbc Host: Barry Stafford Guest Speaker: Greg Fleming: National Party MP for Maungakiekie Thanks: Craig Jones Thought: Paul Jenner</p> |
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toUch of HumoUr

What did the scientist say to her Valentine?

⌘
"I think of you periodically."

GH

WHY DID THE DAD APPROVE OF HIS DAUGHTER'S GOALIE-BOYFRIEND?

HE WAS A REAL KEEPER!



What did the boy bird say to the girl bird on Valentine's Day?
"Tweet me well, and I'll tweet you better!"



I LOVE YOU WITH ALL OF MY BOOBS*



*I would say heart but my boobs are bigger

What did the blueberry say to the strawberry on Valentine's Day?



I love you berry much

More at PressPrintParty.com

Why did the skeleton break up with her boyfriend before Valentine's Day?

⌘
Her heart wasn't in it.

GH



What did the man with the broken leg tell his Valentine?

⌘
"I have a crutch on you."

GH