



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/>

<p>JUNE ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS</p> <p><i>"The foundation upon which Rotary is built is friendship; on no less firm foundation could it have stood"</i></p> <p><i>Paul Harris</i></p>	
---	--

Newsletter 175, 10th June 2024

Present: 38

Apologies: Phil Aish, George Arulanantham, Alal Bannin, Shameen Hayat, Craig Jones, Ant Martin, Peter Mayow, Derek Neutze, George Varghese, Brian Williams.

Sergeant's fines: \$141.90

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Jeanette welcomed guests:

- ❖ DG Neil Murray (District 9910)
- ❖ PDG Lindsay & Alison Ford (Bundaberg, QLD)
- ❖ DGE Jenn Wong (Takapuna)
- ❖ PDG Jerry Norman (Pres. North Harbour)
- ❖ Bruce Morrison RNZCS Director (RI Foundation, North Harbour)
- ❖ PDG Neil & Trish Reid (Maungakiekie)
- ❖ Roza & Jun Bayno (Takapuna & Philippines)
- ❖ Geoff Pownall (Sec. Takapuna)
- ❖ Nadia Lehmann (Bay of Islands)
- ❖ Wayne Levick (Half Moon Bay)
- ❖ Partners and children of Maungakiekie members

A special thanks to Sergeant Noel for managing dinner numbers. It was an honour and a joy to see so many visiting Rotarians sharing this special evening.



Sergeant Noel contacted two schools to nominate two students each to attend the next **Kids to Camp, 14th -18th July**.

Location: [Willow Park Camp](#), Eastern Beach.

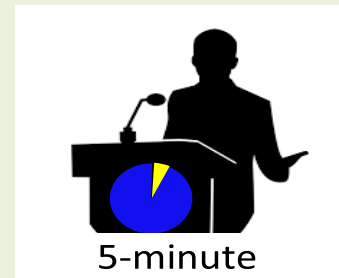
Theme: Game On! Experience Life

Sponsored Schools: [Royal Oak Intermediate](#), [St Joseph's Catholic School Onehunga](#)

Drivers Wanted: We will need four drivers to take the kids to camp and back.



Rallying - Close Calls



Rhett's 5-min talk was on a topic not many of us can say we've attempted - Rally driving.

February this year, two rallyists passed away when their rally car went off the road into a swollen river. They were competing in a closed-road rally sprint at Paparoa.

This brought back memories of a couple of close calls Rhett had in his rallying days.

The first was in the mid-1990s at the Taupo National Rally. Rhett was co-driving for Dave Strong in a Daihatsu Charade.



Powering down a Taupo forestry area with pine trees either side, they approach a wooden one lane bridge which had a wash out on the other side. As they approached it, the intercom failed between the two and the driver didn't get the instruction to slow early enough. They flew over the bridge which had a nasty dip on the other side which they hit hard.



The car launched, rolled, flipped, and landed in the shallow river on the driver door side down. The windshield had popped out and river flowed in half filling the car. Rhett got out, looked around and saw his driver still in his safety harness, disorientated trying to get out of his driver's door. Rhett reached in and dragged his buddy out who was by then a bit 'blue looking" Both were very happy to see each other.

Rhett's next spill was at the Pukekohe Rally in the early 1990s with the crash neatly captured by a photographer. Rhett and his co-driver entered at speed a famously tight corner that tightened the further round you went that had a history of catching drivers out. The two hit the infamous corner and the Ford Escort rolled. It all happened very quickly with the car ending up on its roof. With the two still inside, martial arts quickly rolled the car back over and off they went again before the next car arrived (cars start off at 1-minute intervals). The photos appeared in the local newspaper the following week.





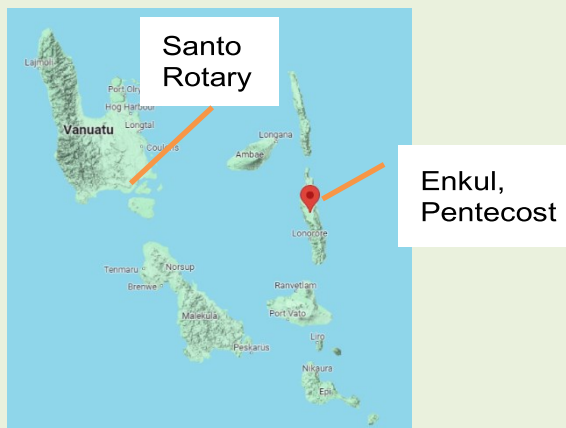
LINDSAY FORD Enkul Project Handover

guest
speaker

Iain McCrea introduced Guest Speaker **Lindsay Ford** to the meeting. There wasn't a lot to say because to that point the reason behind Lindsay's visit remained a mystery to both Iain and members alike. It was to be a most memorable evening.

Lindsay wanted the night to be a surprise for club member **Rod Kestle** to personally hand over The Enkul Village, Vanuatu Project to Rod who initiated it in June 2020. Lindsay would later describe it as, "A signature project for not just your Club, but for our District and for Rotary."

Rod's goal was to provide a water and sanitation system for the Enkul Village which would include a roof catchment area for rainwater. This was meant to be like any other templated project undertaken many times before in Vanuatu – however this one turned out to be quite a frustrating one.



During the Global Grant application process the project's main contact in Vanuatu, **Father Willie Ben Tabi** (CEO) Anglican Church of Melanesia Vocational Education Technical School ([ACOMVETS](#)) and Club Vice-President of the [Espiritu Santo Rotary Club](#), managed to get agreement from the Vanuatu Government to donate building materials for the classrooms. So the scope of the Rotary side of the project, changed to just providing freight and labour, and three (not two) classrooms would be built. Now the building effort could start.

The project started in 2021. The village agreed to prepare the site and provide the living quarters and food for the workers. Enkul Village lies in the centre of Pentecost Island, elevation 460m and 5km from either coastline. The villagers began to transfer sand and coral from the beach up to the site for the build. It was after that the delays began.

First there was COVID-19, then a cyclone hit and washed all the sand and material away which would have to be done again, doubling the freight budget. Next, a succession of Governments u-turned on providing the materials which almost lead the team to abandon the project.

So the team got a builder to come over from a nearby island who looked at the site and said the build couldn't be done. The Project said to Fr. Willie Ben Tabi, they had no choice but to ditch the project, but he said, "Please don't do that as it would affect the village including the respect to the village elders, and everything they dreamed and wanted would disappear."

The project asked Fr. Willie Ben Tabi if there was a way he could provide the labour. At this time there was only USD7,000 remaining in the budget, so Lindsay told him (in the way Lindsay does), "We have USD12,000."

Fr. Willie Ben Tabi managed to get funding through the [Australia Pacific Training Coalition](#) (Australian Aid funded) and Vanuatu Schools programme, enough to pay for the labour and a supervisor. At this time, the material costs had gone from USD70,000 to USD110,000.

After much badgering from Fr. Willie Ben Tabi, in early 2023, the Vanuatu Government began to feed the building materials through, but oddly started with sending the roofing iron, then stopped. Four months later the remaining material started to arrive. The project was meant to pay for the freight – so the budget was all over the place.

At last, the building was finished in October 2023 just before Cyclone Lola hit through 19-27 October 2023 which wiped out most of the village. At least now they had a new safe place to take refuge in. The cyclone delayed the November 2023 handover which was delayed until May 2024.

The amazing thing about Rod's project, Lindsay said, was the water and sanitation project not only provided classrooms but also trained 15 apprentices, 4 of which were women, in building construction, gaining them Level 2 & 3 Building Construction certifications which are recognised in NZ.



The Rotary Foundation does not support the construction of buildings and in this case the "water collection structure" that was built, was left up to the village to decide how to use - as an emergency building or classroom, which has served them well.

Lindsay played a video of the Enkul Village dance party approaching the visitors singing a welcome song, then turning round back up the path, inviting all into their village.



Over 300 attended the celebration, with villagers walking from over 20km away. For this occasion, a Killing of the Pigs ceremony (2-pigs) was held which holds special significance in Vanuatu. [The killing of 100-pigs by a new Chief, maybe held only 2-3 times a generation]



After the blessings, speeches, presentations and cutting of the ribbon, apprentices and visitors alike were adorned with gifts.



After the project Lindsay went to Singapore to meet with the Rotary Foundation as they had over \$30,000 left over in the budget. Normally anything over \$500 must be returned. So, they said, "You're returning the \$30,000," to which Lindsay said, true to form, "No I'm not." They said, "Then why is that?" and Lindsay said, "Well we got 15 Apprentices, and I promised them all tool kits, and I'm keeping \$15,000 to buy them."

Those 15 Apprentices will use those tools and will be working as a new group set up under Fr. Willie Ben Tabi (CEO), ACOMVETS to go and quote for work going forward.



When RI Foundation Chair Barry Rassin visited NZ last year, he expressed a desire for an environmental based Programme of Scale application put forward for the Pacific. Lindsay now heads a group of four Rotarians to deliver on this promise. The plan is to install solar power in all schools and health facilities on the Pentecost Island.

This initiative is a partnership with UNICEF, [Respond Global](#), and a Rotary organisation called [Teacher in a Box](#). Importantly, the 15 apprentices trained during the Enkul project will evaluate and work on the necessary structures identified by the Vanuatu Government's Health and Education departments. The apprentices will be compensated for their work.

Lindsay said of all the projects he's worked on, "This one encompasses everything about what we are as Rotarians, and what we can deliver to our communities."

Lindsay present Rod a USB stick containing photos and videos of his project, a testament to his dream and their shared efforts. Lindsay summarised by saying, "We truly do make dreams real."

Club Foundation Chair **Bill Appleton** thanked Lindsay for his relentless drive and determination, highlighting how he faced challenges head-on and courageously challenged authority at all levels to achieve success. Bill also commended Lindsay for his ability to listen to the thoughts and ideas of fellow Rotarians, which helped shape the basis of his plans. Finally, Bill expressed gratitude for the emotional way Lindsay conveyed the project's story to Rod and the members, noting how deeply moving it was.



The Club wishes to thank everyone involved in the project for an outstanding result.

Definitions

The Foundation Chair: his/her committees educate, motivate, and inspire Rotarians to participate in Foundation programs and fundraising activities, and help make the connection between giving and humanitarian programs of Rotary International, the District, and local clubs.

Programme of Scale: an upscaling of an already completed project that has demonstrated success after an evidence-based analysis of it has been made.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK provided by Lloyd Albiston

If the population of the earth of around 7.8. Billion is condensed into 100 persons:

- ❖ Internet:
 - 30 of them would have an Internet access
 - 70 would have none.
- ❖ Reading:
 - 83 can read
 - 17 are illiterate.
- ❖ Longevity:
 - 8 are over 65 years old
 - 66 would die between 15 - 64 years
 - 26 live less than 14 years
- ❖ Just 7% of the minuscule privileged of the world
 - own their own home
 - eat full meals & drink clean water
 - have a mobile phone
 - can surf the internet
 - have gone to college

So, if you are over 65 years old, be content & grateful. Take good care of your health. Grasp the moment. Cherish life. You are already the blessed amongst humankind.

(Source unknown, circa Jan 2021)

DUTIES

Unable to attend > apologies to Lloyd: albiston@xtra.co.nz

Unable for a duty > arrange own replacement & text Lloyd Mb: 022 6579 200

<p>6:00pm Mon. 17th June 2024 Onehunga High School Dinner 24 Pleasant St, Onehunga President/Thanks: Jeanette Thorne Vice President: Barry Stafford Sergeant: Noel Carey Attendance: Rhett Stephens Photos & Scribe: Bill Appleton Thought: Alan Banin</p> <hr/> <p>6:00pm Mon. 24th June 2024 Changeover Dinner Royal Oak Bowls as normal President/Thanks: Jeanette Thorne Vice President: Barry Stafford Sergeant: Noel Carey Attendance: Brian Williams Photos & Scribe: Bill Appleton Thought: Gwynyth Carr</p>	<p>Meeting: 6pm Mon. 1st July 2024 President Elect: Barry Stafford Vice President: Barry Stafford Sergeant: Noel Carey Attendance: Phil Aish Hospitality: Lloyd Albiston Equipment & Scribe: Bill Appleton Meals1: Gary Hays Meals2: Robin Hulford Host: Allan Bannin 5-Min: Guest: Anna Wallace: Head of Planning, Auck Emergency Management, Auck City Council Thanks: Gwynyth Carr Thought: Bill Grayson</p>
--	--

toUch of hMour

