

7<sup>th</sup> April 2025

This week's meeting was Chaired by Barry Stafford

Apologies from: Craig Jones, Sharmeen Hyatt, Gary Hays, Robin Hulford, Cat Levine, Ernie Meyer, Peter Mayow, Derek Neutze, George Arulanantham, Tony Rayner, Bob Campbell, Rhett Stephens, Jeanette Thorne, George Varghese.

Visitors. Shirley Grayson

Barry Stafford gave us a Presidents report.

He commented on the progress of the Anzac Day arrangements and advised that the help received locally confirmed this is a community event. Local businesses providing Poster printing and a Defibrillator available for the day. Barry also gave a report on the Rotary Group number Six meeting that he has been attending and commented that it is progressing, albeit slowly. Further details to come from another meeting this week. Barry also reminded us about the Fundraising Dinner on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May.

I minute spots from.

### **Shirley Grayson. Romac Update.**

Shirley and Bill Grayson took baby Daisy's mother Leifitu home from Starship Ronald McDonald House when it was discovered Leifitu had a skin infection and could not stay at Starship. After nursing her back to health Leifitu was able to go back to Starship and be with Daisy. This was a traumatic experience for the young mother who only speaks French and Bislama. Fortunately Shirley can also speak these languages. Daisy suffers from Tetralogy of Fallot, a congenital heart defect combining four defects: a ventricular septal defect, pulmonary stenosis, an overriding aorta, and right ventricular hypertrophy.

This has been treated successfully by the skilled surgeons at Starship Hospital and she has now had all tubes removed and all is going well.



A quick **Sergeant session** from Noel after asking the obscure question of what country is the city of Conakry the capitol? Guinea. Who knew!

We believe the connection was that it is where George Varghese is now.



## **Guest Speaker James Parkinson   Director Auckland Stadiums**

James was introduced by Paul Jenner.

James thanked Barry for the invitation and the opportunity to speak to the club about Council projects in our area.

He spoke about the ongoing developments at Waikaraka Park, overseen by Auckland Stadiums, which is part of Tataki Auckland Unlimited. James outlined the significance of this project, emphasizing its connection to the broader strategy of consolidating speedway activities that have historically taken place in various venues, particularly Western Springs. By focusing on Waikaraka Park, the aim is to create a more robust and centralized base for speedway, enhancing the sport's infrastructure and community engagement.

The proposed improvements at Waikaraka Park include significant expansions to the speedway facilities, such as a larger pit area and enhanced track safety features. Key elements of the development plan involve building a new toilet block and reconstructing the track to ensure consistent width, thereby minimizing safety hazards that have historically plagued the venue. Funding for the project amounts to \$11 million, transferred from Tataki Auckland Unlimited to the local board, ensuring that the upgrades will be a community asset upon completion. The existing heritage site status poses challenges, but careful planning has allowed for necessary modifications while preserving historical elements.

This project aligns with a master plan developed by the local board, which aims to expand the speedway footprint and improve infrastructure to support various sporting activities. The unitary plan allows for up to 35 speedway events a year at Waikaraka Park, compared to the limitations faced at Western Springs, making it a more viable option for motorsport events. Moreover, the support from the Maungakiekie Tamaki local board highlights a community willingness to embrace speedway activities, despite potential noise concerns.

The implications of these developments extend beyond immediate upgrades; they signify a strategic move toward revitalizing motorsport in Auckland. By consolidating speedway operations in one location, the hope is to enhance financial viability, attract larger audiences, and foster a sense of community around the sport. Additionally, the upgrades are anticipated to draw motorsport-related industries to the area, contributing to economic growth and community engagement.

The Waikaraka Park project represents a pivotal moment for speedway in Auckland. With improvements in safety, infrastructure, and community support, the goal is to create a premier venue that accommodates various racing classes while fostering a



vibrant motorsport community. The planned upgrades, set to be completed by November 2025, are expected to position Waikaraka Park as a leading speedway facility in New Zealand, reinforcing the local board's vision of regeneration and community development in the area.



**Trevor Mosley** proposed a vote of thanks to James on behalf of the members.

"James, you've obviously had a lot of work put into looking at Waikaraka Park, and you would've had a lot of issues to face. But, looking at what's being done now, it seems as though a couple of the things that are really important here, are the safety issues which you've been looking at and the way in which you can actually expand the use of this particular track. So, thank you very much for coming along and explaining some of these issues to us, and we wish you well for the future development of all our parks. Thank you."

## Thought for the week. Bruce Murdoch

*Be yourself, everybody else is already taken!*

### **Duties 14<sup>th</sup> April**

Guest speaker: Tina Dawber 'Harmony Pacifika'

President – Craig Jones

Scribe – Bill A

Attendance – Peter Mayow

Hospitality – Rob Lyons

Meals – Barry Stafford, Rhett Stephens

Host – Iain McCrae

Thanks - Bruce Murdoch

Thought For the Week – Derek Neutze

*Apologies to Noel before 5pm Friday*

### **Duties 28<sup>th</sup> April**

Guest Speaker:

President – Craig Jones

Scribe - Bill A

Attendance – Trevor Mosley

Hospitality – Bruce Murdoch

Meals – Rhett Stephens, Brian Williams

Host – Derek Neutze

Thanks – Tony Rayner

Thought for the week – Barry Stafford

*Apologies to Noel before 5pm Friday*

Smile, it makes people wonder what you have been up to!

**WHY DO EGGS COME  
IN FLIMSY STYROFOAM  
CARTONS AND  
BATTERIES COME IN A  
PACKAGE ONLY A  
CHAINSAW CAN OPEN?**

**Remember when  
we used to line  
up at a fair and  
pay to see a fat  
tattooed lady?  
Now they're  
everywhere!**



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End note. ***Always plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.***