



Rotary Club of Maungakiekie Bulletin / Newsletter NL 214

5th May 2025

This week's meeting was Chaired by Craig Jones

Apologies from:

Cat Levine, Sharmeen Hyatt, Tony Rayner, Peter Mayow, Trevor Mosley, Jeanette Thorn, George Varghese, George Arulanantham.

Visitors: Leanne Jenner with guests Maureen and Jill

President Craig

Craig welcomed our visitors, Maureen, Jill, Leanne.

Maureen and Jill are friends of yours, I believe, Leanne. And Paul's brought all along to listen to a wonderful speaker. He also reminded the club that next week we are Dinner guests of Onehunga High School Hospitality Class and he is looking for a good turnout from the members in support.

I minute spot from: Gary Hays.

What I wanted to talk about was one of the things Rotary does really well, is our youth programs. You know, we've had our summer science and that is a great programme.

But in the weekend, they had MUNA, a model United Nations over at Rosmini College Takapuna. I attended for a while on Saturday. The students really buy into it. Our club sponsored five teams, three from Onehunga and two from Marcellin.

And I had a good chat with the teacher from Onehunga, and she was saying how much the students really enjoy it.

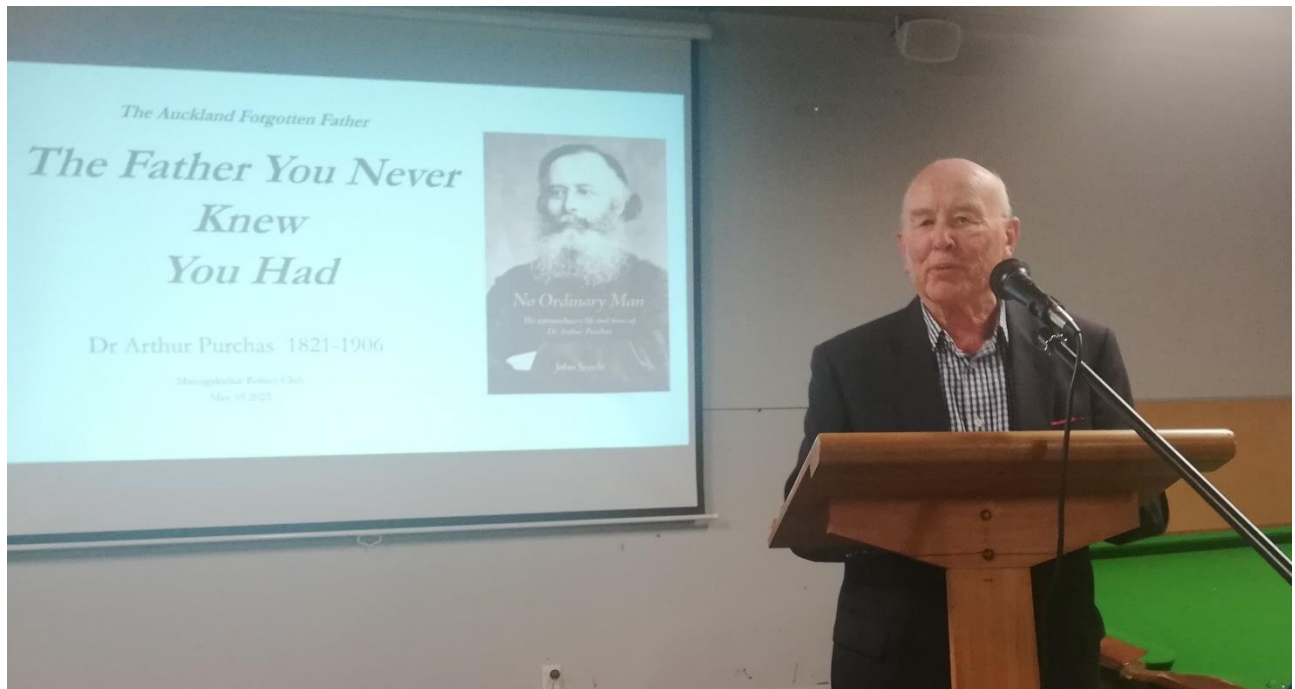
One of the comments was made that schools have a lot of teams, but they're mostly sport. But it's nice to have an educational type of team scenario as well because all the students there, most of them didn't look like sporting types, but they're academic. And they were really interested and presented very professionally. And of course, they all dress up. The teams represent a country, and some of them are in Arab robes or whatever the National dress is of the Countries they represent.

So, the whole thing is a really good program, and Rotary needs to be commended for it.

Barry Stafford:

Melville Club District 9920 offer of support for Onehunga Primary School project welcomed by Maungakiekie Rotary.

Guest Speaker: John Steele



Subject:

Dr Arthur Guyon Purchas. Vicar of St Peters Church Onehunga 1817 to 1875.

James Steeles presentation revolves around the contributions of Arthur Purchase, a significant yet underrecognized figure in New Zealand history. James highlights Purchase's multifaceted roles as a vicar, physician, architect, and inventor, emphasizing his impact on both local communities and broader societal developments in the 19th century. James's recounting serves to elevate Purchase's legacy, which includes founding churches, contributing to medical advancements, and fostering educational initiatives, thereby urging the audience to appreciate his historical importance.

The narrative unfolds with anecdotes from Purchase's life, illustrating his dedication to serving the Onehunga community. He was instrumental in establishing St. Peter's Church and played a crucial role in health and education by addressing the needs of both European settlers and Māori populations. His dual commitment to spirituality and medical practice reflects a holistic approach to community welfare, as he treated patients without charging fees, adhering to the ethos of his ecclesiastical duties. This unique intersection of roles highlights the challenges and achievements faced by Purchase in a time of cultural tension and societal change.

In addition to his ecclesiastical and medical contributions, Purchases accomplishments in architecture and engineering are noteworthy. He designed several churches and the first Mangere Bridge while also being a pioneer in various scientific fields, including surgery and botany. His innovative surgical techniques and emphasis on patient care advanced medical practices in New Zealand, showcasing him as a significant figure in the evolution of healthcare. James emphasizes that Purchase's initiatives were not merely functional; they promoted community cohesion and reflected a deep understanding of the diverse needs of the population.

The implications of Purchase's work extend beyond his immediate surroundings. His relationships with Māori leaders and his efforts to bridge cultural gaps during a tumultuous period in New Zealand's history highlight the intricate dynamics of

colonial society. Purchase's ability to navigate these complexities while fostering goodwill and collaboration serves as a testament to the potential for unity amidst diversity. James argues for greater recognition of Purchase's contributions, suggesting that acknowledging figures like him can enrich New Zealand's historical narrative and foster a deeper understanding of its multicultural heritage.

In conclusion, James calls for a re-evaluation of Arthur Purchase's legacy, advocating for his recognition as a pivotal figure in New Zealand's history. By recounting Purchase's diverse contributions, the speaker aims to inspire a renewed appreciation for the complexities of historical narratives that include voices from various backgrounds and professions. This reflection on Purchase's life not only honours his achievements but also encourages ongoing dialogue about the importance of recognizing historical figures who have shaped the fabric of society in meaningful ways.

Vote of thanks from Brian Williams.

Thank you very much, John. I'm really, really pleased that John, and these sorts of people are doing research into the history of our country, and we need more people like John to publish books and for us to think of the past as he has explained.

It has been a fantastic speech, and I'd like you all to put your hands together in appreciation.

Thought for the week. Lloyd Albiston.

Advice from a BISON:

*-Stand Your Ground. - Have a Tough Hide.- Keep Moving On.
- Cherish Wide Open Spaces. - Have a Strong Spirit. - Roam Wild and Free –
and Let the Chips Fall Where They May.*

Duties 26th May Guest speaker: Invite to Dinner at Onehunga High School.

President – Craig Jones
Scribe –Photo – Lloyd Albiston
Attendance – Bruce Murdoch

Apologies to Noel before 5pm Wednesday (as advised by Sergeant Noel at this week's meeting.)

Future Programme:

Wednesday 28th May. **MP David Seymour 'State of the Nation Address ? '**
Dinner at Sorrento in the Park. *(See Link below for tickets.)*

Tickets available from: CTRL + click on link below.

[Maungakiekie Rotary – State of the Nation Fundraiser](#)

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

Wife crashed the car again today.....
She told the police the man she collided
with was on his mobile phone and
drinking can of beer !
Police said he can do what he likes in his
own living room !



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End note: *Who is the 2025-26 Rotary International President elect?*