



# Rotary Club of Maungakiekie Bulletin / Newsletter NL 218

9<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**Apologies:** Lloyd Albiston, Alan Bannin, Robin Hulford, Peter Mayow, Tony Rayner, Jeanette Thorn, George Varghese.

**Visitors:** PDG Elaine Mead

Tonight's Meeting was Chaired by Craig Jones who welcomed our visitor PDG Elaine Mead and our new member Tony Bradley. Welcome Tony, thank you for joining Rotary Maungakiekie.

All members will be getting a proposal in respect of the project that we've called the 'Joy of Walking', which arrived last week from a party we're dealing with, Sandra Tanner.

She will be talking to us next week and we agreed at the board today that it would be good for members to have some advanced knowledge about what's going on. So don't just simply ignore the email when it arrives. Open the attachment. It's worth reading. Thank you.

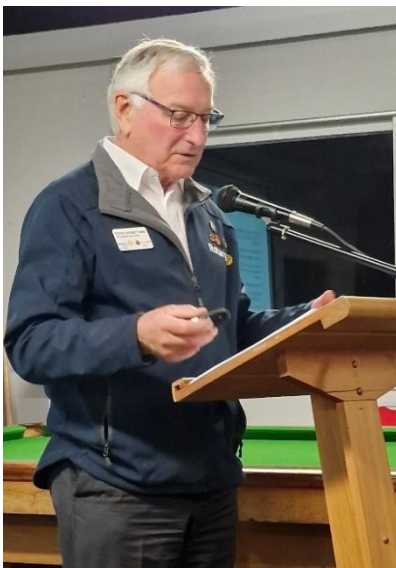
**Guest Speaker: PDG Peter Garnett MBE Subject: ROMAC**

**Deputy Chair and New Zealand Regional Chair, Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC)**

Introduced by Barry Stafford.

it's my privilege to say a few words about Peter. Most of most of you, probably all of you know who he is, but perhaps you should take a look at him as he comes up to the roster.

This man was an Iroquois pilot and a squadron leader before he got into the Rotary Organization. And he's continued to fly helicopters inside the Rotary Organization since then and been involved in many, many things. We are really privileged that you came tonight, Peter. Thank you for coming and we look forward to hearing from you.



**Our History**

- Started in March 1988 by Barrie Cooper, Melbourne Rotarian and Founder of ROMAC
- First patient from Labasa, Fiji, needed urgent surgery to save her leg
- Next four years 8 children brought to Australia for major (often life saving) surgery
- Became a registered charity
- December 2006, New Zealand received its first patient Chloe
- Since 1988, over 540 children treated by ROMAC

Rotary Districts of Oceania ROMAC

**Oceania Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC)** program, presented by PDG Peter Garnett MBE. He elaborated on the programs mission to provide lifesaving and dignity-restoring surgeries to children from the Pacific Islands.

The history of ROMAC is rooted in the compassion of individuals who recognized the urgent medical needs of children and mobilized resources to facilitate their treatment in Australia and New Zealand. The program operates solely through volunteer efforts and donations from Rotary clubs, highlighting the collective commitment to making a difference in the lives of these children.

Peter emphasized the rigorous evaluation process for selecting children who can benefit from ROMAC's assistance. The criteria focus on age and the complexity of medical conditions that cannot be adequately treated in their home countries.

The presentation shared several success stories, showcasing children who have undergone transformative surgeries, illustrating how ROMAC has positively impacted their lives. These narratives serve to inspire and motivate members, reinforcing the vital role of the program in providing critical medical care to vulnerable populations.

The implications of the program extend beyond immediate medical assistance; they encompass broader themes of dignity, hope, and community support. By sharing these children's stories, the presentation aims to foster a deeper understanding of the challenges they face and the significance of the Rotary community involvement. Moreover, Peter discussed the need for sustainable funding and partnerships to continue the program's vital work, recognizing the challenges posed by fluctuating resources and the impact of global events such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

In conclusion, the presentation underscored the essential role that community organizations like Rotary play in addressing healthcare disparities in the Pacific Islands. Through active participation and innovative projects like ROMAC, members can significantly contribute to saving lives and restoring dignity to children in need.

Peter was thanked, on behalf of the Club, by Iain McCrae

Thought for the week: Gary Hays.

*Sometimes good things fall apart, so better things can fall together.*

Next week: **16<sup>th</sup> June, 2025**

**Guest Speaker:** Sandra Tanner. Partnership proposal on The Joy of Walking,

President: Craig Jones

Attendance: Phil Aish

Hospitality: Lloyd Albiston

Scribe: Bill Appleton

Meals : Gary Hays, Paul Jenner

Host : Alan

Thanks: Bill Grayson

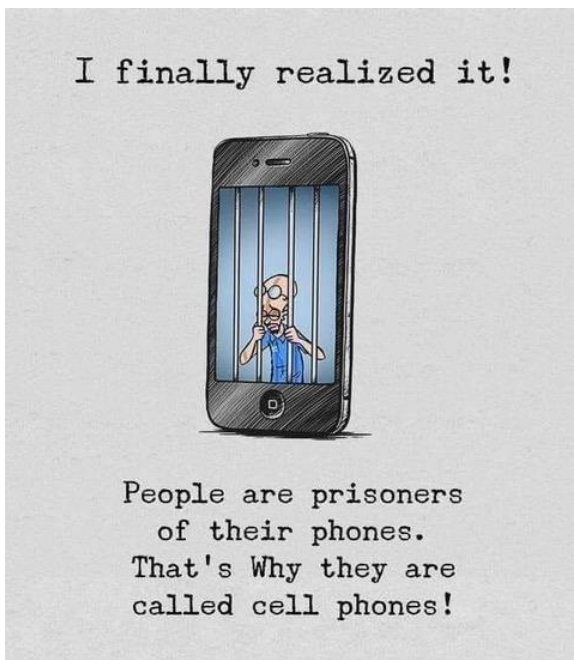
Thought For the Week: Gwynyth Carr

*Apologies to Noel before 5pm Friday*

**Smile: It makes people wonder what you have been up to!**



MY ABILITY TO  
REMEMBER SONG  
LYRICS FROM THE  
80S FAR EXCEEDS  
MY ABILITY TO  
REMEMBER WHY I  
WALKED INTO THE  
KITCHEN.



Rotary Maungakiekie Bulletin Editor: [Bill Appleton](mailto:Bill Appleton)  
[bill.appleton.ri@gmail.com](mailto:bill.appleton.ri@gmail.com)

*End note: All people smile in the same language.*