



Rotary Club of Maungakiekie
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UNITE
FOR
GOOD



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Apologies: George Arulanantham, Tony Bradley, Sharmeen Hyatt, Rod Kestle, George Varghese.

Sergeant Noel welcomed our visitors Shirley Grayson, Dr Linda Lam, (Harbourside), Geoff Pownall, (North Shore), 5-minute Speakers, Tanya, and Artur Chernenko (ex-Ukraine). Joanne and Myra, Daughter, and Grand-Daughter of Phil Aish.

Noel advised that Epsom Normal Primary School Speech Competition winners will be our guests next week and that the school has a garden project we may be able to help with.

President Paul spoke about the Ladies morning coffee meeting initiative and confirmed that the first meeting will be held the week of the 1st of September at The Tamaki Yacht club. Paul will finalise the agreed day and advise the Ladies concerned. *(Currently about 6 or 8 involved)*

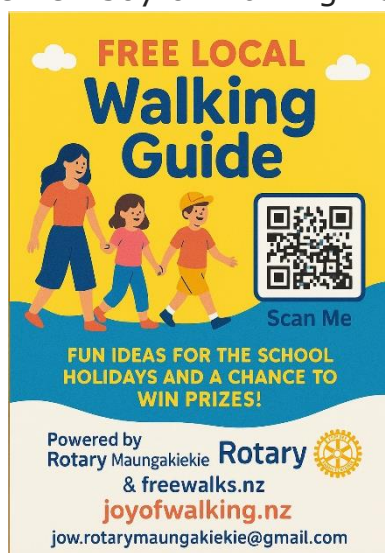
1 Minute spot

Tony Rayner displayed a map of walks in our area and discussed where we might like to include on our new Joy of Walking website.

Tony had feedback from the floor about the area we should target, and it was concluded that we should start in our core area, So next question he asked the team, the project team of three, for some ideas for a logo. And this is one here, Joy of Walking. A person walking, Joy of Walking, and a smile, which he thought was very clever. Produced by Paul.



He also presented samples of suggested flyers that could be displayed in cafes and public areas, such as the library. They would also include a QR code to access the new Joy of Walking web site.



5-minute Speaker Iain McCrae introduced Tanya and Artur Chernenko.

"It's my pleasure tonight to introduce Tanya and her son Artur who are from Ukraine. They reunited with their husband Andrew, who had been here earlier, in 02/2022. (*Apologies from Andrew as he had the Flu.*) Artur has a disability, a form of autism, but he has, developed and taken up swimming, which has helped him considerably. But I won't say very much more, but I'll ask Tanya to carry on the conversation and tell you all about what they're up to."

Tanya spoke of the experiences of herself and her son Artur, who migrated from Ukraine to New Zealand amid the ongoing conflict in their home country. Tanya introduced herself and Artur, sharing that they arrived in New Zealand over three years ago, after reuniting with Tanya's husband, Andrew, who had come earlier. The family's decision to leave Ukraine was influenced by a long-standing awareness of the escalating danger due to the war, which intensified in 2014. Tanya highlighted Artur's disability, a form of autism, and discussed how swimming has become a vital outlet for him, promoting both physical and emotional development.

Tanya elaborated on Artur's journey in swimming, noting that he has demonstrated remarkable progress since they began training in New Zealand. Despite initial fears, Artur has excelled in competitive swimming, achieving numerous medals in Special Olympics events. Tanya emphasized the extensive training regimen they maintain, which includes ten swimming sessions per week and strength training. Her dedication as a mother is evident as she expressed her desire for Artur to become a champion, highlighting the significant investment they are making in his athletic future.

The context of their life in Ukraine added depth to their story, with Tanya recounting harrowing experiences during the onset of the war. They were trapped for two weeks in a basement during intense fighting, an experience that underscores the trauma many Ukrainian families face. Tanya reflected on the kindness and support they have received from the New Zealand community, which has provided a sense of hope and a fresh start for their family.

In discussing their integration into New Zealand, Tanya mentioned her aspirations to contribute to the community and her ongoing efforts to support fellow Ukrainians. She acknowledges the challenges they face, including securing stable employment and navigating the visa process. Despite these hurdles, Tanya is optimistic about their future and Artur's potential to compete in the Paralympics, demonstrating resilience and determination in the face of adversity. She asked for support from the community, emphasizing that their journey is not just about survival but also about thriving in their new environment.

She expressed a desire to share more about Ukraine's current situation, indicating her commitment to raising awareness about the ongoing conflict and its impacts on civilians.

Ian thanked Tanya and told her that we will give serious consideration about what support Rotary can give. He said it's a pretty heartfelt story we've felt tonight. And thanked her for coming along and speaking so well, and he is sure Barry might be considering inviting her back again to talk a bit more about the Ukrainian situation.

Guest Speaker
Murray Burt.

Chartered
Engineer.

Murray was
introduced by
Phil Aish, who
listed
connections of
their families
which go back
over a hundred
years, Murray is

married to Miriam and has three daughters. Murray studied at Auckland University and is a chartered professional engineer.



Murray has recently returned to New Zealand after fifteen years working overseas. Murray and Miriam left New Zealand in 2005 to work for World Vision in the Sri Lankan tsunami response building houses, schools, hospitals, and water supplies. Next, they moved to Kenya to work for Tia Fund, managing British government funded water supply projects in Africa and Asia.

From there, they moved to Geneva, Switzerland, where Murray was with the Global Head of Infrastructure of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, lending leading teams to support countries hosting over 60,000,000 refugees living in urban areas and to build and operate refugee camps for over 7,000,000 refugees living in camps. So, Murray, it's a great privilege to have you with us, and we look forward to what you have to say.

Murray introduced us to the Refugee Crisis and Humanitarian Work.

The refugee crisis is a pressing global issue that affects millions of people fleeing conflict, persecution, and natural disasters. Murray, a seasoned engineer with extensive experience in humanitarian efforts, shared his insights on the situation of refugees worldwide, particularly in the context of recent conflicts in the Middle East. During his presentation, he emphasized the staggering number of displaced individuals, which has risen to **120 million globally** according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Murray's background working with organizations like World Vision and the UN Refugee Agency has provided him with first-hand knowledge of the challenges faced by refugees and the importance of humanitarian intervention.

Humanitarian Efforts and Challenges Faced by Refugees. Murray described his journey working in various countries affected by war and displacement, including Sri Lanka, Kenya, and Syria. He highlighted the destructive nature of warfare, illustrating his experiences in regions where cities have been devastated, forcing families to abandon their homes. A significant aspect of his work involved rebuilding infrastructure, providing essential services such as water, shelter, and education for displaced populations. He noted that the desire for stability and education drives many refugees to return home when it is safe, underscoring the importance of creating conditions for rebuilding communities' post-conflict.

The Broader Context of Displacement and Conflict The discussion also encompassed the implications of global conflicts and their interconnections, including climate change as a contributing factor to displacement. Murray explained that natural disasters can exacerbate existing tensions and create new conflicts over scarce resources, leading to increased displacement. Despite the grim statistics, he maintained a hopeful perspective on the potential for peace, drawing parallels between historical conflicts and the possibility of reconciliation. He pointed out the resilience of communities and the capacity for healing and rebuilding after prolonged periods of violence.

Impacts on Global Society and Individual Responsibility Murray emphasized the need for awareness and action within local communities, encouraging individuals to support humanitarian organizations. He provided examples of how New Zealanders can contribute to the refugee crisis through donations, volunteering, and advocating for refugee rights. By fostering understanding and compassion toward displaced individuals, society can play a vital role in mitigating the suffering caused by conflict. He also highlighted the importance of recognizing refugees as valuable members of society who can contribute positively to their host countries.

Conclusion: The Path Forward for Refugees and Global Society. Murray's insights shed light on the complex realities faced by refugees and the crucial role of humanitarian efforts in addressing their needs. With the number of displaced individuals continuing to rise, it is imperative for individuals and nations to come together in support of humanitarian initiatives. The call for empathy and understanding is more relevant than ever, as it can pave the way for solutions to the refugee crisis highlighting the need for compassion in addressing one of the most pressing humanitarian challenges of our time.

Murray was thanked by Trevor Mosley, on behalf of the club, for his insight and contribution to the relief of Refugees and displaced people in a turbulent world.

Thought for the week: Bruce Murdoch

"Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding,"
Albert Einstein.





Guest Speaker: 1st of September We are to host *two* Senior speech winners and parents from Epsom Normal Primary School. This is an ongoing annual feature which former Epsom club supported in collaboration with the school. The students and parents will also stay for dinner with us. Barry and Tony will also update us on the Joy if Walking initiative. I urge you to register under freewalks.nz website. Check out the walks on Sandra's website. Be daring and try and walk as the weather is warming up. (*Sergeant. Noel Carey*)

President	Paul Jenner
Attendance	Peter Mayow
Hospitality	Ernie Meyer
Scribe	Bill Appleton
Meals	Tony Rayner- Barry Stafford
Host	Trevor Mosley
Thanks	Bruce Murdoch
Thought For the week	- Derek Neutze

Apologies to Noel before 5.00pm Friday.

Club notice: District are looking for expressions of interest in sending candidates to RYLA , (*Rotary Youth Leadership Awards.*) to be held in June 2026. If anyone knows of suitable candidates, please advise Noel Carey.

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

These sentences (with all the BLOOPERS) actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

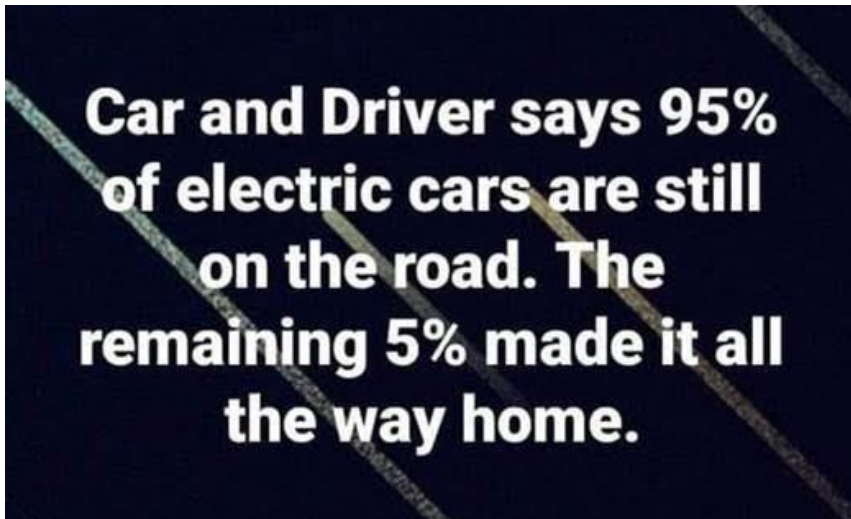
Ladies don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

Next Thursday there will be try outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.



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End note: . *Talk to yourself. There are times when you need expert advice.*