



Rotary Club of Maungakiekie
Bulletin / Newsletter NL 231
8th September 2025



President: Paul Jenner
Email: michaelpauljenner@gmail.com.

Secretary: Richard Ryan
Email: rich.ryan4475@gmail.com

Apologies:, Sharmeen Hyatt, Rod Kestle(LOA), Gwynyth Carr, Tony Rayner, Craig Jones, Brian Williams, Alan Bannin, Phil Aish.

Visitors:

President Paul welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Sergeant Noel : Noel made a further call for RYLA nominees for RYLA June 2026.

5-minute Speakers: **Tony Bradley.** Tony shared his experiences, supported by slides, during a recent trip to Canada, specifically British Columbia, which is characterized by its vastness and diverse geography. Tony highlighted family connections and significant occasions like joint birthdays celebrated in Vancouver. This initial introduction set the stage for a deeper exploration of the region's cultural and social landscape, alongside the natural beauty and wildlife that the area has to offer.

One prominent topic raised is the issue of homelessness in Vancouver. Tony noted the visible presence of homeless individuals, attributing part of this phenomenon to the city's temperate climate, which attracts those less able to withstand harsher conditions in other parts of Canada. The provincial governments approach to homelessness was emphasized, showcasing their compassionate perspective that views homelessness as the result of unfortunate circumstances rather than moral failing. Support systems like soup kitchens and washing facilities were mentioned, indicating a commitment to aiding this vulnerable population, despite the sombre reality of their existence.

Tony also discussed the interaction with indigenous populations during their travels. They note that the indigenous people of Canada, representing a small percentage of the population, face organizational and rights challenges. Comparisons are made to the Māori in New Zealand, highlighting the indigenous struggles in Canada, including issues of identity and the impact of outside exploitation on their rights and resources. Tony delved into environmental concerns, particularly related to salmon farming, which poses a threat to wild salmon populations due to disease spread. This context underscores the broader implications of land use and resource management in indigenous territories, providing a glimpse into ongoing societal tensions.

Further into the journey, Tony described adventures across Vancouver Island and Whistler, painting a picture of stunning natural landscapes and recreational opportunities. The experience includes encounters with wildlife, such as Brown bears, and a vibrant local culture, exemplified by events like Crankworx, which attracts thousands of mountain biking enthusiasts. The impressive engineering feats of the ski resorts and cycling trails serve to illustrate the region's commitment to both tourism and outdoor recreation, enhancing its appeal as a travel destination.

The trip to British Columbia served as a multifaceted exploration of personal connections, societal issues, environmental challenges, and recreational opportunities. The insights shared reflect a deep appreciation for Canada's natural beauty coupled with a critical examination of the socio-political dynamics at play. Ultimately, Tony underscored the importance of understanding both the enchanting landscapes and the complex human stories that define the region.

Guest Speaker: Joy of Walking discussion chaired by Barry Stafford.



The recent discussions surrounding the launch of the website "The Joy of Walking" emphasize the importance of engaging users quickly and effectively. Set to go live on September 19, the website aims to promote the benefits and joy of walking, which was the central theme of last week's meeting. During this session, attendees learned about key principles of web design, particularly the "two-second rule," which states that websites have a mere two to five seconds to capture a visitor's attention. Consequently, lengthy text or overly dense content may deter potential visitors. The group's consensus was to place more substantial content at the end of the site to retain initial engagement while ensuring that the introductory sections are light and inviting.

The team also discussed the creation of weekly newsletters that would complement the website by keeping followers informed about walking events and opportunities. Sandra, responsible for this aspect, shared examples of newsletters that are concise and visually appealing, designed to attract reader's attention quickly. The emphasis on brevity and clarity reflects a broader challenge often encountered in communication; even enthusiastic speakers can sometimes over-elaborate points that could be made succinctly. Additionally, Tony is working on an advertising board that will promote "The Joy of Walking," although it will need to adhere to specific regulations regarding motion in advertisements.

Exploring the local area, particularly Cornwall Park, revealed a wealth of resources that can enhance the walking experience. The park boasts informative pamphlets, maps, and a quarterly events schedule that highlight its historical significance and ongoing activities. This rich repository of information underscores the value of Cornwall Park as a community asset, with potential for integrating various walks into the website and newsletters, thereby enriching user engagement. The discussions also prompted considerations about the variety of walks available, which led to debates on whether to offer a single initial walk or multiple options to cater to different interests.

The implications of these discussions extend beyond simple walking events. They highlight a broader strategy for fostering community interaction and appreciation for local parks. The emphasis on historical context and community resources aligns with the mission of "The Joy of Walking," aiming to introduce individuals not just to walking but to the stories and heritage tied to these areas. It also reflects a growing recognition of the importance of outdoor activities for physical and mental health, especially in urban settings.

In conclusion, the planning and discussions surrounding "The Joy of Walking" indicated a thoughtful approach to engaging the community while promoting walking as a joyful and beneficial activity. By combining effective web design principles with local resources and historical context, the initiative aims to foster a deeper appreciation for walking in parks like Cornwall Park. The collaborative efforts of team members like Sandra, Tony, and others demonstrate a commitment to creating an engaging platform that not only attracts visitors but also enriches their experience by connecting them with the local environment and its history. As the launch date approaches, the excitement surrounding the project reflects the potential it holds for Rotary's local presence and connection to enhancing community health and well-being.

Article in the Onehunga Community News.

Joy of Walking launches

The new Joy of Walking website is set to go live later this month. Developed by the Maungakiekie Rotary Club, the free website will provide user-friendly maps of scenic walks around the region, perfect for anyone looking for a bit of easy exercise.

Club member, Barry Stafford, says the aim is to create something for the community that's accessible and enjoyable for all ages. "It's the simplest form of exercise and doesn't require any special equipment, just a reasonable pair of shoes," he says.

He says that it's also a great way to get to know your local area, discover hidden gems, historic places and take in some great views.

A new walk will be uploaded to the website each month, gradually building a network of different routes around Onehunga, Māngere Bridge, Te Papapa, One Tree Hill and Epsom. Each route will be a loop, so you can start at any point and it will always bring you back to your starting point. They are designed to take about an hour, though Barry says there are no rules and you can take as long as you like. Maps will show the locations of playgrounds, toilets and cafés or picnic spots, for breaks.

Barry says the site is designed for people looking for something to do, whether on their own or with friends and family. The planning is all done for you, just download whatever route you want to your phone and follow the map.

There will also be regular competitions, such as the best photo from the walks or challenges to spot specific items along



Enjoy local walks with the new Joy of Walking app (photo supplied).

the route. Users can sign up for a newsletter, provide feedback, comment on each route or even suggest a favourite walk to add to the network.

The club have partnered with freewalks.nz to help design the routes, with the first six already been trialled by club members. The website will also link to Freewalks, which offers scenic walks from all around New Zealand - perfect for planning walks while on holiday.

Joy of Walking will be launched on Friday, 19th September. Go to joyofwalking.nz

Guest Speaker 15th Sept.: George (Varghese)
around the world.

Talking about his travels and activities

Duties 8th of September

President	Paul
Scribe	Bill A
Attendance	Trevor
Hospitality	Bruce
Meals	Jeanette - Brian

Thought For the Week - Rhett

No guest speaker so no host or thanks required.

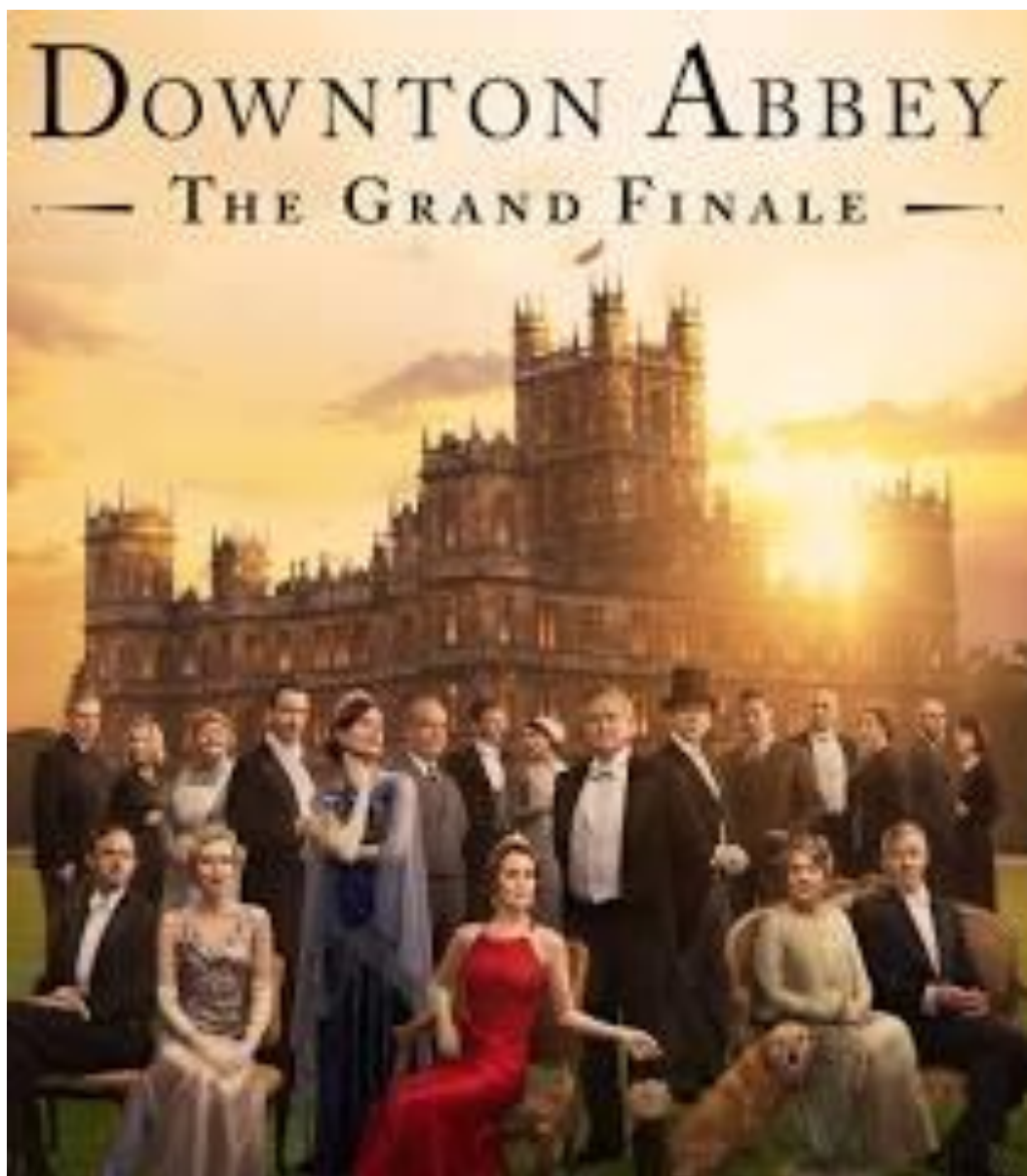
Apologies to Noel before 5.00pm Friday.

Club notices: District are looking for expressions of interest in sending candidates to RYLA , (*Rotary Youth Leadership Awards.*) to be held in June 2026, at MERC Long Bay.
If anyone knows of suitable candidates, from your social group or family connections. Please advise Noel Carey.

Movie Night.

Monday the **13th of October** will be a Move Night at the Lido Epsom.
The film is **Downton Abbey: The Grand Final.**

Replaces our usual meeting that week. Enquiries to Gary Hays and Noel Carey.



For November 2025 Rotary Club of Maungakiekie Bookfair dates are:

Pamphlet dates:

- Monday 13th October- Printed stock delivered for splitting into delivery zones with maps.
- Monday 20th October- Pamphlet zone stock ready for Club Members pickup this night.
- Tuesday 21st October- Pamphlet delivery begins, and all delivered by Sunday 9th November.

Sorting dates:

- Begin sorting.
- Monday 10th- open Room 7-Sorting. Arrange banana boxes. Receive 2 x 3cum bins outside the deck, and setup using OC House tables.
- Tuesday 18th- open Room 4-Fiction and begin setup with extra tables.
- Wednesday 19th- open Room 6- Music, CDs, and NZ
- Thursday 20th- 9am- Take over whole House and setup Rooms 5-History, Sport, Art. Room 8- Children's books, toys, and puzzles.



Book fair times:

- **Friday 21st- Open at 7am-9am** for Early Birds/dealers with \$30 entry fee and EFTPOS. Close 5pm
- **Saturday 22nd- 9am to 5pm**
- **Sunday 23rd- 9am to 12pm.** Last gasp sale to close at **2pm.** (Marbecks etc.) Loadout residue to OJI fibre. Loadout tables and clean up.
- **Monday 24th-9am Final checks** and hand back to Tony and Miguel at OCH.

Happy Days!
Bill Grayson

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



My wife told me to take the spider out.
instead of killing it.
We went out.
Had a few drinks. Nice guy.
He's a web developer.



Rotary Maungakiekie Bulletin Editor: Bill Appleton

bill.appleton.ri@gmail.com

End note: "Semper ad Meliora"