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Apologies: Sharmeen Hyatt, Rod Kestle(LOA), Tony Rayner, Craig Jones, Mavis Moodie, Ernie Meyer, Rhett Stephens, Jeanette Thorne, Tony Bradley.
Visitors:

President Paul welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

I Minute: Gary Hays thanked those who had already booked and reminded Members about the Film night at the Lido Epsom.

Guest Speaker: Phil Aish. Paraguay.

Ache Indians settlement

Phil's presentation focused on his experiences in Paraguay, particularly with the Ache Indians, and the lessons learned through attempts to aid their community. The author reflects on his background, noting family connections in South America that fostered a desire to engage with the region. His initial scepticism about missionary efforts transformed into action when an opportunity arose to acquire a 700-acre farm, which he believed could be beneficial for community development. However, his involvement faced challenges and opposition, particularly from environmental advocates, prompting a deeper introspection on the nature of aid and the importance of empowering communities rather than imposing solutions.



As Phil engaged with the Ache Indians, he discovered their struggles with poverty and the need for sustainable farming practices. The Ache, who had been marginalized and faced threats to their existence, required assistance that respected their autonomy. Phil witnessed their resilience and initial reluctance to accept help in the form of a tractor, emphasizing the importance of ownership and responsibility in fostering self-sufficiency. Phil ultimately purchased a tractor, establishing a crucial partnership

where the Ache would pay for it, reinforcing the idea that true support involves enabling communities to invest in their own futures.

The implications of this experience highlight a broader critique of traditional aid models that often perpetuate dependency rather than encourage self-reliance. The author emphasizes that without a personal stake in the resources provided, communities may not fully value or utilize them effectively. His interactions with the Ache Indians illuminated the need for aid to be tailored to the specific cultural and economic contexts of the recipients, advocating for approaches that prioritize local capacities and knowledge over top-down solutions.

Additionally, Phil explored how his commitment to helping the Ache led to further initiatives, such as the construction of a bridge to enhance their access to resources. His efforts to design a barge for crossing the river exemplified creative problem-solving rooted in collaboration with the community. This process reinforced his belief in the value of shared responsibility and long-term planning as essential elements in fostering sustainable development.

In conclusion, Phil's journey underscored the complexities of providing aid in a manner that respects the dignity and autonomy of the communities involved. His experiences with the Ache Indians serve as a microcosm for broader discussions on international aid, emphasizing the need for a paradigm shift towards empowering local communities and fostering self-sufficiency. The lessons learned from these interactions not only enriched Phil's life but also offered valuable insights into the ethics and effectiveness of humanitarian efforts.

Phil was thanked by Noel Carey for his excellent and informative presentation.

Thought for the Week: Noel Carey

Remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see and wonder about what makes the Universe exist. Be curious. And however difficult life may seem , there is always something you can do and succeed at.

It matters that you don't just give up.

(Stephen Hawking.)

**No Duties 22nd of September. Joint meeting with Remuera Rotary.
Guest speaker: R. H David Seymour.**

Apologies or attendance confirmation to Noel before 5.00pm Friday.

Club notices:

Remember 'The Joy of Walking' project is live, online.

The "Joy of Walking" is a 12-month community program by the Rotary Club of Maungakiekie, offering monthly self-guided walks in the Onehunga, One Tree Hill, and Epsom areas to encourage physical activity and community connection.

<https://joyofwalking.nz/>



RYLA 2026

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.

Applications are required this year, 2025, to confirm numbers for planning.

If anyone knows of suitable candidates, from your social group or family connections. Please advise Noel Carey.

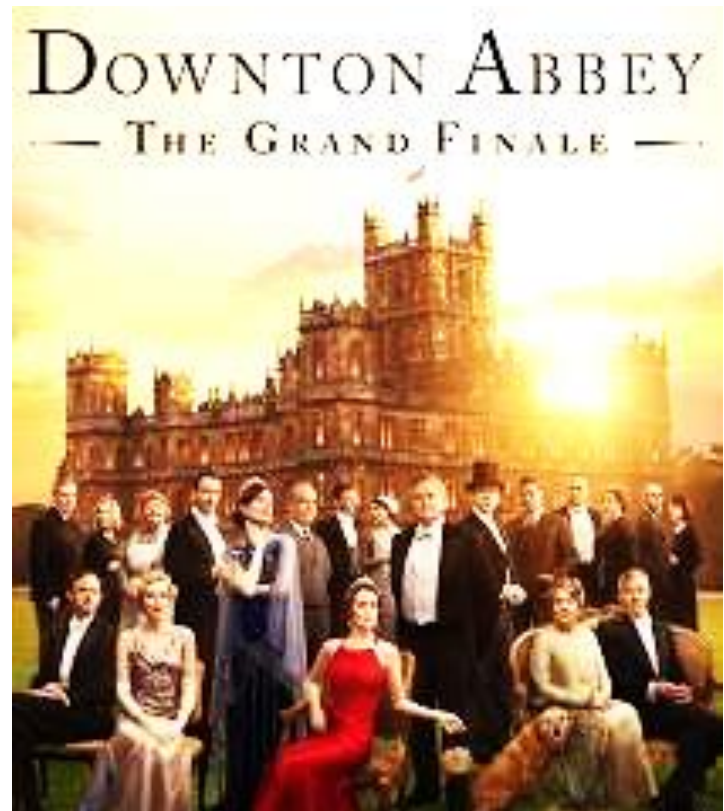
Movie Night.

Monday the **13th of October** will be a Movie Night at the Lido Epsom.

The film is **Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale.**

Replaces our usual meeting that week.

Please notify of your intention to attend, as soon as possible, to Gary Hays to facilitate the theatre booking.



Dates for November 2025 Rotary Club of Maungakiekie Bookfair:

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: November

- 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



**A police officer
came to my house
and asked me where
I was between 5 & 6.
He seemed irritated
when I answered:
"Kindergarten"**



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End note. The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team." — Phil Jackson