



Rotary Club of Maungakiekie  
Bulletin / Newsletter NL 245  
16th of February 2026



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**Monday 16th of February 2026**



## February

PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT  
PREVENTION MONTH

**Apologies:** Paul Jenner(LOA), Rob Lyons,  
George Varghese, Rod Kestle, Robin Hulford,  
Derek Neutze.

*"It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it.  
And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it."  
Eleanor Roosevelt*

**Acting President Barry.**

Barry brought us up to date on Paul and Leanne's health issues.

He also advised that he had attended another Group 6 Regional meeting and reported that Group 6 activities would be extended for another 2 years. A further report next week.

A new walk has been posted for the Joy of Walking project. Details in Sandra Tanners email advice.

**Sergeant Noel** conducted another successful fine session with comments and stories from the floor.

**1 Minute:**

**Gary Hays** said he will attend the next meeting of the Westhaven club where the Student from Marist, who we sponsored to the Summer Science School, will be talking to the Club about the experience.

**Bruce Verrall** reminded us of the Men's Shed meeting next Sunday to discuss the setting up of a Men's Shed in Onehunga. Bruce suggested that Rotary could look at a connection with this Community group to offer possible extension of our community involvement. Meeting to be held in the Onehunga Community House.



## **Guest Speakers:**

Debbie Malligan (Social Worker & Clinical Supervisor) and Dr David Braendler (AI Consultant) presented a discussion on:

### **Humans in the Loop: Ethical, Human-Centred AI Adoption**

**Theme:** Integrating Artificial Intelligence responsibly within mental health practice and organisations.

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This presentation explored the rapid rise of artificial intelligence (AI), its impact on professional practice, and the need for ethical, human-centred implementation. Drawing from backgrounds in mental health and AI research, Debbie and Dave introduced their consultancy, **Humans in the Loop**, which supports organisations in adopting AI responsibly while maintaining human accountability and wellbeing.

The core principle:

**Technology must enhance human capability – not replace human judgment.**

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AI development has accelerated dramatically in the past three years. Tools such as ChatGPT and other AI systems are increasingly embedded in workplaces, education, healthcare, and creative industries. While AI presents powerful efficiency and innovation opportunities, it also raises significant concerns regarding:

- Job displacement
- Ethical responsibility
- Data privacy and bias
- Over-reliance and reduced critical thinking
- Psychological impacts, including AI attachment and dependency

The speed of change is creating anxiety across organisations, particularly where leadership strategy lags behind employee adoption.

## **AI as a Tool, Not a Decision-Maker**

AI can:

- Automate repetitive tasks
- Draft documents and reports
- Identify patterns in data
- Accelerate learning and creativity
- Support reflective practice in mental health settings

However, AI:

- Can be confidently incorrect
- May reflect or amplify bias
- Requires human supervision and validation
- Cannot replace ethical or professional accountability

Responsibility always remains with the human user and the organisation.

## **Mental Health & Ethical Risks**

AI has emerging applications in therapy and coaching support, but risks include:

- Emotional over-attachment to AI systems
- Isolation and reduced human interaction
- Privacy vulnerabilities
- Ethical misuse in clinical settings

Used appropriately, AI can enhance professional practice. Used uncritically, it may undermine wellbeing.

## **Organisational Adoption Challenges**

Common issues observed:

- Leadership hesitation due to uncertainty
- Employees using AI informally without guidance
- Fear of job loss
- Lack of structured policy or strategy

The presenters advocate a structured adoption approach:

1. Identify organisational problems
2. Map processes and stakeholders
3. Introduce AI gradually
4. Maintain transparency and communication
5. Ensure ethical safeguards and oversight

## **Economic and Workforce Impact**

AI is already influencing financial markets and professional services. While some job displacement is likely, current evidence suggests that in the short to medium term, AI will primarily:

- Increase productivity
  - Expand output expectations
  - Function as an "exoskeleton" enhancing human capability
- Long-term implications remain uncertain due to the unprecedented pace of advancement

# Core Message

AI is not optional — it is already embedded in society and workplaces. The critical issue is not whether to use it, but **how to use it responsibly**.

The alignment with Rotary's principle of "*Service Above Self*" reinforces the central idea:

**People must remain at the centre of technological progress.**

**AI should serve humanity — and humans must remain in the loop.**

Barry thanked Debbie and Dave for their thought-provoking presentation and shared his experiences of the changing landscape and referenced the continued *progression* from the times of industrial revolution.

## **Thought for the Week** Mavis Moodie

*One can acquire everything in solitude, except Character.*

*People are still the important element.*

*Marie-Henri Beyle. (1822)*

## **Duties: February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2026**

**Sergeant** Bill Grayson

Attendance: Derek Neutze

Hospitality: Rhett Stephens

Meals:--Phil Aish - George Arulanatham

5 Minute Speaker: TBA

Guest Speaker: N/A

Subject: Club Business discussion Meeting

Host:

Thanks:

Thought For the Week: Brian Williams

*Apologies to Noel by 5pm Friday 14th February*

## ***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.

***Two prizes have been won so far!***

<https://joyofwalking.nz/>





*Smile!*

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

What's the best thing about living in Switzerland?

I don't know, but the flag is a big plus!

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Her: Can you take me to one of those places where they cook in front of you?

Him: Say no more dear.



**Did you hear about the  
guy who invented the  
knock-knock joke?**

He won the  
"no-bell" prize.



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**End note.**

"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it."

*Groucho Marx*