



Rotary Club of Maungakiekie  
Bulletin / Newsletter NL 249  
16th of March 2026



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**Monday 16th of March 2026**

**Apologies:** Paul Jenner (LOA), George Varghese, Rod Kestle, Rodney Foley, Mavis Moodie, Jeanette Thorn, Noel Carey, Ant Martin, Derek Neutze, George Arulanantham., Tony Rayner, Bruce Verrall, Tony Bradley.

**Acting Sergeant Lloyd Albiston**

Lloyd welcomed many guests to tonight's meeting and welcomed the safe return of Noel Carey from his Middle East trip.

Guest Speaker is Greg Fleming, MP for Maungakiekie and it's an absolute tribute to him that we've got so many visiting tonight.

Also welcome Neil Murray, Past District Governor District 9910 as well as three guests from the Hillsborough-Lynfield-Mt Roskill Rotary Club: Club President Christina Minoza, Vice-President Nazia Patel and Lyal Curreen.

Wayne Leverick came as Guest of Cat Levine. Shirley Grayson, along with Greg Langton.

Shelley Salthouse. Bev Mosley, Judith Jones, and Bev Stafford.

Matt Haines, DP Onehunga High School bought along a big team of Prefects: Jack, Tiaki, Ali, David, Alofa, Eva, John, Allen, Livi, Tali, Livvy and Legin.



**March**

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE MONTH

*"Water is life, and clean water means health"*  
Audrey Hepburn



**Rotary Invocation from Sergeant Lloyd.**

For friends, food, fun, and fellowship, especially the fellowship of Rotary, we give our sincere thanks. May these tokens of your bounty nourish our physical bodies in preparation for the challenges in our days ahead. Keep us always mindful of the needs of others and keep us always attuned to our calling in Rotary.

Let's also give special thoughts at this time to any members and their families who

may be affected by illness and pray for their physical and mental recovery. And, as I've said in the last couple of weeks, also let's think about some of those people affected by the turbulence in the Middle East and give some thoughts to them. Amen.

### **Acting President: Barry Stafford**

The first item is an opportunity for us to give thanks to someone. Barry asked Cat Levine and Neil Murray to come up and join him.

Barry introduced several key items, including a detailed acknowledgment of the Te Tai Tokerau Tamariki Mental Wellbeing Project led by Kat Levine. The project aimed to bolster emotional literacy and wellbeing among primary school children in Northland using cognitive behavioural therapy techniques and reached over 10,000 students through 67 schools. The project was funded by a \$620,000 Global Grant from the Rotary Foundation, involving multiple countries, showcasing international cooperation.



Barry introduced Past District Governor Neil Murray, who praised Cat's leadership on the project during a difficult post-COVID period marked by heightened mental health challenges. Cat and her assistants are credited for the project's success and its significant community impact.

Cat's leadership, dedication, and ability to navigate both local challenges and international Rotary protocols were crucial. She effectively managed limited resources, coordinated with schools and clubs, and maintained momentum over several years in a challenging post-COVID environment.

Neil recounted his time as District Governor and highlighted the project's global significance and the importance of timing post-COVID for mental health support. He mentioned emotional stories from children and reinforces the project's critical nature and Cat's pivotal role. Neil explained that the project was a global grant meeting Rotary International rules, stressing the scale and adherence.

Neil contextualized the project post-pandemic, highlighted the community need, and thanked Cat and her supporters.



"We owe a debt of gratitude to you, Cat. We Rotarians, for what you've done, for standing up to be counted in a time of need for this country and particularly for the kids of the far north. So, I'm here to say how much you are appreciated, how much we owe you a debt of gratitude. I would like to just ask all my Rotarian friends to acknowledge with applause."

## Guest Speaker: Greg Fleming MP

Kia ora koutou, Greg expressed joy in addressing the audience, acknowledging their dedication to the Maungakiekie community. He highlighted his admiration for Onehunga College and its commitment to nurturing students' sense of service. Greg showed gratitude for the audience's presence and anticipated a collaborative sharing of wisdom.

He recalled his experience of delivering a maiden speech shortly before Christmas, reflecting on the rush of the moment. He plans to discuss his experiences over the past two years, particularly the changes in his professional life after losing his office in a fire due to a neighbour's accident. Greg humorously mentioned that despite losing their office, their social media post about the incident received unprecedented engagement, being viewed 160,000 times. This shift led to a more flexible work style of combining café work, constituent meetings, and working from home, resulting in significant monthly savings that can be redirected to community service. Greg reflected on his pathway into politics and his connection with Te Reo Māori Immersion College out in Waitakere, where he was frequently interacting with government.

That is where decisions, whether we like it or not, that deeply affect our communities, our families and us as individuals. He found that their decisions were, whatever stripe of government they were, were affecting the charities that he was helping do their work. And so, it was always in the back of his mind this thought of, he wondered if he went there, if he could actually advance the cause of those frontline organisations more.

He has worked in business, worked in community, worked in education, and worked in justice. And he brings all of that now to when he legislates, when he works in that place. He also knows himself way better.

Greg tailored his address to talk to the Senior students about the questions they raised about engaging in politics at a future date, Leadership, and the question of sovereignty in Treaty negotiations.

In a discussion regarding a recent legislative bill, it was highlighted that schools in New Zealand are no longer legally required to honour the Treaty of Waitangi, despite over 1,000 schools pledging to continue respecting it

However, Greg emphasized a positive outcome: the removal of this legal obligation does not diminish the commitment of schools to uphold the treaty principles voluntarily.

Greg reflected on the value of voluntary compliance over mandatory regulations, suggesting that a genuine commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi is more impactful when made willingly rather than by law. Instead of enforcing the teaching of the Māori language (Te Reo Māori) in schools, Greg advocated for a more inviting approach, emphasizing the beauty of the language, and encouraging community engagement with it.

Ultimately, Greg believes that fostering respect and understanding through choice is a more effective strategy than imposing legal requirements, arguing that this cultivates a deeper appreciation and commitment to cultural practices within New Zealand.

Greg proposed that the term "sovereignty" often leads to misunderstandings in negotiations, suggesting a shift to using "*Tino rangatiratanga*" to clarify the rights of



iwi and hapū]. They stress that this change in wording could facilitate better communication.

Addressing the question of leadership Greg referred to the Aspiring Leaders Forum, and it holds a four-day forum in and around Parliament every year, generally around July, August. There are about 110 nominated young leaders. Average age is in their early 20s, so it's something to keep in mind.

Greg recommended a book titled 'The Righteous Mind'. And the by-line is why good people are divided by religion and politics. The author did his doctoral research at the intersection of anthropology and moral psychology. So, the intersection of what does it mean to be human and why do we hold the deep moral commitments that we have. He spent 10 years researching this, and then this book is the distillation of that.

one of the essential keys to leadership is being able to really hear what makes someone tick, and then understand why that makes them tick, and then speak to that in a way that resonates.

Greg thinks that so often in human communication, we just talk past each other, because we're talking out of our own commitments and our own understanding of the world and our own priorities. So that's what he would really recommend in engaging with that book.

Greg then discussed the issue of losing New Zealanders moving overseas and has examined the data concerning this over the last 30 years. This indicated that it is a cyclical phenomenon influenced by changing economics at any one time.

Greg believes that improving the NZ economic position will see the flow reversed.

Greg addressed the question of the stability in the areas of Health, Education, and Infrastructure with changes in government nearly every three years.

Greg is of the opinion that we need more and more people coming into politics who hold that kind of vision that says, yes, there are so many things that governments deal with that need to be dealt with outside of the realm of partisan party politics. There are some things that it's always going to be that way.

After his success in moving forward the changes to the slavery act Greg has three more changes, he is working toward being addressed.

So first one is around attachment orders. Second one is around a container recycling scheme, and the third one is around solar panels.

So, the first one, attachment orders, is we have, what he thinks is this ludicrous situation in New Zealand where since 2016, it has been possible for a creditor to place an attachment order through an order of the district court against a beneficiary's income. So that up to 40% of that beneficiary's income gets paid directly to the creditor before they ever see any of it. Now it is hard enough to live on 100% of a benefit.

It is impossible to live in this country on 60% of a benefit. So, it's a curious decision to allow that in the first place. There's one particular debt company that has a whole raft of people who work for it who do nothing other than go to the district court every day and apply these attachment orders to beneficiaries.

So, it's really, really simple fix and he has written the legislation for it. He just needs to get it out of the member's ballot and or jump the member's ballot and get onto the order paper.

Container recycling as is implemented in Australia is something he would like to see introduced here. Regroup who are the biggest recyclers in New Zealand. And operate from Onehunga.

They run two of the state's collections in Australia. Greg been working really closely with them. So, he is pursuing that.

Solar panels: Greg is advocating the involvement of Local councils to facilitate loans for ratepayers.

Greg was thanked by Craig Jones:

Kia ora. Greg, thank you so much for turning up tonight. Thank you so much for answering some curly questions. Well done. Thank you very much.

Guys, I hope you've learnt something. This man's a great guy. He looks after us in Onehunga. You've noticed how varied his ideas are. They don't sometimes agree with the blue shirt he wears in Parliament. He's across the board, which is fantastic. Greg, thank you so much for coming, for again addressing us and giving us your views in Parliament. Will you all please show our appreciation.

### **Thought for the week: Gary Hays**

Action and persistence. 80% of success is showing up. Focus on what you can do right now rather than worry.

### **Duties: March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026**

#### **Sergeant Noel Carey**

Attendance: Ant Martin

Hospitality Derek Neutze

Meals: Alan Bannin, Tony Bradley

5-Minute Speaker: Tony Rayner

Guest Speaker: Robin Hulford

Subject: Navy Adventures

Thanks: Tony Bradley

Thought For the Week: Tony Rayner



*Apologies to Noel by 5pm Friday  
20th of March 2026*

### **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.

Prizes have been won so far! <https://joyofwalking.nz/>



*Smile!*

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

**I'M MULTITASKING  
I CAN LISTEN, IGNORE AND  
FORGET ALL  
AT THE SAME TIME**



**KITCHEN RULES  
THOU SHALT NOT WEIGH MORE  
THAN YOUR REFRIGERATOR!**

**THERE ARE TWO CHOICES FOR  
DINNER-TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT!**

**FRIDGE PICKERS WEAR BIG  
KNICKERS!**

**SIT AT THE TABLE AND TAKE A  
LOOK –  
THE FIRST TO COMPLAIN IS NEXT WEEK'S  
COOK!**

**HELP KEEP THE  
KITCHEN CLEAN–EAT  
OUT!**

**A MESSY KITCHEN IS A HAPPY  
KITCHEN-THIS KITCHEN IS  
DELIRIOUS!**



**End note.**

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, *'What are you doing for others?'*"  
*Martin Luther King Jnr.*



Rotary Maungakiekie

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