



Rotary Club of Maungakiekie
Bulletin / Newsletter NL 255
18th May 2026



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Monday 18th of May 2026

Apologies:

Paul Jenner(LOA), Rod Kestle, George Arulanantham, Rodney Foley, Tony Bradley, George Varghese, Robin Hulford, Heather Latham.



May

YOUTH SERVICE MONTH

"the youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow"
Nelson Mandela

Acting President Barry

Barry presented a letter which Ernie gave him today from Chalotte Lelo, who was a prize winner of a scholarship at our awards evening. She has written this letter in thanks.

I hope you've been well.

It's been a while and I apologise for the delay. Thank you again, as well as the committee, for awarding me this scholarship. Words truly cannot express how much of a blessing this was for me, especially considering that my family and I do not always find it easy to get by.

Your support made a huge difference in helping me begin my tertiary studies. Because of this scholarship, I was able to buy my first phone, a laptop, stationery, and also cover everyday costs such as public transport and, of course, food. Having these things has made starting tertiary study feel much more manageable and has helped me focus more on settling in.

Receiving this scholarship has reduced some of the financial pressures and stress associated with first year tertiary study. More than that, it has made me feel supported and motivated to work hard and make the most of the opportunity I have been given. Thank you again for your generosity and for believing in me.

*God bless, kind regards,
Chalotte Lelo.*

Barry advised that there is no meeting on the 1st of June as this is Kings Birthday holiday.

He has invited the EPSOM Member of Parliament for the Green Party, Dr Lawrence Zhu Nan, to speak to the club on the 8th of June.

On the 15th of June the MUNA team from Onehunga High School will speak to the club of their experiences at the event, which is to be held at Rosmini College, 36 Dominion Street, Takapuna, Auckland. This is not very far off the motorway, very easy to get to, and you can go there on the Friday 22 and Saturday 23 May, if you want to, at any time and see what's happening. .

Sergeant Noel

Sergeant Noel read an email from Tony Bradley currently cycling along the Danube. They started in Passau, Germany, two weeks ago and cycled 705 kilometres along the river, not in the river, along the side of the river, via Vienna, ending up in Budapest a couple of days ago. Both spectacular cities.

Lloyd conducted a 70's club draw with prizes going to Jenny Carey, Lloyd, and Richard Ryan. . Over the years, of course, this has raised a lot of money for the Rotary Trust. I think something in excess of \$60,000 now.

So, it's been a great help. So, thank you. Thank you all.

Guest speaker Noel Carey



Noel used a comprehensive slide show to share with us the Middle East trip that he did with Jenny.

In late February, a group comprising 19 individuals, primarily over 60, embarked on a trip from Auckland to Dubai and then to Egypt. The demographic included a significant number of single women, with just two single men present, alongside three couples. Initial apprehensions about the journey soon dissipated as they united in the adventure.

The flight to Dubai lasted around 17 hours, arriving early morning. Dubai boasts a population of approximately 4.5 million, while Egypt's populace stands at about 116 million, with most concentrated in a small area. The group

embarked on a bus tour of Dubai's landmarks, including the Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world at 828 meters. The observation deck provided a breath-taking view, and the rapid elevators contributed to Dubai's impressive number of world records, second only to a fast lift in Shanghai.

A visit to the Museum of the Future showcased various world records, such as the most expensive diamond-encrusted guitar and the largest gold ring weighing 60 kilograms. Dubai Airport ranks as the second busiest globally, expected to expand significantly by 2032, surpassing passenger handling capabilities of major airports, including Auckland's.

The group then transitioned from the modern marvels of Dubai to traditional experiences via an Abra boat in the older parts of Dubai before flying to Alexandria, Egypt. Upon arrival, an incident occurred when binoculars packed for travel were confiscated, as bringing them into Egypt is prohibited. Following this, they travelled by bus to Cairo, moving onward to Luxor where they embarked on a Nile cruise.

The antiquity and sheer size of the many places visited were the most impressive memories of the tour of this region.

The itinerary was slightly altered due to the unavailability of Jordan, leading to two

additional days in Egypt. Notable sites visited included Roman ruins in Alexandria, where the Roman amphitheatre and ancient catacombs were explored. Here, artifacts like gold coins recovered from the sea hinted at historical events affecting the region.

The group journeyed west to El Alamein, a poignant site honouring the sacrifices of over 7,000 Kiwis buried there from World War II, marking their legacy in a significant cemetery. The accompanying museum offered insight into the era, displaying relics and memorabilia from the conflict. The experience was sobering, as many of the fallen were very young, a stark reminder of the cost of war.

Overall, the trip combined modern wonders with rich historical exploration, fostering connections among participants while providing deep cultural insights into both Dubai and Egypt.

Noel was thanked by Craig Jones for sharing their interesting trip with the members.

Thought for the week: Rob Lyons

"A day without laughter, is a day wasted."
(Charlie Chaplin)

Programme for balance of this Rotary year.

25th May Onehunga High School Dinner at Onehunga High School
1st June No meeting Kings Birthday
8th June Dr Lawrence Xu Nan MP + (Board meeting)
15th June MUNA Team from OHS
22nd June TBA
29th June Change over night

Duties: 8th of June 2026

Sergeant Noel Carey

President Barry Stafford

Attendance: Gary Hays

Hospitality: Craig Jones

Meals: -- Ernie Meyer

5 Minute Speaker: TBA

Guest Speaker: Dr Lawrence Xu Nan MP Green Party

Subject: – **Experience as a list MP**

Thanks: -Ant Martin

Thought For the Week: Peter Mayow

Apologies and confirmation of attendance to Noel by Friday 5th of June



Smile!

It makes people wonder what you have been up to!

**WITHOUT A SINGLE DEGREE, THEY BUILT US
ROADS THAT HAVE LASTED AN ETERNITY...**



AND THEN, THE ENGINEERS ARRIVED!!!



**Have you ever noticed that
all instruments searching
for intelligent life...**



**Are pointed away
from Earth**

**DO YOU EVER GET UP
IN THE MORNING,**



**LOOK AT YOURSELF IN
THE MIRROR AND
THINK... "THAT CAN'T
BE ACCURATE."**



Rotary Maungakiekie

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- **End note.** "We suffer more in imagination than in reality."

Seneca