



Rotary Club of Maungakiekie Bulletin / Newsletter NL 257 8th of June 2026

President: Paul Jenner
Email: michaelpauljenner@gmail.com
Secretary: Richard Ryan
Email: rich.ryan4475@gmail.com

UNITE FOR GOOD



Monday 8th of June 2026

Apologies:

Paul Jenner(LOA), Rod Kestle, Tony Bradley,
George Varghese, Heather Latham,
Barry Stafford, Cat Levine, Brian Williams.



June

ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS MONTH

*"The foundation upon which Rotary is built is friendship; on
no less firm foundation could it have stood"*

Paul Harris

Sergeant Noel Carey

Noel advised that we have kids going to Camp in July and he is looking for a couple members to provide transport. Two schools are involved Oranga Primary and Onehunga Primary. *(The request was immediately taken up by two members.)*
Noel then conducted another entertaining Sergeant fining session.



Acting President Craig Jones: Craig reminded those present that we have Daffodil collection day coming up soon, this time at Pak'n'Save Royal Oak. Peter Mayow will coordinate a roster. He also asked Tony Rayner to talk about ROMAC.

President elect, Tony Rayner spoke about the current **ROMAC** programme.

There are two babies and one 12-year-old. They arrive in mid-July, stay for three months and they go home in mid-October.

Rosie, the coordinator, is looking for one family to look after one of the children. Tony and Heather did it one year and really enjoyed it.

If anyone is interested in looking after a ROMAC baby, please contact Tony.

Guest Speaker: Dr Lawrence Xu-Nan. List member- Green Party.
Lawrence spoke about his experience as a new List MP.

Lawrence begins by thanking Rotary members for their decades of community service and volunteer work. He explains that he was born in **Tianjin**, near **Beijing**, a town of 14 million residents, and immigrated to **New Zealand** at age ten.



After arriving in New Zealand in 1997, he settled in East Auckland, attending **Pakuranga Intermediate** and **Pakuranga College**. Lawrence studied at the **University of Auckland**, earning five degrees, and eventually completing a PhD in ancient history in 2017, specializing in Egyptology.

He emphasizes that advanced study in ancient history develops:

- Critical thinking
- Deep analysis
- Curiosity
- Intellectual independence

These skills later became central to his work as a parliamentarian.

Lawrence serves as the Green Party spokesperson for seven portfolios:

1. Education
2. Justice
3. Courts
4. Trade
5. Seniors
6. Ethnic Communities
7. Overseas New Zealanders

Lawrence describes seniors' issues as one of his greatest passions. He highlights concerns involving:

- Retirement villages
- Home-based care
- Residential aged care
- Dementia care
- Palliative care
- Hospice services

He believes these issues require long-term, cross-party cooperation rather than partisan politics.

One of Lawrence's surprises was how theatrical Parliament can be, especially during Question Time.

He notes:

MPs often heckle and interrupt each other.

Public perception of Parliament is heavily influenced by these dramatic moments.

However, much more cooperation occurs behind the scenes than people realize.

He stresses that MPs should criticize policies rather than attack individuals. Personal attacks, he argues, encourage public hostility toward politicians and contribute to growing abuse of elected officials.

He believes that regardless of party affiliation, MPs remain colleagues who should treat each other with respect.

Lawrence recounts advice from former Prime Minister **Geoffrey Palmer**.

Palmer emphasized that MPs are elected to serve as legislators, not merely as future ministers.

This message strongly influenced Lawrence's understanding of his role:

- Holding governments accountable.
- Providing checks and balances.
- Participating actively in legislative debate.

He rejects the idea that being an MP should simply be preparation for becoming a minister.

Several recurring themes emerge throughout the talk:

Curiosity and Lifelong Learning

Lawrence repeatedly describes himself as deeply curious and eager to learn. He sees this as central both to academic life and political leadership.

Evidence-Based Decision Making

His academic background shapes a preference for:

- Research
- Expert advice
- Critical analysis
- Open debate

Respectful Politics

He advocates strong disagreement over policy while avoiding personal attacks.

Long-Term Thinking

Whether discussing ageing populations, climate change, or energy policy, he emphasizes planning for future generations rather than focusing only on short-term political gains.

Democratic Accountability

He views the role of MPs as holding governments accountable, scrutinizing legislation, and protecting democratic checks and balances rather than simply advancing party interests.

Social and Environmental Responsibility

Across topics ranging from seniors' welfare to climate policy, his perspective reflects the Green Party's emphasis on social equity, sustainability, and prevention-focused policy solutions.

In essence, the speech combines Lawrence's personal immigrant and academic journey with his reflections on parliamentary life, while outlining Green Party positions on ageing, climate change, energy, crime prevention, foreign policy, and democratic governance.

A vote of thanks to Lawrence on behalf of members was moved by Ant Martin.

Thought for the week: *Peter Mayow*

"True friends are those people who really, really know you, but love you anyway."
(Edna Buchanan)

Programme for balance of this Rotary year.

15th June MUNA Team from OHS

22nd June Meeting at Remuera Club -

Guest Speaker: Barbara Dreaver (TV Journalist)

29th June Change over night

Duties: 15th of June 2026

Sergeant *Noel Carey*

President (Hon) Bill Grayson

Attendance: Craig Jones

Hospitality: Rob Lyons

Meals:-- Ernie Meyer – Mavis Moodie

5 Minute Speaker:

Guest Speaker: Muna: Participants from Onehunga High School

Subject: MUNA event; Review

Host: Ant Martin

Thanks: -Peter Mayow

Thought For the Week: Iain McCrae

Make the Rotary Foundation your Charity of Choice!



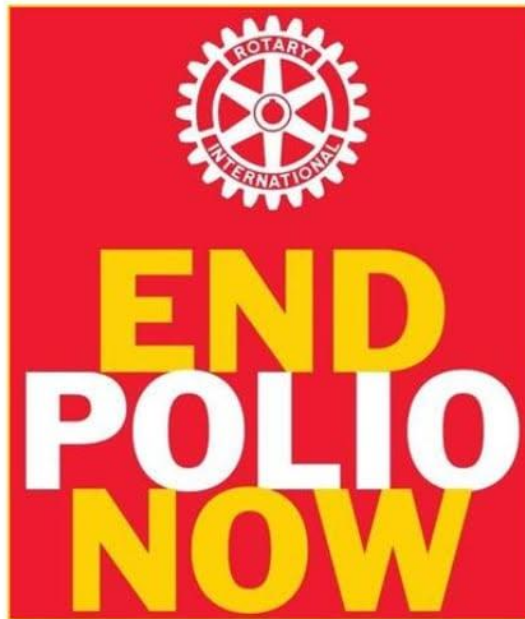
Smile!

It makes people wonder what you have been up to!

Why I Still Read Newspapers I still have a sense of humor !!



End note



Facts:

Ongoing Efforts:
Rotary continues to advocate for polio eradication, raise funds, and support immunization campaigns, particularly in the remaining polio-endemic areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan.