



Rotary Club of Maungakiekie Bulletin / Newsletter NL 258 15th of June 2026

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

UNITE FOR GOOD



Monday 15th of June 2026



June

ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS MONTH

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

Paul Harris

Apologies:

Paul Jenner(LOA), Rod Kestle, Tony Bradley, George Varghese, Heather Latham, Barry Stafford, Cat Levine, Brian Williams, Rhett Stephens, Bruce Verrall, Derek Neutze.

Visitors: Tina Wood, Matt Haines, Dominic Eaton, Harley Taufelila.

Sergeant Noel Carey reminded the members that we are Meeting at Remuera Club - Next week and the Guest Speaker: Barbara Dreaver (TV Journalist) The meeting is at the Cornwall Bowling Club, just where the fountain is on Manukau Road, and Market Road. The Rotary tear drop banner will be displayed at the entrance.

Tonight's Guest Speakers: Introduced by Gary Hays.



Onehunga High School students, Cleo Milne, Ja bez Halasima, Daniel Grange, Dominic Eaton, Harley Taufelila, Lawrence Stanley Shuster, Reese Kilpatrick, Ronan Liang, Nathan Marshall, and William Scott represented Onehunga High School at this year's Rotary MUNA event.

Tonight, supported by DP Matt Haines, Harley Taufelila and Dominic Eaton shared their experiences of attending this year's Rotary MUNA event.

Harley, a year 11 student studying subjects like Geography and Business, shared her excitement about participating in MUNA, which stands for Model United Nations Assembly, held this year at Rosmini College. The event attracted nearly 300 participants from across New Zealand, including schools in Auckland and Whangarei, illustrating a broad interest and dedication to developing young leaders and advocates. The event is an international platform that simulates the workings of the United Nations, allowing students to role-play as delegates from 192 various countries, each assigned specific issues or remits to debate and advocate for. The participants can don elaborate costumes, respecting cultural sensitivities, to embody the nations they represent.

Harley emphasized that even students with limited prior knowledge gain valuable insights through research, as they prepare to argue their countries positions on topics such as maritime law or global conflicts.

Dominic, another student delegate, recounted his role representing Senegal, focusing on maritime rights and deep-sea mining, as well as France, where he participated in Security Council debates almost getting expelled and advocating on contentious issues such as fishing rights and international interference. The debates reflected current global tensions, including the Gaza conflict, which impacted the Israeli team, spotlighting the emotional and political challenges of such simulations.

Participants observed how countries with significant geopolitical influence, like the U.S., Russia, and France, navigate complex issues often revealing that international relations involve disagreements over human rights, colonization, immigration, and sovereignty.

The event also uncovered lesser-known conflicts and issues, such as fishing disputes and resource exploitation, highlighting how countries interests often clash over natural resources, economic zones, and environmental concerns.

Harley and Dominic expressed that beyond the research and debate, the experience fosters personal growth, friendship-building, and understanding of international dynamics, emphasizing that listening to other's perspectives broadens their worldviews and deepens their appreciation for the importance of diverse voices beyond global superpowers. They appreciated the opportunity to engage deeply with topics they hadn't previously considered, which sparked their interest in international affairs and political activism, reinforcing their ambitions to pursue careers perhaps in law, politics, or international organizations like the UN. Their peers' ambitions ranged from university studies to trades and entrepreneurship, reflecting a vibrant vision for their futures.

During the debates, students tackled multifaceted issues like deep-sea oil exploration, fishing rights, colonization, and migration topics that relate directly to current international debates. For instance, the Senegal team highlighted the struggles of fishing communities and resource management, revealing how external powers like Japan extracting fish from Senegalese waters exacerbate local hardships, including hunger and economic dependence.

In the French delegation, immigration and colonial history surfaced as contentious topics, illustrating how historical legacies continue to influence modern geopolitics, sometimes leading to conflict and accusations, such as African countries criticizing colonialism. The delegates performances demonstrated a high level of research, critical thinking, and diplomacy, with students challenging each other, defending their positions passionately, and experiencing a vivid simulation of real-world negotiations. The organizers and supporters expressed gratitude for the partnership with the school, emphasizing the value of experiential learning outside classrooms, particularly in fostering communication, leadership, and global awareness among students. They

acknowledged that such events prepare students to navigate complex international issues and develop empathy, understanding, and resilience traits vital for future global citizens.

The events success reinforced the importance of youth engagement in global issues and affirmed the role of schools and communities in nurturing responsible, informed leaders. The discussions also revealed the intricacies of international policy, where principles like human rights, sovereignty, and environmental sustainability often collide, requiring participants to balance ethical considerations with political realities. These debates fostered a deeper understanding of how countries prioritize interests, navigate alliances, and respond to crises like conflicts or resource depletion.

As students explored issues like refugee rights, maritime security, and international sanctions, they learned how global institutions function and the importance of diplomacy and negotiation in achieving consensus.

The event also demonstrated that even minor nations or underrepresented voices can have impactful perspectives, which encourages students to value diversity and advocate for justice and equality in their future endeavours.

Many hoped to continue their engagement with international issues, motivated by the experiences gained from MUNA, and inspired to contribute positively to a more equitable and sustainable world. The shared reflections showed that the skills acquired public speaking, research, empathy, and strategic thinking are transferable beyond the event, enabling students to become active participants in their communities and global society. Their aspirations span fields from law and politics to business and advocacy, with many eager to study at university and pursue careers that influence policy and promote social justice. The overarching message from those involved was clear: empowering young people to think critically and act responsibly in world affairs is vital for shaping a better future.

The shared enthusiasm and dedication from students, teachers, and supporters reaffirmed the importance of nurturing global citizens who are literate in international affairs and committed to making a positive difference in the world. Harley and Dominic expressed gratitude to Rotary Maungakiekie for the opportunity, acknowledging that such experiences broaden horizons, deepen understanding, and inspire action towards a more inclusive and sustainable global community. The organizers reflected on the meaningful conversations and the potential unlocked when young minds are challenged to think critically about international issues, fostering a generation prepared to tackle future challenges with confidence, compassion, and conviction.

The impact of MUNA extends beyond a single event, serving as a catalyst for continued learning, activism, and leadership development among youth, and proving that investing in young people's global education creates a ripple effect of positive change worldwide.





Acting President Bill Grayson thanked the students for their presentation and noted that you can see the effort that comes from the school, the fact that the students, are keen enough to embrace these sorts of things and open their eyes to other parts of the world.

He said it's really tremendous, and they get a lot from it, not just on the days, but also the inner learnings that come about through circulating and understanding the other people and the arguments that are put forward from the participating teams. Bill said he is sure they're quite challenged.

Thank you very much. Thank you for coming and presenting.

Thought for the week: Iain McCrae.

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.

(Mahatma Gandhi)

Programme for balance of this Rotary year.

22nd June Meeting at Remuera Club -

Guest Speaker: Barbara Dreaver (TV Journalist)

29th June Change over night

No Duties: 22nd of June 2026

Make the Rotary Foundation your Charity of Choice!



Smile!

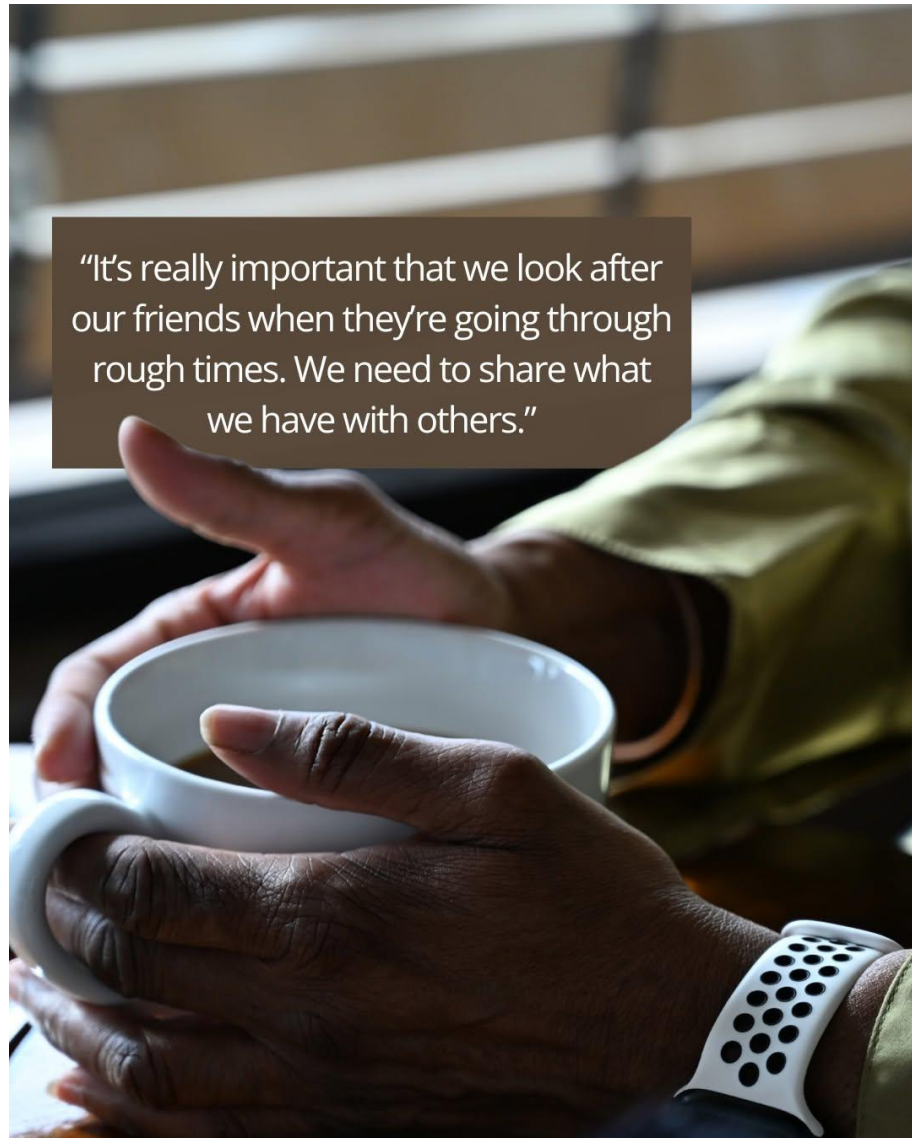
It makes people wonder what you have been up to!

"I want my children to have all the things I couldn't afford. Then I want to move in with them." – Phyllis Diller

*"Whatever you do give 100%, Unless your donating blood".-
– Bill Murray*

Don't worry if plan 'A' fails, there are 25 more letters in the alphabet.

End note



"It's really important that we look after our friends when they're going through rough times. We need to share what we have with others."