

SUNDAY 10 JULY 2022 AT 6.00PM AT EAST PIER

Due to Covid and illnesses and holidays there are a number of apologies – Shona, David B, Edgar, Ira, Claire, Christine, Elaine, Mary, Malcolm, Kathryn, Peter, Brian, Maurice, Ben K, Ian, Marc, Toby, Glenn, Gail, Lynne, Lew, Simon W, Paul E, Brian G, Carroll, Tony T

David started the evening talking about how Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta urged members to become more involved in service projects and said that caring and serving others is the best way to live because it changes not only other people's lives but also our own.

David quoted a Chinese saying "If you want happiness for an hour take a nap, if you want happiness for a day go fishing, if you want happiness for a year inherit a fortune, if you want happiness for a lifetime help somebody.

The key is to find the serving approach that fits us. When we do, then the more we give, the more we stand to gain purpose, meaning and happiness – all of the things that we look for in life but seem so hard to find sometimes.

Tonight all serving will be celebrated, there will be nothing less than servingness all around.

David then introduced our current president Graeme Dickey. We were told all about Graeme's schooling, work endeavours which included growing the company he was managing to become the largest kitchen manufacturer in New Zealand.

He was put out to pasture at 58 years old and it gave him an opportunity to help his son build a successful boat building business in Napier – Dickey Boats.

Now that Graeme has completed his year as President he has been put out to pasture again although his life is very full of serving the community, bike riding and having fun all in the name of Rotary.

Graeme's priority for the year was he wanted people to like coming to meetings.

He was lucky to take over from two great past presidents Phil and Lynne.

Graeme wanted to thank Andy for hijacking speakers in pubs and cafes and Lyndal for working with the Interact girls at Sacred Heart.

David asked Graeme some quick fire questions about his year –

Highlight -

Graeme's highlight of the year was working with the EIT students with the plans for Hardinge Road. They created a video of the project and presented it to Council where they hope it gets added to the annual plan.

Difficulties –

Starting the year as president after being a fairly new member. He wasn't sure why anyone would want to be president – he didn't have to fight anyone for the job!

How did the year go? –

Everything went well except for covid difficulties. We missed out on a few events and the 9930 District conference but we were lucky to get what we did get done.

Graeme said we are a great club and no one refuses when asked to help.

How do the numbers stack up? –

Reserves of \$35,000, income of \$53,154 less donations made of \$18,235 so after donations and costs we had a surplus of \$4,500

Graeme then thanked everyone for coming, their help and support. Thanks to Phil and Lynne and a huge thanks to Robyn who is his rock and he couldn't have done it without her.

Awards –

Graeme presented Jude with absolute legend award and a beautiful spray of flowers and thanked her for her time with the Rotary Pathway Trust which is bringing joy to many for years to come.

Linda – She's not often late when she can always be late award – a real squeeze as much as she can in a day kind of gal and we are lucky to have her as the incoming president.

Lucy – Chance Encounter of the C-19 kind in the store room with Andy (Mr Super Spreader) award – Questions were asked but none were forthcoming.

David Trim – Chanelling Malcolm's fame as a slick dresser but coming in 4<sup>th</sup> this year.

John Pickering – the good shepherd – grateful for your efforts and enthusiasm.

Lyndal – always oozing goodness, her smile lights up all of our hearts.

Ricky – one that must be watched – fame comes at a cost.

Tony M – Being a former cattle farmer he is bound to have polluted the environment at some stage.

Thanks to everyone for their special talents and enthusiasm that you bring to Ahuriri Sunrise Club.

Richard and Andy tag teamed in and out with their sergeant session with proceeds going to Polio so cough up generously

Nicola – For costing the club money with her new career which means cost of a new badge.

Malcolm – best dressed award

Phil – most interesting fact finder, must be fined if he has that much time to research interesting facts in history.

Wayne – editor in chief extraordinaire, weekly reporter of what could be boring but with very interesting photos.

Graeme – last supper event – took out 14 out of 16 people of the club with his covid 19 board dinner.

Paul “Crusher handshake” Handley – reversing the trend by upsizing away from town to his beach side mansion.

Ross “are you going to come quietly” Pinkham – please say no

Nigel – our own in house Rotary Almoner – so kind and caring but if you get a visit from him something has gone wrong for you.

John Lyon – the saving grave award for his explanation of Matariki. Clever bugger.

Andy – aka super spreader – achieving a good record of 14/16 at the Last Supper.

David told us that Rotary was started with the vision of one man Paul Harris in 1905 with a couple of professional mates with diverse backgrounds.

Rotarians designate a Paul Harris fellow to recognise a person whose life demonstrates a shared purpose with the objectives and mission of the Rotary Foundation.

This year’s recipients are Adrienne and Paul H.

Adrienne was born in schooled in Auckland, went to University, met her husband Hugh where after getting married they spent two years in Broome in Western Australia . They then returned to farming life in Tikokino and raised 3 sons.. Unfortunately due to a farming accident in 2000 Hugh lost his life. As Hugh had been a member of the Ravendown Board Adrienne set up a scholarship known as the Hugh Williams Ravensdown Memorial Scholarship with \$5,000 being made available each year to an undergraduate for study costs.

Adrienne then moved into local authority politics and was a councillor for the Hawkes Bay Regional Council for 12 years.

When Adrienne moved to Napier in 2008 she soon became involved in local activities taking her around the world and New Zealand as a tour guide, Art Deco tour guide, flowers for the Cathedral and being a grandmother to her 7 grandchildren. Adrienne is also now a keen “Cyco” after purchasing an e bike and has been a member of Rotary for 17 and a half years.

Paul was originally from a small town of Maxwell just out of Wanganui and lived on a beef and sheep farm.

Studied for a Sheep Diploma at Massey University and worked all around NZ as part of his studies.

While he was in Palmerston North he met Christabel.

In 1968 he set sail on the Australis to the UK with 6 young fellas sharing a cabin, they are all still good friends today.

He did sheep shearing in the UK and met up with Christabel again where they became engaged.

They came back to NZ via Rhodesia where he worked as an orderly and ambulance driver at a local hospital where Christabel worked.

After that trip they married and went back to Maxwell where they married.

They farmed in North Waikato for four years then moved to Hawkes Bay to Christabel's family farm where they had four children who grew up on that farm.

They then bought a farm in Puketitiri which remained their home for 16 years where they were both part of the local community.

After they sold their farm Paul became involved with work in the community and joined Rotary in 2009 when Glenn Roberts invited him along as a guest.

He has overseen many activities within our club and is a true unsung hero. Service above self.

Congratulations to our recipients.

Graeme then presented the Rotary Changeover Awards, to name just a few...

Conman award goes to Phil for stitching Graeme up for the President's role.

Save the Planet Award – Lyndal and Simon W for biking to Rotary every week rain, hail or shine.

Coffee Aficionado award to Andy for organising different cafes for their bike rides – 50 different cafes so far

Titanium award – goes to Nigel, Ricky, Nicola, Tony and Paul E who have had joint replacements this year.

The Just in Time award to Peter G who always seems to arrive right on the gong for our meetings

The Just Not in Time award to our new leader Linda.

Graeme had a mad dash to the President's chains box to put them on in order for him to pass them over to Linda.

Linda was born and bred in Eskdale. Originally a teacher Linda then tried out a few career changes by way of Marketing and communications, PR and Regional adviser for the Ministry of Social Development.

She was involved in running election campaigns and was part of the policy task force on law and order in the late 90's before shifting away from politics. She was a presenter on a local television station and then got involved in the theatre where she played a nun in the Sound of Music and a whore in Les Miserables!!!

Following the 2011 Canterbury earthquake Linda worked in earthquake recovery initially in Civil Defence response, then in communications and international relations, hosting VIP's from NZ and around the world who came to learn about the Christchurch earthquake.

She supported and advocated for the bereaved families and severely injured and was part of the earthquake memorial design and events team. She led the memorial events as part of her role as Acting Civil and International Relations Manager at Christchurch City Council.

In 2018 she decided to move back to Hawkes Bay to be closer to her family and is currently a wedding and funeral celebrant, is on the Restore the Beacons Trust and the Bay View Security Camera Trust as well as dabbling in a bit of local policy.

She lives in Bay View with her fur baby Matilda.

Welcome aboard Linda and wear your chains with pride.

Linda - Thank you, David. You have once again done a wonderful job of MCing this event with humour and professionalism, and you have clearly put in a lot of work and research to make it interesting and run smoothly.

Thank you everyone for being here. I particularly want to acknowledge Ross Pinkham – former District Governor who has been very supportive of our club.

I want to acknowledge my long-suffering family who are here supporting me tonight. My sister Judy and my brother-in-law Angus, as well as my son Karl and his gorgeous partner Rachel

And of course, my fellow Sunrisers and their partners.

When I first came to Ahuriri Sunrise Rotary two years and eight months ago I didn't really know what I was getting myself into. I certainly didn't think I would be taking on the president's role. I didn't even know what the president did. I still don't really!

Despite my observations of three presidents who made it look easy Lynn Trafford, Phil Crombie and Graeme Dickey, it still took some convincing to get me to take the role on. One of the things that Phil and Graeme said was, "You're not on your own – you have heaps of support."

I'm sure when they said that they weren't quite sure how much support they were going to have to give!

But they were right. Our club members are all supportive and get involved. I have seen the time and work put into club projects, the generosity and care given to our community and the comradeship and support given to each other. And that is one of the reasons I love getting up early every Wednesday and arriving as the last person to our meetings just as the bell is ringing!

I would like to pay tribute to Graeme Dickey, our outgoing president, who was thrown in the deep end a year ago and has led our club through an unpredictable year with calm optimism, unfailing energy and always a sense of humour in testing times. You have been a wise leader and an act that I will struggle to follow. You can now enjoy a little more peace and quiet and to help with that I would like to present you with this peace lily.

It is now my pleasure to introduce the new board for the 2022/23 Rotary year:

President Elect: Paul Evans

Past President: Graeme Dickey

Secretary: Peter Graham

Treasurer: Carroll Haseltine

Projects Director: Maurice Gunnell

PR Director: Lyndal Johansson

Events Director: Nicola Brown

Environmental Representative: Edgar Burns

Advisor to the board who is also assistant district governor: Phil Crombie

There won't be any big changes to the way things are run for the club – sticking to the adage – if it ain't broke – don't fix it.

Our major fundraisers will continue with Theatre Hawkes Bay and Little Theatre, and we may look at doing more of the quizzes here at East Pier – the last one being very successful. The telescope/binoculars bring us good pocket money and the raffle and sergeants sessions cover our administration costs.

We will continue to support our local community through beach clean ups and maintaining the walkway gardens when needed and the Ahuriri market day if they decide to have it this year! As well as supporting Salvation Army, Parkinsons NZ and the Red Cross appeals by providing collectors.

We will also support Tony's Trolley Derby at Art Deco and Nicola's MS Steps fundraiser. And our annual support of the Seafarers - donating to lonely sailors without their families at Christmas time.

Graeme still has the bit between his teeth when it come to the new foreshore playground which will cater for disabled children. And we will maintain the toy chest that continues to provide fun for children and families.

We are committed to sending two students to RYPEN - The Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment - for Youth Leadership and support the interact group at Sacred Heart and Rotoract at EIT.

Our rotary international support will continue with the "Give every child a future" vaccination programme in the Pacific, Interplast's free plastic surgery programme in Asia Pacific region, The End polio now programme, and providing Emergency Response Kits through ShelterBox to those in need around the world.

The Cycos will continue their weekly cycle,

We have two new potential projects this year. As well as providing Te Awa School with Dictionaries and Atlases, Lynn is working with the school on a garden project which will be designed to tell the history of Hawke's Bay. Watch this space.

And the second potential project came out of an online rotary training session I was on where the topic was - raising more money for the Rotary Foundation.

In my breakout room was a rotary lady from Fiji who said that their members had been hugely impacted by the Covid lockdowns and were hardly able to pay their fees let alone raise money for rotary international.

That got me thinking. These are our neighbours. We all rush to support the victims of the latest disaster or humanitarian crisis. We quickly forget about the people still struggling but invisible to the media. And I thought about Tonga.

It was the 15<sup>th</sup> of January this year when The Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai underwater volcano erupted causing a tsunami that flooded the coastlines of Tonga and covered many of its islands in ash. The explosion was literally heard here in Hawke's Bay.

86,000 people, which is 84% of the population of Tonga, were affected by the eruption and tsunami which destroyed vital infrastructure, crops and water supplies as well as family homes and businesses.

The MANGO community were taken off their island and are being relocated to another island and higher ground and the community of KANOKUPOLU is also being relocated.

I have been in contact with the NUKU'ALOFA Rotary Club – communication has been difficult, and they have been in a series of lockdowns. But they are looking to support projects in the reconstruction of the displaced communities and working with their government to see how they can make that happen.

I am hoping that we will be able to support them in a project – for example building a community facility or supporting the establishment of a school. But we will be guided by them. It would be an exciting undertaking which we could raise funds for and maybe travel to help support the project.

While there is a call for more diversity in Rotary – which I am all for, the reality is that not everyone has the time or resources to be part of Rotary. We are privileged in so many ways and I love that we can, through rotary, share what we have in the way of skills, resources and time with those who don't have the opportunities we have.

These projects don't just help others in our community and in our world, but they also help us to appreciate each other and understand the world a little better.

To reiterate what David said at the beginning of the evening, I have a quote from Harry Rogers from the Rotary Club of San Antonio who said at the rotary convention in 1927 “The Rotary Ideal is within us, and we realise, that when we are serving others, we are building ourselves.”

Thank you all for being part of our Ahuriri Sunrise rotary family – whether a member or a supporter. You all make a difference. We can't change the whole world, but we can change the world of one person and the more people we help – the more worlds we've changed.

Parting thought from John Lyon – Let us not take ourselves too seriously. None of us has a monopoly on wisdom – Queen Elizabeth 1991 Christmas broadcast.