

# Rotary Club of Katikati

# Bulletin

Tuesday 15 July 2025

# UNITE FOR GOOD



Editor: *Ian Stevens*

## Programme (upcoming)

22nd July - The Hub Speaker **Carole Parker**, Abbeyfields

12th August - The Hub - no speaker BYO

19th August Fairview Kurt Waugh WBOPDC on Community Resilience

## Greeter

**Bronwyn**

**Sandra**

## Winter Christmas Meeting Theme at Fairview



President Ann organized a winter Christmas Program. Elves decorated the hall, Katikati Mural Town Singers sang Carols, presents were exchanged! We even got a wee bit of Christmas pudding and custard to go with a hearty meal. This was followed by a talk from Sue Spriggen's another amazing Katikati Volunteer who talked on the local combined churches food bank and her Miracle Shed!

We had the pleasure of the company of a young Japanese Couple Tai & Chi who are guests of Jenie and John Strongman. They hope to stay in the area for a few months and are looking for work if anyone knows of anything. They will consider anything. They have had some recent experience gardening. Please either contact Jenie or ring or text on 0204922372



The Katikati Mural Town Singers and Director Malcolm Gaze



These Christmas revellers were perusing the gift table!

## **Greeters Introduction Talk – David Owen**

David did a Stirling job introducing our guest speaker Sue Spriggen's under challenging circumstances. Trying to hold his notes, a microphone and a magnifying glass to supplement his glasses with two hands. The editor wishes David well with his visit to the eye specialists tomorrow may they come up with a solution to make the magnifying glass obsolete!

## **Guest Speaker Sue Spriggins, Katikati Foodbank**

Sue is one passionate lady. She's a tireless advocate for the Katikati Foodbank and is committed to spreading the word about the vital role it plays in supporting our community. Thanks to the generosity of locals, the "Miracle Shed" continues to provide food and support to those who need it most.

The Foodbank's journey began 33 years ago this September, starting from a private home, then moving to the Red Cross building, and eventually into the large shed it now occupies - recently extended to meet growing demand.

Remarkably, the Foodbank operates without any government funding. It is entirely community-driven and powered by volunteers, with local support reaching new heights during and after the Covid-19 pandemic.

More than 40 volunteers help in a variety of ways: tending the community garden that supplies fresh vegetables, answering phones to take requests for assistance, shopping for supplies (often in Tauranga), and packing and delivering food parcels.



Food comes from several sources: direct donations of goods and money, contributions via the supermarket trolley at Countdown Katikati, and more recently, food rescue from Countdown. This rescued food includes items approaching their use-by date that are still perfectly good to eat.

Requests for food parcels are received by specially trained phone operators, who forward the details to the Miracle Shed team. The shed is open every weekday from 10:30am to 12 noon, with some deliveries made to those unable to collect in person.

But it's not just about the food. Many who come to the shed are in crisis—emotional, distressed, and struggling with dignity. Sue places a strong emphasis on kindness and compassion. One of her core messages to new volunteers is to ensure that every person leaves the Miracle Shed feeling better than when they arrived.

“It’s hard for people to ask for help,” she says.

Client information is recorded in a confidential database to monitor usage, ensuring fairness and enabling follow-up when needed. While the majority of clients are genuine, the team has become skilled at identifying the rare cases of abuse.

Most people who reach out have simply fallen on tough times—job losses, illness, rising living costs, or being taken advantage of financially. Sue is especially concerned about elderly locals, many of whom are quietly struggling but too proud to seek help.

Despite the growing need, the Miracle Shed has never run out of food. When supplies run low, something always seems to arrive—like the recent Rotary-led “Can for a Cause” campaign. Katikati Rotary collected the third-highest number of cans across the entire 9930 region, just when the Foodbank needed them most.

There are many ways to support the Foodbank: through the Rotary club, with cash or food donations directly to the shed, or by popping an item or two into the Countdown trolley (especially on Tuesdays).

Sue ended her talk by addressing a common misconception: “It’s not a bunch of bludgers. These are hardworking people who’ve hit hard times.”

President Ann thanked Sue for her inspiring and enlightening talk, and for reminding us of the power of local volunteers to change lives.



This might be the “Miracle Shed” You are welcome to visit at the Baptist Church to check!

## [News from the President Ann](#)

We are working on the next stage of club support for the Victory School of Hope in Vanuatu. Hillary Johnson has provided two contacts for suppliers of science lab

equipment and materials. A quote has been received for \$12,000 for the equipment required which is more than expected so there is work to do to try and find funding.

The club is organising a joint project with Project Parore for the Rotary Project “footprints for our future” which is a week long project where Rotary Clubs through the region are getting involved in environmental projects. It will also link in with Katikati’s 150 year celebration. One element of this project will include working with 30 primary school children planting native trees around the new jetty on the Uretara River Boundary. The club has donated towards the cost of the plants.

Another significant shipment of computers have gone to the outer Solomon Islands and Fiji.

Ann advised that John Dallimore was not well, we wish him a speedy recovery.

Ann also reminded us that we recently lost Graham Body a long-term Rotarian who was a really good fun bloke. Many of us went to his farewell at the Fairview Golf course along with 350-400 other people where we were reminded of his life in an around Katikati including his significant inputs to the Rotary Club and the community. Roy & Barbara Robinson spoke on the clubs behalf. The farewell reminded me of his dry sense of humour it took me back to his sargeant sessions. The playing of the country calendar theme as they took him out was definitely something he would have approved of and he probably planned it. I can almost hear him saying I bet they didn’t expect that!

## Parting Thought – David Owen

“Any person who dares waste one hour of time has not discovered the value of life”

Charles Darwin