

Rotary Club of Katikati



Editor: Ian Stevens

Bulletin for Tuesday, September 16, 2025

The Rotary Club of Katikati presents its bulletin for Tuesday, September 16, 2025. This document provides a summary of recent and upcoming club activities, meetings, and announcements relevant to our members and community.

Upcoming Meetings

23rd of September Hub Meeting

Platters will be provided for attendees. The greeter for this meeting will be Chris Keightley.

14th October Hub Meeting

This meeting will be a BYO food event. The greeter for the evening will be Jim Bremner.

21st October Fairview Meeting

The meeting will feature guest speaker Michelle Tanner. Francis Young will serve as the greeter.

28th October Hub Meeting

Platters will be provided, and attendees are invited to bring their own drinks. The greeter for this meeting will be David Foris.

6th of September Hub Meeting Summary

Guest Speaker

Doctor Chris Battershill from the University of Waikato Tauranga Campus delivered an excellent address to attendees.

Greeter's Talk

Rod Calver presented a Greeters Talk focused on Prostate Awareness, which was highly relevant as September is Blue September Month. In addition, Rod provided an update on the upcoming Garden Ramble event and encouraged participation as it approaches.

Updates

Ann and Chris shared some updates with the group during the meeting.

Sargent

Sargeant Bronwyn was a late scratching to the program so no tales were told, but it is hoped that the treasurer will fine everyone to keep the funds coming in.

Greeters Talk – Rod Calver

Blue September Awareness: Prostate Cancer in New Zealand

Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in New Zealand, with approximately 4,000 cases reported annually. This figure slightly exceeds the annual diagnoses of breast cancer. Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths among men, following lung cancer, and ranks third for all sexes after lung and bowel cancers. Each year, more than 700 men succumb to prostate cancer, which is higher than the number of women who die from breast cancer. In comparison, road deaths amount to about 350 per year. This stark difference highlights the need for more resources to be allocated toward better screening for cancer diagnosis.

Many of these prostate cancer deaths could potentially be prevented through earlier diagnosis. The speaker noted personal experiences with friends who have died from metastatic prostate cancer, emphasizing that it is a devastating way to die. Once the cancer spreads beyond the prostate, treatment outcomes are significantly worsened.

Risk Factors and Screening Recommendations

Statistics indicate that one in eight men will develop prostate cancer during their lifetimes, and an estimated 42,000 men are currently living with prostate cancer in New Zealand. Sadly, Māori men are twice as likely to die from prostate cancer as Pākehā men. This disparity is attributed to a reluctance among Māori men to undergo testing, leading to later diagnoses and increased mortality.

Prostate cancer is highly heritable, meaning that men with first-degree relatives diagnosed with the disease should commence screening earlier than the general population. Additionally, there is a noted link between prostate cancer and breast cancer in individuals carrying the BRCA2 gene mutation. The current chair of the Prostate Cancer Foundation was diagnosed with the illness at just 37 years old, and cases have been reported in even younger men.

It is important to encourage young males to begin prostate screening at the appropriate time. Unfortunately, some doctors have historically advised against prostate screening. An example was shared concerning a former Christchurch mayor whose husband was discouraged by his GP from having a prostate check. By the time he underwent testing, it was too late, and the cancer had spread beyond the prostate, resulting in his death.

Screening Methods and Improvements

Screening for prostate cancer is straightforward: a simple blood test is all that is needed. The PSA (prostate-specific antigen) test can be added to routine blood work by marking the appropriate box. Previously, there was a fee for PSA tests, but advocacy led to their inclusion as a free service, thanks to intervention from local politicians.

Traditionally, a PSA test has been accompanied by a digital rectal examination. While some men are uncomfortable with this procedure and some GPs may lack sufficient experience to conduct an effective examination, regular blood tests remain an effective monitoring tool. If abnormal results appear, individuals should consult a urologist for further examination.

Over the past two decades, diagnostic techniques have advanced significantly. MRI scanning can now pinpoint the location of cancer cells within the prostate, allowing for more accurate and targeted biopsies. Historically, biopsies were performed through the rectum, which increased the risk of infection. Nowadays, they are conducted through the perineal area, greatly reducing this risk.

Living with Prostate Cancer and Its After effects

Any male over 50 is advised to begin regular PSA screening, with earlier screening recommended for those with a family history of prostate cancer. While prostate cancer can often be eliminated, side effects such as erectile dysfunction and incontinence may occur. The speaker shared his personal experience of living with incontinence for 20 years, noting that, despite undergoing several procedures, none were successful. Nevertheless, he emphasized getting on with living life to the fullest, continuing regular PSA checks, and remaining cancer-free so far.

Outcomes vary; some men experience no side effects after their operation, but may see their PSA levels rise and require additional treatment. Ultimately, prostate cancer remains a serious threat, but with proper screening and early intervention, lives can be extended and the quality of life maintained. Rod concluded that he would rather live with some incontinence than face the consequences of metastatic prostate cancer.


Guest Speaker – Dr. Chris Battershill, University of Waikato Tauranga Campus

Ann introduced the members to Dr. Chris Battershill from the University of Waikato. Dr. Battershill is recognized for his leadership and expertise within the Marine Department at the university. He intends to share his presentation via email, which will be forwarded to members upon receipt. The presentation promises to offer valuable insight into the breadth and depth of the department's work, highlighting its relevance to aquaculture, agriculture, health, global warming, and other pressing issues that will impact future generations.



**Professor
Christopher
Battershill** 

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About us

The Coastal Marine Field Station at the University of Waikato in Tauranga leads groundbreaking research on marine ecosystems, interdisciplinary collaboration driving sustainability in New Zealand's blue economy.



Study

Coastal Marine Field Station staff at University of Waikato School of Science teach science degrees, integrating Māori knowledge, and collaborate with iwi for environmental understanding.



Research - Our Mahi

The University of Waikato is one of the premier universities in New Zealand for multidisciplinary aquatic science and is leading the way in aquaculture specific education and research.

Coastal Marine Field Station

The University of Waikato's Coastal Marine Field Station was established in December 2011 at Sulphur Point in Tauranga, located at the center of the Bay of Plenty's vibrant marine industry precinct. The Field Station operates as part of the University's Environmental Research Institute and plays a critical role in teaching, environmental monitoring, and advancing coastal and marine research and discovery. It has rapidly grown to become a major center for marine research excellence within the Bay of Plenty region.

Growth and Integration

Since its inception in 2011, the Coastal Marine Field Station has experienced significant growth. The centre has recruited a diverse team of highly skilled scientists, staff, and students, now numbering over 100 individuals and continuing to expand. The team brings together a wide range of expertise and collaborates closely with other university faculties, including engineering, information technology, and robotics, among others. This multidisciplinary integration strengthens the capacity of the Marine Department to address complex environmental and societal challenges.

New Zealand and International Collaborations

The University of Waikato has established highly successful collaborative relationships with both New Zealand and international research organisations. These partnerships have enabled the University to access substantial datasets, empowering researchers to undertake innovative desktop research. As a result, the University can solve complex problems and achieve targeted outcomes more efficiently and productively than ever before.

The University's expertise and forward-thinking approach have also contributed to its success in securing research funding, both from the government and the private sector, domestically and abroad. This strong financial backing allows the University to participate in collaborative projects across the globe, extending its impact well beyond New Zealand.

Research Focus Areas

The scope of research activities undertaken by the University is both impressive and diverse. Notable examples include:

- Applying algal biotechnology to reduce methane emissions from dairy cows.

- Utilising smart molecules to render PSA ineffective in Kiwifruit, addressing key challenges in agriculture.
- Leveraging the unique genetics of ancient marine sponges—organisms with an 800-million-year history—to modify viruses and other microbes, thereby creating smart molecules for solving real-world problems.
- Integrating robotics to enhance and expedite marine farming operations in the Bay of Plenty region, which currently encompasses 8,000 hectares and is projected to expand to 20,000–30,000 hectares in the near future.
- Employing algae to purify water around aquaculture sites and onshore locations, effectively removing persistent pharmaceuticals and heavy metals.
- Developing cancer drugs using smart molecules that inhibit the multiplication of cancer cells, with remarkable commercial success including \$6 billion in sales during the first year of release.

Marine Biodiversity and Economic Opportunities

Dr. Chris Battershill highlighted that the oceans harbour an immense diversity of life and a wealth of valuable genetic material. This biodiversity offers tremendous potential for generating economic wealth, feeding the world, and addressing numerous global challenges. New Zealand is especially well-positioned to benefit, possessing a significant share of this valuable genetic resource.

To fully realise these opportunities, continued and expanded government funding is essential. Such support will enable researchers to further explore and harness the potential of New Zealand's marine resources.

Protecting Marine Genetic Resources

Safeguarding the oceans and their genetic material remains a major concern. There have been instances where highly valuable genetic material has been lost due to excessive sedimentation from rivers, which can smother and destroy marine plants. In addition, significant natural events, such as earthquakes at Kaikoura, have also contributed to the loss of critical marine resources. Preserving the integrity of these environments is crucial for maintaining ongoing access to genetic material and ensuring the success of future research and innovation.

President, Secretary and Member Notices

Special General Meeting and Constitution Update

Members are reminded that the next meeting will be a Special General Meeting. All members are strongly encouraged to read the latest version of the constitution that has been circulated prior to the meeting.

Recent Uretara Tree Planting and 150 Year Celebrations

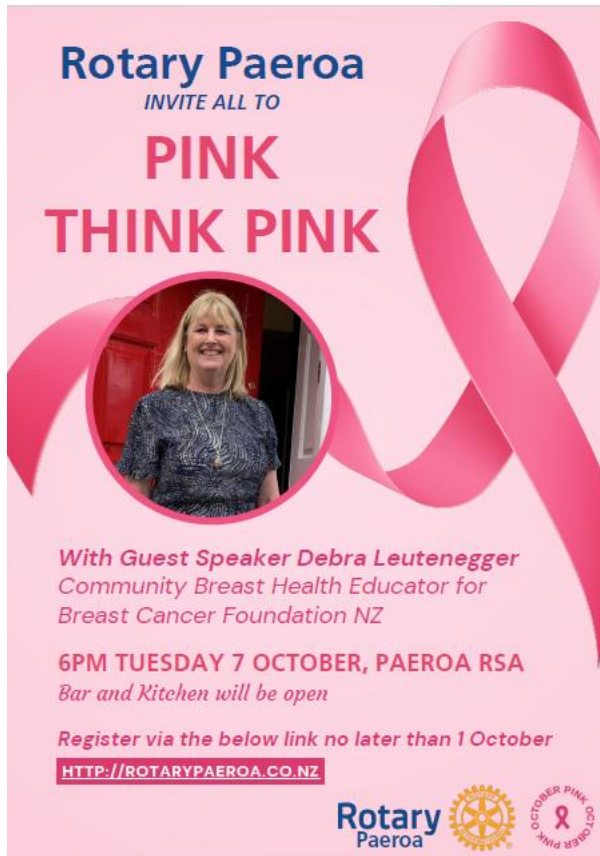
The club extends its gratitude to all members for their efforts and involvement in the recent Uretara tree planting project, as well as for their contributions to the 150 year celebrations. The club also voted to send a letter to John Clements Chair of the local Community Board for his efforts. Lets not also forget the many others who assisted including members like Francis Young.

Upcoming Daffodil Bulb Digging for Cancer Foundation

Members will have the opportunity to participate in the digging of daffodil bulbs to support the cancer foundation. Details regarding dates and locations will be provided soon.

Think Pink Function in Paeroa

The Think Pink function will be held in Paeroa on 7th October. Members are invited to attend and are encouraged to refer to the following brochure for further information.



Fundraising for Katana, Outward Exchange Student

Robyn reminded members about ongoing fundraising efforts for Katana, the club's outward exchange student. Additional information to support these efforts will follow.

Katikati Rotary Wine Fundraiser

LAST DAY FOR ORDERS: Sunday 19th October

Rotary Katikati are selling a selection of handcrafted New Zealand wines from Alana's award-winning selection. Alana Estate is a family-owned, boutique wine retailer, producing world-class wines from the best wine-making regions in New Zealand for more than 30 years. They are known for their fruity and flavoursome wines which are accomplished through hard work, dedication and craft. We are raising funds to support youth adventures and life changing experiences in the Katikati community. The main goal of this fundraiser is to help get "Katana" on her 12-month exchange to France, an incredible opportunity for growth, cultural learning, and personal development. Funds raised will also contribute to broader youth focused initiatives in the area, creating more opportunities for local rangatahi to explore the world beyond their own backyard. Thank you for your support!

<https://katikatirotarywine.raiseit.co.nz/rdrk2mlkra>

Invitation to Masonic Lodge Function

Jerry Payne has extended an invitation to all members to attend an upcoming Masonic Lodge function. Further details will follow.

Lodge Katikati No 295
Of Ancient and Accepted Freemasons. 6 Park Road, Katikati

We invite members of the Katikati Rotary Club to join us in a ceremony of remembrance. The ceremony will last an hour, after which we will provide drinks & a light supper.

Please confirm attendance, for catering, to jerry@payne.kiwi.nz

Empty Chair Ceremony
Monday 10th November 2025 7pm



Freemasons New Zealand

LEST WE FORGET

Parting Thought

Shared by Rod Calver

“Life isn’t about waiting for the storm to pass; it’s about learning to dance in the rain.” Vivian Green