

Bulletin

Tuesday 20 May, 2025

Editor: *Chris Keightley*

Programme (upcoming)

Greeter

27 May	The Hub (Platters) (Committees meet)	John Dallimore
10 June	The Hub (BYO meals) (Board meeting afterward)	John Strongman
17 June	CHANGEOVER Fairview Club (Partners evening)	

Our speaker

Glynis Parton, Chair for ROMAC (Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children) visited on Tuesday evening and spoke to us about the amazing work done by ROMAC, by bringing children from Pacific countries to New Zealand for life-saving procedures and treatment which they cannot access in their home countries

One such case was Glenys' very first patient Vinna, who arrived from Tanna Island, Vanuatu in 2017 with a double fracture to her femur. Vinna was originally referred to ROMAC by a RSE (Recognised Seasonal Employer) agent, and under the care of an orthopaedic specialist, spent more than two years in New Zealand. This time brought many cultural and medical challenges for Glenys and her team however eventually, Vinna was returned to her village fully healed, and a life restored

Vinna's was only one of the many stories relayed to us by Glenys, where children from remote island communities were brought to New Zealand and Australia for treatment ranging from orthopaedic procedures to life-saving heart operations. Many of these individual cases described to us by Glenys were very challenging but importantly, we are reminded that they are supported by Rotary and private donations



Vinna, Glenys' first ROMAC patient

Greeter Paul Lassman

At our partners evening Paul talked about a change that he had to make when he and his wife Shirley were dairy farming in the Deep South, when he got the advice from his doctor that he should move from that environment and that not to do so, was not really an option

So, they made the decision to sell a second dairy farm which they owned, and to put a sharemilker on their home farm, and for them and their 11 year old daughter to move to the UK, the land where Paul was born. Paul was interested in farm consultancy and he already had experience, plus a number of contacts in the region but first was the need to find somewhere to live. Interestingly, one of the factors which may have contributed to making this come together was the moment when Paul and the owner realized they were both Rotarians - and so Paul and Shirley moved to a home in the Cotswolds, and Shirley worked as the chef at a local pub

A further change came in 2001 with the outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease in the UK. The associated restrictions on farm visits made the consultancy unviable and they decided to revisit a Bed & Breakfast business which they had stopped at during a recent trip from Cornwall to Scotland. They ended up buying the business where they also operated a restaurant and tearooms for the duration of the epidemic



Battle site visit

Through the NZ History group of U3A there is an opportunity for our members to visit battle-sites from the Waikato Land wars

Our group would be accompanied by well-known author and expert on Maori history, Buddy Mikaere and would likely overnight in the area

Actual date & costings yet to be advised – if interested, please Contact Ann

Our July 8 meeting instead of being held at the Hub

Will be a joint dinner meeting together with Paeroa Rotary - at the Waihi Beach RSA

And our speaker will be Scott Simpson, MP for Coromandel and Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Cans for a cause

We are still in need of a few more volunteers for the **afternoon shift on Tuesday** (the morning is now fully covered)

This worthy cause is a nationwide event, supported by our DG Nick, and promoted as an ALL NEW ZEALAND EVENT – and is supported by Rotary Clubs throughout New Zealand

We will be operating a stand in the Foyer at Woolworths Supermarket to collect canned groceries for the purpose of re-distributing to needy families

If you can help:

Please phone John Strongman 0274996922

When **Tuesday 10 June**

Where **Woolworths Supermarket, Main Road, Katikati**

Wear **Your Rotary Hi-viz vest**



Rotary
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New Zealand



ROTARY CANS FOR A CAUSE

Many families across New Zealand are struggling to put enough food on the table for their whānau and are in urgent need of support.

The Rotary Clubs of New Zealand are committed to collecting 1 million cans of food to support local food banks in our communities.

You can help!


Donate your food items between 9th – 16th June to help us collect a million food items.

A community project organised by:

Items most in need:

- Canned fish
- Baked Beans and Spaghetti
- Canned veges
- Canned fruit
- Soup
- Diced tomatoes
- Spreads
- Rice
- Pasta
- Cereals

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14th May 2025

Dear Rotarians,

I hope this letter finds you well and would like to express our gratitude for your continued support and generosity in the wake of the Vanuatu earthquake. Your donations have made a significant difference and we are very appreciative of your commitment to helping the affected communities.

I would also like to apologise for the delay in providing updates. As you may be aware, the recovery efforts in Vanuatu have progressed slowly. This has been compounded by the recent national elections and a change in Government, which has resulted in additional delays. However, I want to assure you that we have been working tirelessly in the background to make meaningful progress.

We applied for a \$25,000 USD disaster relief grant, which we used to restore water supply to Mele and Mele Maat village (with a combined population of approximately 10,000.) I am happy to inform you that this project has now been completed successfully.

In addition to this, our District has received over \$100,000NZD in donations, which we greatly appreciate. RAWCS have also received a similar amount in donations. At this stage, we are still holding these funds in trust as we continue to assess the most effective and sustainable ways to utilise them for ongoing recovery efforts.

We are working in close collaboration with Rotary Port Vila on projects that will have significant impact and that will align with the goals of the Rotary Foundation. One of the key areas of focus is to improve water access and sanitation to schools. The Vanuatu Government have been slow in assessing the damage of schools but we have now identified several schools that require water and sanitation hygiene. We envisage we can provide ablution blocks with water tanks that can provide clean water to those in the community.

We understand that the pace of progress may be frustrating and I sincerely apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. Please know we are working diligently to ensure your generous donations are being directed to the most effective and sustainable projects that will have a long-term positive impact.

We look forward to providing you with further updates via your District Governor and are grateful for your continued support.

Once again, thank you for your kindness and dedication to the people of Vanuatu.

Yours in Rotary,

Jenn Wong
District Governor 2024 – 2025, 2025 - 2026



[Parting thought](#) from Paul

Good judgment comes from experience

And most of that comes from bad judgment