

Bulletin

Tuesday 22 April, 2025

Editor: *Chris Keightley*

Programme (upcoming)

Greeter

No meetings on 29 April & 6 May

13 May	The Hub (BYO) (Board Meeting afterward)	Bronwyn Webster-Hawke
20 May	Fairview Club (Partners evening) Speaker – Glenys Parton ROMAC	Paul Lassman
27 May	The Hub (Platters) (Committees meet)	John Dallimore

Recent evenings

Tuesday 15th at Fairview

Speaker – Paul Lassman

The great conundrum of African wildlife preservation is the fact that wherever legal hunting is banned wildlife dies out, but where it is encouraged, wildlife, particularly elephants, thrive and increase. If it pays, it stays! Elephants and agriculture are incompatible. Rural Africans hate elephants!

Kenya had 275,000 elephants before legal hunting was banned in 1977. By 1990 only 20,000 were left because the President's wife organised ivory poaching gangs. Kenya's elephants have never recovered because outside a few National Parks elephants have no value and get speared.

The death of Cecil the Lion resulted in many countries banning the import of legally hunted lion trophies. Compensation by hunters for livestock killed by lions ceased, so lions were poisoned or snared all over Africa. Botswana had only 8,000 elephants before a trophy hunting industry began in the late 1970's. Now they have the World's largest population at 130,000. Too many for the environment to support. The local people get income and jobs

and free meat from the hunting so they don't poach. When European countries banned the import of hunting trophies the President of Botswana said he was going to send 20,000 elephants to Berlin so they could feed them.

Translocating overcrowded elephants to areas with too few hasn't worked because without adequate and very expensive fencing it just results in human/wildlife conflict with farms destroyed, people killed and elephants poached.

If Kiwis object to legal trophy hunting in Africa perhaps we should save the lives of 20,000 elephants and release them in the Kaimai ranges?

Greeter - Bruce Calder

Bruce spoke fondly of his mother who passed recently at the age of 101, having been born to dairy farming parents in a rural village near Invercargill where the 40 dairy cows were milked by hand

Bruce's mother later trained and graduated as a teacher and on a trip to Hawkes Bay to visit an uncle she met Bruce's father, a returned serviceman who was at that time managing sheep and beef farms for the Lands and Survey, and which were being settled for returned servicemen

They married and later farmed at Porangahau where they remained for 40 years where their first house on the farm comprised 3 Amy huts being joined together, and had a coal range and a copper for heating water

Bruce remembers his Mum as a tireless worker, on the farm as a mother of two whilst also being a founder of two pony clubs in the area, and then retiring to Fielding where they purchased a small dairy farm from which they supplied milk to the Glaxo factory in Bunnythorpe

Bruce cannot remember his mother being ill in all those years, and she spent her past seven years locally at the Te Puke country lodge

Bruce mentioned also, two aunts who each represented Southland in Netball, and an uncle who as a wood chopper, captained the NZ team at the Sydney Royal Show where he was introduced to the queen.

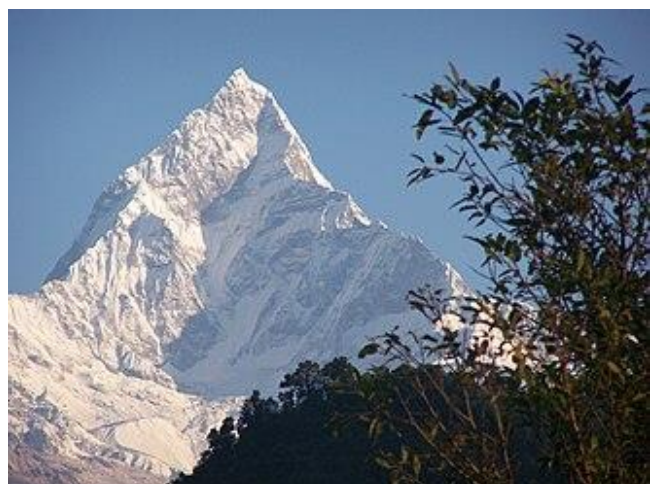
Tuesday 22nd at The Club

Speaker – Luka Verran

Luka is the grandson of our own Martin Hawke and he spoke of his recent school trip with Cambridge High School to Nepal.

Luka and 17 other students visited Annapurna Sanctuary which is located north of Pokhara and at an altitude of 4130 metres (Mt Cook in New Zealand is 3724m)

Each was required to raise funds for the three week trip and Luka worked in a local



restaurant. Their accommodation was provided by Tea Houses which are usually privately owned and which could be compared with a Bed & Breakfast facility. The students enjoyed local cuisine and interesting walks and experiences, and Luka gave us a fascinating overview of the geography, the local people and an insight into their way of life. He talked also of the alpine environment and altitude of sickness which affects people who have difficulty in acclimatising, and which in fact affected some of the group

Schools throughout New Zealand are selected for their senior students to undertake activities such as this and the events are arranged by World Challenge International to provide *experiential school trips outside the classroom, to destinations all around the world for 15-18 year olds*

Naturally Luka was kept very busy at question time afterward

Greeter – Barry Denton

Barry provided us with a further instalment of his incredibly interesting work in the field of electricity production in New Zealand

Barry had spent the previous four and a half years at Huntly coal fired power station but as he had a particular interest in thermal generation, he was invited to be involved further in that field and he moved to Wairakei where he was involved in exploration and the search for new resources. Barry carried out drilling and testing of potential sites all over the Volcanic Plateau and came across some promising sites however many were to be compromised in some form, for instance on occasions there was a very high silica content in the ground and this could cause clogging and on other occasions access was an issue. One such site was in the close vicinity of Rainbow Mountain near Reporoa and which Barry said bore very high potential however there was strong opposition to the project due to potential environmental damage concerns and it was eventually abandoned

There was never a dull moment for Barry who had broad mandate to drill almost anywhere and always, diplomacy with the local landowners was a very useful tool in Barry's arsenal even though on occasions, negotiations could go on for years

Barry's adventures also took him to the US, to California and Hawaii, and to Vanuatu and Turkey and he included some various humorous anecdotes – but too many to capture here!

District 9920 & 9930 Conference 2025

- Registrations available for Single-day passes
- Saturday \$150
- Sunday \$100
- Car-pooling available (contact Jenie)

Used computers

(article soon to appear in Lizard News)

Highlighting our quest to obtain laptops which can be repurposed for use by students overseas

Any laptops which are no longer needed and are gathering dust can be reformatted and made ready for needy students who live on tiny Mangaia Island in the Outer Cook Islands and they will be delivered by Rod Calver

John Buchanan has helped make available computers for students from Cambodia to Kenya and we also have students from Bethlehem College delivering more to a school in the Solomon Islands later this year. We've sent computers to schools in Port Vila, Vanuatu with the help of local RSE workers when they returned to their homes

John's expertise and his hard work are making a huge difference to lives of many young people in unforgotten corners of our world – **so please ferret out that old device if you or your friends have one lying about**



Freswota School students, Port Vila

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

More about this later



Hospice Awareness Week 2025

Hospice Awareness Week is coming up (May 12 – 18) and we can be part of this by helping out

As you will know, Waipuna Hospice is all about providing compassionate care to those facing a life-limiting illnesses and is looking for volunteers to assist in collecting donations and to raise awareness of the Hospice at various locations throughout the country and a couple of hours of your time could make a huge difference to someone

If you or a friend is keen to volunteer, then sign up – it would be a great way to make a difference together

To learn more - click on the link. <https://waipunahospice.org.nz/2025/04/hawk-2025/>

[A parting thought](#) **Barry Denton**

These days.....'Happy Hour is a nap'