

Bulletin

Tuesday 25 March, 2025

Editor: *Chris Keightley*

Programme (upcoming)

8 April **The Hub (BYO) - Environment**
Board Meeting afterward

15 April **Fairview (Partners evening)**
Speaker Paul Lassman on African Wildlife

22 April **The Hub (Platters)**
Teenager Luka Verran (to speak on his trip to Nepal)

Greeter

Ann Owen

Bruce Calder

Bronwyn Webster-Hawke

Our Speaker Ann Owen

March is the time when we focus on WASH (Water-Sanitation-Hygiene) and it is one of the areas where Rotary has a huge beneficial impact on the lives of others. It is therefore no coincidence when we remember that Paul Harris started Rotary International back in 1905 and the very first project was a public toilet in Chicago

And it is not just in impoverished places that insufficient focus on these very important projects has backfired on us – take for instance recent events closer to home where four people died as a result of a water and health incident at Havelock North, or the release of untreated water into the Waitemata Harbour

Ann spoke passionately about our own International Committee's efforts and successes at Black Sands, a small township near Port Vila in Vanuatu. This is an impoverished community located in an area which is flood prone and water for drinking, cooking and washing is drawn from the local river. Many of the people in the village have from the outlying islands of Vanuatu in order to access better education, health facilities and opportunities for their families. Although the RSE (Recognised Seasonal Employees) schemes which



do offer employment in countries like New Zealand and Australia does offer some respite, employment opportunities in the locality are extremely limited given the lack of education & literacy. Children are mostly walk long distances to school each day whilst existing on just one meal a day

Being flood prone, the ground is soggy and porous and it is not unusual to have drinking water contaminated with sewage and other impurities. As education in town is expensive, classes for preschoolers were started in order to ease the burden and that is where our Rotary have been able to assist. In 2017 Rotary in association with RSE workers in New Zealand delivered computers and other equipment

More recently, International focus on the Victory School of Hope which was not receiving state aid have provided essential aid which has resulted in an ablution facility being erected at the school. Previously only one solitary toilet serviced not only the school, but the district around. Not only was the sole toilet insufficient for that number of people but the design was fraught with issues brought on by the waterlogged surroundings. This has now been replaced with a functioning block of six toilets and a wash area

Although recent setbacks were encountered as a result of a massive earthquake on 17 December last year Incredibly, the locals were back on their feet quickly and rebuilding the partially damaged ablution block and today it is almost completed

Our Greeter

Robyn Walker

Robyn's talk 'A Moment in Time' was very personal, came from the heart and any one of us could relate to one of those singular moments in time that appear to have been so pivotal in our lives

Robyn focussed on four 'moments' specifically at the passing of her dad and the following disruptions in her life when she moved between three high schools; starting work in the heart of Auckland city and flatting; attending to the injured as a result of the riots at the height of the Springbok tour in 1981 and finally, parting with 'the guy from the rugby club'

Robyn's talk was personal and moving – and not one that I can do justice here but it is one of the highlights of our meetings for me, to hear these stories from our member

A parting thought

Robyn Walker

Integrity is choosing your thoughts and actions based on values rather than personal gain – Chris Karcher

The more you live in someone Else's shadow the longer it takes to cast your own - The Lincoln Lawyer

Over the page...

Our own Nigel and many others have been working on this for more than a year now – it is important & you should read it!!!

An overview of what is happening with the
Regionalisation Pilot Project
to revitalise and modernise our Rotary experience

Why does Rotary need to change?

Falling membership and retention issues have been tracked, analysed, and spoken about for more than 20 years. We've taken a variety of approaches to address these challenges, **but it hasn't been enough**.

One of Rotary's strategic goals is to increase our **ability to adapt**. What current and future members need and want from Rotary changes quickly and, so far, **we have not been able to keep up**. Today, people want to be a part of an organisation that welcomes diverse perspectives and provides value. They want opportunities to serve, lead, and network, but not necessarily within a **rigid hierarchy**.

Our current governance structure is 70 years old. It has not adapted to the needs of today or tomorrow.

*In 2018, the Rotary International Board of Directors tasked a new committee with developing an innovative plan to enhance the current membership experience, **improve our ability to adapt**, and create an organisational structure that attracts and engages new participants for generations to come.*

The committee determined that a more streamlined governance structure could allow Rotary to adapt to the needs of our members, while enhancing the membership experience. It would provide members additional opportunities to increase their impact and expand their reach through service, which may inspire a new generation of members to join Rotary.

It would also welcome **more diverse voices** into leadership roles by creating positions that are more manageable. Most importantly, it will **allow members to receive more direct support and access to resources** without the layers of hierarchy. And, through a **regional approach**, allow for more targeted, local approaches that can be used to meet community and member needs.

We are very fortunate to be in an area chosen to **pilot** and **test** this radically different governance structure. It is an innovative and exciting opportunity to re-invent Rotary!

Clubs have now been formed into geographically homogenous groups to be called *Rotary Community Groups*, each with the autonomy to develop its own action plan to work closely together to save Rotary from extinction and **grow club membership** in our area.

In the Bay of Plenty our Community Group includes:

Katikati/Omokoroa, Otumoetai, Tauranga, Tauranga Te Papa, Sunrise, Papamoa, Kawerau and **Whakatane**.

Eight clubs working together to support each other have the potential to work wonders on our declining performance over the last 20 years.

Representatives from our clubs have so far met twice late last year and the third meeting was last Sunday.

The meetings are facilitated by our appointed Community Group Leader, **Carmen Goodwin** from Otumoetai Club.

We have decided:

- To name our group of clubs **Rotary Bay of Plenty**
- To plan a Bay-wide joint project in the week of **8-14 September** to promote awareness of our environment
- To name the project **Footprints for our Future**
- To appoint a **Planning Group** of 5 coordinators to commence work on a plan for the week in September:

Carmen Goodwin will cover marketing & advertising

Nigel Williams will cover club participation, collaboration with other interested organisations including iwi, and public participation

Gail Dobbin will cover the environmental sites which will feature events during the week

Indeevar Singh & **Shiv Thammalla** will cover arranging the required funding through sponsorship and donations

Jenie Strongman will cover measuring the success of our events by gathering the relevant metrics

Bay of Plenty Clubs are requested to immediately start discussing and committing to:

- Take part in the joint project
- Prepare a list of members available for the club's chosen event
- Identify members whose skillset could contribute to the plan elements listed under the 5 roles above. **In particular we need an 'Event Coordinator/Manager' to work within the Planning Group**
- Contribute any good ideas that may arise in discussions that could be useful to the Planning Group

Any club member should feel free to contact the Planning Group if they wish to contribute to the planning process.

We want this week of events to make an impact in our communities and also to raise the public profile and awareness of what Rotary has to offer.

And lastly...

Tauranga Rotary Club is turning 80 and have invited us to join them on their celebration night

Everyone is welcome and they also have 7 Guests from Kasoka in Japan and the incoming President of Broadbeach Australia joining in

For all enquires – please contact Sue Boyne

Club Secretary 2024/2025

The Rotary Club of Tauranga

027-5770334

It's our 80th birthday!

8  **YEARS
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**

You're invited

Please join us as we celebrate 80 amazing years.

FORMAL DINNER SATURDAY APRIL 5TH FROM 6.00PM	ARMITAGE HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE 9 WILLOW STREET, TAURANGA
COST: \$45 per person	Partners welcome

Please RSVP by Wednesday March 26th to sue@sbc.co.nz.

We will be hosting two overseas Rotary Clubs members from Kasaoka, Japan and Broadbeach, Australia.

*Let's
Celebrate*

Rotary 

The Rotary Club of Tauranga Inc. District 9930. President 2024/25 Steve Winter