

Rotary Club of Katikati

Bulletin



Editor: *Ian Stevens*

Tuesday 26th^h of August 2025

Programme (upcoming)

9th of September Hub Meeting BYO

Greeter – Ian Stevens

16th of September Fairview Meeting

Guest Speaker Christopher Battershill University of Waikato – One of the speakers at the healing our waters meeting

Greeter – to be advised in next newsletter

23rd of September Hub Meeting Platters will be provided

Greeter – to be advised in next newsletter

26th of August Hub Meeting Summary

The meeting at Hub featured Robyn Introducing our outward bound youth exchange Katana Te Ngaio plus her Grandmother Donna, Father Mike and Mother Carey. The Greeter's talk was from our one and only Lawrie Donald giving an express version of his life addresses. This was followed by an insight into his love of the New Zealand bush his passion of protecting the environment and bush and making it accessible for all even old folk living in Katikati. The general business and sargeant session were done followed by a directors meeting for the Incorporated Society. Non directors were sent home early.

Greeters Talk – Lawrie Donald

Lawrie gave an express bio as follows. Born in Maramaru, sent off to Wesley college to avoid a 1.5 daily bus ride. Then off to Massey, followed by scrub cutting, opossum hunting, a stint in Darwin. Then he returned to NZ slipped in a marriage and children. Back in NZ he worked for Catchment Boards, Councils and Regional Councils for Hauraki, Waikato, Taupo and Bay of Plenty Regional Council then he retired and really got started using his working life experience getting stuff done in the environmental space. For example Lawrie was a prime mover in getting wheels under the existing project Parore revegetation project. He is involved in numerous projects including the Waitekohe Park, Katikati Trails Development group. He works in all sorts of mysterious and effective

ways behind the scenes plus he also gets his hands dirty building tracks, killing pest plants.

Lawrie shared a few photos of his tramping exploits all his life he has tramped an absolute minimum of 14 days a year. In earlier days, dragging his children along to instill the same passion. He also enlightened us with some videos of what happens at possum party based on observations of 5 video cameras introducing us to some of the challenges involved in trapping possums, cats, ferrets and other undesirable predators.

Guest Speaker – Katana Te Ngaio Outward bound rotary exchange student.

Robyn Walker introduced us to Katana. Katana with a few prompts from Robyn and questions from the floor gave us a little bit of background as to how she has become our outward-bound student.

Katana is a year 11 student at Katikati college. She is a confident young lady with a plan. Back in year 8 she noticed inward exchange students and she interacted with them and got to know them and got an understanding of what the exchange meant to them. They were meeting new people and getting to know a new country and culture. Katana thought why not me and started doing the research into the various exchange schemes available. She organised a presentation for her parents pleading with them to get permission to have a go albeit at the time she didn't know how to apply or find the money to fund her dream. Permission granted she then got deeper into her research of the options. She applied to Rotary presumably via the Rotary website. She applied and was selected. Post selection she got to meet our youth director Robyn Walker who is now fully engaged and Katana's number one supporter and fundraising manager and facilitator. It is not hard to see why Robyn has jumped in as Katana has an amazing attitude and personality, she is already confident in front of people and when she returns, I sense she will be even more confident and ready to take on whatever challenges come her way. She already has a plan of what she wants to do on leaving school, a business degree followed by going into her own business. Robyn's quote was "It is my pleasure to be helping Katana, she is a box of joy to be with!"

Katana with Robyn's help are on a fund-raising mission with sales of chocolates and pies already being actioned with bulk wine sales to be launched soon. I think she might also be up for singing gigs! Robyn please discuss with the editor.

She applied for 3 countries. Austria was her first choice but she ended up with France which was one of her choices. She is now studying French on Duolingo a phone app but using the laptop donated by the club she is also about to take French Lessons via Zoom.

Katana is currently studying Metal, Commerce, English, Maths and Music. She intends to study Business at University but she would also like give music a serious nudge!

I think the club will enjoy getting behind Katana!





News Items in no particular order so keep alert read, commit and diary where applicable

Community & Environment

The district grant application has been made to support the club contribution to the playground upgrade at Moore Park

Katikati 150 Year Celebration

President Ann reminded us of the amazing programme of events click on the links below and enrol

The programme

<https://katikati150celebration.co.nz/index.php/programme/>

The Events Descriptions

<https://katikati150celebration.co.nz/index.php/events/>

Footprints for Our Future Project Reminder from last Bulletin

A note from Secretary Chris "Volunteers for both Wednesday 3 Sept & Wednesday 10 Sep at the Uretara estuary planting please. Carmen Goodwin on behalf of the Footprints for Our Future Project had initially thought that we could use some Apata Coolstore (sponsor) employees on the 10th however that has since fallen over and we will need to manage the project and the available volunteers carefully in order to have a meaningful display on both days in order to take advantage of photo opportunities (it should ease the burden that work on the 10th will not commence until 1pm)"

Editor's note. Please put in a big effort to make the event! Get a haircut, polish your spade and clean your Katikati Rotary Hi – Vis. Also practice your smiling for the camera. Rod Calver is your go to for advice on smiling for the camera. He is well practiced and very good at it.

Please let John Strongman know whether you can make it or send a doctor's note if you can't make it.

Youth

The follow article has been contributed by reporter Robyn Walker Youth Director who is doing a tremendous job getting behind our local outbound Youth Exchange Student Katana Te Ngaio who we will all meet at Rotary next week. Hopefully the whole club will get in behind Katana.

Katana to France Fundraising

We are fundraising to help Katana achieve her dream of a 12-month student exchange to France — an incredible opportunity for growth, cultural learning, and personal development. This exchange will allow Katana to immerse herself in a new culture, gain valuable life skills, and bring those experiences back to share with our community. Rotary Katikati is supporting this journey through a delicious frozen pie and savoury fundraiser. Every purchase not only helps Katana get to France, but also supports wider youth initiatives that create opportunities for other local rangatahi to explore the world beyond their own backyard. These tasty pies and savouries are a freezer essential — perfect for quick dinners or sharing with whānau — and every bite brings Katana one step closer to her adventure. Thank you for helping make this life-changing experience possible!"

Scan the QR code below and this will take you to a webpage with has all the details of the fundraiser and a ordering page.



Chocolate Fish Fundraiser

Members of Katana's family will be selling chocolate fish around Katikati and for your convenience I will have them available at Rotary meetings nights. \$2.00 a fish. We will be offering online banking facilities. Tell me how many fish you would like and bank the money 06-0299-0287367-00 and I will bring next week.

If you have any questions please contact Robyn: icnz-rotary@outlook.com or 0297712396

Healing our waters reminder from last week:

Nigel Williams our travelling Billboard promoted this important upcoming meeting on the 10th of September. In case you can't zoom in far enough on the photo to get the details a copy of the poster has been attached to the email delivering this newsletter to you.



Rotary Quiz Night on 3 Sept at the Armitage Hotel, Tauranga:

President Anne mentioned this and would like a team from our club be there. Get back to President Ann, all keen quiz folk, to book your place! Ann has commented she is happy to go but not on her own so please put your hand up. A minimum of 4 Rotarian persons in each team starts at 6:30pm \$25 entry fee payable by bank transfer or cash on the night.

President Ann and Chris Keightley have agreed to go but two more are required please contact Ann urgently if you can make it.

Parting Thought – Lawrie Donald

“A mind is like a parachute, if you don’t open it, it won’t work!” By Frank Zapper