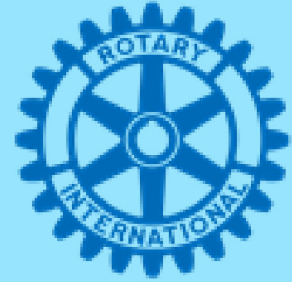




# Rotary Club of Katikati New Zealand



## Bulletin

Editor: [Nigel Williams](#)

26 November 2024

## Programme:

### Greeter\*

**10 December** - Francis Young on *Updating Katikati History*  
at **The Hub**

B.Y.O. food & drink

**Francis Young**

**17 December** - Christmas dinner at Fairview with the *Lions*

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**14 January** - Barbecue at Peter Mackay's, 71 Stewart Rd

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## Club Notices:

**Volunteers** required for:

1. **Helping set up** for the **Christmas dinner on 17 December**.
2. **Avocado Festival** on 11 January. This involves assistance with parking at the Uretara Domain and the Club will receive a donation of \$500. Two shifts: 7am-12pm or 12pm-4pm.

**17 December Christmas dinner:** - There will be **quick fire raffles** so in order to take part, we should **bring cash**. There will also be a **Secret Santa** so to be involved, please bring a **wrapped present** up to the value of \$10.

**January "Summer Picnics"** schedule — see page 5

## Apology ?

**Members**— If you are unable to attend a meeting please contact **Martin Hawke** by **12 Noon** the previous Friday.

Tel : **027 289 7785**









Email : [martin.hawke@xtra.co.nz](mailto:martin.hawke@xtra.co.nz)

# Membership Session

President Jenie showed us a 20 minute section from a recent video produced by **Mark Huddleston**, Chair of Club and Cultural Transformation, *Rotary South Pacific*. There were many important points made about transforming clubs to be relevant in our constantly changing world. **Most clubs are facing declining membership and those that refuse to adapt to a changing society will be unlikely to survive very much longer.**

Some of the important points include:

## 8 Key Elements of Cultural Transformation for Rotary in Zone 8

From a Male Culture to a Unisex Culture		From an Exclusive Culture to an Inclusive Culture	
From a Covert Culture to an Overt Culture		From a Rigid Culture to a Flexible Culture	
From a Culture of Member Attendance to a Culture of Member Engagement		From a Culture of Business Leaders to a Culture of Business & Community Leaders	
From a Formal Culture to an Informal Culture		From a Meeting Centric Culture to a Service Centric Culture	

1. We have an unhealthy obsession with **meetings**. We would provide far more effective service to our community if we focused on **being seen to be doing “hands-on” active projects**.
2. The best targets for finding new members are retired people. They have much more **discretionary spare time**.
3. Every meeting should have a **specific and worthwhile purpose**. Eliminate wasted time!
4. We would be much more visible in our community if we **actively promoted our projects** (use banners, flags, branded gazebo) and had a **web site that we all love** (including a **volunteer button**).
5. We should be prepared to spend at least **5% of our funds** raised on promoting our “public image”.

# Member's Talk

from **Jim Bremner**

Jim told us about the King Country family farm that he grew up on. In 1913 his grandfather purchased some 450 acres of virgin bush from the government for 5 pounds per acre.

This was felled over 10 years using slashers, axes and 2-man crosscut saws. The felled bush was left to dry for a minimum of 3 months and fires were lit to burn it off in February/March and grass hand-sown 3 weeks later.

Supplies were brought to the farm by horse and cart from a rail station 9 km away. 10 calves were the first stock introduced as fences were erected with posts and battens hand-split by his grandfather. Within 3 years the farm was carrying 50 sheep, 40 cattle and 3 horses.

The first house was built in 1915 using sawn timber brought to the site by horse and sledge. Early the next year his wife and 5 children arrived from Auckland to settle in. Jim's father was born in 1917 and was the only child born on the farm. A government built road arrived soon after and eventually became State Highway 4.

Lack of fertilising caused ragwort to suppress the grass and many local settlers "walked off" their farms. Grandfather held out but got most of his income from 20 dairy cows and also working at a local sawmill. During the Great Depression in the early 1930s 200 lambs and 27 cattle were despatched to the freezing works in Hamilton, resulting in a bill for 27 pounds to slaughter them!

Jim's father bought the farm from grandfather (now in his 70s) after returning from World War 2. His grandfather then started up his own taxi business. Two fully developed neighbouring properties were added to the farm in the late 1940s at little over 4 pounds per acre (less than the original undeveloped bush originally purchased!). The boom in wool prices in the early 50s allowed Jim's father to clear all debts.

Electricity became available around this time but the connection cost was an unaffordable 2,000 pounds (similar to what he paid for the farm next door!). Some years later Jim's mother took her 6 children to the power company office in Hamilton and got an interview with the General Manager, who stuck to the steep connection fee. She then refused to take her family home until he changed his mind. He returned from lunch but she "stayed put" for several hours until 2 weeping young girls brought him around and he relented!

Aerial topdressing ensured profitable farming for many hill country farms. Although most kids used to ride horses to primary school buses arrived in time for their young family. Jim's mum taught at a secondary school and ensured her family was well educated, catching bus or train for long commutes. Four of them completed university degrees.

The farm was leased out when his father died but his mother remained there until she was 90.

## Parting Thought from **Jim Bremner**

Little bird flying high in the sky  
Dropped a message from the sky  
"Arrh" said the farmer, wiping his eye  
It's a good job that cows don't fly



### **Refurbished Laptop Computers for a remote school in Kenya**

John Buchanan recently handed over 4 refurbished laptop computers to Calvin Ominde, the visiting-Head Teacher at the remote private Christian "[Ark Quest Education Centre](#)" school established by Calvin Ominde in his home village of Mahanga in Kenya. The village is 8 hours drive from Nairobi on very bad roads and receives no government funding.

In 2008, Calvin Ominde started a feeding programme for eight children in the village. Over the next three years, Calvin, and his friends, Peter Ndichu and Shem Kuyah, all university lecturers, were able to develop a school, which was eventually established on land made available by Calvin's father.

The first school building was erected with help from a team from **Bethlehem College**. It consisted of nine rooms constructed from eucalyptus pole and mud bricks, with corrugated iron roofs. More recently, the first three rooms of a permanent sixteen room school, were completed. The Centre provides schooling from kindergarten up to college level.

# Club “Summer Picnics” in January 2025

14 Jan. — at Peter Mackay’s, 71 Stewart Rd

21 Jan. — at Ongare Point Reserve

28 Jan. — at Paul Lassman’s, 410A Busby Rd

## What you Need to Know/Do/Bring:

1. **Advise** Martin Hawke (see bottom of page 1) of any **guests** (very welcome) attendance **or you and your partner’s apology** by 6p.m. the preceding **FRIDAY** night.
2. **Bring** with you full picnic gear including:
  - A **salad** or a **dessert** (with “serving utensils”)
  - Any other food **you wish to cook** on a **Barbecue**
  - **Plates, cutlery & glasses, tea/coffee cups/mugs**
  - Your choice of **drinks**
  - Picnic **table and chairs**
3. You will be welcomed at the venue **from 5p.m.**

## **Guide for Hosts**

- Borrow, if necessary) extra BBQs (with tongs) & tables for serving food
- Ask “friend-members” to assist you with set-up and take-down
- Offer tea & coffee after eating has finished

**Robyn Walker** advises that television's *Seven Sharp* visited Bethlehem Baptist Church in October- where they filmed a **RYDA** (Youth Driver Awareness) event put on by MT Maunganui College students. This programme will feature on TV1's *Seven Sharp* on **Monday 9 December**