

# Rotary Club of Katikati

# Bulletin

Tuesday 8 July 2025

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Editor: Ian Stevens

## Programme (upcoming)

## Greeter

**15th July - Fairview - Speaker Sue Spriggins, Foodbank**

**David Owen**

President Ann also advises the theme will be Mid-Winter Christmas. The Katikati Choir will sing carols from 6-6.25PM, arrive early if you can. Dinner will cost slightly more to cover the Xmas pudding dessert, and please bring a small gift no more than \$10 in value.

**22nd July - The Hub Speaker Carole Parker, Abbeyfields**

**Bronwyn**

**12th August - The Hub - no speaker BYO**

**Sandra**

**19th August Fairview Kurt Waugh WBOPDC on Community Resilience**

## Joint Meeting at the RSA

The meeting was a joint meeting with Paeroa Rotary and Katikati Rotary. There was a significant number of guests that were current or ex politicians there may also have been some political party members aligned to this years rotary flag colour! The Waihi RSA was humming with plenty of background noise, a lot of people were enjoying the good Kai and some were exercising their grey matter with quiz night.

## Greeters Introduction Talk – Alan Sole

Alan was disappointed that he was off the greeters talk and not talking about His favourite subject himself! instead he had the job of introducing the guest speaker as follows.

I have to introduce a man I have seen a bit of over the last 5 weeks. This man is into communities and has been a great supporter by giving his time to all of us.

You may have seen him on TV nodding his head like one of those dogs the back window shelf in a car, when sitting behind the Prime Minister.

No he was not falling asleep that was a very important part of his job as Chief Government Whip. Giving positive affirmation!.

Now he is our Minister of ACC, Commerce, and Consumer Affairs.

Please welcome a bloody good bloke and our MP for Coromandel.

The Honourable Scott Simpson



**Scott Simpson and President Ann**

## **Speaker – Scott Simpson**

Scott Started by explaining the Chief Whips Job which he assured us was a little more than head nodding. It was mainly about making sure you had enough MP's in the house to pass legislation! It was career limiting if you had the numbers of people but could get enough of them in the house when you needed them.

Scott then went on to talk a little about each Portfolio that he has now had for 4 month's.

Starting with Commerce he explained that it was about how we do business and make money to make everyone richer. It is part of the economics space allied to other ministries; finance, trade etc. The economy has been sick and stagnant we are all about trying to kick start the economy so the country can make enough money that businesses and workers pay enough tax so government can provide all the things a first world country expects at a high standard. For example Health Care, Aged Care, Education and in light of the current world geopolitical situation adequate defense capabilities.

We need people to work and grow the economy. Education is key and he talked about some emphasis on getting back to basics with a big emphasis on basic numeracy and literacy. Scott talked about Eric Stanford doing great work in the area.

Back to the economy all our key senior politicians, PM, Deputies, Finance Minister and Minister of Trade are all hustling on the world stage pushing hard for free trade deals.

Scott used the example of Todd Mclay (alias Trade Mclay) visiting Indian 8 times since the coalition had been formed to try and get a favorable trade deal over the line.

We are a free trade country, and we need to be export lead and we strongly encourage our primary producers to do even more.

Under Consumer Affairs Scott sounded the audience out on their views around surcharges for tap and go type cards versus eftpos and cash. He was particularly hot on retailers and business not even being open on what % surcharges they were applying.

There is not incentive for banks to improve their eftpos options as they were able to make more out of their other options.

One option Scott was exploring was forcing all pricing to be inclusive of all charges albeit there is then a risk that the cost of tap and go products would push prices up and the prices for all including those using the lower cost eftpos option. Retailers would then make bigger margins on the eftpos customers.

An interesting point with cash was that it is used much less in retail but there is more in circulation!! / Useful in a disaster with no power to drive the cashless transactions we all rely on.



**Scott Simpson making another point, Mayor James and Ex Mayor John Tregida assimilating / excited?!**

ACC has been around since 1974, the system is Unique to NZ and admired by many. It was based on the principles of No fault no litigation.

Prior to ACC a worker had to take a claim against their employer. 9 out of 10 cases were lost by the employee. In the 1 out of 10 cases that the employee won there was not sufficient money in the amounts awarded to pay their legal fees let alone any compensation.

Since its inception it is now possible to claim for significantly more situations including mental health and physical and sexual abuse.

Long term ACC dependent people numbers have gone up from 12000 back in 2017 to now between 25-27000 people.

As a result of a recent court ruling there are also a significant number of retrospective claims possible back to when people should have reasonably expected to be able to start working in it was not for impacts of their abuse impacting their ability to work. This additional cost could amount to \$3.4 billion.

Scott was not saying these changes were a bad thing but there is a significant problem in that the funding mechanisms have not kept up.

ACC had recently gone against the trend of reduced government department worker numbers as they have recently replaced case managers. They were cut a few years ago to save money but experience without them has shown that there were significant financial benefits.

Scott wrapped up by reiterating, we must get the economy growing so we can have First Nation Services!

Scott then fielded questions.

How do we maximise the potential of national resources?

We support this if done in an economic yet environmentally friendly manner.

Scott mentioned he felt Waihi Gold was a good example.

He also talked about Shane Jones and his pro mining stance and mentioned their government had overturned the no gas or oil exploration policy of the previous government. He raised the concern however as to whether this investment would happen given the possibility of a government change in 20 years and the ruling being reversed.

Does your Portfolio cover the crazy holiday trading laws? No, it is based on a conscious vote across all MPs. Personally, he was supportive of each business being able to decide.

Butter and Dairy products are very expensive for New Zealanders what can you do about that? It's based on export prices, and we don't believe the government should be involved in price control. We would rather work hard at making all New Zealanders richer so they can afford to pay for it.



**Alan Sole thanked Scott for his address.**

## **Trails Development Working Bee Opportunities**

Don't forget anyone who wants to be on an email list advising of club working bees email the editor at [ian@sftrust.co.nz](mailto:ian@sftrust.co.nz)

## **Humes Fun – Run / Walk**

Rotary volunteers did a great job helping with same day registrations for a huge number of people. Many others had done online registrations. This is the second year of the event and it is growing each year. A couple of members and family members enjoyed participating again the required color for participants to dress in was **blue!**

There were a large number of sponsors that supplied lots and lots of prizes. The editors family did extremely well and got a massive return on their \$30 donation that went to foodbank.





Rotary Volunteers at Registration



Who is that old participant coming up the track with blue rinse hair! she lost her tutu somewhere along the way!

## **News from the President Ann**

Good news to report, the Port Vila project has been completed and the District grant documentation sent to Pat Taylor. We will be applying for another District Grant for science equipment for the Port Vila school.

## **Parting Thought – Alan Sole**

“Thanks for dinner! I came for the food, stayed for the wine, and now I’m leaving before I’m asked to help with dishes. In life timing is everything!