

Rotary Club of Katikati

Bulletin



Editor: *Ian Stevens*

Tuesday 9th of September 2025

Programme (upcoming)

16th of September Fairview Meeting

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

Greeter – Rod Calver

23rd of September Hub Meeting Platters will be provided

Greeter – Chris Keightley

9th of September Hub Meeting Summary

President Ann gave a brief account of the Charitable Trust directors meeting prior to the main meeting. The editor gave a greeters talk, the members broke into committee meetings, brief reports followed. Bronwyn told tall tales and truths about the members. Secretary Chris updated members on coming events. This included the Uretara planting project which was carried out today which also involved some pampas grass stump removal, grovelling in mud with a few going for a paddle in the mighty Uretara river.

Greeters Talk – Ian Stevens

I spoke about projects currently keeping me busy

Project Parore

You may have heard of *Project Parore*. The formal name is Uretara Estuary Managers, and our very own Lawrie Donald was one of the driving forces behind it.

Their vision is simple: restore native vegetation along the streams that flow into Tauranga Harbour, so water quality improves by reducing sediment getting into the harbour which then means marine grass thrive and fish thrive.

The team prepares sites, plants natives, weeds, monitors waterways, and tackles pest plants and animals. They work with councils, the Ministry for the Environment, TECT, BayTrust. As well as paid employers there is a significant group of volunteers coordinated by a full-time manager.

The big challenge? In about 12 months, major government funding ends. While some groups might fold, Project Parore is planning to adapt by raising their own plants, building new income streams, and even taking on commercial contracts.

To support this, they needed a bigger base. After some discussions, our family trust agreed to lease them 7,000 square metres of land—a former railway embankment and kiwifruit block.

Over the last couple of months, we've been busy: putting in roads, power, water, offices, a shade house, nursery racks, irrigation, even a mural wall. The work is still underway, but meanwhile the team is also trying to get 50,000 plants in the ground by the end of this month.

It's an inspiring group, and if anyone here wants to get involved, discuss with me, Lawrie Donald or John Strongman and we will put you in touch with Sharon Strong the volunteer coordinator.

Track Building

On the local trails front I have been held up due to intense involvement with the Parore project, hopefully my focus will switch back to Tracks the following is a brief update.

- **Henry Road to Rawaka Drive:** Basically done. Just waiting on signage and a tidy-up of cow ruts.
- **Wharawhara to Rawaka:** Fencing, a small bridge, and some digger work still to go, plus planting and weeding with Regional Council and Project Parore support.
- **Elmwood Road Paper Road link:** Brien James and I have cleared a section between two streams. Next up, bridges and fencing. This could one day be part of a route to connect Katikati through to Pahoia.

Holiday & Riding Plans

I also spoke about trying to schedule some CT110 Postie bike rides with family and friends in New Zealand.

We are also planning routes, accommodation etc. for cycling trips next year in Tasmania and Germany.

A tractor trek is also getting closer.

[News Items in no particular order so keep alert read, commit and diary where applicable](#)

Katikati 150 Year Celebration reminder

The programme

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

The Events Descriptions

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

Secretary Reminders

- World Peace Day – Bill Robinson email – 23/7
- Healing our Waters – Waikato university Campus - 5.30pm on 10 Sep
- Volunteers Required for planting at The Landing - Wednesday 10 Sept
- SGM for 23 Sep – to ratify new Constitution -please read it before the 23 September

News Reports of Rotary In Action

There was a good turn out of members for both planting days at the Uretara.



Katikati Rotarians Listening to the Briefings for the Uretara Planting day on the 3rd of September.



Our coordinator today went above and beyond to check that it was safe and if anyone should fall into the Uretara. David Foris helped and demonstrated how to assist with a spade should anyone fall in.

A Katikati Computer Impact story

This is a story of Sok Liza. She is 15 years old.

She is studying in grade 10.
She was born in Phnom Penh with her other 2 siblings.
She is the older sister.



Her 2 younger siblings are also studying in the After-school center at Flame School in Cambodia.

She is living with her parents, her 2 siblings, and another 2 cousins.
Her father is a Tuk Tuk driver and her mother is a tailor at the Daughter Organization.

This is her experience of learning in the center. Liza says:

"I came to study at Flame at the end of 2021 when I was in grade 7. And now I'm in grade 10.

That time my mom heard about Flame from someone, who said that Flame organization no charging fee.

After she hear about that, my mom so happy and told me and my sister to study at Flame because she cannot pay school for us. then my dad brought us to Flame and register to study here.

Now, we have been studying for almost 4 years now. However, before I was a girl who didn't have the confidence to talk with someone else or to make friends with others. I was so shy and didn't talk much. I felt so strange and nervous. I have never learned computer before. I feel so excited to study at Flame and especially got the opportunity to study computer class for free. When I come to study at Flame, it makes me study hard.

The first time at the computer class, I feel like I don't understand anything about computer. It is really hard for me but after I study it for a while, I like it more and I can understand more about Microsoft office such as typing English and Khmer, MS Word and Power point.

Moreover, I can create document for admin work such as, forms, letters, create beautiful slides and using difference idea and tools.

I can learn a lot of good lessons from my computer teacher too. I feel so happy that I can learn computer. It will help me a lot in my study and finding a good job in my future too.

I want to say thanks you to Flame for giving me a great opportunity to learn. I am still searching and finding more about myself for what I want to do in the future.

I just know what I have to do now is study hard to finish my grade 12 successfully and can continue to study at colleges.

In the colleges, I want to study business management and IT.

Healing our Waters organized by Omokoroa Rotary

4 Katikati Rotary Club members attended the meeting and listened to 3 excellent speakers. The health of our rivers, lakes and coastal water was discussed. All New Zealanders have serious work to address the issue and heal our waters. Lets just say if you thought our country is clean and green this is bull S...!

One of those speakers is coming to our next Rotary Meeting he is excellent. Bring your partner and as many people as you can to listen to a very good speaker with a really good message.

Parting Thought – Ian Stevens

"When we care for the land and waterways, we're not just planting trees — we're planting a future for our community. The work we do today will be the tracks our children walk tomorrow." Chatgpt