



Local in Action, Global in Vision.



Notify your attendance or apology (by Sunday 5pm) to Steve Jenkins ph 478 8467 or email jenkins@kiwilink.co.nz

The Club normally meets Monday at Pupuke Golf Club, 231 East Coast Rd, Mairangi Bay www.ecbrotrary.co.nz



This month's Rotary District 9910 area of focus is Education and Literacy.

**Next meeting
5.30 for 6 pm
16 September**

**Michael Belgrave
Ihumatao is it the
new bastion point?
Guests welcome.**

23/09 AGM's

**07/10
DG's visit**

I remember a conversation I had years ago in England, with a past chairman of the British Medical Association. This doctor prided himself in instructing the then Minister of Health that it didn't matter how much money the government poured into health, it would never be "enough" to pay for everything that was available. "Health spending" he said "is a bottomless pit. And that was before some of the super-expensive medicines and treatments available now.

Alexis Poppelbaum described to us on Monday evening how, uniquely in the world, the NZ Pharmac organisation attempts to address the spending issue on medications. By using a combination of critical analysis of the available drugs, and then a competitive business approach to secure the best prices for those drugs, it enables a fixed budget to stretch a lot further and provide a variety of drugs that we could otherwise not afford.

And there's the rub, "what we can afford". And it isn't just the drugs. We are a small population scattered over a long thin country. We have a relatively small tax base. Equitable provision of health care is a real challenge. It's also a conversation that doesn't happen often enough. We hear a lot about expensive therapies that the government should fund (that means that taxpayers should fund - though the link is often overlooked) but we hear less about some basic, cheaper, and way less sexy health needs not being met. Adequate healthcare for children in Northland, any kind of dental care for many adults who just can't afford a visit to the dentist (only option currently is lining up at Greenlane at 6am in the hope of being early enough in the queue to get your tooth extracted), the list goes on.

It isn't just money though, systems also count. In the OECD the USA spends more per capita than anyone else, and by a substantial amount. But its health statistics are closer to the bottom of the table. The UK spends less than half the USA, with stats near the top. Public health measures in any country make a huge difference. Cuba, by no means a wealthy country, used to top the world in child health outcomes because of an excellent public health system. I checked the Unicef website to see where they are now.

| | 16 September | 23 September | 30 September | 7 October |
|---|---|---|-----------------------|---|
| | Michael Belgrave Is Ihumatao the new Bastion Point? Guests welcome. | Club Meeting Club & Trust AGM's Committee Meetings | Lynley Allison | DG Visit Governor Ian Kiernan Partners Night |
| Invocation | Keith Young | Jim Mayo | Gary Morgan | Fay Norman |
| Reception | Beverley Lea | Lynette Miller | Monica Webb | Therese Leslie |
| Attendance | Steve Jenkins | Steve Jenkins | Steve Jenkins | Steve Jenkins |
| Cash Desk | | | | Paul Asquith |
| Fellowship | Ian Collard | Ian Collard | Ian Collard | Ian Collard |
| | Amanda Chambers | Amanda Chambers | Amanda Chambers | Amanda Chambers |
| | John Shadbolt | John Shadbolt | John Shadbolt | John Shadbolt |
| Stewards | Bruce Dunlop | Steve Goeldner | Rod Fergusson | Stephen Wheeler |
| | Barry McLean | Jim Mayo | Bruce Dunlop | Martin Reiss |
| | Martin Reiss | Alan Astrop | Alistair New | Warren Patterson |
| 3 Min. Talk | | | | |
| Intro. Speaker | Monica Webb | | Martin Reiss | Sean Harris |
| Thank Speaker | Alan Astrop | | Therese Lesley | Peter Garnett |
| Parting Thought | Robyn Young | Steve Goeldner | Rod Fergusson | Warren Patterson |
| Yee Hsien Hosting | Stephen Wheeler | Paul Asquith | Alan Astrop | Amanda Chambers |
| If you cannot carry out your allocated duty, it is your responsibility to arrange for someone else to do that duty | | | | |
| Yee-Hsien Wu is staying with Dr Naseem Ali and his wife Dr Nazimah Nazeem ph 021 2602520 | | | | |

Same under 5 mortality as NZ and, take note, 99% of children getting their second dose of the measles vaccine. No measles epidemic coming their way! Effective public health measures can be limited by political and commercial biases. There is good evidence of the effect of alcohol on young brains, the effect of high dietary sugar loads on all of us, but we still have a bottle shop on every corner with cheap RTDs aimed especially at those young brains and whole aisles of the supermarket given to fizzy drinks at rock bottom prices.

So plenty to think about - we do well here with the limited pot of money that we have, but there is plenty of room for a more equitable system with a strong public health focus behind it.

Notices.

Beverley still needs help with morning tea and lunch Saturday 14/09 and Sun. 15/09. Downton Abbey film at the Bridgeway is still on for 22/09.

Fine Houses of Devonport is on Friday, 1 November 9.30 to 4.30 to visit ten homes. Tickets are \$70 each half of which will come to our club. Contact Paul if you are interested.

Sunday 22/09 clean up Moire Reserve with Hobsonville Point Satellite Club. 9.30 start.

Fay thanked those who helped with the Pinehurst BBQ. They raised \$486.65.

TGIF 11 November Long Bay Surf Club which is behind Long Bay Reserve and reached via a new road Glenvar Ridge Rd off Glenvar Rd.

District Quiz 5/10 6pm see attachment.

Alexis Popplebaum who was previously a policy analyst with Pharmac in Wellington gave us a very interesting address telling us how Pharmac worked.



She showed us a very expensive pill with a 95% cure rate. It cost \$1000 per pill! It was so expensive it was delivered personally to your house. There is no bulk buying and they are completely separate from Med Safe, the DHBs and the Government. They keep prices down by having a tender process each year. The budget is \$1 billion from

PHARMAC's management model



Challenges

- Rising cost of medicines (specialised orphan drugs)
- Quality of clinical research going down
- Early access to medicines / ring-fenced funding
- Special treatment of some diseases
- Equitable access
- Funding the next best investment for the best health outcomes

a \$20 billion health budget. They provide hospital and community medicines, blood,

vaccines and medical devices. Since 2009 they have saved 6 billion by the tender process. 10% of patients used 80% of the budget. The process for new medicines involves clinical advice, economic advice which provides a ranking and public consultation with the community and DHBs. Factors for consideration are need—considering health benefits to the person and family, consequences—dealt with by GP rather than hospital, costs and savings to Health and the person, suitability. Challenges— Rising cost—80% paid by taxpayers, quality of clinical research which seems to be getting poorer, early access and ring fencing (which she did not like), special treatment and equitable access.

Finding the next best investment for best health outcomes.

Support for Auckland City Mission - final evening

What a wonderful effort this week 😊

I took our contributions to ACM late on Tuesday morning and 2-3 of their team turned up when I arrived with huge smiles and thankyou.

They were just about to start packing parcels. They said ACM continues to struggle to keep up with the demand for support, their stocks were very low and our contribution would really made a difference.

So this week we provided the following:

21 cans of fruit, 7 cans of soup, 3 cans of spaghetti, 2 packets of noodles, 2 packets of rice, 2 boxes of fruit sticks and a bag of Skippy Flakes.

2 cartons of laundry powder, 11 tubes of toothpaste, 10 toothbrushes, 11 packets of women's sanitary products, 2 bottles of shampoo and one of mousse, 17 cakes of soap, 6 containers of body wash, 5 combs, and 1 box of tissue. Together with 3 cartons of Bedding

A **Big Thank** to all of you who have contributed over the past 4 weeks.

A special thanks goes to Carol and members of Rent-a-Crowd for their wonderful support. Many thanks Peter