

# The 2000's





DISTRICT 9920, AUCKLAND, NZ

# 1 July 2000 – 30 June 2001

## President Colin Beckwith



Colin was an optician with a practice in the Remuera shopping centre. He subsequently sold his practice, resigned from the club and retired with Helen to Warkworth.

## Books in Homes Part 3

In August 2000 Raewyn James again addressed Remuera Rotary at its weekly meeting of 14th August. She spoke with enthusiasm on how well the Books in Homes programme was working for the children and their families. At the time the Tamaki area was facing an uphill battle when it came to education. It had the largest number of single parent families, a large roll turnover, many pupils with English as a second language, and children who were underfed and did not perform well.

The Books in Homes Programme was however remarkably successful which resulted in vastly improved pupil behaviour. School assemblies at which books were given out always attracted a keynote speaker, such as Dame Susan Devoy. Raewyn also spoke about Tamaki Primary more generally, mentioning in particular the allocation of social worker resource to the school, a Tamaki Pathway initiative to develop closer communication among the primary, intermediate and secondary schools and the

beginnings of a Parent/Teachers Association. The school was also benefiting from the supply of computer equipment

### Tree Planting in Hobson Bay Walkway

On one Sunday in July 2000 several members turned up and contributed to the planting of 400 trees, shrubs and grasses. They gained enormous satisfaction from seeing the look of the walkway transformed in under three hours. There was no flag or notice indicating that the club members were Rotarians undertaking voluntary work – some passers-by seeming to think those undertaking the planting were PD workers. Fortunately subsequent similar activities have had suitable club signage/flags.

Adrian Vennell noted that he happened to be among those taking part though he had then hardly heard of Rotary in any form. He recalled also removing rubbish in fairly large quantities from the adjacent tidal stream where he could get access and was photographed with a large piece of plastic rescued from the shoreline. Adrian lived adjacent to the walkway in Hapua Street off Shore Road and took pride each time he walked in that area in the trees, ground cover and grasses that were planted on that Sunday.



# 1 July 2001 – 30 June 2002

## President Leigh Marshall



From the Annual Report for the year:

- Vocational talks were introduced for members, and these proved to be an interesting feature of meetings helping to educate members about the diverse careers, professional activities and talents of our members.
- The speaker programme for the year was a strong one - some of the highlights were Auckland Mayoral candidates, the Race Relations Conciliator, and political party leaders.
- Continued funding to Diocesan and Dilworth schools for another year at \$500 per school for Trees for Survival. Jim Holmes assisted Dilworth with planting.
- Adopt a Ward: Colin Wilson organised this new project for Ward 2 - the Cardiac Care Ward at Greenlane Hospital. The ward lacked in many areas in both patient and relatives comforts. The club provided 5 TVs among other facilities.
- Funding for Tamaki Primary and Intermediate Schools for Books in Homes was extended for a further two years, at a cost of approximately \$4,650 pa. Several members attended the school assemblies.
- The club collected surplus sports equipment from members for Salvation Army the residents of Rotoroa Island in the Hauraki Gulf.
- Remuera Market Day: The club held a sausage sizzle raising \$730 for the club. This was a bi-yearly event for many years.
- Presented a Vocational Service Award to teachers at Dilworth and Diocesan Schools.

- Participated in the Genesis Summer Science programme, sponsoring 3 students from Diocesan School.
- Sponsored 9 students from Tangaroa College to attend the Navman Science and Technology Experience.
- Organised the Business is Awesome seminar for 68 6th and 7th formers.
- Ran the VIP camp at Camp Adair for students from Homai College, with help from Rotary Exchange Students.
- Raised \$3000 towards a target of \$19,000 to provide funding for an Age Concern Co-ordinator.
- Provided 3 Emergency Boxes for disaster relief in the Pacific Islands.
- Held a Christmas Cruise on the Pacific Mermaid.
- Supported Woody Bould as a Rotary Exchange student in Argentina, who spoke to the club when he returned.
- Hosted the GSE team from Sweden for the week of 14 – 20 April.
- Funded 5 computers to be recycled through the Ark Recycling Trust.
- Donated 2 computers to Kawhia primary School.
- Set up a Website for the Club at [www.Rotary.org.nz](http://www.Rotary.org.nz) – thanks to Richard Veber.
- We were notified that a Rotary Foundation Community Assistance Program application we had made was approved by the Foundation, to provide a Blood Pressure Machine at the Liver transplant unit at Auckland Hospital.
- Held a Spring Festival of Chamber Music in October at Cotter House, to provide an opportunity for students at the Auckland University School of Music gain some experience in public performance. Funds raised were share with the School of Music.



Pacific Mermaid

# 1 July 2002 – 30 June 2003

## President Wayne Brewer



### Motuihe Tree Planting Scheme – Part 1

President Wayne Brewer and Michael Bernecker and their wives visited the island in 2002 and by chance met John Laurence. At the time John was Chairman of the Trust and chairman to this day. John told them what was being done on the island, and that the success of the project depended upon the input from a large number of volunteers. Wayne was impressed and offered the services of Remuera Rotary.

From then on club members together with partners/friends travelled to the island once a month on the volunteer days which were held on the second Sunday of the month during the wet season. Initially transport was arranged on Hugh Garlick's boat El Toro. After that they caught the ferry from Downtown.

**Exchange Student Marie-Luise Laemmle** from Germany was hosted by the club. Counsellor Michael Bernecker; and hosts Keith & Val Puxty and Leigh and Betsy Marshall. Marie-Luise currently lives in Bonn, and works at Engagement Global, a non-profit limited organization, commissioned by the German Federal Government (by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development), as a project manager to support the development activities of local entities, especially German municipalities, in the area of fair trade and public procurement. She has now completed a post-graduate Master's degree course in Educational Leadership

## Polio Eradication

Wayne's report for the year noted: The year started with a donation of \$10,000 to the Rotary Foundation from club funds for Polio Eradication and at years end donation to this cause amounted to \$11,100. This plus members contributions to the Foundation of \$4,000 plus has resulted in the credits of six Paul Harris Fellowships. 40 members gave on average \$120 each with the highest individual donation being \$723.

## District Governor's "Home Club"

Wayne noted "It was indeed an honour to be the DG's Home Club and host District Functions on behalf of District. Our Assistant Governor Geoff Shapland has been very supportive of the Club being in regular contact liaising as the DG's assistant.

**DG Tony Fortune** noted "Having been District Chair of Youth Exchange, District Secretary for Charles Goldie and Assistant Governor for DG Mike Jaduram and DG Mark Tregidga I was encouraged to apply to apply to be District Governor. With the support of my law firm partners and the Club I put my name forward. I was keen to use technology as much as possible during the year and was the first DG not to produce a District Handbook which was not a popular move with many older Rotarians.



At Governor training in Anaheim, California January 2002, Anne and I were formally introduced to Rotary International President 2002-03 Bichai Rattakul and his wife Charoye and the Theme for the year "Sow the Seeds of Love".

As the RI Convention in 2003 was to be in Brisbane we decided to hold the District Conference at the end of September 2002 to encourage as many District Rotarians to attend the Convention. The Conference was held in the Sports Centre at St

Kentigern College, Pakuranga. Conference Chair Murray Weatherston put together an excellent speaker programme interspersed with music and dance interludes. Inner Wheel members and numerous Club members provided great support of the Conference. Two highlights of Conference for me were the Peter Boshier and Howard Broad

challenging presentation and the Reflections segment on Sunday morning presented by Norman Brookes and Des Buckner.



RI President's Rep at Conference was Linda Coble from Hawaii. She is pictured with husband Kirk Matthews aides PDG Rob Crabtree & Chris and DGN Beryl Robinson at the Saturday night Conference dinner.

The support of the club and in particular President Wayne, Roy Austin as District Trainer (a role he kept for two further years), Ken Taylor as District Secretary, David Searle as DG Treasurer, Brian Cooper as Bulletin Editor and Richard Veber with website support made the year hugely rewarding for Anne and me. Many thanks to you all."



President Wayne reported that the Brisbane Convention was a real highlight with nineteen members and partners attending. Wayne urged all members to consider any opportunity to attend a Convention at least once. There is so much to learn about the vast Rotary organisation and in 2003 we had the chance to experience the aura of President Bichai Rattakul which was truly memorable.

Bichai's philosophy is that Rotary matters at the grassroots not with the President but with the clubs and members like ourselves. Bichai strived to lead with dignity, humility and integrity – he certainly did that. Convention recollections of wonderful fellowship and contacts made left an indelible impression. (Bichai was a senior Thai politician and served as Deputy Prime Minister for two terms, Speaker of the House of

Representatives and President of the National Assembly.)

Keith Fraser and his team of golfing supporters put in so much work organising and running the annual **Golf Tournament** which in 2002-03 raised \$15000 for Club Funds.

The Quiz Team of Brian Cooper, John Beck, Matthew Morgan and Murray Lander won the **District Rotary Quiz**.

# 1 July 2003 – 30 June 2004

President Brian Cooper



## Motuihe Tree Planting – part 2





# 1 July 2004 – 30 June 2005

## President Murray Weatherston



At President Murray Weatherston's final address as 2004/2005 President which took place at the Northern Club the first item was the presentation of certificates for 25 years' membership of Remuera Rotary. Roger Bridgman and John Simpson were duly presented with their certificates



At the same meeting **Lionel Laing Fellowship** Award was to be made for the first time. Trevor Bringans arose and explained this award. Lionel Laing had been a long standing member of our club, very generous and a great believer in Fellowship. The award was now to be made annually to the one who best exemplified Fellowship during the year. The current President and Fellowship Committee members were to be ineligible for this award.



The first winner was announced as John Beck.

In April 2005 the Club conducted its first meeting at the Remuera Bowling Club premises in Dromorne Road



*RYLA*  
*July 3 - 9*  
*2005*  
*Rotary Club of*  
*Remuera Inc*

The club took on the responsibility of organising RYLA for 2005.

The organisers were Tony Fortune, Roy Austin, Kristy Austin, Brett Murray, David Searle, Iain Valentine, Brian Cooper, Natalie Allen who had been on RYLA the year before and, in her introduction to Remuera Rotary, Barbara Morgan as 'camp mother' – a role she fulfilled very well.

(Dr Natalie Allen gained a PhD in urban design from University of Auckland in 2016 and now has her own firm called The Urban Advisory)



The week involved activities and lectures at Willow Park Convention Centre, Eastern Beach followed by a challenging 48 hour outdoor exercise.

Brett Murray put together a very interesting series of lectures with some outstanding speakers. One particularly fascinating session was presented by District Court Judges Bernard Kendall and Charles Blackie who were members of Auckland East Rotary. They detailed the facts of a traffic accident causing death and the person who caused the accident. The Awardees were in teams and had to decide what penalty was set by the Court. The actual penalty was much more significant than the teams assessed.





**Exchange Student** Timo Harju from Finland was hosted by the club for the year. Hosts included Carol & John Cowan, Don Hawke & Brigitta Windhager and Bob & Betsy Elliott;

# 1 July 2005 – 30 June 2006

## President Bryan Haggitt



Looking rather stunned at the prospect of being president, Bryan has accepted the chain from outgoing president Murray.

Changeover took place at the Northern Club.

## New World Remuera Liaison Money Raising Projects

In the latter years from about 2006 onwards New World Remuera has been instrumental in assisting Remuera Rotary with annual campaigns to take place in or about December of each year to encourage shoppers to donate grocery items and/or cash to such charities as the Auckland City Mission, YMCA House in Remuera all to assist improver shipped people to special Christmas Dinner Dinners.



The food bank appeal at the beginning of December every year has been organised and still is by Niel Ewart.



Beverley Lang with President Bryan about to present the **Fellowship trophy** at Changeover.

#### From Bryan's Presidents report:

Following on from Rotary's Centennial Year in which we frenetically achieved over 100 completed projects - 2005/6 has been intentionally quieter - however it does not mean we have stood still. To review the Year I comment on:

- **Our Venue - Remuera Bowling Club.** We had only just moved there from the Commerce Club - to a few it appeared "musty, dusty and fusty". But what would you expect from a 100 year old clubhouse with Honours Boards for Africa and with the heads of all their past Presidents mounted round the walls? On the credit side, I believe it is an honour and a privilege for us to be granted the use of such an historic building and to have this association with the Bowling Club, a venerable institution in its own right.

Since our arrival renovations have made a vast difference. The Bowling Club is now spic and span, has new stairs and even a lift. Our banners are hung and, thanks to the generosity and dexterity of Brad Bridges, we now have an impressive lectern to complete an appropriate Rotary presence. Above all, we no longer have to put up with the competing noises from "next door" as we had to at the previous venue.

- **Membership** - a net gain of two for the year and **Barbara Morgan, Jacky Eales and Christopher Diggle** have been welcomed to the fold.
- **The Committees and their Directors:**
- **Ways and Means - Leigh Marshall** and Team raised close to **\$35,000** by way of an Auction, Movie night, Street Collections (x 2) and Sausage sizzles - and most importantly \$11,000 net raised by **Keith Fraser** and his Golf Committee.

### **And the money was spent by:**

- **Youth - David Hunt** - as always a very busy Committee. No VIP Camp this year due to the **Southern Cross Games for the Blind** but we provided transport for the participants. Our relationship with Diocesan and Dilworth Schools has been resurrected and both entered 3 teams for **MUNA**. We sponsored 3 Diocesan girls to the **Genesis Summer Science School**. Assisted and sponsored a student to **Challenge 2006**. Also, thanks to Barbara Morgan, we are now sponsoring an **Interact Club** at Auckland International College. **RYLA** - John Service interviewed some outstanding youngsters and 8 attended the week long seminar (the Club directly funded 3 @ \$575 and Past DG Ross Craig sponsored the other 5 from Trust funds controlled by him). The new **Rotaract Club**, founded September 2005, struggled to maintain its initial optimism, worked manfully in renovating/painting the Wild Hall, ran a successful Car Rally but stuttered in the New Year when its Treasurer absconded with virtually all its funds. Police were informed, charges are being laid but any recovery is unlikely.
- **Vocational - Tony Drillien** – Tony’s first Directorship with the Club and he has to be congratulated on his conscientiousness! **Books in Homes** continued to be a key project for us – particular thanks to Tony and the other members who attended ceremonies at Tamaki Primary and Intermediate Schools. The **Business is Awesome** seminar was again outstanding - chaired wonderfully, as always, by Prof. Richard Higham and assisted very ably by our own Iain Valentine.
- **International - Michael Berneker - Medical Supplies** were enthusiastically collected and dispatched to the Pacific Islands and the **Dental Trips to Fiji** by Drs Ken Taylor and Niel Ewart - the free dental care given to the needy on outlying islands up in Fiji is quite invaluable. In addition we sponsored **Operation Tabitha** – Auckland International College’s Cambodian project of house building.
- **Community - Ed Mitchell - The Moe Ora Cradle scheme** was instigated with a view to reducing the instances of babies sleeping in the same beds as their parents and running the risk of being smothered. We funded the **Salvation Army Bridge Centre** renovations which were overdue and much needed. **Motuihe Island replanting** continued to prove most successful and had the added benefit of being an excellent fellowship event. Wayne Brewer’s efforts to recruit numbers each month were well rewarded and thanks, too, to Hugh Garlick for providing “El Toro” on most occasions.
- **Club Service – Gordon Cuthbert** (President Elect) oversaw:
  - Sergeants - Geoff Hope & Blair Wingfield** who extracted more than their pennyworth, built up a healthy Sunshine Fund (to add to that inherited) and enabled us to support a number of most worthy causes.
  - Bulletin Editor - George Valentine** proved to be one of the most enthusiastic Editors we have ever had!
  - Programme - Colin Wilson** provided a superb range of speakers. The 3 politicians who addressed us all got elected – John Key, Rodney Hide and Alan Peachey. And we had educationalists, such as Dame Marie Clay, and businessmen Owen McShane plus a couple of economists. Two of our own members spoke - Roy Austin and Murray Weatherston. Last but not least, the Oragamist astonished us!

**Fellowship – Wayne Brewer** as usual had every social event organised to a tee. The Marine setting for the Christmas Party was stunning.

### **Administration**

**Secretary – Jim Holmes**

**Treasurer – Murray Lander**

Both tackled the difficult “Club Mate” computer programme with great diligence and undertook these very onerous duties so willingly that they are going to continue in these roles in the coming year!

**District:** Our Club has a well earned reputation of being most supportive of the incumbent DG and team. A remarkable number of our own members serve on District Committees and this year Tony Fortune, Roy Austin and Brett Murray (the latter for the first time) chaired their respective committees.

With this in mind, I felt our need to participate in the **Race Day** – to give the **District Fellowship Committee**, chaired by Brett, our full support. His object was fellowship – **a day to bring together all the various aspects of Rotary** (ie Rotoract, Inner Wheel, Probus and Rotary). With hindsight it was, perhaps, too ambitious and the logistics of costings should have been communicated more strongly. To have withdrawn at the last moment would have been a disaster for the Newmarket Club, the organiser. Newmarket assist us in many ways, particularly RYLA. Eighteen members and friends represented us, and enjoyed the fellowship on the Day but a net loss of \$2,000 was disappointing for which I take responsibility.

A second issue of contention was our “underwriting”, to a maximum of \$5,000, of the initial costs of **“Step Up”** - another new District initiative. The aim - to bridge the gap between RYLA and Rotary membership. Nothing ventured, nothing gained – and the maximum cost, should the project unexpectedly fail, not a major concern to a club such as ours bearing in mind our substantial reserves. Again – the project seemed well worth supporting with its excellent prospects. The negativity that ensued from some members was disappointing but, thankfully, this did receive the Club’s backing.

**In conclusion**, despite the couple of issues mentioned, I have thoroughly enjoyed the Year and appreciated this opportunity to further Rotary. It has been a most rewarding experience for me and I am most grateful for all the help and support given me by Officers, Directors and members – thank you all!



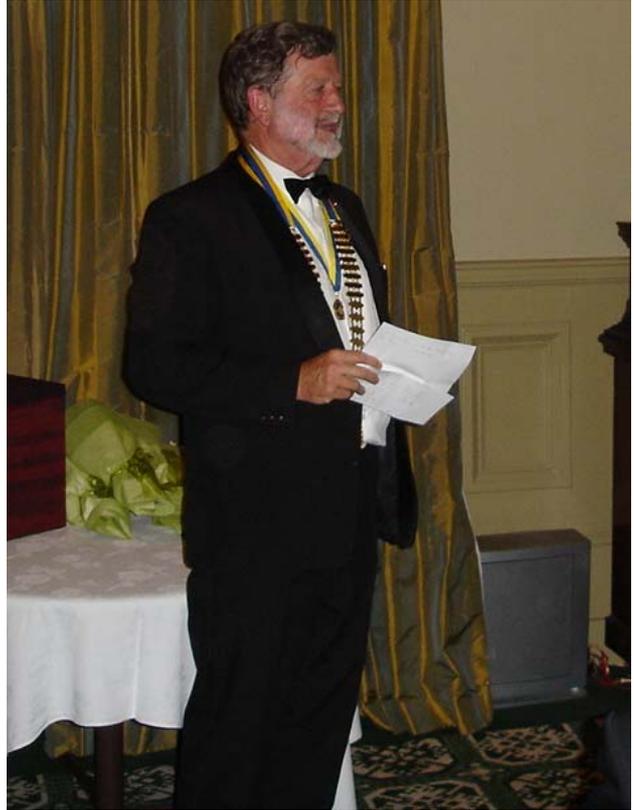
The Golf Team – Colin Beckwith, Keith Fraser, Geoff Hope & Ken Taaylor.

#### RYLA Applicants - 2006

YOUNG	Ben	Per Garth Harris - Rotarian. Ben is a colleague. Webmaster/student Interviewed exceptionally well - highly motivated, entrepreneurial skills & community minded. Puts achievements (has sold 3 businesses to date!) down to setting goals.
TURNER	Mark	Per Bryan Haggitt - Rotarian/Parnell Cricket Club. Engineering/Commerce student (ave A- to date, 2nd year) Interview relaxed, confident, self starter & high achiever both academically & at sport. Prefect - AGS 2004, Premier cricketer 2004-6 (05/06 505 runs ave 33) University Scholarship (30 of 500 applicants).
PHILLIPS	David	Per Bryan Haggitt/St Aidan's Anglican Church Youth Group. Medical student (spec. neuroscience), 4th year Quiet achiever - academic, sport/fitness & highly community minded. One of 10 organisers/participants of Run NZ (Feb 2004), a charity run Nth Cape to Bluff (persuaded World Vision to back the cause). Obtained pilot's licence at 19 - raised tuition funds himself.
COOPER	Laura	Per Brian Cooper - Rotarian (RYLA Committee 2005). Laura is daughter (brother Martin did RYLA 2004). Arts student. Interviewed very well - keen to take part & is highly motivated in Community matters.
BURROWES	Brad	Per John Burrowes - Rotarian. Brad is his son. Engineering student (4th year) Interviewed as confident self starter. Is a talented sportsman (golf/cricket) but particular achievement/interest is in computer team games - rep NZ in Korea 2005 &, if successful in final in July, Milan this year.
McCORMICK	Matt	Per Rex Clapp - Rotarian. Matt is Grandson. Law/Arts student - 3rd year, internship Minter Ellison Perhaps most personable of all the candidates - interviewed delightfully frank. High achiever at AGS after difficult start at St Kentigern
WALSH	James	Per Bryan Haggitt - Parnell CC Premier Grade player, talented fast bowler. Confident at interview Commerce student at Auckland University
SHARMA	Rajiv	Per Bryan Haggitt - Cornwall CC Premier player. Was Head Prefect at Auckland Grammar. Exceptional academic and sporting achiever - now an Engineering student

# 1 July 2006 – 30 June 2007

President Gordon Cuthbert



Awaiting the Haggis



**From President Gordon's Annual Report:**

- I must mention the inaugural Step Up programme, created from the drive and enthusiasm of Brett Murray, eventually picked up with the full support of the Directors and the Club as a whole, and which resulted in this Club being awarded the District Award for the Best Project.
- In addition the drive of John Cowan ensured that Business is Awesome survived another year and resulted in the Club being given what must be its largest individual donation ever – from the Auckland New Venture Foundation.
- Keith Fraser again took on the challenge of running the Golf Day and with the help of many members this activity again succeeded in becoming our most successful individual fundraiser.
- During the year we continued to support Books in Homes at Tamaki Primary and Intermediate Schools;
- We saw the establishment of the Auckland International College Interact Club but, regrettably, saw Remuera Rotoract Club turn to ashes.
- Membership of the Club remained reasonably static during the year. We welcomed new members Ketan Bedekar, Catherine Harris, Tom Enright and Jason Enright during the year. Keith Simpson returned after a period of time away to look after other community activities. Collin Beckwith finished building his retirement home up north and, with regrets all round, moved on and Geoff Hope found that Rotary out West became more convenient.
- DG Warwick had encouraged all clubs, above anything, not to have crappy meetings and to have fun - the programme put together by Colin Wilson was top class.
- We also had a very full social programme very ably put together by Wayne Brewer.
- Sergeant Sharyn made sure that extracting money was effective and reasonably painless. Social activities were organised by most of the committees at some time during the year.
- I am pleased to report that the Club has been awarded a Presidential Citation for the past year. This is to be presented at the Tauranga District Conference.

**Paul Harris Fellowships** were presented during the year to Brett Murray for his involvement with Step Up, to Beverley Laing, widow of late club member Lionel Laing, for her continuing involvement and encouragement in Club activities, and to Murray Lander and Jim Holmes for completing second years, respectively, as Treasurer and Secretary. All these were richly deserved.



**Visually Impaired Camp**, which was organised by John Beck, was again very successful with 16 young VIP students attending.

The Camp was well supported and catered for by Club members.

The concert, the mudslide and the confidence course were highlights of the weekend. Year 13 students from Kings College became wonderful buddies for the participants and entered fully into the spirit of the camp.



# 1 July 2007 – 30 June 2008

President Richard Veber



**Paul Harris Fellowships** were presented during the year to Roger Bridgman (a sapphire) for his work with the Liver Transplant Trust, Glenys and Bruce Smith, John Beck, for the Visually Impaired Persons Camp project, and Tony Drillien for Books in Homes project. These were for extra contribution over more than just this year by way of these projects.



Roger Bridgman



Tony Drillien



Keith Fraser

Keith Fraser was awarded a Rotary Golf trophy for his outstanding contribution to the club over many years, with his organising, assisted by many club members, of his annual golf day which has been a steady and major contributor to club funds.

Sue Curlett was made an Honorary Member for her contribution to the NZ Children's Transplant Support Trust over many years.

### **Rotary Club of Remuera Incorporated Charitable Trust**

30 June 2008 Rotary Club of Remuera Incorporated Charitable Trust was registered. Under the Charities Act 2008 Rotary Clubs were no longer able to be registered as charitable entities and therefore most clubs in New Zealand formed charitable trusts.

The trust holds investments for charitable purposes, separate from the club itself. The net proceeds of fundraising activities undertaken by the club are distributed to the charitable trust each year to minimise the tax liability of the club. The charitable trust is also registered under the Charitable Trusts Act and has a Trust Board.

The initial Trust Board were past presidents Jim Holmes and John Beck, President Richard Veber and Keith Simpson. It was expected that the trustees would change annually in an incremental fashion.

As at November 2019 the trustees were David Hunt, Hugh Garlick, Murray Weatherston, David McAuley, Brian Burke, John Cowan and Norman Johnston.

### **Taveuni Island Dental Project**

The following is a report from Johnston Luen dated 06/07/2008:

We spent two weeks away treating the people in Taveuni, Fiji, in the warming sometime humid weather. The dental team of three kiwi dentists consisted of Drs Neil Ewart (retired periodontist), Graeme Ting (Greenlane Special needs Consultant) and myself a general practitioner. We were based on Taveuni Island, 1.5 hours flying time northeast of Nadi. It had a population of 18,000 on the mainland and several outer islands. We went to the three most remote villages on Taveuni Island., followed by visits to three outlying islands of Yanuca, Yucata and Qamea. As a group the adult population, although they cleaned their teeth, they still need fillings, extractions and gum treatment. The preschool children were the worst, on account of high sugar intake.

The work carried out may be summarised as - Examined 774: Fillings 1023: Extractions 391: gum treatment 147.

Dental Projects to Fiji, Tonga and the Cook Islands were originated mainly by Ken Taylor, and later, at the Rotary convention in Brisbane, President Wayne Brewer purchased a portable dental unit in 2003 which the club still owns. In 2008, Ken and Kris Taylor, along with Wayne and Sharon Brewer, went to Mana Island in Fiji to undertake a dental project

at the local Seventh Day Adventist School. They carried 50 pieces of baggage and freight, all carried without charge, courtesy of Air New Zealand and South Pacific Cruises. The project lasted one week and the party was accommodated in a private villa on the island. Remuera Rotary had also gifted computers, books and classroom furniture to the school.

Two years later the Taylors and the Brewers together with a volunteer dentist from Thames went to Tonga for a two week dental project on Tongatapu Island at Lapaha Village. Transport as provided by His Majesty King George Tupou V, through the courtesy of the Army. The Brewers were hosted by the King at the Consular House, formerly the British High Commission, and the dentists with local Rotarians.

To express his appreciation the King hosted a dinner for everyone involved in the projects. Hundreds of children and others of all ages had been treated in the makeshift dental clinic at the local primary school. In addition, Sharon Brewer and Kris Taylor provided dental hygiene training to the children. The Tongan Ministry of Health offered support and the services of a dental nurse to assist.

The local community showered them all with gifts, far too many to carry home and which were therefore given to the local Rotary Club to sell to raise funds for community projects.



Exchange Student Luca Capuzello from Switzerland was hosted during the year



Immediate Past Rotary International President Bill Boyd visited the club



# 1 July 2008 – 30 June 2009

**President Jim Holmes**



## **Cambodia Trip 2009**

The following is a Rotary Report of the trip:

In the Term 3 holidays Rangitoto College teachers and students travelled to Cambodia to make a difference for people living in poverty. While we went to give help, we gained the experience of a lifetime.

Cambodia was then considered one of the ten poorest nations in the World poorer than Tanzania and Peru. It had suffered in its recent history and was in the midst of a civil war until 1998. Since then Cambodia had struggled to catch up with its neighbours - to provide adequate education, health care and nutrition for their families. Government corruption was a significant barrier for these people, with 80% of the population living in Rural areas, and only 40% having access to safe drinking water.

it was with this in mind that 17 students and 8 teachers dedicated the previous 12 months to trying to raise as much money as possible to help rural families and orphaned children.

With support from Remuera Rotarians they were able to raise more than \$19,000 in sponsorship only for the project work in Cambodia.

The first project was building houses for poor rural families, who had worked for years to save the \$30 needed to buy their plot of land for their home. The project participants had the task of raising the \$1,500 for their house and help build it so the family could move in. With help from Remuera Rotary the project was able to build 8 houses in a small rural village, one hour's drive north of Phnom Penh.

### **Books in Homes – Part 3**

In 2008 Tony Drillien was pleased to show to Remuera Rotary, two certificates from Tamaki Intermediate School given to the Club in recognition of the Books in Homes Project

Also In 2008, the Duffy Books in Homes celebrated 5,000,000 books given to Duffy kids since 1995.

2009 started with a record of 560 schools, 67 of which were new to the program that year. It was then planned to have regular articles in Remoires covering this worthwhile project. It was then, or even earlier, to ensure that each child would receive two free books annually. In 2009 there were 560 schools in the program, 67 of which were new to the 2009 year.

Thank you to the Rotary Club of Remuera for giving the gift of reading to thousands of New Zealand children.

Our Club added its 'big thank you' to Tony Drillien for his efforts in this project

The Duffy Books in Homes celebrated 5,000,000 books given to Duffy kids since 1995.

On 10th August 2010, Tony Drillien thanked Remuera Rotary for its donation of 38 dictionaries that were gifted to the class in 2010. President David Hunt thanked Tony for the good work he was doing with his liaison to the school.

Twice a year Tamaki Primary and Tamaki Intermediate have had role model assemblies in the school halls, starting from 2010.

At present each pupil is given an average of five books each year, to the delight of not only the pupils themselves but also their parents, a number of whom were barely literate or even totally unable to read.

At the formal club Changeover on 30th June 2008, when Richard Veber retired as President in favour of Jim Holmes, Paul Harris Fellowships were presented to Tony Drillien for his and Jo's work in the Books in Homes Project.

By December 2015 the principal of Tamaki Primary School was now Rhonda Kelly who addressed the Remuera Rotary Club in its final meeting for 2015. She drew attention to the long association between her school and Remuera Rotary in the form of Books in Homes and funding for end of year school prizes. The school has 240 students and all but one re Pacifica or Maori. The school is in a low decile area where annual incomes can be as low as \$20,000 p.a. Rhonda expressed her manifest appreciation of the continued support provided by Remuera Rotary.

At its weekly meeting on 14th June 2018 Colin Wilson informed Rotarians that 13 Million books had been presented to the schools involved.



### Mana School Fiji

Wayne Brewer spoke to the club in December 2008 about Mana School in Fiji which our club had been assisting for the previous two to three years. Just before this time Remuera Rotary had donated \$1,000 to the school for the provision of desks.

Books and computer refurbished by Richard Veber and donation by Remuera Rotary for the school use. These were nearby to **eke** out the effect of the donations.

Wayne produced photographs and postcards expressing the thanks of the headmaster.



On Monday 24th November 2008 Colin Wilson introduced **Roy Austin** as the weekly speaker. He began with the heading "Your Very Own Charity, i.e. The Rotary Foundation and Mr Rotary Foundation is Roy Austin".

Colin then proceeded to list some of Roy's considerable achievements and contributions to Rotary as follows, to name but a few:

- He organised the William's Challenge where William, a polio victim, rode his wheelchair the length of the North Island to raise funds and awareness of polio;
- He re-organised the Child Health Research Foundation;
- He raised \$8.5 million for Cure Kids through the sale of the A2 milk patent invented by Dr. Bob Elliott;
- He developed Cure Kids NZ and established Cure Kids in USA, Australia and Fiji.
- He facilitated the introduction of Books in Homes with Rotary
- He is a multiple Paul Harris awardee
- He was a past President of Remuera Rotary Club
- He was past Chair of several District Committees.
- He was awarded DG 9920 Rotarian of the Year in 2012/2013
- He organised the District 9920 Conference in Charles Goldie's year as District Governor.
- Past Chair of Selwyn College Board of Trustees
- Senior Partner Northington partners Ltd, Corporate Advisers

During the year Garth Harris received a double Sapphire Paul Harris from President Jim Holmes.

### **Motuihe Island Tree Planting – Part 3**

Club volunteers went to Motuihe Island for tree planting on Sunday 21 September and 19 October. George Valentine and Leigh Marshall were the apparent leaders for that year. At the time George was the club's PR Director (Jim Homes was very involved)

On Saturday 21 March 2009 Don Hawke, John Beck, Colin Wilson and Niel Ewart were

on Motuihe when Kiwi were released. On 3rd May 2009 at District Conference Remuera Rotary was awarded the Rangitoto Trophy for the most significant environmental project undertaken in the Rotary year 2008/2009, being their long term commitment to tree planting on Motuihe Island. Four geckos were scheduled for release between July and October 2009.



The following session was scheduled to take place on Sunday 25th July 2010, and that in future plantings would take place on the first Sunday of each month, starting with 22nd August 2010.

A Paul Harris Fellowship was presented to John Laurence the instigator and motivator behind the continuing success of this programme. He spoke of the success being due largely to the many who had participated in planning days over the years. This had reached the stage where saddlebacks were thriving, kiwis introduced, and more recently bellbirds raised on Motuihe and adjoining islands

A subsequent Motuihe Planting Day was set down for 26th September 2010, the last for the year. On that occasion there were six Club members plus 25 others all putting in a great effort. It was reported as having been successfully completed.

The Project Crimson tree planting project was to take place on Motuihe Island on Saturday 19th September 2011. A huge tree planting day was arranged in association with the Rugby World Cup. Rugby Union chairman and former All Black Sir Bryan Williams was to attend. A gathering of 500 tree planters was scheduled.

On 29th August 2011 Raewyn Peart, a lawyer and coastal campaigner for the previous 10 years, been involved in research and the seeing of environmental policy with the objective of achieving better outcomes for New Zealand's resources. Raewyn told the meeting about a childhood very much involved with the Hauraki Gulf and how her passion for it drove her to work for its betterment.

Raewyn told members that the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park was recognised in legislation to reflect National and international significance and special value. It was not only for its diverse landscapes that matter but also its diverse range of living organisms, both under the water and above it

Raewyn had a vision for the Hauraki Gulf where it was to be a place celebrated, treasure and thriving. In 2016 Raewyn published her large tome *The Story of the Hauraki Gulf*. In her history of Motuihe Island she mentioned the one of the first European owners Sir John Logan Campbell, who with his business partner established a farming operation on

the island. A subsequent owner was John Graham (a forebear of this author's late wife Margaret). All sorts of animals were introduced until 1872 when the island became a quarantine station.

During the First World War the island became a prisoner of war camp for Germans living in New Zealand and Samoa, also captured German prisoners of war. including the famous Count Von Luckner who ran away to sea as a boy in romantic fashion and who subsequently declared he would never return to the family home in Germany except as an officer in the Imperial German Navy, This he eventually achieved and was given command of a captured American sailing vessel in 1917 and now renamed SEEADLER and brought into commission as a German warship. He wreaked havoc in the Pacific Ocean capturing and sinking enemy merchant vessels. He boasted that in the course of this activity he never took a single human life. He was wrong. Further research proved that one or two seamen were killed, but this was still a proud record of humanity in his dealings with the enemy. His vessel was eventually wrecked on a reef off an island in Fiji and he along with his crew were taken prisoner. They were taken to Motuihe Island in 1918. The Count and a few of his crew managed to escape in daring fashion using the camp commandant's launch until apprehended near the Kermadec Islands.

In 1941 the island was taken over by the Royal New Zealand Navy as a basic entry training establishment. This author in the course of his naval career was stationed there in 1958 to 1960 where among other things he trained seaman boys in the arts of sailing whalers and cutters, boats more familiar to the sailors of Lord Nelson's time than in this modern age, after which he was sent to Navy Headquarters in Wellington.

The part of the island not used as a naval base was farmed by the Auckland Council employing a tenant farmer and his family. The first farmers were Roy Ward and his wife 'Girlie'.

The Navy moved off the island in 1963 and the buildings fell into disrepair. The Auckland Council eventually demolished them.

From 1984 Rennie Harrison and her partner lived on and farmed the island. Rennie felt a strong spiritual attachment to the island and believed "because it is so small, people want to care for it. If we care for the land, it will care for us".

By 1993, Rennie was well into planting native trees and shrubs on the island. it was her vision which led to the formation of the Motuihe Restoration Trust.

In the early days of the trust the island was infested with mammalian predators, including mice, rats, feral cats and a plague of rabbits. The trust in partnership with the Department of Conservation set out to eradicate these pests. The island was declared predator-free in 2005.

By the 1990s however the island was covered in rank grass and weeds were choking the few remaining native trees.

Motuihe Island was incorporated into the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park in 1967. It was the

vision of one Ronnie Park and her partner Terry Gibbons that helped to turn this vision around. Terry had a concession to farm the island and also to operate a canteen and manage a camping ground. In 2000 Ronnie invited Peter Whitmore and Michael Wood to form the Motuihe Island Restoration Trust, in order to achieve the restoration of the island.

The Department of Conservation decided to end Ronnie's lease after fire broke out and destroyed his shop Ronnie left Motuihe Island in 2005 after 20 years residence. She had written to all the boating clubs in Auckland inviting them to assist with restoration effort One of those was John Laurence, involved with the Outboard Boating Club. The club decided to support the project and John put his considerable talents behind the initiative.

From the 1990s and over a number of years, endangered species were brought onto this island sanctuary, and which is now home to the following:

North Island Saddleback, Kakariki, little spotted kiwi, bellbirds, skinks, geckoes and tuatara. were among the animal life released on to the island.

Motuihe shores are also home to the threatened shorebird species - NZ Dotterel, variable oystercatcher and little blue penguins.

The Remuera Rotary Club of Remuera became involved in this wonderful project as follows:

The main tasks on the day were either planting trees in selected sites on the island, working in the plant nursery, or removing invasive weeds. At lunchtime they returned to the woodshed for a convivial BBQ.

The time there was very rewarding, great fun and the fellowship was a real plus. Jim Holmes, as expected, was a regular visitor and was on the Board of the Motuihe Trust for a number of years.

The first task was to grow the seedlings and Raewyn's book illustrates the establishment of a large nursery to grow the seedlings to replant the island in native trees. The nursery was funded jointly by the World Wildlife Fund and the Outdoor Boating Club.

John Laurence who took over as Chairman of the Motuihe Island Restoration Trust is quoted in Raewyn's book as "We have now planted 400,000 trees covering 80% of the island".

On Monday 2nd February 2009, **Geoffrey Amos of the Taveuni Rotary club** in Fiji along with his partner Josephine attended the club. Niel Ewart and Geoffrey were friends from Niel's dental work in Fiji. Geoffrey had been at Taveuni Island for some twelve years and was involved in many projects. Among other things he was chairman of the Island Hospital Board. Members were inspired to see what his small club of 22 members continued to achieve. They organised the dentists to visit the island each year, and Josephine worked with a team of 2 or 3 others to organise meals and programs, working

very long hours over a two week period.

Co-ordinated by Bruce Howe books were provided by the Club to stock the new library in Tavenui.

The Taveuni Club raised \$300 per member each year, and with other funds sourced by Geoffrey from clubs in numerous different Districts funds were spent each year on projects such as cataract treatment, a hospital asthma clinic, cleft palate and disfigurement surgery in conjunction with ROMAC. The Club raised money for a new 150 KVA generator for the hospital to ensure uninterrupted power during operations and had re-stocked the libraries with books in conjunction to it.

Niel Ewart reported to the Club that the Sergeant's fund collection from all clubs in our District was to go to Dental Support for Fiji children for tooth brushing program at all schools on Taveuni Island (at last). The program supervised children lining up to clean their teeth in the morning and at lunchtime using fluoridated toothpaste. The moneys were to go to buying toothpaste and brushes. (Colgate was to supply these at reduced prices and Geoffrey Amos would be organising the distribution.





Neil hard at work on Taveuni



# 1 July 2009 – 30 June 2010

## President John Beck



## Rotary Dental Project Lapaha GPS, Tonga 2010

The object of this project from 19th to 31st May 2010 was to screen and treat the schoolchildren of Lapaha GPS whose total roll was 350 pupils ranging from 5 to 12 years. The Remuera Rotary Club in conjunction with our "sister club" Nukua'lofa Rotary Club (see accompanying photo) put this project together over a period of six months and involved many Rotarians.

Assistance from the Kingdom of Tonga was most impressive. The local Health Department technical backup and the services of a wonderful therapist name Stella. Our Dental Team consisted of Ken and Kris Taylor, Roger and Marilyn Dods and Wayne and Sharon Brewer. Our team had excellent transport for the duration of their stay. The Tongan Health Department had established a tooth brushing and fluoride rinse program within all the local schools and our team was able to see the early signs of this working. Unfortunately there were still signs of serious tooth decay and some teeth had to be removed. Others were able to be saved. All children were then provided with a new toothbrush and paste, with further supplies left with the school to continue their program.

In terms of treatment this had been a successful project, with about 600 patients providing 500 fillings and 250 extractions,

For such projects to proceed we relied heavily on the support of various organisations, in particular the Margaret M Blackwell Trust, GC Corporation, Colgate NZ, NZDA and last but not least the Rotary Clubs of Nukua'lofa and Remuera. Special thanks also went to Ken Taylor and Wayne Brewer, from our President John Beck.

### **Dr. William Tan - Guest Speaker at Remuera Rotary 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner**

Tuesday 9th February 2010 was the club's 30th Anniversary Celebration. Guests included DG Leanne Jaggs, President Roger Harvey of the Rotary Club of Newmarket, guest speaker William Tan. A number of past club members were also present.

DG Leanne congratulated the club on its achievements over the years, particularly the change to the Rotary International Rules allowing the admission of women as members. At the time it was noted there were now 190,000 women in Rotary worldwide.

Our Guest Speaker Dr. William Tan, himself a sufferer from polio spoke of his involvement in "William's Challenge" (recorded elsewhere) He described this project as giving him a sense of purpose and in the subsequent 15 years went on to achieve great things.

After working in New Zealand William took up a position at the Mayo Clinic and then moved on to the University of Newcastle working as a surgeon and physician. He also became a serious wheelchair athlete, competing at the Commonwealth Games and in many marathons, including an Antarctica Marathon. Of particular note was his completion of a marathon on each of the seven continents in 27 days, a record that we believe still stands.

William received a standing ovation.

He had recently completed a book on the story of his life "No Journey Too Tough" reported on elsewhere.

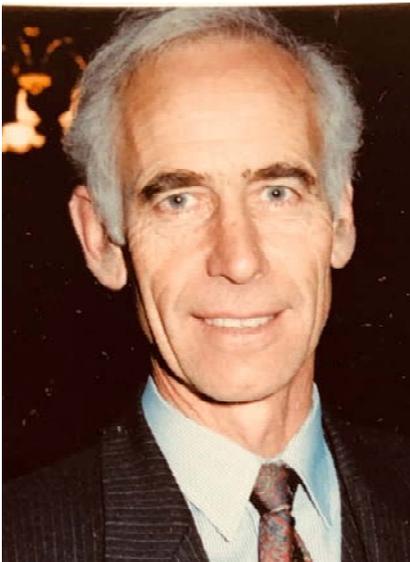
### **Ross Craig - Testimonial Dinner 25th March 2010.**



This event was held at the Ellerslie Events Centre to celebrate Ross Craig's wonderful contribution to Rotary District 9920 and the community through his inspirational work and the trusts he administered. Ross was District Governor 1987/1988. Ross agreed to this event only so long as it was combined with a fund raiser for Polio Plus. In the words of Tony Fortune "Ross has been very supportive of our club over the years- very dynamic and continues to be very effective in Rotary often behind the scenes. Trusts administered by Ross had donated \$10Million to Rotary community projects. Sadly Ross died 5 May 2014 aged 82.

**Exchange Student Sarah Kelvelaga (Klosterman)** from Germany was hosted by the club. Her Counsellor was Bill Smith and Hosts included Bill & Susan Smith; Don Hawke & Brigitta Windhager; Blair & JeanWingfield; Sarah stayed 6 months extra to complete NCEA with honours;

**Exchange Student Fee Kaeufer** also from Germany was also hosted by the club. Her Counsellor was Michael Bernecker and Hosts included Janet & Roy Austin and Murray & Ann Weatherston. Fee has a Bachelors degree from Bielefield, and Masters from Greifswald. She is hoping to enroll in a PhD course soon. Still single but has a long term boyfriend who is studying law. She has played a big club role in Rotaract, and attended the 2019 Convention in Hamburg, and is keen to follow up again in Hawaii 2020. Might be taking on a District Rotaract role.



**Past President Trevor Bringans** felt himself compelled to resign from Club membership when his health deteriorated in 2009.

Trevor died 28 November 2009, in his 72nd year. His funeral was held at St. Mary's in Holy Trinity, Parnell on 3rd December 2009. Norman Brooks was one of the Officiants and David Williams was a pallbearer.