



RI Director Elect Peter Kyle joining the Club meeting from Washington DC

MEETINGS WITH A DIFFERENCE



Thursday 28 May, 7.00 pm
FORUM ON LINE

**The link which includes an
embedded password, is –**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/95788584453?pwd=YnFOL2Nnb0RyRm1ZNjVlQjdLZkhaZz09>

Two main topics

Use of Charitable Trust Fund for
2019 – 2020 year

Social programme for the club
2020 – 21 year

Thursday 4 June, 11 am

Speakers

David Bennett, WNth.
David Moore, Kaukau

The link is –

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82869425868>

Thursday 18 June, 11 am

Speaker

Warren Young
Cannabis Reform

The link is –

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86342603919>

Duties to be advised

**The Club will then revert to the 1st and 3rd
Thursdays for Zoom meetings until we are
able to resume at the Bridge Club,
anticipated to be 2nd July
at Noon for 12.30pm**

Kindness and clean air



It's rare to hear a leading politician speak about kindness. It doesn't seem to fit with the usual rhetoric of 'strength and success at any price'. Politicians

are meant to be tough, aren't they? With thick skins. Such qualities make us feel secure. And, when hardship comes along they call us to be strong, not kind.

But, at the heart of our Prime Minister's message to us over these weeks, now months, of Covid-19 threat, has been a consistent mantra, "Be kind". Not directed at others or to ourselves – just 'be kind'. It suggests to me an attitude rather than a set of actions we've been instructed to carry out.

I think Jacinda may have put her finger on something significant, for the life we were all living pre-covid was a helter-skelter existence that whizzed us from thither to yon as our electronic diaries beeped at us with urgency. We didn't have time to be kind for we were putting all our mental energy into being responsible and reliable, and yes – efficient. Kindness lay all forlorn on the altar of 2020 busyness.

No, perhaps kindness was buried; covered over by what society has formed us and shaped us for – being competitive, so we win and not the other person. We are kind, yes we are; it's in us; it was there all the time. A smart PM knew that and reminded us at just the right time. And we have enjoyed it; feels very good.



So, what's all this about clean air? Well, we know that thousands, no probably millions,

of Kiwi cars were garaged during lockdown. Planes were grounded; factories stilled their working chimneys, and the air we breathe became purer. With the noise of a busy city hushed the birds flew back into town, and fish swam in our harbours again because we tied up our boats. Wasn't it heavenly?

Something that went unnoticed during lockdown was that climate change hid. It was imprisoned by covid-clamour, understandably so, for the dreaded virus was the only conversation in town. It's all we talked about. This will pass, and waiting for the world is the very issue we had a glimpse of throughout March and April – clean air ... and water ... and noise.



The pandemic arrived on our shores, and throughout the whole world, with a certain suddenness – it threatened to destroy us and smash the way

we live. And, we responded by 'pulling out all the stops'. We beheld the urgency and we responded. My point is that the destruction that climate change brings has the same potential to 'kill us' but because it's so gentle and so gradual we always have time. But, we don't. I can only hope that when climate change comes out of hiding the world, fresh from the experience the pandemic, will pull out all the stops once more.

How can Rotary help that happen?

20 MAY MEETING

The Club by Zoom meeting of 20th May was a special occasion. As well as club members and friends, we were joined by several past, current and future District Governors to hear out one time Ambassadorial Scholar, former Club member, and now incoming RI Director, Peter Kyle speak to the Club live from Washington DC.

Margaret Emerre gave a Reflection, which is attached as a separate document.

GUEST SPEAKER – PETER KYLE



DG John Mohi welcomed Peter Kyle who was then introduced by Morris Robertson.

Peter began his talk with his introduction, in 1970, to the

Rotary World by Denys Pinfold when he responded to an advertisement offering Ambassadorial Scholarships. He referred to the exciting times at the University of Virginia, when Watergate was at its height. Returning to New Zealand he joined a Law firm, later becoming a Partner, at which point Denys invited him to join Wellington North, where he remained a member

until moving to Manila to take up a position with the Asian Development Bank.

When he returned to New Zealand, Peter rejoined his law firm in Auckland, becoming a member of the Rotary Club of Auckland until taking up a position with the World Bank in Washington DC, a career which involved regular travel to former Soviet countries advising on the transition from a socialist-based legal system to one based on market principles. He retired in 2009, aged 62 in accordance with the World Bank policy, thus leaving him with plenty of time to serve Rotary.

In 2003, Peter had reengaged with Rotary, being inducted into the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill and becoming President two years later. He became heavily involved in District and International levels, particularly those relating to Rotary Foundation Alumni. In the 2013/14 year he was appointed DG for District 7620, Washington DC and Central Maryland. After that year, Peter's Rotary roles took off. They included Alumni Relations, Chairing a Rotary Peace Symposium and RI Representative to the World Bank. The last three years have been amongst the most fulfilling as Dean of the Rotary Representatives who are the links between RI and the United Nations. Peter spoke of his imminent role as a RI Director with responsibility for Zone 33, comprising 18 Districts in Eastern USA, the Caribbean and part of South America.

Peter concluded his talk with comments on how Covid-19 was changing the way we communicate and how it had implications for all of us, from Clubs to RI operations generally. Overall it was a very informative and enlightening talk from our Club's most famous alumnus. Tony Fryer gave the vote of thanks.

ROTARY BEYOND THE EARTH



As well as Peter Kyle, eight new RI Directors will join the Board from next month. They come from clubs in Japan, Taiwan, Greece, Finland, France, USA and Canada.

One of them indicates a new potential frontier for Rotary. **She is Susan. C Howe from the Rotary Club of Space Center, Houston.** It begs the question, will Rotary International eventually become Rotary Interspace?

ROTARY REPRESENTATIVES

In his talk to us last week, Peter Kyle spoke about his role as dean of the Rotary Representative Network. This 'edited' piece was taken from a published interview shortly after his appointment

At its 12th annual convention, in Edinburgh, Scotland, Rotary vowed "to aid in the advancement of international peace" when it amended the objects, or goals, of the organization. Nearly a century later, Peter Kyle believes that pledge could provide the foundation for Rotary's future. "Rotary's peace program has the potential to have a great legacy."

Kyle is in a position to make that vision a reality. Since 1 July, he has been dean of the Rotary Representative Network, a group of 28 Rotarians from diverse backgrounds who represent Rotary at the United Nations and other international organizations. The network dates to 1991, when the RI Board approved a plan that included securing the highest possible consultative status for Rotary with the UN's Economic and Social Council, which it accomplished in 1993.

By developing connections within specific organizations, the representatives help Rotary succeed at its ambitious endeavours around the world, chief among them the eradication of polio. Its success in fighting this disease has earned Rotary tremendous credibility and sway in the arena of international problem-solving. Kyle has a strategic perspective on that. "We often complain that the world doesn't know about Rotary's role in eradicating polio," he says. "The whole world doesn't need to know. Policymakers and international organizations need to know. Our relationship with key senior policymakers at the United Nations and other global organizations was important for polio advocacy. I intend to maintain and deepen and expand those relationships."

As unofficial ambassadors, the representatives aim to enhance Rotary's international profile while strengthening its ability to influence global events. "Given our consulting status at the UN, we're able to participate in high-level committee meetings,"

FROM THE KCA FRONT



KCA's new Facebook profile – Note our logo

The Club's relationship with Kiwi Community Assistance remains strong with regular reports of the supplies sourced and being distributed to Foodbanks throughout the region.



With the increasing demand for food parcels, it is fortunate that KCA is now linked into several major growers and manufacturers. For example, it has been a beneficiary of the Government sponsored pork supply referred to in the above extract from the Dompst. KCA received two pallets of pork sausages, which were redistributed within the first hour.



In other examples, KCA is receiving 1.5 tons of export quality Braeburn apples each week, donated from Hawkes Bay.

Turners and Growers is freighting and storing them overnight free. These are being passed on to schools in the Porirua/ Tawa area.

On the non-food front, through the generosity of a sponsor, KCA has been able to purchase a quantity of much needed feminine hygiene products, which have been supplied to St Anne's Pantry.



Rescued meat supplied to The Soup Kitchen



Goodman Fielder has donated a ton of dairy products

AFTER THE LOCKDOWN

The after effects of the Lockdown and border closures will be with us for a long time. Support for those who have lost their livelihood will be needed more than ever.

TV News has played interviews with Foodbanks over run with demand and seeking support. The flip side is that individual foodbanks competing for food donations may not be the most efficient way of distribution. Food charity wholesalers, such as KCA, not only have the advantage of bulk food rescue, but also have increasing access to bulk supplies of surplus goods from generous manufacturers. This, coupled with an efficient distribution system, enables prompt fulfilling of requests from individual Foodbanks.



Wellington North's profile in the Rotary World is growing, not only with the connection with Peter Kyle, but also with headlines in the District Newsletter and on page 20 in the May issue of Rotary Down Under.

MY ROTARY MOMENT



Amongst a number of Rotary moments my most vivid one took place in 2002. That was the year I was President and being the first female to have this role at Wellington North, I did experience quite a number of 'moments' throughout that year.

The big moment took place at our annual Christmas function. There were about 80 of us at the dinner with everyone dressed up in their finery (why did we do away with those functions?). We had all finished our entrees and mains, and it was time for the formal proceedings to get underway. That meant that I had to make a speech and the key item in my speech – apart from the usual comments of appreciation to members, was a momentous announcement I was to make.

One doesn't get the opportunity to make announcements like this very often so I have never forgotten it – the announcement was, of course, that one of our recently deceased members had left a large sum of money to add to the Scholarship fund which at that time stood at approximately \$40,000.



The bequest meant that we had a substantial capital fund which, over the years has benefited a large number of young people through the awarding of scholarships for tertiary, vocational or life skills

programmes. Thankyou, Ian Crabtree for this wonderful gift.

NEWS FROM THE MOSQUE

Gerald McGhie called on President Tahir Nawaz at the Kilbirnie Mosque on the morning of 12 May. This was the first meeting since 18 March when President Lionel and District Governor John Mohi held discussions with President Nawaz.

The President mentioned his continuing interest in establishing the Mosque as a Private Training Establishment. As he said at the 18 March

meeting the PTE idea was very central to Mosque thinking.

President Nawaz said that, once up and running, a PTE could conduct courses, within the Mosque in halal certification, first aid and security guard training to mention just a few.

President Nawaz and Gerald agreed that providing assistance to the mosque to run training courses appropriate to the Islamic community's needs would have wide-ranging benefits. It is important, as it has emerged since the coronavirus lockdown, that assistance to students has taken on a much higher priority.

The subject of providing assistance to, and continuing relationships with the Mosque, are on the agenda for this week's Forum Meeting.



DG John, Tahir Nawaz, Gerald and President Lionel at an earlier meeting at Kilbirnie Mosque

7 pm. THIS THURSDAY ON-LINE FORUM MEETING

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