



# THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF WELLINGTON NORTH







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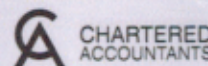
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# REACHING FAR & WIDE

THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF WELLINGTON NORTH

## The first fifty years

**W**elcome to the history of our club. We've changed over time, but the essence remains. For me it's a mixture of service and fellowship, the chance to get things done with interesting people I would not otherwise meet. The club has been there for me in hard times, but has also given me a chance to be



of service in the wider Wellington community. The club has a proud record of providing scholarships and supporting local and global projects. Long may it continue, and our thanks to Morris Robertson for chronicling our past to help light the way to the future.

*Graeme Waters,  
Club President 2015/16*

## Why join Rotary?

**I**n days gone by, joining Rotary was a privilege and by invitation only. I felt honoured when, still in my thirties, I received a phone call from Denys Pinfold asking if I would like to join Rotary. I had no hesitation in accepting the invitation. Denys, accompanied by Alan Fraser, subsequently came to my office to interview me and I was admitted, in 1977, the year of President Peter Gibbons. Nine years later, I had another call from Denys, inviting me to be Club President in 1987.

After the year as President the Rotary scene opened up in a way that demonstrated that there was a much wider and active Rotary world to be explored and enjoyed. Through service on district and national committees horizons expanded and friendships were formed. International projects, district conferences and international conventions further expanded these horizons.

When I set out to research and write the history of the club it soon dawned upon me that its 50-year story was

not about the Rotary club in isolation but about its achievements and influence in a much wider sphere. While the general activities of the club are summarised, the main chapters are about the organisations, here and abroad, which have benefitted from our projects, the scholars whose stellar careers have been launched by our sponsorships and the many and varied exchange students we have hosted. Not the least has been the fellowship enjoyed within the club, its social events and the special interest groups it has spawned.

In the course of my Rotary membership I have had the pleasure of visiting clubs in UK, Europe, Australia, Asia, North America and the Pacific Islands. While there are considerable differences in how each operates they are all, at the core, Rotary clubs immersed in projects and dedicated to the universal motto of *Service Above Self*.

*Morris Robertson QSM,  
Club President 1987/88,  
District Governor 2000/01*



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Glen McCullough and Morris Robertson.

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Charter President Ron Harrison (right) and Mary are welcomed by President Clyde Stewart and Royce to the Club's 25th Anniversary dinner in 1990.



The Waterloo Hotel, now a backpackers hostel surrounded by high-rise buildings.

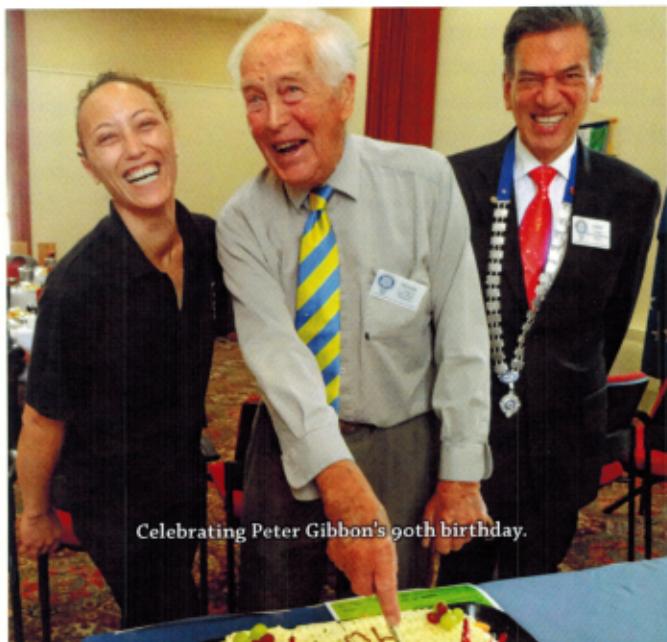
## In the Beginning

In the 1960s, when Rotary was rapidly expanding, Ron Harrison, the Wellington Manager of New Zealand Breweries, with headquarters in Molesworth Street, called a meeting to establish a new Rotary club. With the sponsorship of the Rotary Club of Wellington the Rotary Club of Wellington North came into being on 18 November 1965 with 26 Charter Members, whose names are listed on page 7. The initial Club gathering took place at midday in the Battle Bar of the Waterloo Hotel to enjoy conviviality and then adjourned to the Dining Room for the first meeting. Ron Harrison, as first president, occupied that role for the next 18 months.

During the Presidency of foundation member, Paddy Mills, the club venue was changed in 1970 to the Sharella Motor Inn, opposite the gates to the Botanical Gardens in Tinakori Road. It was only a short move as it was a 'bit out of the way' for many members.

Bill Somerville, an outgoing personality and outspoken in many ways, thought the club needed to be "up market" and, in his time as President, the venue was changed in 1972 to the James Cook Hotel. Some thought it was setting out to compete with more central Rotary clubs and not meeting within its then defined territory.

In late 1973 the opportunity came to lease space in Tinakori Road in the Masonic Lodge building. The site location was within the Rotary defined district of Wellington North, within easy walking access from the Molesworth Street area with its many diplomatic and government offices. It had considerable vehicle parking facilities on site. Paddy Delaney, the 1973 President, inaugurated the move. The Wellington Bridge Club later purchased the building and the Rotary club has met there ever since. ■



Celebrating Peter Gibbon's 90th birthday.

## Five go down to Rotary

*With apologies to Enid Blyton*

Regrettably none of the charter members are with us today. However, a check of an early register highlights five early members who are still active. Each of them went on to introduce others and each of those they introduced went on to bring in more and so the club grew.

The five are **Alan Fraser**, introduced by Paddy Delaney and inducted 2 March 1967, **Peter Gibbons**, introduced by Jim Stone and inducted on 15 May 1969, **Denys Pinfold**, introduced by Donald Budge and inducted on 19 February 1970, **Ron Potts**, introduced by Alan Fraser and inducted on 20 May 1971 and **Ross George**, introduced by Ron Potts and inducted on 13 October 1977. All five have made substantial contributions to the success of the club. ■



The Sharella, now converted to apartments.



Fine dining at the James Cook Hotel.



The Wellington Bridge Club, current home to the club.



# Membership, Make-ups, Meetings and Meals

When the club was established the membership was comprised of men who were mostly in business, government or professions. In line with the strictly applied Rotary International classification rules of the time there was only one member per occupation type, although this could be stretched by contrived subdivision of occupations. There was the story that a Bishop could be described as "Religion Wholesale" and a Vicar as "Religion Retail."

Another rule was that a member had to reside or work in the designated geographical area of the club, which was defined street by street. In general Wellington North's membership area comprised Thorndon, Kaiwharawhara, Wadestown, Ngaio and Khandallah.

A requirement, which was strictly observed until about the early nineties, was that of attendance and make-ups. If a member could not attend a meeting he was expected to make up at another club with the objective of achieving 100% attendance. However, at least 60% attendance at one's own club was also required. If the member did not measure up to Rotary requirements he could be 'asked' to leave the organisation, health reasons being the only exception. Leave of absence could be granted in exceptional circumstances. There is no record of the club ever invoking the expulsion clause, although some private discussions may have precipitated a resignation or two.

Over time the demographic of the club changed. The average age of members increased, 'retired' became the predominant occupation and several members had moved out of the club zone but still valued their membership. Rotary International rules were relaxed, usually following informal trends by clubs.

Thus, the geographical boundaries and the strict attendance rules were diminished. The latter did have a downside in that it virtually eliminated the practice of make-ups, which had seen a lot of interaction between clubs.

In one last nod to attendance the club set out, in the early 90s, to achieve a 100% attendance month. The pity was that it was a month of five Thursdays. However, some members went to extraordinary lengths to achieve the goal, none more so than Tony Biss who was touring France at the time. He put a major effort into locating Rotary meetings, some of which resulted in unique experiences.

Changes in Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation's policies over the past 25 years have impacted on the club.

The first was the long overdue admission of women into Rotary. The first to be inducted into Wellington North was Margaret Emerre who subsequently became President and has since served the District in a number of capacities.

Margaret has written about her experience as the first, and often the only, woman member. "I joined the Rotary Club of Wellington North in 1994 as the first ordinary, as distinct from honorary, member. At the time of my joining, elsewhere in the country, male relatives were fighting to keep women out of their club! I was the first woman in our club, and here we are in 2015 and the number of female members has

doubled – it is now two. Other women have become members over the intervening years but because of changing personal circumstances, such as family movements or changes in employment, they have come and they have gone. Why we have only two women members is not obvious. Wellington North is, and always has been, a very welcoming club, other clubs have done better in recruiting women and some are almost 50:50 male to female."

"I am asked, why stay with Rotary? The reasons are still the same today as they always were. Rotary is a way of joining with others to make a contribution to the community and wider society. Through the speakers it is a great way to extend one's knowledge in a wide range of areas and through Rotary one meets and can work with like-minded people who would normally be outside of one's personal and professional spheres. Yes, I have enjoyed my time with Rotary – long may it last."

*Margaret Emerre*



First woman member, Margaret Emerre.



Early arrivals enjoying a pre-lunch tippie.



## Meetings

For most of its existence the club has followed a reasonably consistent pattern for its meetings with conviviality, a call to order, lunch, notices, a sergeant's session, clearing of tables, guest speaker, thanks and a parting thought. Subtle variations have been tried and some have stuck.

For years members and guests enjoyed a glass of sherry prior to lunch, a practice that the club was well known for. In response to pressure from some members cask wines were introduced although the quality of the wines was not generally appreciated.

Colin Lawton comments. "When I took over as Victualler from John Withington the club had just phased out cask wine as this did not taste as good as bottled wine and was often flat. Therefore, I have continued with bottled wine, which has been well received from the members. I have also continued buying sherry from Moore Wilson which has the best selection and value."



Monique from Chalet Caterers setting out the luncheon dishes.



Guest speaker John Tamihere addresses the club.



Serious conversations before lunch.



Carol, centre, assisted by her mother receives Christmas flowers from Chris Tempest.

Traditionally, the meetings began with a greeting from the President, and a toast to the Queen followed by grace. In 2013 new President, Lionel Nunns, did away with the toast and grace, the latter a bold move for a minister of religion. These were replaced with reflections from a member.

The club has experienced a range of meal options and caterers over the years. Peter Gibbons recalls the early days, "Being a midday meeting initially, we had a light lunch of sandwiches, savouries and cake. After a while this was discontinued by popular demand and a caterer was engaged to provide a hot lunch."

In the 1980s, conscious of the rising cost of meals, the club voted to return to finger food. A month or two of half-frozen sandwiches soon brought that practice to an end and hot meals were reinstated. In recent times a review of costs brought to light the losses, which were being incurred through members not turning up or apologising too late. The club was having to bear the cost of provided meals. The change to pre-pay by direct credit, with refunds only given for timely apologies or leave of absence, has restored profitability and simplified the work of the attendance desk.

There have been several caterers over the years, some very good and some indifferent. The club was sad to lose Carol on her retirement but her successor, Chalet Caterers, has continued to serve the club well.

Having eaten, the members settle down for a few minutes of directors' notices, once followed by a Sergeant's Session. This was later seen by some incumbents as an opportunity to display schoolboy humour, a practice which was soon frowned upon, particularly by early woman members. This was replaced with "Happy Dollars", although some statistical sampling shows that a small group of members are the most consistently happy. Then it's time to clear the tables, a task which was simplified by Margaret Emerre when she was President, namely the introduction of trays.

The key component of the meeting is the Guest Speaker. These have been many and varied over the years and it is a credit to the speakers' panel that they are able to produce a new and interesting speaker for about 45 weeks of each year.

The meetings finish with an appropriate parting thought, a task made much easier by searching the Internet. Then it is the task of reinstating the room for the Bridge Club, something



## "THE BULLETIN"

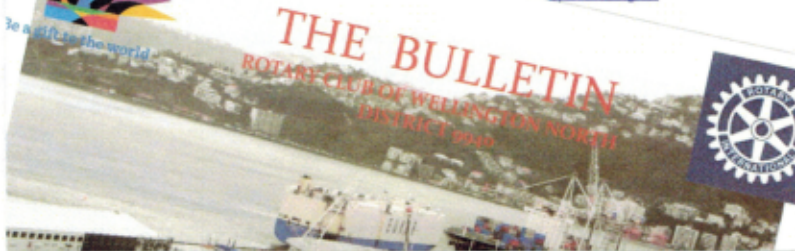
ROTARY CLUB OF WELLINGTON NORTH (DISTRICT 9940) PO BOX 5343, WELLINGTON



Thursday 14th December 2006

17 Tinakori Road, Thursday, 12:15pm for 12:30pm

[rotary9940.org.nz](http://rotary9940.org.nz)



members have to be constantly reminded about. Once upon a time the club employed Snow, a resident of a nearby hostel, to set up and restore the room. Each Christmas, when the caterer received a bouquet of flowers, Snow was presented with a carton of cigarettes. How would that go down today?

The smooth running of the club over the years can be largely attributed to those members whose tasks are largely under the radar but vital to its operation. These tasks have included roles of secretary, treasurer, preparing the duties roster, recording attendance, writing the weekly Bulletin, welcoming members and visitors and the team that arrives early to set up the room every week and ensure the smooth running of the meeting.

With a strong public service base in the area the club was able to maintain its membership of 70-75 for several decades. However, in recent times there has been a decline with some of the younger members preferring to belong to an inner city breakfast club. New members tend to be retirees matching the age of those inducting them. Numbers have now entered the fifties.

Venues and catering were consistent topics for discussion at club forums over the years. There were calls to go more upmarket, shades of Bill Sommerville, and move into the CBD. The introduction of tablecloths in April 2006 appeared to satisfy the former and the club decided to remain in Thorndon.

### Communicating the messages

A feature of Wellington North, as indeed is the case for most clubs, has been the weekly Bulletin. Once appointed, the role of Editor is one of the most difficult to relinquish in the club. Over

the years David Pickering, who has relinquished it several times only to return, writes of his experiences

"When I first edited the Bulletin in the early nineties I typed with one finger and copies were xeroxed. Words were kept to a minimum. The front A5 page had a drawing by Morris Robertson of Old St Paul's, also seen on the club banner. The back page had small advertisements by John Simpson and Alan Lawton for their professional services and, on the rest of the back, I usually copied in a cartoon. I was a great fan of Thurber and Phil Henley complained saying he could not get the point of the cartoons. To mail out the bulletin required each copy to be folded and stapled and an address label affixed. When I failed to bribe my children to do this Ian Crabtree and, occasionally, Peter Spearman would come round on Saturday afternoon to do this and drink beer. Ian was interested in theological questions and seemingly took an active part in church life even though he described it as a lot of nonsense. He said Rotary was a substitute church for non-believers."

For several years the Bulletin was printed and dispatched from the offices of Hercus King and Co. Ian Hercus frequently managed to insert a lawyer joke much to the annoyance of the club's legal eagles.

Amongst those who served as editors were Nigel Stace and Havel Stephen-Smith who won the District Bulletin Award in 1983. In 1987 David Sims, as President, introduced a version that could be faxed out. Somehow the thermal paper print did not meet the desired quality and soon faded. Adrian Ellingham developed the version for the new fangled email and, in 2001, Morris Robertson introduced photographs. This trend has been followed by subsequent editors including Glen McCullough and Phil Greene plus David and Morris in repeat mode.

However, in communications, there is always something new to tackle. In 2005 Wellington City Council was offering

### Extended service

Over the decades Wellington North has been a strong supporter of Rotary's district, national and international committees, particularly those involving international education exchanges. Three of its members, Ross George, Morris Robertson and Tony Fryer have served as District Governors.

Following their DG years each of them continued to serve Rotary within New Zealand and overseas. Ross George was the Zone representative on the RI Rotary Village Corps Committee and represented the New Zealand districts on the Calgary Challenge membership drive. In 1995 Ross represented the District at the Council on Legislation,

held in Caracas, Venezuela. Morris Robertson served as District Foundation Chair for three years, was a founding Director of NZ Rotary Corporate Alliance and served ten years on the Rotary New Zealand World Community Service committee and was a founding Director of RNZWCS Ltd. Tony Fryer was District Foundation Chair and steered the District through the Future Vision trial period. He was also International Chairman of RYLA and a member of the RI Credentials Committee.

Two former club members have subsequently served as District Governors elsewhere, Ian Holyoake in District 9930 and Peter Kyle in District 7620.



not for profit organizations free hosting of websites. Glen McCullough organized a club website using this and operating on the Joomla content management system. Glen uploaded items as members requested. It provided details of club officers, meeting and scholarship information.

When WCC ceased the free hosting service in 2010 Glen organized the transfer to a private hosting service provided by 'Pixels', which suggested changing the



content management system to WordPress, which was achieved in 2011. Glen retired from Rotary in 2012 and Bob Laybourn and Maurice Scott became webmasters. In 2015 the WordPress system was upgraded to allow for the website to be more easily accessed and viewed by laptops and mobile phones.

In 2015 Maurice launched the club Facebook page to provide an interactive news platform for members. He also launched Flickr site for club photos. What's next? ■

## Weather or not

**M**any club presidents have tended to comment on the weather at the beginning of a meeting, especially if the sun was shining. In search of reliable information the club invited weather expert, Augie Auer, as guest speaker where he gave a succinct explanation of the hows and whys of Wellington's weather. He subsequently



became an active member of the club and his post-retirement recruitment as the TV3 Weather Presenter ensured the migration of many club members to that channel. After moving to Auckland Augie returned to support the club as the compere at the 2001 District Conference a Napier. ■



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## Walter Stafford

**M**any years ago I was swimming each morning at Freyberg Pool and I often saw Walter there. He was an electrical engineer and worked on many buildings with my father in law, architect Ron Muston. Walter suggested that I join Rotary and, in 1981, he proposed me to be a member of the Club. I served on his committee after joining.

Years later he was the speaker at a luncheon meeting where we learned of his amazing past. Walter was brought up in Czechoslovakia and commenced training to be an electrical engineer. Because he was Jewish the Nazi administration refused to allow him to continue his studies. His father then home schooled him and, finally, he was able to sit the exams to become a graduate in electrical engineering.

As an engineer valuable to the administration he avoided transportation to Poland. In 1942 he was contacted by the London based resistance and worked with them until the end of the war. In 1945 the Russians ended the German occupation. As the Russian based resistance was at odds with its London counterpart, Walter was advised to leave Czechoslovakia. He did so and eventually migrated to New Zealand.

In the 1960s Walter continued his long time interest in fencing and represented New Zealand in the Commonwealth Games.



*Kerry Ansell*



# ROLL CALL

## ROTARY CLUB OF WELLINGTON NORTH INCORPORATED

FOUNDED 18 NOVEMBER 1965 INCORPORATED 30 MAY 2007

### CHARTER MEMBERS

Jack Ayers, Alan Baird, Fred Brooker, Donald Budge, Tom Clendon, Lewis Cornish, Noel Dalley, Paddy Delaney, Cliff Dowling, Brownie Finch, Tom Fox, Ray Gibbs, Martin Glew, Ron Harrison, AG Hunter, Peter Hyams, Edward Ingham-Hoult, Pat Levins, Ernie Matthews, Paddy Mills, Michael Moss, Donald Munro, Tom Purvis, Bill Sommerville, Ian Symington and Clive Wall.

### DISTRICT GOVERNORS

1987-88 Ross George  
2000-01 Morris Robertson  
2008-09 Tony Fryer  
2002-03 Ian Holyoake  
(District 9930)  
2013-14 Peter Kyle  
(District 7620)

### PRESIDENTS

|         |                  |           |                  |
|---------|------------------|-----------|------------------|
| 1965-67 | Ron Harrison     | 1991-92   | Peter Spearman   |
| 1967-68 | G W Finch        | 1992-93   | Roger Pearce     |
| 1968-69 | F J Brooker      | 1993-94   | Rick Lowe        |
| 1969-70 | J C Stone        | 1994-95   | Errol Millar     |
| 1970-71 | E G Mills        | 1995-96   | Tony Fryer       |
| 1971-72 | W M Sommerville  | 1996-97   | David King       |
| 1972-73 | A L Andrews      | 1997-98   | Ken Boyden       |
| 1973-74 | Paddy Delaney    | 1998-99   | Rory O'Connor    |
| 1974-75 | J R Bentley      | 1999-2000 | John Simpson     |
| 1975-76 | Wallace Bell     | 2000-01   | Laury Sinclair   |
| 1976-77 | Nigel Stace      | 2001-02   | Alan Lawton      |
| 1977-78 | Peter Gibbons    | 2002-03   | Margaret Emerre  |
| 1978-79 | Jim Lawrence     | 2003-04   | Henry Davies     |
| 1979-80 | Charles Hudson   | 2004-05   | Chris Tempest    |
| 1980-81 | Phil Henley      | 2005-06   | Dermot Byrne     |
| 1981-82 | John Arrell      | 2006-07   | Adrian Ellingham |
| 1982-83 | Ross George      | 2007-08   | Brian Poole      |
| 1983-84 | Bob Norman       | 2008-09   | Jeremy Spanjaard |
| 1984-85 | Ron Potts        | 2009-10   | John Young       |
| 1985-86 | Denys Pinfold    | 2010-11   | Miles Middlemass |
| 1986-87 | David Sims       | 2011-12   | Maurice Manttan  |
| 1987-88 | Morris Robertson | 2012-13   | Ross Barrett     |
| 1988-89 | Bernard Darby    | 2013-14   | Lionel Nunns     |
| 1989-90 | Ian Hercus       | 2014-15   | John Mohi        |
| 1990-91 | Clyde Stewart    | 2015-16   | Graeme Waters    |

## Ray Pethig and Ian Hercus

I had the pleasure of knowing Ray Pethig from school days in Ashburton. He joined Wellington North shortly before I did and made me most welcome. In his early days Ray made a considerable contribution to the affairs of the club but had to step back a notch when he was appointed one of the first two Family Court Judges along with Sylvia Cartwright, later to become Governor General.

Roy Ferguson says of Ray. "My 'real' introduction to Rotary was when Ray Pethig invited me along to a meeting at Wellington North. Ray was someone I greatly admired, full of energy and great fun to be with. I remember at the time, around 2002-3, he was a District Court judge and often worked in the Wairarapa, where he would do make-ups at the local clubs there. His untimely death was

a shock to us all – and I still think of Ray whenever I see the Rotary motto *Service above Self*.

I first met Ian when he joined the club in 1983 and, subsequently, Ian and Janet became great friends of Margaret and myself. I was privileged to be asked by Ian, shortly before he died in August 2009, to deliver the eulogy at his funeral. Ian was always friendly and helpful. He was an initially reluctant, but very successful, sergeant in my President's year. He held many offices in the club and District 9940, including District Governor's Representative, Chair of IYB, where he was a great favourite of the students, and Conference Chair twice. In business, the partnership he formed with David King was affectionately referred to as "Accountants to the Nation."

Morris Robertson



1997: in happier times Ray and Ian share a joke.



# Recognitions

**R**otary recognises the valuable contributions members have made to the organisation and to the community by the awarding of a Paul Harris Fellow (PHF). Sometimes an additional recognition is given to the PHF when a sapphire, or ruby, pin is added to the PHF. Every PHF award, including those at the sapphire and ruby level, is accompanied by a substantial donation from the club or District 9940 to The Rotary Foundation.

The original PHF awarded by Wellington North was to Past President Paddy Mills in 1985. The first sapphire pin was awarded to Ian Hercus shortly before his death in 2009.

Since the original award there have been one or two per annum, until recent years when The Rotary Foundation allowed contributions to the Polio Eradication Fund to be eligible for PHF credits. As a result of submissions by Rotary New Zealand World Community Service, the NZ Government has made substantial donations to the Polio Eradication Fund with PHF credits being allocated to districts on a pro rata membership basis. This has allowed for increased PHF awards in recent years.

In addition to its own members the club has recognised two wives of Past District Governors, Jean George and Margaret Robertson for their special contributions. Amongst these Jean was instrumental in building up the Inner Wheel Club of Wellington from the point where it was struggling to survive. Margaret accepted the challenge to District Governors' partners from RI President, optometrist Frank Devlin, to undertake an eye care project during their year in the role. She raised \$42,000 for Fred Hollows Foundation's cataract operations. In 2011 outgoing District Governor Howard Tong recognised the support given by past governors' partners with the award of a PHF to Sheryl Fryer and sapphire pins to Jean George and Margaret Robertson.

## Community Paul Harris Fellowships

In 2007 the then District Governor, Pat Waite, promoted the awarding of PHF's to members of the community who had made a substantial difference. Since then five persons have been honoured with awards by Wellington North.



Sam and June Jackson are presented with their Community PHF's by DG Pat Waite.

## 2008: Sam and June Jackson

Community PHF's were awarded on 3 April 2008 to Sam and June Jackson who, as residents of Wellington City and members of the Wellington Tenth's Trust, had fulfilled unique roles as Maori leaders in the cultural and civic life of the community. Sadly, Sam passed away in November 2013 but June continues with the role.

In part their citation read. "They embody the Maori dimension of the founding partnership for New Zealand, as expressed in the Treaty of Waitangi. In upholding the voice and traditions of Te Ati Awa and other Taranaki descendants they affirm the cultural and spiritual foundations of all peoples. They are leaders in the formal welcomes our city bestows as an honour for international, business, regional and local guests. Although intangible these welcomes are an affirming, embracing and dignified rite of passage into the wider world of Wellington.

Sam and June provide for us all that precious link that binds the past to the present and all peoples to each other, both as citizens of the world, and as individuals standing up for their own place in the world."



Beth surrounded by her family who were smuggled in to surprise her.

## Beth Pethig

2013

As a special function held in the Khandallah Town Hall, Beth Pethig, widow of the late club member, Ray Pethig, received a PHF Community Award, presented by District Governor Graeme Blick, for her extensive commitment to community service stretching back 50 years.

Her citation included the following:

*Beth Pethig has taught Social English for non-English speaking immigrants at Johnsonville Community Centre, weekly for 20 years and has volunteered at the Citizens Advice Bureau weekly, in Wellington Central for 15 years.*

*Beth has hosted many overseas students, not necessarily connected to any organisation. She invites them to stay and sometimes they are with her for months.*





Lynette Brown flanked by her supporting nurses and the project team members.

*She has had a 50-year commitment to Save the Children serving as a committee member and participates actively in catering, fund raising events and stores all their crockery and other catering equipment. She organised a Junior Branch for many years. She has served on Kindergarten and School committees and has organised Brownie and Girl Guide second hand uniform sales.*

*Beth has been a board member on Victoria House, a hostel on The Terrace for women university students, for over 20 years. She is a Board Member of Khandallah Cornerstone Resource Centre Trust, which now manages the Khandallah Town Hall and associated community programmes. She served on the Khandallah Presbyterian Church Board of Managers, and has been a member of the Service and Fellowship Committee for 20 years."*

## Lynette Brown

2014

Following a proposal for District 9940 to undertake a healthcare project in Dili, Timor Leste, Lynette Brown was approached for advice on what was needed and the outcome that could be achieved.

Lynette is a healthcare quality practitioner, who had been a member of the NZ Paediatric Visiting Team to Dili since 2002 and was also the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons' Perioperative Nurse Advisor to Dili and the Nurse Representative on their International Projects Management Committee.

When approached she accepted the challenge enthusiastically and, over several years, designed and implemented the project which is described elsewhere in this publication. She gave of her time freely and recruited other healthcare specialists on the same basis. The trust Lynette had built up with the management and staff

at the Hospital Nacional Guido Valadares, Dili, as well as the other organisations associated with it, was a major factor in the acceptance of the standards and procedures implemented during the project.

Following an address she gave to the club Lynette was awarded a Community PHF in recognition of the tremendous contribution she made to ensure the success of the project.

## Jan Jones

2015

The most recent Community PHF award has been made to Jan Jones. Her citation included. "Jan has provided early childhood educational resources to the Cook Islands, seven other Pacific Island Nations, and to Haiti. These resources included reading books, paints, brushes, crayons, pencils, scissors, paper, glue and puzzles. They were sourced from bookshops and book fairs, sometimes at nominal cost, and New Zealand schools. Jan purchased many resources herself. Transport, at no cost, was negotiated with shipping companies, Air New Zealand, partnerships with several Rotary Clubs, NZ Police, church groups, NZ Defence Force, and the Department of Corrections.

Jan worked in the Cook Islands for three years, 1981 to

1983, and became more aware of the very limited educational resources the early childhood centres had available. Since then Jan has been responsible for gathering, assembling and sending more than 300 large boxes of resources, most of these from the year 2000, with two thirds going to the Cook Islands. Many of the books and jigsaw puzzles were second hand and a big task has been the repair of these. Any one consignment of resources entailed many hours of work in preparing the materials." ■



Jan Jones receiving her award from Rory O'Connor.



# Supporting the Community

Compared with the interests of rural Rotary clubs, urban clubs often have difficulty in defining and connecting with their local area. While this was more certain in the days of geographical boundaries the progressive dispersal of our members has made it more difficult for the club to relate to a local community. This has had the effect of the club looking to wider projects including joint efforts with other clubs. However, there have been more specific community projects, most notably support for the restoration of the Khandallah Town Hall and its conversion to a community centre. Wellington North has a nominee on the Trust that manages the Centre.

Over the years the club has undertaken a number of major projects in the local community. While earlier ones involved a degree of physical work, the increasing average age of members made it necessary to seek out opportunities for the application of management rather than manual skills.

Colin Lawton and Maurice Manttan at the restoration working bee.

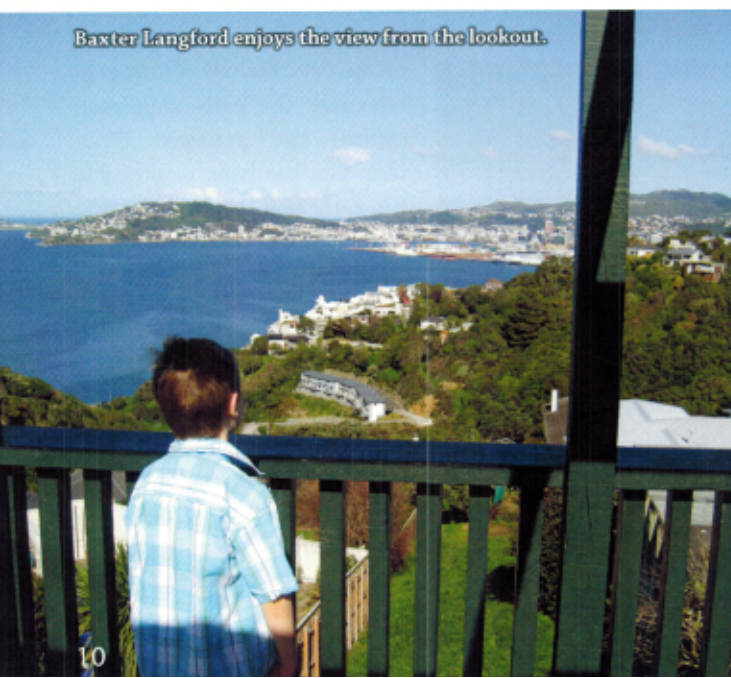


## Onslow Lookout

Wallace Bell was the President in 1975 when the club acquired the right to build a lookout at the top of Onslow Road. After the removal of a power pylon, the massive concrete foundation remained and, in 1976, the club built the Onslow Lookout covering harbour, city and airport views. The actual structure was built by Downer Construction through the good offices of club member Peter Bassett and the full co-operation of Wellington City Council with the assistance of club member, David Martin.

The original intention was that it should house a payscope but the windy location and the threat of vandalism put paid to that. More recently the club held a working bee to repaint the lookout.

Baxter Langford enjoys the view from the lookout.



The entrance to Otari Park today.







Boarding air ambulance during luncheon visit to Life Flight Trust Kilbirnie Base

## The Otari-Wilton Bush Road Car Park Project

What is believed to be the next major project was instigated by Peter Gibbons in 1977-78 when he was Club President. He describes it as follows:

"A major community project was embarked upon involving the clearing of gorse and blackberry on the Wilton Bush Road access to the Otari Park.

In 1937 the domestic electric train serving Johnsonville, Khandallah and Ngaio was created on the old main trunk railway line. Some years later a new station was established at Crofton Downs serving that valley and southern Ngaio. The only access to the farm in the valley was a level crossing over what is now a railway bridge. There were two fords over a creek in the valley floor. Gorse and scrub with blackberries provided wonderful picking on this remote overgrown access road. The access to Wadestown was through the scrub, a farm track more suited for a horse.

With the development of the Crofton Downs station the bridal path to Wadestown at Blackbridge Road became a major thoroughfare to Wilton Bush Road, Bowen Hospital and the Churchill Drive shopping centre. With assistance from the Izard Trust bequest the area at Wilton became known as the Otari Wilton Bush Park.

Members of the club were engaged to make up working parties to clear the gorse and blackberry, an activity that took place on Saturday mornings. With the assistance of David Martin, a club member and the City Engineer, the Council became involved and took up the challenge. Along with periodic detention workers, with tools supplied by Council, a major reconstruction and beautification of the area was achieved.

Blackbridge Road, as it was, has gone and is now the park entrance to Wilton Bush Road, which is unique and something to be proud of. That some members of our club on the working bees were mistaken for periodic detention workers is incidental."



## The Mary Potter Hospice Flat

One of the early major projects, in 1979, involved Mary Potter who was the Mother Superior of the Order of Little Sisters at Calvary Hospital. She saw the need for accommodation for those visiting the hospital and made an offer of some then unused rooms. The club took up the offer and converted the space into a self-contained flat with two bedrooms to accommodate those visiting cancer and other patients. Morris Robertson recalls his involvement in the project.

"In 1979, when I was a new member of the club, the then Community Ser-



vices Director, Phil Henley, announced that the club would be undertaking a project to outfit a flat at Calvary Hospital to provide accommodation for family members visiting patients, particularly those in the newly established hospice ward. I have to admit that, in those days, my knowledge of palliative care and the plans for the hospice were nil, but that has long since been remedied.

However, with one of my objectives on joining Rotary being the ability to contribute the skills of my classification of architecture, I saw this project as a neat fit. I contacted Phil Henley and offered to assist on the project. Within days I was appointed to lead it. Looking back, this is when I crossed over from being a new Rotary club member to being a committed Rotarian.

Our task for the project was to take the bare rooms, decorate and furnish them and provide whiteware and other fittings. As Chief Architect of Lion Breweries at the time I was able to call in a number of favours to obtain fittings, etc. gratis or at substantial discounts. Having obtained the paint I organised two painting teams, one from Wellington North Rotaract Club members and the other from retired members of the club, whose numbers were far fewer in those days. I recall joining both teams at various times.

For several years after the project was completed the club met in the flat for an annual luncheon, catered by the Hospice, with the lunch fees going towards the fund to provide for ongoing maintenance."



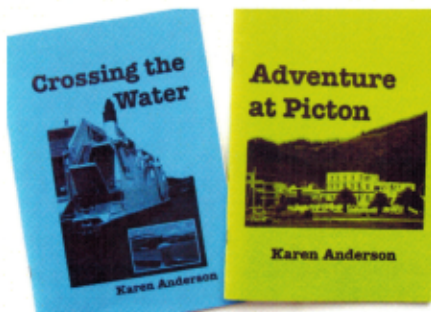
The 2003 Thorndon luncheon with the Hon Michael Cullen and District Governor, Judy Bain.

## Literacy Aotearoa

In 2000 a Literacy Aotearoa talk to the club highlighted that the difficulty working with adults to improve literacy skills was that most literature of a suitable reading level was aimed at children. New adult readers were not interested in tales about fluffy farmyard animals.

Resident Ambassadorial Scholar, Karen Anderson, offered to write two stories that would be of interest for adults and the club agreed to arrange for them to be published. The cost was funded by a grant obtained from The Rotary Foundation.

A few months later a well-attended book launch of *Crossing the Water* and *Adventure in Picton* was generously hosted by Mayor Mark Blumsky in the mayoral chambers.



Club support for Red Nose Day.



The association with Literacy Aotearoa did not stop there as, in response to a New Zealand Qualifications Authority audit, the club arranged and conducted a very successful one day workshop with management to develop a statement of purpose and related objectives for the organisation. This was facilitated by club member Rory O'Connor and a similar workshop the following year to review progress was facilitated by club member Henry Davies.

## Thorndon Lunches

Introduced in the 1990s, the desired outcome of the Thorndon Lunch was to raise the profile of the club and encourage local participants to become members. They were also seen as a vehicle for raising funds for nearby Kimi Ora School for Handicapped Children, to cover the cost of equipment or services not otherwise available to them. Invitations were sent far and wide for business houses and other organizations to purchase individual seats or tables of ten.

One of the objectives was to have as guest speaker, the current Leader of the Opposition. As this office did not change hands often, other party leaders were invited including Winston Peters and Rodney Hide.

The early lunches were held in Deloitte's boardroom, then located in Molesworth St. Later, there was one held at Queen Margaret College with Helen Clark speaking as Leader of the Opposition and another in the Legislative Chamber with Jenny Shipley. The hosting politician gave a speech and then participated in the presentation of a cheque to the Principal of Kimi Ora.

In its latter years the lunch moved to the Beehive Banquet Room with Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Cullen as guest speaker in 2003. However, despite some financial support from Pub Charity the lunches at the Beehive were not breaking even.

At a subsequent forum there was extensive discussion on the future of the lunches, ranging over format, location and speakers. The consensus was that the move to Parliament had been negative in many respects including reduction in charitable return and lack of impact for business clients. Consensus was in favour of continuation of the event, but in a different



Specialised equipment for Kimi Ora.

location, possibly the Bridge Club, with speakers not necessarily being politicians.

Finally, in 2006, it was agreed to discontinue the lunches although the club continued to support Kimi Ora until it moved away from Thorndon. The objective of recruiting local business people into the club had limited, although rather temporary, success.

## Joseph's Story

Family situations, which led to a child being put in foster care, provided the background to *Joseph's Story*, which was written by Joy Cowley, who donated her services. It was published by The Open Home Foundation International in association with the Rotary Club of Wellington North with funding support from The Rotary Foundation.



Logan Byrne, with Ewen Laurenson and Joy Cowley, reading extracts from *Joseph's Story*.



Exchange student, Sumi, meeting the Governor General.