

Rotary Focus - *arotahi* Rotary

District 9980 Rotary Club of Waimate Newsletter - 14 December 2017



Apologies txt 027 6896006 by midday Wednesday



Rotary Christmas Dinner

President Dylan welcomed all guests and partners to the very special evening. Santa Dylan was in fine form entertaining us with his Christmas themed jokes.

Special guests St Patricks choir entertained with a number of carols, inviting the audience to join in. The Christmas message this year was delivered by Gael Grigg (refer to pages 3 & 4).

Following a delicious Christmas meal President Dylan concluded by wishing all a Merry Christmas.

Christmas Notices - Panui

Birthdays: Vicki Johnson - 18 Dec, Raewyn Francis - 25 December

Anniversaries: Gael & Paul Grigg 41 years, Shirley & John Abraham 50 years on 6 January 2018

Raffle winner of the Christmas Hamper: John Coles

Hi everyone! Merry Christmas!

I hope things are going well back in Waimate and you are all well. I've seen and heard about the hot summer we are having this year, and can't wait to get home and enjoy it! I hope you guys have been, I'm sure you're also busy with work and Christmas plans.

I'm holding Christmas and New Years here, and don't think there could be a better way to finish the year off. Christmas in Scandinavia is quite a magical experience. Here it's dark when you arrive at work, and when you leave work, so the Christmas cheer is a necessity needed to brighten things up. There's fairy lights wrapped around bushes and trees in everyone's front yards, which helps combat the winter depression, as well as tons of candles to create this thing called hygge. HYGGE doesn't really have an English translation, but it's the idea of enjoying yourself with others in the current time and place. Tonight I'm also going to bake Christmas cookies at my host moms friends house. All the friends and the daughters are going to meet and we will bake together because that is also very HYGGE.

So at the moment my schedule is jam packed with Christmas dinners, leaving events for exchange students, rotary events, and Christmas fun. Recently I have given my leaving presentation to my Rotary club here, which ended with a few tears. Last night was then our Christmas breakup meeting, and also my last meeting. Every member had a Santa hat on the entire meeting (a requirement to receive free schnapps), and when we left at the end of the night there was snow on the ground!

I'll be home on the 9th, and look forward to coming and visiting the club!

- Claire Rollinson

	25 January	1 February	8 February
Speaker	Start of Rotary New Year Waimate Bowling Club BBQ and Bowls	Peter Brown Scotland Rugby Rep	Club Night
Chair		Peter Bell	Ryan Luckman
Fellowship	Gary Dennison Sharyn Cain	Carolyn Johns Chub Fletcher	Jim Rayner Paul Studholme
Stewards		Rebecca Aitchison Dave Chamberlain Ryan Luckman	Tony Alden Allan Laurie Jim Stevenson

If you are unable to attend to your assigned duty please arrange to swap with someone else.
Partners, friends, family and potential members are most welcome at all meetings.

Meals on Wheels Roster



Tue/Wed 19 & 20 Dec Mick Laming
Thu/Fri 21 & 22 Dec Allan Laurie
Sat/Sun 23 & 24 Dec Jim Young
Mon 25 Dec Christmas Day—no delivery
Tue 26 Dec Alan Maitland
Wed/Thu 27 & 28 Dec Ryan Luckman
Fri 29 Dec Ryan Luckman

If unsure of your roster please phone Jim Young 689 8191



Important Rotary Contacts

President - Dylan Murray pres.waimaterotary@icloud.com

Secretary - Pauline Dore sondzela@xtra.co.nz

District Governor - Bruce Cowan

Club Addresses:

www.rotarydistrict9980.org

www.waimaterotary.club

Facebook - Rotary Club of Waimate

PO Box 92, Waimate



2017/18 President
Dylan Murray

Christmas Message 2017

Good evening Rotarians and guests. .

We are, together, sharing one of this club's valued traditions, where we can relax, enjoy good food and enjoy the company of all those we have worked with for our community over the year.

Each family here represented, will have their own traditions surrounding the Christmas celebrations. For the younger families, you will be establishing your own Christmas traditions, probably from a compilation of those from both your families of origin and your own ideas.

Paul and I will be missing the presence of all our children we developed our family traditions with, this Christmas; however we will have the company of an honorary daughter and granddaughter and another local family with young daughters to create memories with. This week I created a facebook messenger group to ask our children to assist me with this talk, by reminiscing about their favourite Christmas memories and traditions . I would like to share three of these with you this evening, and consider how our family benefitted from them.

Every year, as soon as the school breakups, prize givings and bring- a -plate events were behind us, we worked together in the kitchen, to bake goodies for gift packs. Shortbread stars and mini Christmas trees, decorated with silver cachous. Inevitably, Paul ending up going to great lengths to find those tiny silver balls that they always seemed to hide in New World! ...a mini Christmas tradition.....Paul trying to find the cachous. Afghans, handmade Christmas mince pies, almond biscuits or chocolate bark, whatever they decided together they wanted to make. I remember the messy homemade shewsberry biscuit year! Jam on every side of the biscuits, as they developed fine motor skills!!

Together we made deliveries to people that were part of our lives. These were usually older members of our church family or connected with us in some other way, and may also include meals on wheels recipients if we were on duty near Christmas.

What did our children learn from this tradition of gift making and giving? I'll try not to get too teachery and break down the skills too specifically!

Practical skills, in food preparation and baking, group decision making and cooperation as together we decided what we would make, task sharing, gift wrapping, social skills and confidence as we delivered and chatted with recipients, caring about others and the enjoyment of giving and being appreciated for their efforts.

On Christmas Eve we had a special family celebration, the second tradition I'll share. We gathered in the lounge with grandparents and whoever was in the house for Christmas, and re-enacted the story of the nativity, with Paul reading the story from the bible as the children who were old enough, played it out on the coffee table using these plastic figures I've set out in front here. As they learnt to read, they graduated to reading the story too. After a family prayer, the children, as they were able to walk, served their parents and grandparents a supper of Christmas treats including Jesus birthday cake, our family Christmas cake , short bread angels or stars and fruit mince pies they had helped bake. Of course with a dash of sherry, sparkling grape juice or fizzy. Christmas carols were played on CD or practised and performed by whoever was able.

What did they learn from our Christmas Eve Jesus' birthday party tradition?

It's fun to do things together as an extended family, the satisfaction of working together to serve others, social confidence, the joy of the affirmation received for a job well done and important to both Paul and I, become very familiar with a key narrative that underlies the spiritual life of our family and the way we interact in our community.

The third of the favourite memories mentioned by the children was a tradition that grew organically out their own play. Every year the children tag teamed to distribute the gifts from under the tree.

After Christmas dinner they would disappear, and return dressed from our well supplied dress up collection. Every year they choose a different theme. I remember a clown year, elf year, dinosaurs, cowboys, pirates, a nativity theme and probably the last year they did this was the mafia year. Everyone remembers the mafia year, when two disturbing looking, spud gun wielding teenaged mafia mates knocked on the lounge door wanting to make a delivery from Siam, to a Mr Paul Robert Grigg. A huge box was dragged into the room and deposited as near to the Christmas tree as possible.

Gift distribution began as the mafia dudes got busy distributing. . one or two at a time so we could all watch on and enjoy the gift revealing process. Shortly, I spotted a black moving object shoot past me feet. Naomi and I were able to quickly retrieve the escaping Siamese kitten and return it to the huge box thru the same handle hold hole it had escaped from, without Paul noticing. I immediately suggested it be distributed to next!.

We had done a great job of gift wrapping the 8 week old half Siamese black kitten after church and before we sat down to dinner. Unfortunately we didn't reckon on the fast metabolism of the young kitten! In desperation he had escaped looking for food. We quickly found the tin of kitten food wrapped and placed under the tree for Paul and fed the starving cat. . By the way Tommy survived his ordeal, lived a long and happy life, and has now been followed by a much loved Burmese cat, also gifted to Paul by the children.

What did they learn from this tradition?

Creativity, team decision making, sharing the coveted task of gift distribution, that gift giving and receiving was not just about them and having a heap of fun as a family. Oh and very importantly in this day and age, delayed gratification, the number one early indicator of later success in life. .

Traditions within a family, practised throughout the year, are part of the super glue that hold it together, give identity, a sense of belonging, impart and practise family values, and provide a rhythm for family life,

Whether you are grandparents holding those long held traditions for your grandchildren, new grandparents establishing your traditions around how you grandparent, or parents of young children, establishing the traditions for your family, consider what values you are expressing in them. They have more power than you may have thought.

Traditions are an important component in establishing permanency, security and belonging for both children and adults. With rising concern around mental health, anxiety and wellbeing of our children and young people, I advocate we continue to uphold and build our own set of family traditions that reflect both who we are, what is important to us and what outcomes we want for our children.

Overarching the Grigg Christmas family traditions are keeping in remembrance and being thankful for, the hope and joy that is planted and established in us as a result of the journey that started with a willing young woman, and the birth of a tiny baby in a borrowed shed.

It is encapsulated in this karakia from the apostle Paul I'll close with tonight.

¹³ I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace when you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Gael Grigg