

The late Duke of Edinburgh was an interesting character himself and sometimes hard to know what to make of him. I remember watching a meet and greet as he strolled down a Street in England. There were a lot of children present and he stopped to talk with some of them. There was a young boy maybe 6 or 7 the duke asked what he wanted to be when he grew up. He was a larger boy and he responded he wanted to be an astronaut. The response was you will never be an astronaut you are far too fat and then he walked on. I wonder what happened to that boy. Then there was the time, as I recall, he commenced his speech at Oxford University saying "it is great to be at Cambridge today". I was never sure if that was deliberate or whether he was confused about where he was.

That is digressing from Chris' talk. He also worked for a while in Brunei. The Sultan of Brunei and the wealth of Brunei must have been truly amazing. Life back in New Zealand must seem very mundane. However, it is one of the better countries to be in with Covid running rife throughout a large part of the World. I discovered that in the days of smallpox Britain introduced compulsory vaccination, under a 'Compulsory Vaccination Act' in the 1860s. Imagine the outcry if that was done today for Covid or even Polio!! It is a pity in some ways that such an Act would never get passed nowadays, although think I would be worried if it was. Better to offer education and reason than compulsion in my view.

Pumpkins for Polio. The board of our club decided Tuesday evening that any member of our Club who wishes to obtain a seedling and attempt to grow the biggest heaviest pumpkin should do so. The Club as a whole will develop a sponsorship card with each member to seek sponsorship per Kilogram, or even a donation to go towards the Polio programme based on the biggest heaviest pumpkin grown by one of our members. We will have to then get that pumpkin to Conference in Cromwell next year. Naturally as "The Magic Club" we will win the prize for the region and put all the other Clubs to shame. Let's get to it!! Order your seedling before September 30<sup>th</sup> by clicking the link in the article in last weeks newsletter. If you have lost that then please contact one of the Executive and we will organise it for you. This is the Compulsory Pumpkin Act; you cannot get around it, just join in the fun!!

On Tuesday coming, get out for the evening. Come for dinner at the house of Timaru Rotary. Make the most of getting out while 'Covid Regulations' allow you to and eat and enjoy the food and company of fellow Rotarians we are all in this together!!

We have another interesting guest speaker too.

Enjoy the magic of Timaru Rotary and help us to serve others.

Ka kiti I te Turei

President Hugh