



# MEADOWS MATTERS

Weekly bulletin of Greenmeadows Rotary Club



No. 2021-46		12 June 2021
<b>OFFICE HOLDERS 2020-21</b> President Frank Heuser Secretary Ken Hunt Treasurer Graeme Ryan Directors: Club Service Jenny Robertson Art-x Brian Mathews Community Mark Dickerson International Helen Tattersall Vocational Gill Scarlet Youth Penny Park	<b>MEETINGS</b> <b>Weekly:</b> Taradale Town Hall Wednesday 6.00pm Fellowship 5.30pm <b>Firesides:</b> First Wednesday of month <b>Directors:</b> Second Wednesday of Month <b>Apologies to:</b> <a href="mailto:GR.apologies@gmail.com">GR.apologies@gmail.com</a> (before 8.00am on Wednesday)	<b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b> Artex – 18-20 June Changeover – 27 June <b>Leave of Absences:</b> Kevin McCormack – 2 June to 30 Sept Colin Clark – to 23 June Geoff Bennett – 2 June to 15 October Ian McKelvie – Ongoing Mort Nikolaison - Ongoing

## Meeting 9 June 2021 – The Great Plate Debate

It was a great crowd that assembled at the Taradale Club for the sixth Plate Debate between Napier Boys and Napier Girls High Schools. Fellowship and an excellent two-course dinner set the evening off to a great start.



## DUTY ROSTER (\* denotes change from previous roster)

Date	June 16th	June 23rd	June 30th	July 7th
Programme: Guest Speaker	Byron Burrough Tanzania Programme	Byron (Buck) Buchanan Life Story	Jenny and the new directors	Firesides
Opening thought Top Table (introduce Speaker) Vote of Thanks Cashier Club Host & Closing Thought Three Minute Speaker Sergeant	Robert Pearson Garth Eyles Alan White* Kelvin Winnie* Penny Park Edwin Brown* Trevor Powell	Gill Scarlett Fred Staples Neil Smith Brian Anstis Bruce Martin Geoff Bibby Mark Dickerson	Bryan Matthews Dennis Thetford Graeme Muir Ian Holyoake Barry Keating Brian Hall Doug Neilson*	Admin Committee
Stewards	Jenny Robertson Wim Snijders Helen Tattersall Dennis Thetford Peter Thompson	Wal Drayton Hayley Gibson Gail Kelly Judy McKelvie Les Mockford	Bob Brady Curly Carpenter Judy McKelvie Bob Morrison Brian Peplow	TBA

**NB IF you are unable to perform your duty YOU must arrange a substitute and notify President Frank of the change**



Director Penny sets the scene . . .

**The Great Plate Debate** (the moot being that “All social media platforms should be banned”) was fiercely fought with both teams presenting a strong, informative and at times hilarious argument - Napier Boys in the affirmative, Napier Girls in the negative. Jack Turnbull started the Napier Boys’ argument by clearly declaring their focus was very definitely ‘**should** all social media platforms be banned’ not ‘**can** they be banned’. Jack’s view of social media was “a place where everyone is living a perfect life . . . except you!”

The Napier Girls’ argument was based on **regulation** as the answer and they adopted an investigatory approach (with supporting props). “My mother” Stephanie Brough said “likes to express her opinion no matter what others may think. Social media gives this right to everyone.” (Stephanie’s mother was seated nearby and listened without comment.)

Ben Shirley presented justification for banning social media based on the mental and physical health impacts it has on the young in particular and Francine Sales countered by noting that banning social media “would be like reverse engineering a McDonalds beef burger back into a cow’s hind leg” She argued that you can’t put social media back in the box because someone else would simply recreate it; regulation is the only viable option.

Oliver Parvin reminded the audience that Facebook has been going for 16 years but still hasn’t found a way to address online hate speech and abuse. Charlotte Williams provided the Adjudication Panel guidance in their deliberations by pointing out the affirmative team’s argument was simply full of holes and gave several examples to prove her point.

Stephanie and Jack in turn wrapped up the debate, each with a tidy summary of what was wrong with the other team’s argument and why their stance was the right one. The Adjudication Panel promptly retired to deliberate and it must have been a very difficult decision – they were away for what seemed like a long time. On their return, Napier Boys were declared the winners and awarded the \$2,000 prize, Oliver Parvin the best speaker and received \$500 toward his future studies (Jack Turnbull second best and Stephanie Brough third best).

The score now sits at three wins each – roll on next year’s debate!



IT'S BETTER TO DEBATE A QUESTION  
WITHOUT SETTLING IT THAN TO SETTLE A  
QUESTION WITHOUT DEBATING IT.

- JOSEPH JOUBERT -