



MEADOWS MATTERS

Weekly bulletin of Greenmeadows Rotary Club



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

No. 2022-31		2 March 2022
OFFICE HOLDERS 2021-22 President Jenny Robertson Secretary Ken Hunt Treasurer Graeme Ryan DIRECTORS Club Admin Helen Tattersall Members & PI Kelvin Winnie Service Denise Brown Youth Gail Kelly Foundation Graeme Muir Artex Bryan Matthews	MEETINGS Weekly: Taradale Town Hall Wednesday 6.00pm Fellowship 5.30pm Firesides: First Wednesday of month Directors: Second Wednesday of Month Apologies to: GR.apologies@gmail.com (before 8.00am on Wednesday)	UPCOMING EVENTS District Conference - May Leave of Absence*: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frank Heuser – to 30 Mar • Neil Smith – to 20 Apr • Edwin Brown – to 27 Apr • Hamish Lack, Jinice Bautista-Lack, John Hanlen – to 1 Jun • Alan White, Barry Keating, Dennis Thetford, John Mackintosh – to 29 Jun • Ian McKelvie, Mort Nikolaison – Ongoing

* Plus those members who have decided not to attend under the current COVID settings but have the option to attend via Zoom by emailing Doug Neilson no later than Tuesday prior.

DUTY ROSTER (* denotes change from previous roster)

Date	March 9 th	March 16 th	March 23 rd	March 30 rd
Programme: Guest Speaker	Blanche Paewhi-Ashcroft "Parent to Parent"	Lynne Gibson Hearing Educator HB "Can you hear me?"	Santiago De Marco Hohepa update and vision	TBA
Opening thought Top Table (introduce Speaker) Vote of Thanks Cashier Club Host & Closing Thought Three Minute Speaker Sergeant	Jinice Bautista-Lack Lynn Gibson Wal Drayton Kevin McCormack Hamish Lack Graeme Muir Brian Anstis	Hayley Gibson Christine McKenna Gill Scarlett Fred Staples Robert Pearson Les Mockford Garth Eyles	Stuart Cheyne Alan White Kelvin Winnie Gail Kelly Mark Dickerson Bruce Martin Peter Thompson	Les Mockford Curly Carpenter Vim Snijders Steve Gillum Stewart Skeet Brian Pelpoe Bryan Matthews
Stewards	One from each table then the following two to vacuum afterwards			
	Geoff Bennett Geoff Bibby Brian Hall John Nelson	Bob Brady Stuart Cheyne	Denise Primrose Helen Tattersall	Lynne Gibson Trevor Powell

IF you are unable to perform your duty YOU must arrange a substitute and notify President Jenny of the change. It's not too hard and is a courtesy to our president and assists the smooth running of our meeting.

Meeting 2nd March 2022

Meeting Chair Bryan Matthews welcomed members on behalf of President Jenny and the Artex Committee and thanked Geoff Bennett for his generous shout celebrating the birth of his grandson Jackson.

The **Opening Thought** by Denise Primrose was one of the better reflections we've heard in a long time – it was certainly topical:

“When we were last sitting around these tables just a week ago:

- *We were only speculating on Putin's next move as Russian troops amassed on the border of Ukraine*
- *Omicron daily numbers stood at 3,000 per day and now they've topped 23,000 per day*
- *The occupation at Parliament was, at that stage, into its 16th day and today has culminated in rioting and fires as Police move to reclaim a large portion of Wellington's CBD*
- *MIQ and home isolation has been abandoned for homecoming New Zealanders*

A great deal has changed in the past seven days. We will all have our own views which will give us a great deal to reflect on and discuss over tonight's dinner no doubt”

President's Notices: On behalf of President Jenny the following notices were presented:

- Lynne Gibson advised that the earplugs on the tables are a reminder that 3rd March is World Hearing Day. The theme for this year is 'To hear for life, listen with care'
- Garth Eyles circulated lists of environmental projects which the club had participated in over the years and asked members to add or elaborate on the content toward a stocktake of such projects by the District Environmental Committee.
- Bryan Matthews advised that the next Artex was planned for June (Matariki Weekend). Planning was fully accommodating of potential COVID-related scenarios and a second booking had been made for October as a contingency (provided no one else booked in it the meantime).

3 Minute Speaker Peter Thompson introduced the Stella Awards – so named after American Stella Liebeck, at the time 79 years old, who was awarded \$160,000 in compensatory damages and \$2.7 million in punitive damages because she spilled a scalding cup of McDonalds coffee on her lap causing third-degree burns. Just happens that she was in the passenger seat of a car holding the cup between her knees. McDonalds and Liebeck settled out of court but the Stella Awards have since been published annually to the most laughable legal claims such as:

- Kathleen Robertson of Austin, Texas, was awarded \$780,000 by a jury after breaking her ankle tripping over a toddler who was running amuck inside a furniture store. The owners of the store were understandably surprised at the verdict, considering the misbehaving child was Ms. Robertson's son.
- Terrence Dickson of Bristol, Pennsylvania, was exiting a house he finished robbing by way of the garage. He was not able to get the garage door to go up because the automatic door opener was malfunctioning. He couldn't re-enter the house because the door connecting the house and garage locked when he pulled it shut. The family was on vacation, so Mr. Dickson found himself locked in the garage for eight days. He subsisted on a case of Pepsi he found, and a large bag of dry dog food. Dickson sued the homeowner's insurance claiming the situation caused him undue mental anguish. The jury agreed to the tune of half a million dollars and change.
- In November 2000, Mr. Grazinski purchased a brand new 32-foot Winnebago motor home. On his first trip home, having joined the freeway, he set the cruise control at 70 mph and calmly left the drivers seat to go into the back and make himself a cup of coffee. Not surprisingly, the Winnie left the freeway, crashed and overturned. Mr. Grazinski sued Winnebago for not advising him in the handbook that he could not actually do this. He was awarded \$1,750,000 plus a new Winnebago. (Winnebago subsequently amended the handbook.)

Parting Thought. Denise ended the meeting with a challenge . . . to give **Wordle** a go. Try it!

(To go straight to the source . . . <https://www.nytimes.com/games/wordle/index.html>)