



MEADOWS MATTERS

This bulletin is the newsletter of the Rotary Club
of Greenmeadows, Napier, New Zealand



BIRDWOOD OR NOT BIRDWOOD - THAT IS THE QUESTION

Introduced by Denise Primrose, guest speaker Louise Stobbart from Birdwood Gallery told us that her family own and run Birdwood Gallery (out of Havelock North) and they have recently opened more venues in Auckland and Arrowtown.

She explained how 19 years ago they lost their farm in Zimbabwe and came to New Zealand in their 40s to start life again. Louise described Birdwood as an organic evolutionary business employing 30 plus staff members.

They live on the property, and it became their whole life until 2017 (*and this is where the story of Birdwood deviates. Ed*) when they were burnt out and decided to take a year out - in Vanuatu! They found a property on Santo Island where they leased a plantation villa, were completely off the grid, harnessing rainwater and using solar power.

They liked it so much that in 2019 they sponsored a South African family to come out to NZ, and look after Birdwood for a year while they went back to Vanuatu to renovate an old house they had purchased on the island.

Around this time they were approached by a billionaire visitor who wanted a week on a tropical island. They had planned for this visit for two years getting everything in order as he was paying an exorbitant amount of money to stay with them. But in March 2020 COVID struck and he decided to go back to Texas instead. (He let them keep the money though!) They stayed on the island themselves but then COVID meant that they then couldn't get back to NZ.

Soon after this, cyclone Harold struck the island and she explained in great detail this experience which devastated not only their house, but the whole island and took 33 lives. They were advised that a Hercules was going to be made available to get them home to NZ and eventually it did. On their return however, they had to isolate in MIQ for 14 days in Auckland.

When going back to Vanuatu recently to take up the job of rebuilding and repainting their home in, they were amazed to find that nature had taken the island back to its verdant beautiful self.

Her advice to the audience was that this was an exciting invigorating time in their lives and *"if opportunities come your way - just do it!"* She also added the New Zealand's support on these islands is enormous and told us that a Blenheim Rotary club is doing good work on the island crushing bottles and using the powder to build homes with.

Bryan Matthews thanked Louise for her amazing story.



**"if
opportunities
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**Bulletin 2022-23 No. 14
12 October 2022**

Officer Holders 2022-23

President	Helen Tattersall
Secretary	Ken Hunt
Treasurer	Graeme Ryan
Club Admin & PE	Kelvin Winnie
Membership & PI	John Macintosh
Service Projects	Fred Staples
Youth	Chris McKenna
Foundation	Lynne Gibson
Artex	Steve Gillum

Meetings

Weekly: Taradale Town Hall
Wednesday 6.00pm
Fellowship 5.30pm
Firesides: 1st Wed
Directors: 2nd Wed

Coming Up:

Visit other clubs week – 26 Oct
Tamatea High School visit – 9 Nov.
ArtEx Sponsors Elephant Hill 16 Nov

Leave of Absence

Kevin McCormack – 26/10
Don McKenzie – 26/10
Tattersalls, H & D – 2/11
Barry Keating ongoing
Ian McKelvie ongoing

Website/Club Contacts

Our website
www.greenmeadowsrotary.co.nz

President: hjtattersall@hotmail.com

Secretary:
administrator@greenmeadowsrotary.co.nz

Apologies:
GR.apologies@gmail.com (before 8am Wed)

Vice President Kelvin with his heart beating rapidly (as was that of program organiser Alan White) due to the non-appearance of the speaker at the beginning of the meeting, welcomed the 30 plus members and asked for a moment's silence to honour the passing of dearly loved member Wim Snijders. (That the speaker *did* arrive and alleviate that concern, is obvious from the report above.)



Welfare

Acting Welfare Officer Peter Thompson reported on the welfare of various unwell members – Colin Clarke, Don McKenzie John Nelson and John Mackintosh all being in a similar condition to that which was reported last week.

(It was noted with appreciation that Barman Peter had returned to duty after the recent sad loss of his wife. He was greeted with joy and sympathy.)

Announcements

Projects Director Fred thanked all the Cranford volunteers for their help at the open day last weekend.

He also noted that there is a *Riding for the Disabled* street appeal coming up which will need collectors. More to come on this.

ArtEx Director Steve spoke about how the ARTEX committee has become depleted and that he will talk with President Helen as to how to remedy this. Next year June 23rd - 25th is booked for ArtEx 2023.

He also told of the **ARTEX Sponsors' Night** coming up on November 16th (replacing our regular venue meeting) at Elephant Hill and he requested that the members mix and mingle with the sponsors and not to just talk to each other!

Gill Scarlett thanked members for their flowers and visits after she had recently had surgery.

There was also a thank you from **Hamish & Jinice** for the gifts for baby Martine.

Brian Peploe then made a short tribute to Wim and his life within the Rotary Club of Greenmeadows. Brian said he has known him since 1977, and described his generous nature, his great hospitality, his work in Dolbel and his ongoing wit and sense of humour. A valued member who will be sadly missed.

Sergeant at Arms

Brian Peploe then appeared as the sergeant and drew the raffle. Once again there was uncertainty over the winner (*what are members doing with their tickets? Ed*) and eventually Bryan Matthews took away the prize. The former Brian then took the role of a school teacher (not hard for him) and managed to wheedle money out of most of those present. He seemed to presuppose school misbehaviours that most members were guilty of in some way or another. It brought back memories for a lot of naughty kids – who have now rejuvenated themselves as Rotarians!

Thoughts for the week

Opening:

"The trouble with referees is that they just don't care which side wins."

Closing:

"There should be a button on the TV remote for "intelligence". There is one for brightness – but it doesn't work!"

Both contributed by Ian Holyoake



ROSTER OF DUTIES

Date	October 19 th	October 26 th	November 2 nd
Programme & Guest Speaker	Taradale Com Policing Brent Smith & Andrew Graham	Club Visits Week	Firesides Rotary Foundation Committee in the Chair
Host + Thoughts Top Table introduce Speaker Vote of Thanks Cashier Three Minute Speaker Sergeant	Lynne Gibson Peter Thompson * Bryan Anstis Robert Pearson Nil Mark Dickerson	Now confirmed. No meeting at our regular venue. Committees will be (or have) organised their own visits.	Foundation committee members to fill
Stewards <i>One per table and the named Members to clean up at the end.</i>	One per table + Curly Carpenter Judy McKelvie Hamish Lack	NIL	One per table + Les Mockford Bob Morrison Judy McKelvie

UNABLE TO PERFORM DUTY?

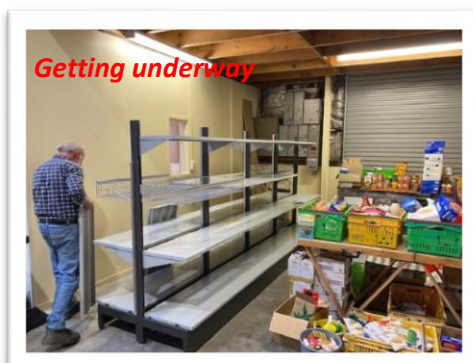
YOU must arrange a substitute and notify President Helen of the change.
It's not too hard, is a courtesy to our president and assists the smooth running of our meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS MEADOWS MATTERS



Rotary in Action (by Judy McKelvie)

The storage at **Nourish for Nil** was pretty bad, prior to a recent request for assistance with shelving - relayed to us by Judy. Putting on his welfare hat and builders apron, Peter Thompson located some shelves from his days in business, cleaned them, carted and assembled them. What a difference he made at the Onekawa warehouse. Jane and **Nourished for Nil** thank Rotary and especially Peter.



IRISH JOKES

AN IRISH BLONDE IN A CASINO:

An attractive blonde from Cork, Ireland arrived at the casino. She seemed a little intoxicated and bet twenty-thousand Euros on a single roll of the dice.

She said, "I hope you don't mind, but I feel much luckier when I'm completely naked." With that, she stripped from the neck down, rolled the dice and with an Irish brogue yelled, "Come on, baby, Mama needs new clothes!" As the dice came to a stop, she jumped up and down and squealed: "YES! YES! I WON, I WON!" She hugged each of the dealers and then picked up her winnings (and her clothes) and quickly departed.

The dealers stared at each other dumb-founded.

Finally, one of them asked, "What did she roll?" The other answered, "I don't know - I thought you were watching the dice."

MORAL OF THE STORY:

Not all Irish are drunks. Not all blondes are dumb.

But all men...are men.

MICK AT THE VET

Mick goes to the vet with his goldfish. "I think it's got epilepsy", he tells the vet.

Vet takes a look and says, "It seems calm enough to me".

Mick says, "Well wait now, I haven't taken it out of the bowl yet".

BECOMING A PRIEST

My Mother wanted me to be a priest. Can you imagine giving up your sex life; and then once a week people come in to tell you the details and highlights of theirs?

CIRCLE OF LIFE

**You come with Nothing ,
You go with Nothing ,
In between you can create Magic ,
Bring Smiles and Happiness ,
Create a Legacy - Enjoy Rotary**



@rtnsharath

Your words; this week

Your scribe this week was Jenny Robertson who, in one month has moved from *Cub Reporter* to *Photo Journalist!* Using the English language like only an English Teacher could, and organisational skills known only to high level Academic Managers, she produced a great result. The outcome of this is that she is now flying to New York this weekend to meet up with TVNZ News US Reporter Anna Burns-Francis, with the hope of improving her skills even further. Watch this space.



MELBOURNE 2023

Next meeting – at “home” again and learning about Community Policing

