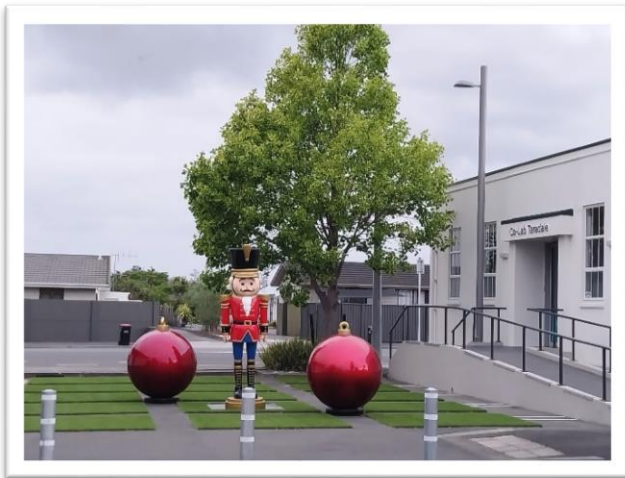




MEADOWS MATTERS

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



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas – and so to our venue, with this little soldier standing outside the door to the hall (You may have also seen him on TV, standing in goal & on the top of Christmas trees!)

President Helen welcomed nearly 40 members and guests with particular emphasis on guest speaker Simon Swa and his parents-in-law visiting from England, Rotarian Les and Christine.



WHY WHINE ABOUT WINE?

Simon Swa is General Manager Marketing & Sales at Elephant Hill was then introduced, and what a remarkable man he is. Born in Burma (on the old map) and shifting to UK with family while a young child, he grew up with a love of wine, developed it in various places, finishing up in the southern hemisphere and finally here in The Bay.

He acknowledge his in-laws Les and Christine who had come 12,000 miles from the UK to attend our Rotary meeting! He then related the story of how 21 years ago, a German businessman, bought one of Dr Greg Beacham's Mark 2 Jaguars, and when he came to New Zealand to collect it, he fell in love with a property in Te Awanga. *Reydan and Roger Weiss* bought it and planted some

grapes – well lots of them actually, hence Elephant Hill Winery. They also added more grapes out at *Gimblett Gravels & the Bridge Pa Triangle.*



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7th December 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:

Club Christmas – Mission 11 Dec
Camp Kaitawa – 8-13 Jan 2023
Dolbel BBQ meeting – 15 Jan

Leave of Absence

Don McKenzie – ongoing
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)



Then he put his taste where his mouth is, or where ours are, and produced six different wines for tasting.

Le Phant Blanc 2021

A blend of Pinot Gris and Viognier which he described as a “starter wine” fresh salty quality, a good partner for Christmas platters and made from grapes squashed in bunches on the stalk.

Le Phant Rose 2022

This is a new wine just launched last week. It is blend of Syrah and Tempranillo grapes. This would be nice served with hams, platters and pizzas.

(NB The name Le Phant, which appears to be a spelling mistake is in fact a deliberate one, dropping the “E” from elephant to make it look French! Well I think that is what he said. Ed)

Sea Viognier 2020

This grape is grown 50 metres from the sea (hence the name). It is harvested when really ripe at the end of the season, is blended and a top seller.

Merlot 2018

This is similar to wine from the Bordeaux Region and the Loire Valley. Grown in Gimblett Gravels, held for four years and “aged” in “French oak” barrels for one year.

Reserve Syrah 2018

This is the same as the wine called Shiraz in Australia (*they can't spell*). It is very like a Pinot Noir, ripens on the coast and is a classic example of earth and stone which Elephant Hill is famous for. It flavours everything.

Airavata 2017

This is an ancestral name of the Weiss family and is one of the three wines in their icon range. Only made some years, they get one bottle per vine and it is handpicked with meticulous care. It is fragrant, elegant, velvet and smooth.

We could buy these, or any of the others on the previously supplied list – and many of us did! (*If you missed out – see details below.*)

Graeme Muir then thanked Simon for sharing his knowledge and his beautiful wines, and also thanked him for being one of our Artex sponsors. He avoided “gifting” the speaker the usual bottle of (e)Lephant) wine!



**Left – the speaker
Right & below –
the preparation**



Welfare

In the absence of Almoner Stu, Helen reported that:

- Don McKenzie has returned from Wellington and is progressing.
- Trevor Powell has gone to Wellington for heart surgery.
- *Brian Peploe* reported that his wife Pat had a stroke just after she'd had knee surgery and is in Hawke's Bay hospital currently.
- A heartfelt thank you note was read out from Penny Park, who thoroughly appreciated all the caring gestures she received from members on the death of her father recently.

Announcements

Garth commented that those who didn't get drowned on the Dolbel walk last week, will have realised how much work is to be done there, and was requesting helpers for 9am Monday, bringing spades and hedge cutters please.

Alan told members that the Salvation Army Christmas collection will be wrapped up next Wednesday so there is still time for members to contribute. (More below)

President Helen said that next week is our last meeting for the year and that it will be a fish and chip dinner and Christmas party.

Opening Thought:

Bruce Martin said:

With our friends and sponsors from Elephant Hill with us tonight I thought it might be appropriate to make reference to wine in both the opening and closing thoughts.

And whilst this might have been an okay idea, I can assure you it's much easier to find good wine, especially at Elephant Hill, than it is to find good quotes about wine! However, I hope the following might just about do for the opening thought:

Wine improves with age. The older I get the more I like it!

Closing Thought:

They say that wine can make us a **bit** sentimental and that a **lot** of wine can make us **very** sentimental. Having watched you all tonight I think it safe to assume that many of you are feeling very sentimental! On that basis I offer you the following:

***Wine comes in at the mouth
And love comes in at the eye
That's all we shall know for truth
Before we grow old and die
I lift the glass to my mouth
I look at you and sigh***

(NB Some of you may have missed this last thought, or forgotten it. In that case, perhaps you shouldn't have **driven** home! Ed)



More on e–LePhant wines



If any members missed on the night but would like to order some great wines, Simon is leaving the offer open to **5 pm Monday**.

All you need to do is fill out the order form earlier emailed to you, scan it and email it to Elephant Hill before 5 pm on Monday. Delivery charges will apply though.

More on the Sallies collection



Last year's Sallies grocery and Christmas gift collection started early with groceries and then morphed into family gifts. This year's specific focus on gifts for teenagers is perhaps more challenging.

Thank you to those members who have already dropped off gifts or handed cash or gift cards to Alan.

Our next club night will be our last opportunity to donate to this Christmas collection.

If you're struggling knowing what teenagers might want, movies, games then K-Mart or Mitre 10 vouchers or cash donations might be easier options.

The Sallies have advised vouchers of \$20 -50 are nice gifts. They will be distributing the gifts on the Thursday after our next meeting so bring your gift or your card/donation to next week's meeting.

We will have a collection box inside the entrance (to the left) of the hall.

ROSTER OF DUTIES

Date	December 14 th	January 15 th	January 18 th
Programme: Guest Speaker	Christmas Meeting	Dolbel BBQ Sunday with Taradale	Back at Base Regular Meeting
Host + Thoughts Top Table introduce Speaker Vote of Thanks Cashier Three Minute Speaker Sergeant	- - - Garth Eyles - -	TBA	TBA
Stewards <i>One per table and the named Members to clean up at the end.</i>	Wal Drayton Neil Smith Geoff Bibby		TBA

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

MELBOURNE CONVENTION



<https://convention.rotary.org/en/melbourne>
Early registration discount finishes on 15 December

DECEMBER IN ROTARY IS DISEASE PREVENTION & TREATMENT MONTH

We believe good health care is everyone's right. Yet 400 million people in the world can't afford or don't have access to basic health care.

Rotary makes amazing things happen, like:

Providing clean water

Reducing HIV infection

Ending polio

EVENTS COMING UP

TOMORROW

Our **Christmas Lunch** at the Mission this Sunday the 11th of December (\$62 set menu)
See you there.

Camp Kaitawa Sunday 8th – Friday 13th January,
Maintenance, fun, meals and happy hours.
Advise Graeme Muir if you can come.

Your words; this week

"Roving Reporter" Jenny returned this week and set her talents to writing and tasting wine - at the same time!



All of you will know that this is not easy – but she did it!

A Story to finish off the bulletin

Our club has a lot of connection with retirement villages. To assist you understand the demography, one of them provided this account of a recent conversation at Summerset Palms, Te Awa.

A group of residents were sitting around talking about their aches and pains.

"My arms are so weak I can hardly lift this cup of coffee," said one. "I know what you mean. My cataracts are so bad I can't even see my coffee," replied another.

"I can't turn my head because of the arthritis in my neck," said a third, to which several nodded weakly in agreement.

"My blood pressure pills make me dizzy," another contributed. "I guess that's the price we pay for getting old," winced an old man as he slowly shook his head.

Then there was a short moment of silence.

"Well, it's not that bad," said one woman cheerfully. "Thank God we can all still drive."

Next week our final meeting for the year at the Town Hall – Fish & Chips

