



MEADOWS MATTERS



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

THE CASE OF KIRSA JENSEN

Introduced by Pres. Kelvin (who made him sound very important) the speaker club member and PDG Ian Holyoake made a presentation on a case that he investigated as a detective some 40 years ago (on 1 September). This was the disappearance of 14 year old Colenso High School girl in 1983. She had been riding her horse on the beach at Awatoto and was last seen at the “gun emplacement site” at about 4pm that day with her horse being recovered around 6pm but no sign of Kirsa between then and now.



Ian described the case as one of great “public interest” and said it remained on the front page of the Napier *Daily Telegraph* and the Hastings *Herald Tribune* newspapers for something like four weeks.

A Power Point showed photos from the newspapers and included one (from *The Listener*) of Ian and his late daughter who shared some classes at Colenso with the missing girl.



He told of the massive search for white trucks, described by a witness as being seen at the scene but none of them could ever be linked to the crime. Then the “interest” returned to that witness when Police discovered that a “strange rope” used to tie up the horse, was scientifically established as having come from the possession

of that witness. He could not explain this and there was no scientific evidence that Kirsa had ever entered his car.

Despite a huge amount of public interest and suggestions from hundreds of people (including psychics, dreamers and clairvoyants) there were no clues that took us to a successful conclusion. We had to assume that she had been kidnapped and murdered but there was no real evidence to link this to any one person.

Virtually every murder case in New Zealand is solved but if you are a Detective Inspector for long enough you may encounter one that was not. This was his one!

Taradale Club member and also PDG, Ross Pinkham added some comments on his role as “O/C Suspects” in this case, when he was a Detective Sergeant in Napier. He described some of the issues they had looked into and also referred to the “many victims” in cases like this, some of whom never get over it.

The case remains “Open” to this day and Ross & Ian indicated that they occasionally meet with the Detective Sergeant who currently holds the file. He says he receives three or four pieces of information most years and these are looked into. The file has recently been converted to a “digitised” form and so now when information comes forward it is a lot easier to check on the file to see whether it has previously been considered and with what result.

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30th August 2023

Officer Holders 2023-24

District Governor	Bill Robinson
Dist. Gov. Elect	Nick Dangerfield
Management of Area Asst. Governor	Phil Crombie
President	Kelvin Winnie
Secretary	Ken Hunt
Treasurer	Graeme Ryan
ClubAdmin&PE	Chris McKenna
Mem/ship, PI & TRF	John Macintosh Geoff Bibby
Service Projects	Brian Hall
Youth	Graeme Muir
ArtEx	Steve Gillum

Meetings

Weekly: Taradale Town Hall

Wednesday 6.00pm

Fellowship 5.30pm

Firesides: 1st Wed

Directors: 2nd Wed

Coming Up:

ArtEx in revival 13th – 15th October

Plate debate TBA

Leave of Absence

Trevor Powell & Denise P. – Ongoing

Gill Scarlet - 12th July to 27th Sept

Pete Thompson 9th Aug to 4th Oct

Jenny Robertson & Brian Hall

9th – 30th August

Website/Club Contacts

Our website

www.greenmeadowsrotary.co.nz

President: kelvin.winnie@tremains.co.nz

Secretary:

administrator@greenmeadowsrotary.co.nz

Apologies:

GR.apologies@gmail.com (before 2pm Tue)

WELCOME

Pres. Kelvin welcomed a whole lot of people and these included a number of partners, friends of members who were somehow encouraged to come to hear the speaker, and PDG Ross Pinkham who also contributed to the presentation. (*There were something like 45 – 50 people present in total but your scribe could not count them too well as he was “double tasking” as scribe and speaker and his eyes were clouded.*) Jenny Robertson was back from international travels on the Rhine, the Main and the Danube (but she must have only just made it in time for the meeting.) After the address a group of us went to the Due of Gloucester for an “away meal.”



Thoughts this week

While not actually expressed, the comments and emails from many listeners after the address, indicated that these were with the many investigators and searchers who took part in this case and especially though, with the Jensen family who for 40 years have had to put up with the uncertainty of not knowing what happened to their dear daughter and sister.

ROSTER OF DUTIES

Date	September 6th	September 13th	September 20th
Programme: Guest Speaker	Firesides	Olivia Baxter	Artex Meeting
Host + Thoughts	Bryan Matthews	Denise Brown	Jenny Robertson
Top Table introduce Speaker	-	Edwin Brown	Steve Gillum
Vote of Thanks	-	Geoff Bibby	-
Cashier	Neil Smith	Judy McKelvie	Mark Dickerson
Three Minute Speaker	Kevin McCormack-	-	-
Sergeant	Helen Tattersall	Brian Peploe	-
Stewards <i>One per table and the named Members to clean up at the end.</i>	Gail Kelly Jenny Robertson	Bruce Martin Brian Anstis	Graeme Muir Fred Staples

UNABLE TO PERFORM DUTY?

YOU must arrange a substitute and notify President Kelvin of the change.

It's not too hard, is a courtesy to our president and assists the smooth running of our meeting. If you are going to be absent in the future – let the Apologies Member know or seek Leave of Absence so that necessary amendments can be made to the roster.

Writers Wanted

Your weekly bulletin is put together by the bumbling Editor and his trustee scribes who take the notes during the meeting. We are looking for extra scribes to take notes, say once a month to assist with this task. There is no telling what this might lead to but there are plenty of options. For instance, two of our scribes are touring overseas at the moment and practising their writing and photographer skills. Maybe this could be you. It's not too hard and don't worry about your spelling – the Editor gets his mother to help when he “assembles” the final copy, and of course, there is always “AI” to rely on for the finished product. Please let the editor know if you are interested in this one day a month job. We need your skills – and a small amount of time.



MISCELLANEOUS MEADOWS MATTERS

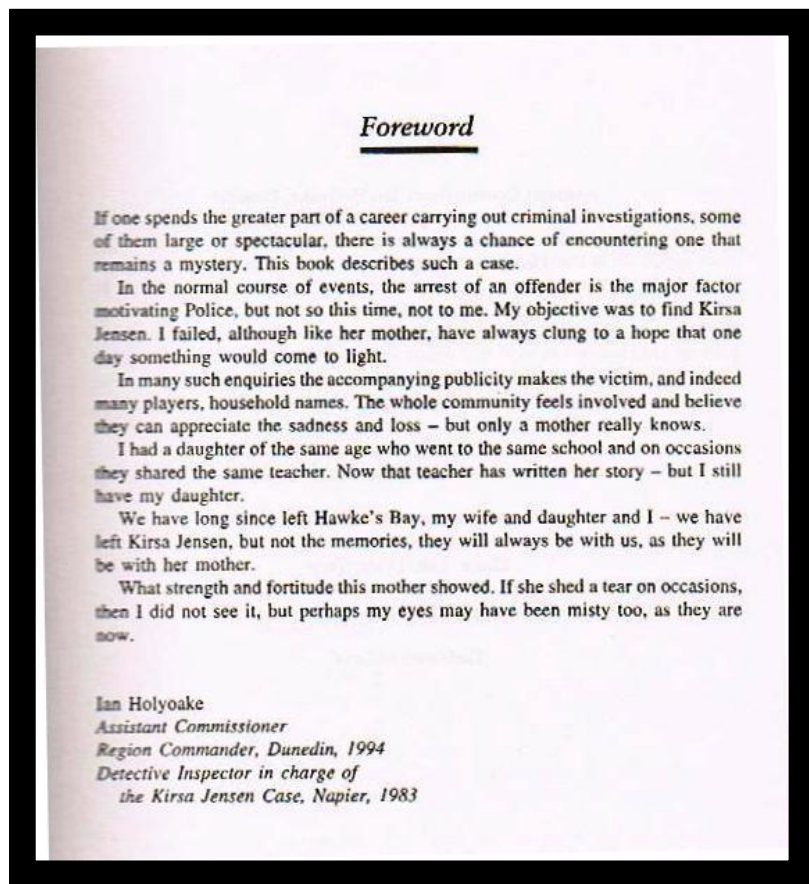
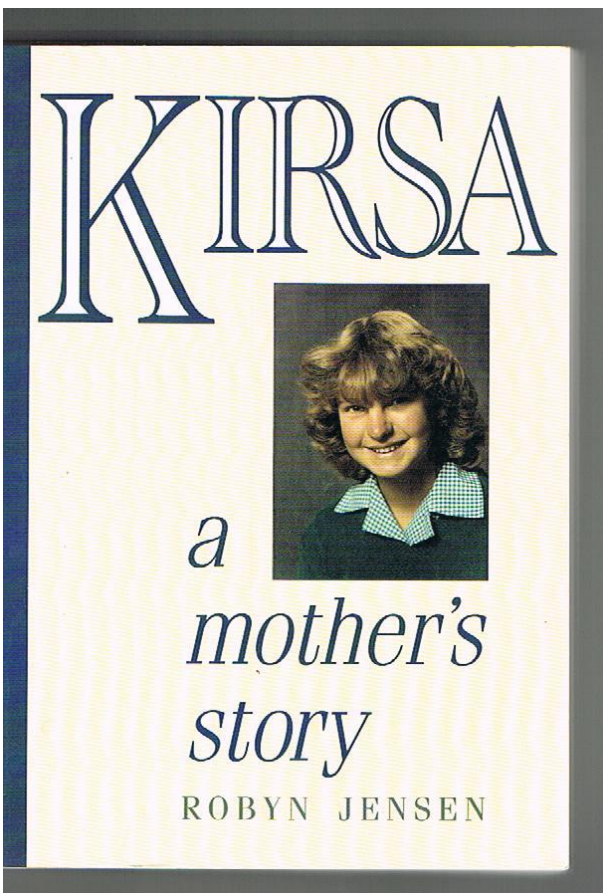
On Friday the 1st of September and exactly 40 years since Kirsa Jensen disappeared, around 20 people gathered at the gun emplacement and memorial area in Awatoto to recognize this anniversary. These included family members (Robyn Jensen and Dan Jensen and their spouses, plus Kirsa's brother Michael and his children, along with Ian, Ross, other retired police officers and the Detective Inspector and Detective Sergeant who currently monitor the file. Robyn read a small passage from her book on the case. Some pictures here show some of the people involved.



Robyn reads from her book.



The Jensen family at the memorial site.



Next Wednesday at home for a short meeting and then "Fireside Meetings."

