



MEADOWS MATTERS



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

SECOND LAST MEETING FOR THE YEAR

Welcome

President Kelvin welcomed 33 members, one partner (Donna) and three special guests, Bianca Ching and her parents, Pip and Alistair Ching. (Bianca is the student that the club is sponsoring to go on Rotary Youth Exchange next year.)



Presidential announcements:

President Kelvin spoke about how impressed he was with last week's speaker, Quentin Bennett, and his amazing underwater photographs and expressed a wish to get Quentin back to speak to the club again some time.

He reminded members that next week, 13/12, will be the last meeting of the year and that we are having a fish and chip supper. Notify if attending and also if bringing partners. **We will also be having a \$10 secret Santa for those wishing to participate.**

He then went on to tell us that Wednesday 6th December was the 337th day of this year and that there are only 26 days remaining until 2024! Speaking historically, he told us that on this day in history, Frank Bainimarama staged his coup in Fiji in 2006, that Pyongyang, Korea, fell to the Chinese in 1950, and that the Great Smog of London in 1952, caused the death of approximately 10-12,000 Londoners from respiratory problems, leading to the Clean Air Act of 1956.

Returning to the current time, President Kelvin presented a Christmas gift to our Caterer, Dave and his assistant, Sonja, thanking them for the high caliber of meals they produce.

Welfare

Stuart reported that Don McKenzie is having further issues with his prosthesis; Alison Drayton is doing well and is on the mend and that John McIntosh has succumbed to Covid.



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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
Membership, Image & Foundation	
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:

Summer BBQ @ Dolbel – TBA Jan

Leave of Absence

Trevor Powell & Denise P. – Ongoing

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)



Announcements

Jenny thanked those members who helped with a working bee at the Women's Refuge. They did gardening, cleaned gutters, sorted out a children's corner and put a Christmas tree up. Their work was much appreciated. Jenny also informed the club that the members who helped with collections for the Napier City Council Christmas Cheer fund had helped to raise \$1636. She had received an email thanking the club for its help.

Alan advised that the wine orders from Elephant Hill would be arriving at his house the following evening (7th Dec.) for pick up for those members who had ordered wine. He passed on Elephant Hill's appreciation for the orders and the support from the club.

Gail advised that the money raised from selling some items found when tidying up at the Women's Refuge was going to be used to buy items for the doll's house there (and Curly bought something)

Denise shared with the members that she had spent \$424 on food for the Salvation Army to give out to those individuals and families in need this Christmas. The Salvation Army were very appreciative and any further funds donated by members was going to be used to purchase further food items and delivered this week. *(See later update below)*

Three Minute Speaker

Bryan Matthews gave an account of "*Mick from Auckland*" - who has the initials QBE after his name. Mick left school at 16 and worked for Bryan's brother's company doing sand blasting. The company won the contract to paint the Auckland Harbour Bridge. This was a 10 year contract and Mick was the foreman. Mick became the supervisor for the contract to paint all the pylons in North Island for Unison. This was carried out while all the pylons were carrying live electricity. Following Mick's return to Auckland, he continued to rise through the company until he became the company contracts manager with a staff of 250. He had his own company business card and asked to have QBE after his name. No-one questioned what this stood for until Bryan's brother asked him one day. The response - "*Qualified By Experience*"

Sergeant's Session

In the capable hands of Stuart Cheyne - the raffle was won by Donna Thompson (and a member commented that the prize of a meat voucher would be a nice change from her regular fish!)

To raise money though, Stuart Cheyne shared his experiences of being involved with an ASE (Australian Study Exchange). Members from the club were asked to entertain the team of eight Rotarians from North Queensland. They took them for a scenic tour with Frank and romance blossomed between two of the members of the study group. The couple and their children are about to visit Stuart and Heather.

In that light, Stuart fined those members who are going to be away from home for Christmas for the money that they will be saving by not having to entertain at home, and then proceeded to fine the members who are staying at home for Christmas for all the money that they will save by not being away! The club got all that money for useful purposes.

Thoughts this week (Fred Staples)

Opening:

"I've come not to be served but to serve"
(King Charles III - on his accession to the throne.)

Closing:

"Don't count the days,
make the days count"

Word & Photo This Week

Cub Reporter Helen, on her first assignment. What a great report. Treasure what she has written and/or sign up to assist as a scribe!



GUEST SPEAKER – Bianca Ching

The evening concluded with a presentation from Bianca Ching, our outbound Rotary Youth Exchange student. She has just finished Year 13 at Hastings Girls High School and is currently working two jobs to help fund her trip. She is going to be hosted by Rotary in Basel, Switzerland. Basel is in North West Switzerland, on the river Rhine. It is very close to the borders of France and Germany. Her first host family has already been in touch with her and have told her that it is possible to have breakfast in France, lunch in Germany and then back to Switzerland for dinner - something that she is keen to try! Her host father is a judge at one of the courts in Basel, her host mum is a part-time nurse who is currently working as a swimming instructor. They have two children, a 17 year old daughter who is also away with RYE in the USA and a younger son who will be home when Bianca visits.

Bianca told members what her school experience will look like. The school day is from 7.30am until 5pm. She said that in winter she will be travelling to school in the dark and also travelling home in the dark, however in summer she is quite excited that it won't be going dark until approximately 11.30pm. She had one *option* to choose for her time at school, a choice between music and art. As her drawing skills only extend to stick men, she has opted for music. The rest of her subjects are compulsory.

Bianca has a number of things on her bucket list:

- ✓ Seeing snow - her host family have bought her a ski pass so this will certainly be something she will be able to cross off.
- ✓ Traveling around Europe with her host father while her host mother and host brother visit her host sister in USA.
- ✓ Using public transport and the ease of travelling in Switzerland.
- ✓ Experiencing the cultural differences between NZ and Switzerland.

She is excited to be having a four day stopover in Dubai on the way to Switzerland. This includes camel riding, sand surfing, visiting a mosque, shopping in a mall and taking the elevator to the top of the world tallest building, the Burj Khalifa, at over 828 meters and 160 stories tall.

Bianca thanked the club for the amazing opportunity to be able to go on a Rotary Youth Exchange and is hoping that the experience will help her to be a better version of herself and to discover who she is. When she returns to NZ in 2025, Bianca is hoping to study law. She is looking forward to keeping in touch with the club while she is away and to speaking to the club again on her return.

President Kelvin then shared some facts about Switzerland:

- The country has 7,000 lakes
- It is the most innovative country in the world.
- It has the tallest peak in Europe - the Matterhorn
- It has 48 mountain peaks that are over 4000m tall.
- It has the longest rail tunnel in the world, the Gotthard tunnel which is 57km long.
- Switzerland has one of the lowest crime rates in the world and also is one of the world's happiest countries to live in.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL FOR THE SALVATION ARMY

Denise Brown reports on the collection last week. She has delivered the second boot load of goodies to the Sallies (see photos below) She was also given \$600 in cash, presents, clothing and groceries - a very generous haul which the Sallies are most grateful for. Thank-you to everyone who contributed.



Photos from Denise's boots!



ROSTER OF DUTIES

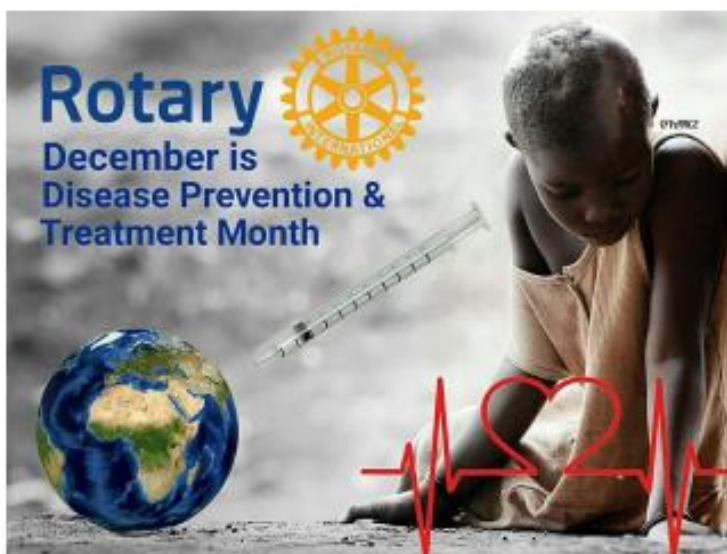
Date	December 13th	17 January	24 January
Programme: Guest Speaker	Fish and Chips Dr. Mike Goodfellow- Smith from Wales	TBA	
Host and Thoughts Top Table introduce Speaker Vote of Thanks Cashier Three Minute Speaker Sergeant	Bob Morrison Garth Eyles * Ian Holyoake * Jenny Robertson		
Stewards <i>One per table and the named Members clean up.</i>	Judy McKelvie Peter Thompson		

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.

MISCELLANEOUS MEADOWS MATTERS



And – what are we doing?

Well – eradicating polio

And

Many other vaccinations for

Children in the Pacific Islands

(As part of the Rotary NZ centennial)



And there are other “service clubs” as well.....



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1' to discover an aspect of Rotary history

The history of Lions International

Lions International is a global service organization founded in 1917 by Melvin Jones, a Chicago businessman.

Jones had the idea to create an organization that would bring together business and professional men from all walks of life to work together to improve their communities.

The first Lions club was established in Chicago in 1917 and the organization quickly spread throughout the world.

Today, Lions International has over 1.4 million members in more than 200 countries and territories.

Lions are committed to a variety of community service programs, including:

- Preventing blindness: Lions International is the world's largest blindness prevention organization. The organization has provided glasses, cataract surgeries, and other services to millions of people around the world.
- Serving the disabled: Lions support people with disabilities of all kinds, including the blind, deaf, physically disabled, and those with developmental disabilities.
- Serving youth: Lions support youth of all kinds, including at-risk youth, developing youth, and young leaders.

**LIONS CLUBS
INTERNATIONAL**



The Rotarian Minute is a creation of District 1700. Please send any comments or suggestions to laminute1700@gmail.com

Don't forget – next Wednesday at home for our last meeting of the year, plus “Secret Santa”, an Environmental Speaker, along with fish & chips for supper.

