



MEADOWS MATTERS



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

LAST MEETING FOR THE YEAR 2023

Welcome

President Kelvin welcomed 50 plus people to our final meeting for the year.

Father Christmas was there somewhere with a varied assortment of very suspect elves and fairies.

However it was great to welcome partners and visitors from far and wide, and those who arrived without Christmas attire were soon festooned in something glitzy.

Kelvin made a special welcome to Dr Mike Goodfellow-Smith and his wife Julia, Rotarians visiting us from Wales. He then got those present to raise their glasses to absent friends and 'empty places' at the tables.



President Kelvin went on to give us a very succinct rundown of the past year with special reference as to how our lives changed on February 14th, 2023, when Gabrielle struck. He acknowledged the members who had been so badly hit in the cyclone and also acknowledged the spirit that arose to help others, whether it be driving diggers, shoveling mud or cooking food. He spoke of how we supported schools and school camps, how we assisted families in their relocation and acknowledged what a great job our partners, *Hawke's Bay Life Saving* did to help flood victims.

He also reiterated how we raised \$20,000 plus in our annual art exhibition, how we assisted the Napier Women's Refuge, and he talked about the seat we erected in Dolbel Reserve in honour of our old friend Wim. He concluded with a large sigh and said, "We made it!"

Paul Harris Awards

Ross Pinkham then then stepped up and awarded two Paul Harris Fellowship recognitions. He explained how the Rotary Foundation is one of the biggest and most trustworthy charities in the world and how The Rotary Club of Greenmeadows has donated \$60,000 over the years. He then presented sapphire pins to Eleanor Holyoake and Stewart Skeet acknowledging their personal US\$1,000 each in the past year. (See photos below)

Bulletin 2023-24 No. 24 13th December 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
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 – 17 January

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)



Welfare

In a very brief report Stuart advises that Wally Drayton's wife back on track (*and it was lovely to see her present with us. Ed*) and while John Mackintosh now okay - his wife Claire has contracted Covid! (*and they were not there with us!! Ed*)



GUEST SPEAKER – Dr Mike Goodfellow-Smith [PhD; MSc; BA; DipEM; MSI; PIEMA; FRSA]

A Rotarian (as is his wife Julia) from the Llanelli Club in Wales was then introduced. They are also members of the Rotary *International Travel & Hosting Fellowship* (ITHF) of which Ian Holyoake has been the NZ Coordinator until recent times (and he coordinated their NZ visit).

Mike issued an invitation to all the members to visit his club in Llanelli and also reminded us that the Llanelli Rugby team was the only team in Wales to ever beat the All Blacks. He then went on to present the club and his hosts Garth and Mary Anne Eyles (plus Ian & Eleanor) with 100-year centennial pennants from his club.

An Environmental Scientist, Mike then began by telling us that we have a 'climate emergency'. He quoted from Walt Disney, "*The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing.*"

He told us how young people are angry, and how "Greta" thinks we should have done a lot better than we've done.

He told us the average temperature increases from NASA were very scary and said that they are in a serious position in the UK where critical infrastructure can't cope when there is a convergence of extreme weather events.

So, he asked, "*What do we think we need to do?*" He feels we will never achieve a zero-carbon system by 2025, we will not even be close to achieving it. We can't keep destroying nature – we need to reward people for protecting nature. He feels that the COP 28 discussions have been a disaster.

(Some pictures from his extensive power point appear below. Ed)

Questions were asked – many of them. On one about electric cars – *What about their batteries?* He answered that electric vehicles aren't the solution. That takes us away from heavy pollution and we need to do something about that NOW. Comments continued for some time and then Mike stated that perhaps the Rotary movement should consider approaching governments to do something about climate change. He feels we need to give them a plan. He went on to say that we have enough food for 40 million people, and we waste 40% of the food we get. He stated, "*We have enough for everyone's needs but not enough for everyone's greeds!*"

Thanks

The aroma of our meal had begun to take over the room and so Ian thanked Mike and explained to us how Mike and Julia happened to be here. He told them how much we enjoyed the speech and their presence.

Fish & Chip Dinner

The members and visitors then enjoyed a fish and chip dinner. Well done Carol and Ken, it was delicious. Cleverly arranged and well-presented we struggled to make sure we did not "waste" 40% of it!

Announcements

Jenny thanked the Greenmeadows Rotary ladies for their very kind Christmas gifts that they have donated to the Women's Refuge residents. She told the group how the WR volunteers were given a lovely thank



you morning tea along with the Hastings WR volunteers at Birdwood gallery. The girls all donated their boxes of chocolates to the male members who have also worked so hard at working bees at the WR. Elf/Pixie Gail rewarded helpers with gifts from the WR Santa.



Pres. Kelvin returned to the rostrum and explained several Christmas songs and gave us some history about them. Then he gave us instructions about how to pass on our presents in the 'Secret Santa' game. This caused much hilarity. In the interests of *decency and decorum*, no photographs were taken of this procedure – nor the members eating their meal.

Thanks and Farewell

President Kelvin thanked all the guests and partners for coming, he thanked all the members for their commitment during the past year, and told them he'd see them all on 17th January 2024.

MISCELLANEOUS MEADOWS MATTERS

Members and partners arrive for the Christmas party



Paul Harris Fellowship Pins & Banners awarded



Thoughts this week (Bob Morrison)

Opening:

This was not heard – possibly because of the joy and noise being experienced by all.

Closing:

"Have a great Christmas, travel safely and let's have a good 2024?"

Words & Photos:

Came from the pen and imagination of Jenny Robertson who was able to record this between her many other missions, some of which are described elsewhere in this newsletter.



Some of the images from Mike's Power Point Show



Before & after photos from the Women's Refuge Project that Jenny & the Team have been working on



Happy Christmas to all. Stay Safe and help each other. We will meet again in the New Year – starting with Dolbel on 17 January (details to be advised...)

