



MEADOWS MATTERS

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



Bulletin 2024-25 No. 11
11th September 2024

LEARNING ABOUT MINI TREES

President Christine welcomed around 36 people with visitors including guest speaker John Bongiovanni and his wife Christine, John Mackintosh's wife Claire, Clive Adams from Taradale Rotary & John Wildon, a guest of Mark Dickerson.



Welfare



Stuart Cheyne reported that Neil Smith was making good progress with his new hip and that he had been unable to update on Hugh Robertson.

Announcements

Peter Thompson sought three more volunteers for the MS appeal at Pak n Sav, Napier on Friday (now just gone).

Gardening Garth thanked those members who have expressed an interest in our new initiative at The Gap at Westshore. If you would like to be involved with this please let him know. He also reminded members that a working bee was meeting on Monday morning at Dolbel reserve to do some tidying up around the existing plantings there.

Catering Curly thanked Stuart and Heather for their work organising Saturday's *Guess Who's coming to Dinner* and also thanked everyone for making it another great success.

Ian Holyoake followed up on his technology training proposal and pleaded for members to indicate their interest. (See below for full details – tentative Sunday "Show-me Techo" School on 6 October.)

Sergeant's Session



Sergeant Lynne Gibson relieved members of their hard-earned cash by celebrating Blue September, reminding all the men in our lives to get a prostate check. She also celebrated September birthdays and anniversaries, *World Pharmacy Day*, *World Teachers Day* and *World Charity Day* to name but a few.



Officer Holders 2024-25

District Governor Nick Dangerfield
Dist. Gov. Elect Ken Smith
Community Leader Grant Spackman

President Christine McKenna
Secretary Ken Hunt
Treasurer Graeme Muir
PE & Club Admin Carol Charman
Membership & PI John Mackintosh
Service Projects Denise Brown
Youth Gill Scarlett
Foundation Ross Pinkham
ArtEx TBA

Meetings

Weekly: Taradale Town Hall
Wednesday 6.00pm
Fellowship 5.30pm

Firesides: 1st Wed
Directors: 2nd Wed

Coming Up:

Our Christmas Function @ Linden Estate 15th Dec.

Leave of Absence

Kevin McC, Trevor P, Denise P & Jenny R - ongoing
Edwin Brown to 4/09
Robert Pearson to 17/09

Website/Club Contacts

Our Facebook site
<https://www.facebook.com/greenmeadowsrotary>

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)

John Bongiovanni and his Bonsai Passion

Helen Tattersall introduced our evening's speaker, John Bongiovanni. Originally from Scotland, emigrating to NZ in 1960 as an eight-year-old, his mother was Scottish and his father Italian. His parents met in Scotland



when his father was a POW there. His father, a gardener, accepted a job on the Wallingford estate in Central HB and John has lived in North Island since then. John did a degree in horticulture at Massey and went on to have a long career with the Ministry of Agriculture. John and Christine moved from Waikanae two and a half years ago, settling in Taradale to be nearer to family.

John gave a fascinating talk about his passion for bonsai. He displayed 14 of his 307 specimens, but only 174 of those are in display pots. He keeps meticulous notes about the provenance and history of each tree.

John gave the caveats that he understands that bonsai are not everyone's cup of tea and that while very passionate, he is not by any means an expert. He has only been doing this for 37 years! His inspiration was sparked by watching the movie "The Karate Kid" in which one of the characters had bonsai trees. His oldest tree is 30 years. It's not as hard as it looks but it is a big responsibility - the trees totally rely on you to keep them watered, fed with the correct nutrients and pruned. He emphasised that they aren't indoor plants but can be brought inside for short periods to be displayed. Because they are trees, albeit miniature, they are happiest outdoors.

John gave us a short history of "bonsai" - Japanese for potted tree, and an exact replica of a natural tree in miniature form. Hieroglyphs in Egypt have shown depictions of bonsai trees but it is in China between the 16th and 11th centuries BC that bonsai really developed, moving to Japan with Buddhist monks in the 12th Century AD. Chinese bonsai are more informal than Japanese bonsai, more of a miniature landscape with more than one tree in each display dish. John's bonsai are a mix of both Chinese and Japanese styles. Trees are grown in three size ranges, large (over 60cm), medium (30-60cm) and small (less than 30cm) and within those there are a number of categories, including informal upright - looks like a natural tree, formal upright, windswept and root over rock. He debunked the myth that bonsai is cruel, after all we prune and shape shrubs and trees in our gardens all the time!

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK (Alan White)

Opening

"Bonsai is the display of a landscape without the landscape"
(John Yoshio Naka, master bonsai cultivator)

Closing

"If you're not failing every now and then, you're not doing anything innovative" (Woody Allen)

WORDS & IMAGES THIS WEEK

The words this week came from the medical pen of Helen Tattersall and the photos were captured by Ross Pinkham. If you have ever wondered how they do this – apply to join the team as an apprentice. Who knows where this might lead!

Meal & Menu



THE TOP TABLE



Brian Hall gave the vote of thanks, presenting a bottle of wine to John for his very informative presentation, along with a pair of bonsai secateurs from his own foray into the world of bonsai. (*Is there no end to the skills and knowledge of our members. Ed*)

ROSTER OF DUTIES

Date	September 18th	September 25th	October 2nd
Programme: Guest Speaker	Linda Bainbridge Knowledge Bank	Pip Taylor Prisoner Rehab	Firesides
Host and Thoughts	John Reid	Gill Scarlet	Bryan Matthews
Top Table introduce Speaker	Bob Brady	Frank Heuser	--
Vote of Thanks	Peter Thompson	Curly Carpenter	--
Cashier	Brian Anstis	Ross Pinkham	Bruce Martin
Three Minute Speaker	-	-	Mie Owen
Sergeant	Edwin Brown	Kelvin Winnie	Fred Staples
Stewards <i>One per table and the named Members to clean up</i>	Graeme Ryan Gail Kelly	Les Mockford Judy McKelvie	Steve Gillum Geoff Bibby

UNABLE TO PERFORM DUTY or an ABSENCE COMING UP

*If you cannot perform a rostered duty, YOU must arrange a substitute and advise the President of this.
If you are going to miss a meeting, email the apologies link and if you have a long-term absence planned, write to the Secretary seeking "Leave of Absence."*

MISCELLANEOUS MEADOWS MATTERS

A RANDOM RHYME

When asked - how many of us could remember
That dreadful version of the 11th of September
This week we published bulletin number eleven
On a date that some years back, a lot went to heaven
But now we are asked what it is that we see
Well for us this week, it was tiny wee tree

(Kindly Contributed by *Pat the Poet*)



And can you “Guess Who” came to this dinner last
← Saturday, where it was and what they ate?

There is no prize for this but read on, there could be for
the next question below ↓

If you can’t work it out then you may need more
knowledge – of a technical nature



ROTARY AND OUR TECHNOLOGY – HELP IS AT HAND

We are getting somewhere – at last. BUT please help us.

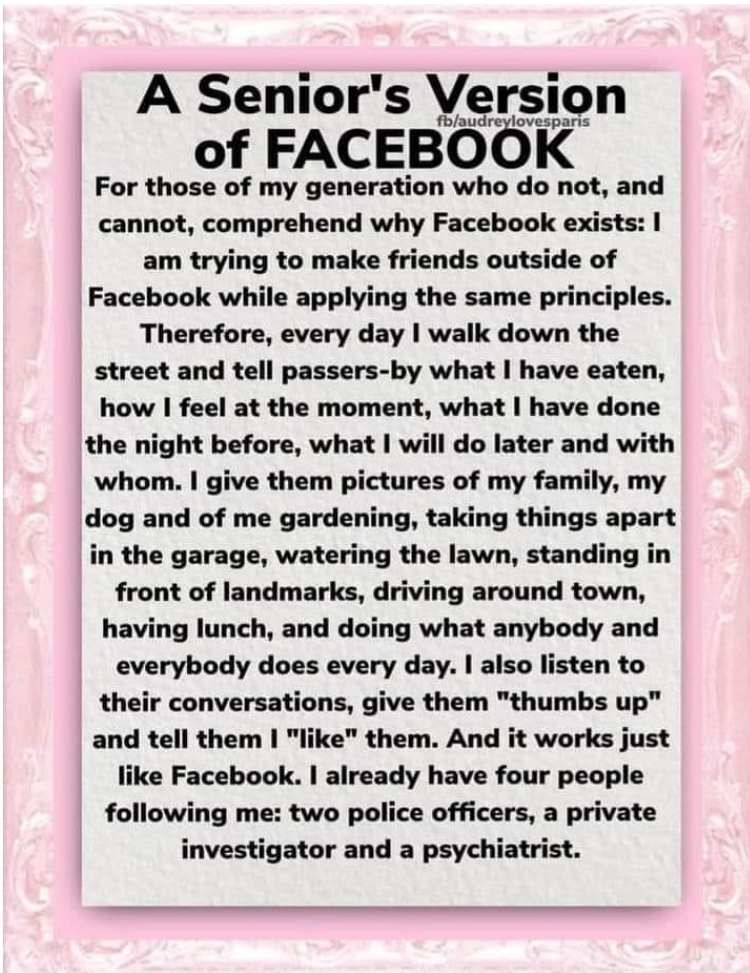
The Club Foundation Committee (for some reason – probably because it is slightly *international* and the *foundation* of our very existence these days) has been investigating this problem. We recognise that not everyone has accessible grandchildren that can help them and so we are looking at having a Sunday School for learning technology.



***The tentative arrangement is on
the afternoon of Sunday 6 October
at Summerset Palms Retirement Village, Te Awa***

If you are interested in attending such an event, please email ianhoyoake@xtra.co.nz the earlier the better, so that we can get an indication of numbers and book the premises and equipment.

A lighter not on handling technology



And finally, some medical advice

Headache

The doctor said, "Joe, the good news is I can cure your headaches. The bad news is that it will require castration. You have a very rare condition which causes your testicles to press on your spine, and the pressure creates one hell of a headache. The only way to relieve the pressure is to remove the testicles." Joe was shocked and depressed. He wondered if he had anything to live for. He had no choice but to go under the knife. When he left the hospital, he was without a headache for the first time in 20 years, but he felt like he was missing an important part of himself. As he walked down the street, he realised that he felt like a different person. He could make a new beginning and live a new life. He saw a men's clothing store and thought, "That's what I need - a new suit." He entered the shop and told the salesman, "I'd like a new suit." The elderly tailor eyed him briefly and said, "Let's see... size 44 long." Joe laughed, "That's right, how did you know?" "Been in the business 60 years!" Joe tried on the suit. It fit perfectly. As Joe admired himself in the mirror, the salesman asked, "How about a new shirt?" Joe thought for a moment and then said, "Sure." The salesman eyed Joe and said, "Let's see, 34 sleeve and 16-1/2 neck." Joe was surprised, "That's right, how did you know?" "Been in the business 60 years!" Joe tried on the shirt, and it

fitted perfectly. As Joe adjusted the collar in the mirror, the salesman asked, "How about new shoes?" Joe was on a roll and said, "Sure." The salesman eyed Joe's feet and said, "Let's see...9-1/2 E." Joe was astonished, "That's right, how did you know?" "Been in the business 60 years!" Joe tried on the shoes and they fit perfectly. Joe walked comfortably around the shop and the salesman asked, "How about some new underwear?" Joe thought for a second and said, "Sure." The salesman stepped back, eyed Joe's waist and said, "Let's see...size 36." Joe laughed "Ah ha! I got you! I've worn size 34 since I was 18 years old." The salesman shook his head, "You can't wear a size 34. A size 34 underwear would press your testicles up against the base of your spine and give you one hell of a headache.

Next week at home and - we increase our knowledge!

