




This Week's Meeting

When:	Wednesday 10 th March 2010
Where:	Helicopter Rescue Base
Web site:	www.rotarywaitakere.org.nz
Guest Speaker:	

Visitors Welcome: Local business people, stray Rotarians... are welcome to attend our meetings.
For information contact: Kerry McMillan 832 3229 or Mobile 021 416 777

Important Dates and Events

Wed 17 th Mar	Soapbox Derby Brief German TV Crew
Fri 19 th Mar	Victim Support Appeal Day
Sunday 21st March	<p>Waitakere City Soapbox Derby www.soapboxderby.co.nz</p> 
Tues 23 rd Mar	RYLA Dinner – Rodney Hyde is the speaker (let Heather know by the 16 th March if you would like to go to this).
Wed 24 th Mar	Committee Meetings
Thurs 25 th Mar	Henderson Rotary Golf Tournament
26 th to 28 th Mar	Red Puppy Appeal - Collectors needed
Sat 27 th Mar	- Whangaparaoa Soapbox Derby - Te Raa Mokopuna at Moire Park from 10am to 3pm (request for volunteer helpers.)
Sun 28 th Mar	Leadership Elect Training (LETS) East Auckland Soapbox Derby
Wed 31 st Mar	Fellowship and Partners Night – Movies Derek is currently reviewing available movies
Sunday 10 th April	GSE team from District 1760 (Marseille - South France) arrives at East Coast Bays
Monday 11 th April 6pm	Official welcome of the GSE team hosted by East Coast Bays Rotary Club - The Pupuke Golf Club. East Coast Road. Mairangi Bay
Wednesday 14 th April	Guest Speakers: GSE Team At The Trusts Stadium
Wed 14 th April to Sat 17 th April	GSE Team Waitakere City Rotary will host the team from Wednesday AM 14 th April – Saturday AM 17 th
Wednesday 21 st April	Guest Speaker: Ian Grant Founder of Parents Inc
Wednesday 28 th April	CAKE COUTURE - Partners' Invited evening (date to be confirmed)
Thurs 29 th April	Milford Golf Tournament
7 th to 8 th May	District 9910 Conference – Noumea

Wed 12 th May	Davis Funeral Home – trends in the business (date to be confirmed)
20 th to 23 rd June	Montreal Conference
This Week's Meeting:	
Present:	Mike A, Jim A, Bob B, David B, Kent F, Roger F, Derek G, Terry H, Patrick H, Kerry M, Graham N, Alan P, Heather P, Jack R, John R, JR, Domenic W
Apologies:	Jim B, Steve L, Monique M, Peter S, Ross W, Phyllis A, Hew M
Late Apologies:	Craig H
Missing in Action:	
Guests:	Joanne Howard, Paul Edley, Stephen Boulter, Thea
Attendance:	17 / 23 74%

Helicopter Rescue Base:

We borrowed an Intercity bus off Ritchies with Graham as driver. Despite a false start, with Graham happily announcing that our next stop was Napier, we made it in one piece to the Helicopter base to see both the rescue and police helicopters rapidly rising into the air and disappearing over our heads in the direction of a Piha rescue – 12 minutes away by air. What did our car loving advance party say to them?

It got as far as the Avondale Racetrack, was stood down and returned – much to everyone's relief. One swimmer in trouble made it out OK by alternate means.



Helicopter reappearing



Inside the helicopter

For those who thrive on facts:

- The helicopter is a BK117
- It was designed in Germany, built by Kawasaki and has American engines
- It uses 320 litres of fuel per hour
- Can fly for a maximum of 2 hours and 20 minutes with a full tank
- Travels at 120 knots
- Weighs 3,350kg
- Has 3 crew – pilot, crew member (self loading ballast according to the pilot) and a paramedic
- In difficult conditions a 2nd pilot flies as well

The Rescue base has one helicopter. When it is out of operation for servicing they use the privately owned helicopter from next door.

The Rescue Helicopter performs a number of tasks and each day is different. Rescues are obviously their prime goal but they also get involved in stray things such as:

- Search and Rescue
- Medical pickups
- Delivering bomb squad robots
- Ferrying police dogs

A recent task was to track down a lost locator beacon that was annoying pilots. They tracked it to a waste transfer station and set a ground crew on a "seek and destroy" mission. It was finally located on the lunchroom table on the second floor of the building. The original owner had dumped it without deactivating it, the guys at the transfer station had found it, taken it upstairs and turned it on.

This sort of thing is happening far too frequently for their liking and they have a strong request for

owners of such things to read the instructions and dispose of them safely.

The tip of the day they gave us was: **If you are lost at night you hear the search & rescue helicopter looking for you – hold up your cell phone.** They have absolutely amazing night vision goggles that magnify light immensely and the light from a cell phone screen can be seen from 2 miles away. These goggles are so good that instead of seeing the usual 4 or 5 stars in the Southern Cross they also see the more distant 40 stars in the background.

The Auckland Base covers an area from Coromandel, up both coasts, out to Great Barrier and through to Brynderwyn. Coromandel is 30 minutes away, Piha 12 minutes. Many of their rescues are local – winching people to safety off the East Coast Bays and Rangitoto cliffs (I didn't realise there were cliffs on Rangitoto). If needed they will help out the Hamilton and Whangarei teams – and can call on them in return if needed.

The paramedic showed us his emergency kit. It isn't super huge due to weight – first the helicopter has limits and sometimes they have to carry it up and down hills– but it contains enough items to be effective. All drugs are the same as the ones carried in ambulances to allow for seamless transfer between the two services.



The small life saving medical kit



Room for the crew



Watching from above



Rotarians checking out the Hangar

After hearing all about the rescue helicopter, we then had a bonus – a good look at the police helicopter courtesy of Aaron – a police helicopter crewman and soapbox derby Dad (we expect to see him again on the 21st up at Westgate). As this bulletin goes on the internet I won't mention some of the toys he showed us, just in case the wrong people read this, but a strong suggestion is: **If you have the police helicopter looking for you – surrender!**



Police helicopter returning for our visit



Other vehicles at the Base

This helicopter usually spends around 3 to 4 hours in the air in every 8 hour shift, although some days it can be up to 6 hours in an emergency. Police dogs also get the occasional perk of travelling in this helicopter (and are usually better behaved than their handlers).

And for those who are interested – no, they don't borrow the neighbour's helicopter whilst their one is being serviced. They have two.

Having completed our tour Derek gave the Club's thanks to the Rescue Team and suggested that we would like to present them with a second helicopter in appreciation, but, having seen that they offer a second option - \$500 in exchange for a photo - we'd go with that one instead.

From the Helicopter Base we re-boarded the bus and headed off to De Metz in Kohi for a meal and conversation.



A great evening although we were home rather late.

Tuesday 9th March – Area 6 Dinner

Craiger, Derek, Domenic, Alan and Heather joined other members of Area 6 – and a large number of other Rotarians – District Governor, Past District Governors, Presidents, Past Presidents and others in the Rotary world to hear Geoff Dainty speak about ROMAC at the Titirangi Golf Course.

Geoff is the current NZ chairman of this project and next year will become the Australasian chairman. He is absolutely passionate about the work that the ROMAC scheme does and the incredible difference it makes to children's lives.

Here in New Zealand we are used to a first world medical service. Birth defects can be fixed, burns can be repaired, growths can be removed... In other countries children are not so fortunate.

Those that come to the attention of ROMAC are very fortunate indeed. Geoff's photos showed some very horrible deformities along with the "after" photos. One child, badly burned, had been confined to a Fiji Hospital basement for two years as medical staff there didn't have the resources to help. A trip to Australia and plastic surgery courtesy of ROMAC made all the difference. The child is now not only an adult out in the community but also a mother of two children.

Waitakere City Rotary can expect to hear more from Geoff shortly - a child with a facial tumour will be here in NZ in the next few months for treatment and support for the child and the mother will be needed.

At the end of Geoff's presentation Past District Governor Neil Reid and current District Governor Georges Giovannelli (over from Noumea especially for this meeting) presented Geoff with the Rotary "Service Above Self" Award. (Whilst Neil was reading out Geoff's involvement with Rotary since he joined 20 odd years ago I think we all felt exhausted. He has had his fingers in a great many Rotary pies and has been passionately involved in all of them).

From the RI site:

"The Service Above Self Award is Rotary's highest honor for individual Rotarians, recognizing those who have displayed exemplary humanitarian service with a focus on active involvement in helping others through Rotary.

Each year, current and immediate past district governors and current and past RI directors may submit up to three nominations for this award. Nominations must arrive at RI World Headquarters by 1 September, and after all nominations are reviewed, the RI Board selects a maximum of 150 Rotarians to receive the award."

Soapbox Derby

We created a new website address www.soapboxderby.co.nz This connects to the 2010 derby page in the middle of our site but is:

- Easier to remember
- Good for Google searches
- An effective address that has been added to our road signs

All derby newsletters are on the site along with the brochure and other useful information.

Lists for the day's jobs will be out when I have time to finish them... December 2020 at the current rate! ... although I will aim for Monday at the latest...

Meeting Times and Contact Details	
Rex Davy Lounge, Lower Ground Floor at The Trusts Stadium, Central Park Drive, Henderson	
Board Members	
President	(Terry)
Vice President / Sergeant	Derek
Secretary / Bulletin Editor	Heather
Treasurer	Alan
President Nominee / International Director:	Craig
Club Service:	Bob
Community Director:	Patrick
Vocational Director:	John
Youth Director	Kent
Apologies	
<p style="text-align: center;">Apologies:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contact: Heather at apology@details.co.nz Ph 8109 589 or 0274 719 569</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No later than 12 noon on the Monday prior to the meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Late Apologies and No shows will, of course, be charged for their meal as it has been booked and paid for!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND: If you are bringing guests, including family members, please let Heather know this also.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Late apologies are an appreciated courtesy</p>

Date	10-Mar
Event	Soapbox Derby Brief
Sergeant	Monique M
Squire	Alan P
Squire	Mike A
Greeter	Jim A
Grace	Domenic W
Introduction	Derek G
Thanks	Heather P
Parting Thought	Bob B

Rotary	Website
Waitakere City Rotary	http://www.rotarywaitakere.org.nz/
Rotary NZ	http://www.rotary.org.nz
Rotary NZ Promotions and Information District Governor's newsletter Admin page and information	www.rotary.org.nz/information.cfm?ID=1364 http://www.rotary.org.nz/newsletter.cfm?District=10 http://www.rotary.org.nz/information.cfm?ID=180
Rotary International Future Vision	http://www.rotary.org/ www.rotary.org/future_vision
Rotary E Club (for make ups)	http://www.rotaryclubone.org/



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