

# WAITAKERE ROTARY CLUB

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR WORLD

**Venue:** Starling Park Sports Club  
34 Glen Road  
Ranui

**Time:** 5:45pm for 6:10pm

**Address:** PO Box 104 017, Lincoln North, Auckland, 0654  
[www.rotarywaitakere.org.nz](http://www.rotarywaitakere.org.nz) or [www.soapboxderby.co.nz](http://www.soapboxderby.co.nz)



## FEBRUARY: WORLD UNDERSTANDING MONTH

### NEXT MEETING

**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> April 2012  
**Venue:** Starling Park Sports Club  
**Event:** Club Night

## THIS WEEK: TE ATATU LIONS

### BEN PARIS: BAT CONSERVATION – PROJECT ECHO



Ben, formerly from Hamilton, is a Senior National Heritage Advisor with Auckland Council and specializes in Bats.

Fortunately he doesn't suffer from chiroptophobia otherwise his days could be a waking nightmare.

In Hamilton bats have been located in two main areas. The female ones nest near the airport (an area at risk due to airport extension plans), and the male bats hang out in town. The boys fly out from town when they need a spot of female company.

Ben is now in Auckland on a bat hunting mission – finding them and telling people all about them through "Project Echo".



Project Echo has the goal of finding bats, identifying their habitats and protecting them from extinction through talking to groups and creating awareness. (They also are trialling various "bat houses" to replace disappearing trees. Sponsorship of these is welcome).

Bats are the world's only flying mammal and one of three animals that use echo location to get around. The other two are shrews and dolphins.

## BULLETIN 42 ISSUE 33 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2012

### CALENDAR

**APRIL: MAGAZINE MONTH**  
11/4/12

### Club Night

SUN 15/4/12

**Pizza afternoon at  
Monique's** 2pm onwards

16/4/12

*Board Meeting*

18/4/12

### ROMAC: Leigh Kelly

20/4/12 TO 22/4/12

*District Conference*

21/4/12

*24<sup>th</sup> Battalion Retreat*

25/4/12

### ANZAC Day <no meeting>

1/5/12

*Trees for Survival Seedlings  
Pickup*

2/5/12

### SBD Thank You night

SAT 5/5/12

*Vanuatu Trip 1*

## ROTARY 4 WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Bats exist in every country in the world, other than Antarctica, and have lived in NZ for 80 million years <slightly longer than us>.

Of the 1,100 types in the world most of them eat fruit, nectar or insects. Only 3% of them suck blood or eat animals such as frogs and fish – and none of these blood suckers are in New Zealand.

New Zealand has two, formerly three, types of bats:



**Short-tailed bat** cluster, (close up of head)

The endangered lesser short-tailed bat is an ancient species unique to New Zealand and is found only in a few locations.



**Long-tailed bat**, (hand held showing detail of head and wing)

Long-tailed bats were common throughout New Zealand in the 1800s and were recorded in colonies of "scores", "hundreds", and "thousands". By 1900-1930 they were becoming scarce in many districts. Recent surveys indicate that South Island long-tailed bats are rarer than previously thought. They were once common in Dunedin, Invercargill and Christchurch, where they roosted under the wooden bridges across the Avon River until 1885.

Apparently, pictures to the contrary, they are really cute, cuddly and totally harmless. They are also very small – the size of a thumb with a wingspan the size of a hand.

The advantages of having a few bats living in an ancient tree in your garden? They eat up to 1,000 mosquitoes a night!

If, after hearing Ben speak, you have developed a desire to see more videos of bats – check out: <http://www.arkive.org> and search for "bats".

If you want a rerun of the vampire bat drinking the sea lions blood it is available here: <http://www.arkive.org/common-vampire-bat/desmodus-rotundus/video-08d.html>

And Project Echo? Details are available on the Waikato Council site at: <http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/projectecho>

(No doubt Auckland Council will have a page in time).

## JOINT MEETING WITH THE LIONS



Once a year we have a joint meeting with the Te Atatu Lions. Last year we went to them, this year we hosted the meal.

An enjoyable evening was had by all – and 2 groups learnt all about bats.

## POTENTIAL MEMBER

Mark Mallabar was one of the people who were contacted for a quote for the painting of the Ranui community building. In passing he told Alan that his mother had received an Award from Henderson Rotary and he had thought of joining Rotary although really he has no clue as to what we do. Alan therefore invited him to our meeting.

Afterwards Mark said that he now knows all about bats – but is still in the dark as to what Rotary does. He's planning to return next week to find out more...

## BULLETIN CORRECTION:

### 24<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION **DINNER**

As mentioned in last week's bulletin Jack's 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion retreat is on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2012. The retreat will be followed by **DINNER**, not lunch. Contact Jack for details.

*<And note that it is a good idea to let the bulletin editor know details of events IN WRITING!>*

## NZ SOAPBOX DERBY

The NZ Soapbox Season is at an end. Despite our strange climate this summer and the "not so great forecasts" the weather did actually, more or less, behave and all our New Zealand races were finished safely (major injuries being spectators falling over or cutting themselves on coke cans).

Our thank you night will take place on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May and then we wait till July to see how the NZ team gets on in Akron in July.

Results, photos, articles... these are going on our website [www.soapboxderby.co.nz](http://www.soapboxderby.co.nz) as they come to hand. The East and Bays Courier had a front page article in Wednesday's paper.

## AUCKLAND EAST SOAPBOX DERBY - SATURDAY

Alan and Heather headed over to East Auckland in the motor home on Friday afternoon ready for a nice early start for the Auckland East Soapbox Derby on Saturday (nothing quite like watching the workers haul their barriers into place and generally get the track set up for the day whilst lazing around eating breakfast).

Three of our teams – the two Whenuapai School and Riverhead Scouts – took the opportunity to try out the track with a couple of practice runs between the events. Our friends running the Masters cars were also there.



The West Aucklanders were everywhere...  
Debbie (Henry Dyer's mum) helping drain the puddle that everyone had to cross



Terry Clarkson with Errol Cooper and Barry Hinton in the scrutineering area





Shawn and our 2010 NZ Champ Henry helping out with the Northcote Mainfreight car



Our three West Auckland cars ready for their practice run



Fairlane Walsh, in the Riverhead Scout car, ready to race



Ben Van Vugt and Andrew Anderson (Dads of Ethan and James) thinking out which line the kids should take



Ethan van Vugt



James Anderson



Our three cars at the finish



Rotadog Caza with a new friend (And no, he didn't share his food with her!)

Whilst Heather wandered up to say "hello" to our West Aucklanders, Alan stayed down in the timing area to help the boys set it up. Then the cell phone went, "Get down here, NOW!"

This year Auckland East was trialling a new purpose built wireless system on their three lanes... and one lane just refused to work. Alan grabbed our cable, ran it up the track and set up our normal Rally NZ timing gear; Heather helped out with printing a spot of overlooked paperwork. Finally the races were OFF (only an hour late).

Alan spent the day supervising his volunteers in the timing area and Heather spent the day helping out (a little bit), taking photos and generally taking mental notes of what worked and what could do with improvements. Useful information for all the derbies in the future.

Races came and went... our teams got in a couple of runs... the Masters cars took every spare opportunity to race - and finally the races came to a close with a single heat between the first and second drivers. Tensions were high as they raced neck and neck down the track... and the guy waving the finish flag dropped it on the track - right through the timing beam. The race was rerun.

After prize giving and a Rotary post race debrief (non-alcoholic in my case) it was back to the bus office to insert the Auckland East Finalists in the NZ Finals database and print all the forms. We then found a generator in a tent to fire up the laminator (too heavy a user for our bus batteries) to make the Auckland East drivers' ID cards... and only then was it safe to open a bottle of wine.

Eventually a late (wedding anniversary) dinner cooked in the bus and then off to snore happily under the watchful care of the Security Guard hired to keep an eye on all the gear that was left out overnight... and a stray motor home.

A few of our Auckland East Rotarian friends working at their derby:



Grant Wallace



Sam Mukhtar



Sam Mukhtar, President Gary Langford, Greg Dayman



Terry Clarkson's grandson





Jeff Copsey, John Miller and Andrew Bernau  
NOTE:

The East Aucklanders lifted their own trolleys onto the trailer rather than bribing kids to do it



Michael Jacobson (database), Alan Pattison



Trevor Allsebrook and Kevin Shuker



Don Curry



Keith Whyte



Stephen Poole and Brian Costar

## NZ SOAPBOX FINALS - SUNDAY

Sunday dawned bright and clear... with one enthusiastic team rousing me out of bed for an early registration. 8am saw me walking through the pit area with Bill McSweeney, President of Northcote Rotary, handing out ID cards and race draws. Alan reset up the timing gear, ran the cable – and discovered that both the micro switches on one of our starting ramps had been smashed in transit. Auckland East quickly raced away and came to the rescue with the loan of their starting ramps. There are advantages in having 2 sets around!

9am saw the official opening with a formal parade, speeches given and the National Anthem sung by a Rotarian.





Twenty four cars lined up for the official photo prior to the parade



The Parade starts



Police band



The Masters cars boys



School teams



School team



Acrobats





Rotarian Don Curry – National Anthem



Shawn Dyer with past NZ Race Director, Paul O'Brien

The Masters cars raced down the track (to show how easy it was) then it was time for the VIPs to try out the Corporate cars.





Mainfreight Sponsor



Orakei Board Chair Desley Simpson  
(who screamed with delight <or fear> the whole way down the track!)



Canadian GSE team leader, Vivian Finlay



Vivian raced Jo Hinton, Zac's mum

Then... the race.

- 24 drivers came from each of the 4 race centres – 6 drivers from each centre – and raced twice (once in each lane)
- Then there were 16 (including 5 from the West) ...
- Then there were 8 (including Fairlane Walsh from Riverhead Scouts)...
- And finally 4 (including Fairlane)

And the winner was...



Gemma McDougall  
St Ignatius School  
East Auckland Rotary



2<sup>nd</sup> Harry Clarke, Meadowbank Primary  
1<sup>st</sup> Gemma McDougall, St Ignatius  
3<sup>rd</sup> Daniella Collett, Stonefields School



The Masters cars winners all came from the West.

1<sup>st</sup>: Henry Dyer  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Zac Hinton  
3<sup>rd</sup>: Aaron Kinge

A successful day was had by all.  
<And planning now starts to reclaim the title for the West!>

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### ROTARY RESPONDS TO NEW WAVE OF FLOODING IN FIJI

**Sunday, 1 April 2012, 12:34 pm**  
**Press Release: Rotary Club**

#### **Rotary Responds to New Wave of Flooding in Fiji**

Rotary New Zealand has once again been asked for support to assist the communities particularly on the western side of the main island of Viti Levu who are feeling the effects of the second major flood in eight weeks.

Spokesperson Stuart Batty says "it appears this time the Fiji people were caught unaware of the torrential rain that is still falling. The devastation is far worse due to the fact that the water table remains high from the big flood in January and heavy rains since. Working through the Disaster Management Committee (the Fiji equivalent of Civil Defence)

Rotary is on the ground delivering food and emergency response kits to rescue centres and communities where the level of flooding allows access. Funds to enable Rotary to deliver food parcels has been sent to Fiji. Last year after consultation with and financial support from the New Zealand Government, Rotary New Zealand prepositioned Emergency Response Kits in Suva and Lautoka.

As with the January flood, this initiative allows Rotary to be a first agency on the ground to deliver immediate help. Rotary is receiving support from Budget Rentals who are providing 4 wheel drive vehicles to access the flooded roads. The Vodafone Foundation is also assisting with food parcels. Rotary New Zealand has reopened their public appeal for funds to respond to this disaster.

Donations would be appreciated to the **Rotary New Zealand 2012 Fiji Flood Appeal** via:

- Rotary New Zealand World Community Service <http://www.rnzwcs.org>

Donations are tax deductible within NZ.




<b>PARTING THOUGHT</b>	Mike: Two Australians were in a bar. One turns to the other and says, "Did you know that lions make love ten times a night?" "Bother" says the other, "Last week I joined Rotary."
------------------------	--

<b>RAFFLE WINNER</b>	<b>STATISTICS</b>	<b>RAFFLE</b>	<b>FINES</b>
A Lion	H, T, T, H, T	\$46.60	\$48.30

**APOLOGIES:**  
[apology@details.co.nz](mailto:apology@details.co.nz) or ph 8109 589 no later than **5pm on the Monday** prior to the meeting. Late Apologies and No shows will, of course, be charged for their meal as it has been booked and paid for!

<b>BOARD MEMBERS</b>		<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	
President	Craiger Hargesheimer	Present:	Mike A, Jim A, Phyllis A, Bob B, David B, Roger F, Derek G, Craiger H, Terry H, Kerry M, Alan P, Heather P, Jack R, John R, Sheena S
President Elect	Heather Pattison	Apologies:	Linda C, Graham N,
Vice President	Derek Gee	Late Apologies:	Peter S
Secretary	Bob Benzie	Missing in Action:	
Treasurer	Alan Pattison	Guests:	Cecile, Ben Paris, Mark Mallabar, RYLA candidate, 14 Lions
Community Director	Phyllis Anscombe	Leave:	Patrick H, Monique M, Domenic W
International Director	Kerry McMillan	Attendance:	15/21 72%
Vocational Director	John Riddell		
Youth Director	Sheena Spittles		
Sergeant	John Riddell		

<b>NEXT WEEK'S MEETING DUTIES</b>	
Squire	
Squire	
Greeter	
Grace	
Introduction	
Thanks	
Parting Thought	
Dealer	
Joker	
Joker	



**WEBSITE ADDRESSES**

Waitakere Rotary  
<http://www.rotarywaitakere.org.nz/>  
 Rotary International  
<http://www.rotary.org/>  
 Rotary NZ  
<http://www.rotary.org.nz>

District Governor's newsletter  
<http://www..rotary.org.nz/newsletter.cfm?District=10>  
 Rotary Downunder Magazine  
[www.rotarydownunder.com.au](http://www.rotarydownunder.com.au)

Rotary NZ Promotions and Information  
[www.rotary.org.nz/information.cfm?ID=1364](http://www.rotary.org.nz/information.cfm?ID=1364)  
 Admin page and information  
<http://www.rotary.org.nz/information.cfm?ID=180>

Future Vision  
[www.rotary.org/future\\_vision](http://www.rotary.org/future_vision)  
 Rotary E Club (for make ups)  
<http://www.rotaryclubone.org/>

Dare West  
<http://darewest.org.nz/>

**COUSIN GEORGE:**  
**An APOLOGY is a good way to have the Last Word.**

<b>BULLETIN &amp; WEBSITE EDITOR</b>	<b>PROGRAMME COORDINATOR</b>
Heather Pattison: <a href="mailto:rotarywaitak@rotarywaitakere.org.nz">rotarywaitak@rotarywaitakere.org.nz</a> or phone (09)810 9589	Linda Cooper