



Waitakere City Rotary Club Bulletin

This Week's Meeting

When:	Wednesday 11 th Feb 2009 6:00pm
Where:	Rex Davy Lounge, The Trusts Stadium, Central Park Drive
Guests:	Too many to count! Exchange students, Rotarians, parents of outgoing students, a returned student, Peace Corp workers from Vanuatu...
Attendance:	17 / 27 62%
Make Ups:	
No Shows:	
Apologies:	David Butler (dealing with a disaster caused by a ram), Rosemary Langham, Steve Lewins
Guest Speaker:	Exchange students, Amanda from Vanuatu

Important Dates and Events

13 th Feb 2009	The 2009 Casino Royals night. 6:30 pm onwards. Great prizes. Supported by the Rotary Club of Waitakere City and Sunderland School and College.
21 st & 22 nd Feb 2009	Devonport Food, Wine and Music Festival (See 15 th Oct bulletin for details)
Saturday 14 th March	WCC Main Street Festival
Sunday 15 th March 2009	Soapbox Derby
Saturday 4 th April	Soapbox Derby Finals
17th April 2009 to 19th April 2009	District Conference – Whangarei Registrations are being taken now
Tuesday 28 th April 2009	12 th Annual Don Page Golf Tournament

A Reminder From Our President:

Please **APOLOGIZE** if you can't make the meeting. You **WILL** be charged for a No Show as your meal has been booked and paid for!

... Order numbers 5 and 6... (Bob Benzie leaves the room)

Exchange Students:

Stephen Wheeler - and Bob Benzie when he returned muttering to himself - introduced the exchange students to us. Bob is the District 9910 inbound co-ordinator for Europe, Stephen the inbound co-ordinator for America and Scandinavia.

Around 8,000 to 9,000 high-school students worldwide have packed their bags and put themselves into Rotary care for a year away from friends and family.

Fifteen District 9910 kids have departed for the unknown, and 15 overseas students are here in their place spending their time with various families in each of their host clubs.

We met three of the students who will be living in the Auckland area:

- Ana, from Brazil, who will be staying with Henderson Rotary after a brief stay in the Norfolk Islands
- Victoria, from Brazil, who will be staying with New Lynn Rotary
- Nachi, from Chile, who is the guest of Takapuna North Rotary

Other visitors included Matthew, a returned student who went to Brazil two years ago and is now a member of Rotex (Returned Rotary exchange students), and at least one parent from New Lynn who's son left the country recently for his year away.

Info on the programme is available at: <http://www.rotary.org.nz/committee.cfm?ID=73&district=10>



Three of the incoming exchange students – Ana, Victoria and Nachi



Ana



Nachi



Peter talking to a parent of an out-going student

... Order Number 7 and 8, fish and chips... (Much laughter at Bob's expression)

Vanuatu

Amanda:

Amanda is the Peace Corp worker from Bonga Bonga and Meriu Villages in Tongoa. Amanda, along with Julie from a neighbouring island, is in New Zealand for a two-week holiday.

Those of us who have been to Tongoa spent some time before the meeting catching up with island gossip and trying to organize a suitable time for our next visit. Between soapbox derbies (ours and the finals), golf tournaments, the Rotary Conference, work commitments, Amanda's commitments, funding issues etc it isn't easy.

Ross would like to go (and yeah, a Plumber going would be a great idea!) but can't go till May, Alan & Heather would like to go but are due to become grandparents in May, Amanda is due to leave the island in June but may leave earlier and has a conference in Vila at some point. Then there's the grant application to the High Commission that hasn't come through yet.

Watch this space. Craiger may yet get a blindfold, a calendar and a dart to pick a date.

Amanda spoke to us briefly about the forthcoming teenager camps. Most kids leave school at 12 or 13 as few parents can afford to export them to areas with high schools. The programme will cover, amongst other things, health issues that are normally covered in the high school curriculum.

The cost for the camp to the children is a basket of island food for the week. Waitakere City Rotary donated \$200 to cover the costs of materials and activities (Craig is currently working out how to give it to them without massive currency exchange fees).

Amanda also received a copy of "Window On Swanson", the local Swanson newsletter, which had a big write up on our Vanuatu project (scanned copy below). She pointed out that not only did it include a photo of the Meriu chief's son but also the granddaughter of the Bonga Bonga chief opening a shutter.

Photos are highly treasured in the islands, as they have so few of them, and are kept safely tucked in Bibles for constant reference. Window on Swanson will be also highly treasured.



Amanda, the Peace Corp worker from Vanuatu, and Michael, from Newmarket Rotary who is considering a trip to Tongoa, swapping phone numbers



Juli, a second Peace Corp worker from Vanuatu

Michael:

Michael lives on Waiheke Island and is a member of Newmarket Rotary. Being a keen traveller who likes living and working in strange places for a few months at a time, he found our project on the Rotary District site and asked if he could become involved.

The current thought is that he will go over to Tongoa in June, after Amanda leaves, with his wife and young children, for two to three months. (This isn't to avoid Amanda, merely that her house will then be available).

Michael has been involved in similar projects in the past in places like Darkest Africa, has seen our DVDs and is keen to go.

Amanda and Juli are off to Waiheke for a night or two, before heading south, to talk with Michael about island needs.

...Order numbers 9, 10 and 11... (Bob is frowning)

Soapbox Derby

John Ritchie was called upon to give an update on the Soapbox Derby. Donations are required for a new hearing aid – he stood up, thanked the previous speakers then sat down.

Once this confusion was resolved he then gave an update.

Both Westfield and Westgate have come on board again as sponsors. These two have been major sponsors in the past but were having some doubts due to the recession. Their involvement again in this difficult time is therefore greatly appreciated.

Mike Angland from Angland Ceilings will, this year, sponsor half a car for Rutherford. Mike sponsored a full car for 4 years but withdrew last year. Not having a new sponsor but with the school still keen to be involved the car ran under his colours – and won the finals, much to his embarrassment. He ended up sponsoring it in arrears last year and is contributing again this year to avoid any further embarrassment.

We are still short of sponsors so if you know of anyone who would like to be involved – ask them. Sponsors will, of course, have access to the sponsor's tent and a chance for great chats with well-known celebrities such as Terry Hodges and Bob Benzie.

... Order numbers 12 and 13...

Casino Night:

Bob Benzie

By this time Bob was getting decidedly twitchy about the tannoy from the bar next door announcing their food orders through our room's speakers. But, having failed to stop it earlier, he carried on with an update.

It is this Friday. Helpers are required from 6pm onwards. Doors open at 7:30pm and will be closed at 8:15 for security.

200 tickets have been sold so far. All profits from this go to the Dictionaries for 9 years old project.

Golf:

Craiger

We have some confirmed teams and sponsors – but more are needed.

The cost to the team covers the golf course fee, drink and meal. Profit comes from the sponsorship.

Sponsorship is a low \$200 per hole to encourage small businesses to become involved. Sponsor signs will be on each green and there will be designated spaces in the clubhouse for other advertising. Our MC will also promote our sponsors. Then, of course, if the sponsor is also a golfer, or just there for the meal, there is a great opportunity for networking - and to realize what a cool club Waitakere City Rotary is so that they join immediately 😊



Golf Details:

12th Annual Don Page Memorial Golf Day

Date: Tuesday 28th April

Time: 12:30pm shotgun start, day finishing after dinner

Venue: Redwood Golf Club

Cost: \$300 plus GST per team (game plus on course drink and meal)

Prizes for all golfers

Meal cost for non-golfers: \$20 per head

Golfers contact Terry Hodges: terryh@unitedtravel.co.nz

Sponsors contact Bob Benzie: bob_suebenzie@clear.net.nz

The Golf Day will REPLACE our normal meeting that week

Domenic was acting sergeant and did a remarkably fine job in raising money for the Sunshine Fund (earmarked for Aqua boxes this month)

Raffle Winner: Kent. Another gift-wrapped box of something special

Parting Thought: Ross ... Order Number 17.... “Go safely, be safe, if travelling do it safely and enjoy the scenery”

Bulletin Correction: Last week’s was accidentally dated 4th January – not that anybody noticed.

Planting Update (received by phone): David Butler

- The planting has been completed thanks to those who have “volunteered” their time through community service.
- Most of the plants have survived the rabbits and opossums (although most of the rabbits and opossums haven’t faired so well)
- The fence posts are in
- Half the wires and battens are in
- Two more weeks should see completion of the task
- David also had a ring from the ARC who would like to come and see the work that was done. They want to start a program of seminars (groups of 25) to work on projects of this nature on other parts of the river.

Aqua Box Update



And the response has been great.....thank you all.....

Fiji received 300 boxes which was just magic, we now need to replenish our stocks

I have just received a new shipment of boxes and would love to send some more out to the clubs to fill, in that way your club is certainly doing it's bit on the emergency scene.

(I have attached a photo of what not to include in your next box [see left])

Phone or email me.....

Empty boxes for your club to fill, with enclosed list, \$85.00.

Boxes filled by District \$600.00

You can forward me your Club's cheque made payable to W C S 9910, I will respond with the appropriate paperwork.....Thanks Guys

Ian M.Carpenter

Aqua Box Coordinator 9910

Ph +64 9 42 62 149

+64 21 330 687

dougalthecat@vodafone.co.nz

Truancy Services Cars



The new signs on the back of the Truancy Services cars.

Note: ISAP = Improving School Attendance Programme



Local Rotary club involves

Waitakere City Rotary is the familiar organiser of the Soap Box Derby, in which Swanson School has competed since its inception six years ago, and will again on Sunday March 15th. Every year, sponsors and fundraising allows Waitakere Rotary to send the New Zealand winner to Akron, Ohio to compete in the international section of the Derby in July. But the group does more than this.

Readers may be aware of local initiatives such as supplying cars for Truancy Services (currently six have been supplied) – supporting Police “Blue Light” projects such as camps for abused children – tree planting projects - sponsoring a top student to Auckland University’s Summer Science School (in 2008 it was Jane Kasmara from Massey High) - and voluntary maintenance work at Swanson School.

Rotary Clubs are also expected to contribute to overseas aid projects, and most West Auckland Clubs work on the Rotary hospital project in Vila, Vanuatu, where they are building Vila Central Hospital wing by wing. However, the Waitakere City group felt uncomfortable that few locals were involved in this project.

In December 2007, after consulting with the Peace Corps, Waitakere City Rotarians Swanson residents Kerry McMillan and Craiger Hargesheimer therefore set off for remote Tongoa Island in Vanuatu to complete an “aid station” for villages Meriu and Bonga Bonga, with the express aim of involving local villagers in the project.

The aid station had been started in 1994 but never completed, and is a small building designed as an

emergency first aid facility complete with a maternity room. It was to have a modern toilet, a shower, and two treatment rooms.

There is a small hospital on the other side of the island, but without roads or transport it’s at least a 90-minute walk away. For a heavily pregnant mother that’s often too far to go – and for a population routinely carrying large and sharp machetes, our Western sensibilities suggest other potential medical emergencies. Once the aid station is completed, the village will be eligible for regular visits from the island’s Nurse.



The aid station verandah also serves as a community meeting area. Churches are always situated separate to a village and are used only on Sundays, and only for worship.



When it rains, wooden shutters are lowered in the school house, situated between Meriu and Bonga Bonga and serving both villages. Teaching becomes difficult and the already-humid air even hotter.

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beneficiaries in international projects

All photos courtesy Heather Pattison

Water as a first requirement

As in many Melanesian communities, concrete water tanks are partially buried underground and some contamination is avoided by covering the tanks with sheets of corrugated iron weighted down with concrete blocks. However, in Bonga Bonga these tanks are of WW2 vintage so are un-reinforced and cracking, and water quality is already compromised. Collecting any water is currently haphazard, since rooves don't typically have guttering to collect and direct the flow to tanks. In consultation with villagers, Kerry and Craiger decided to build a septic tank for the aid station then install the toilet and shower facilities.

Four months later, Kerry went back with Heather and Alan Pattison and Monique and Theo van Lier to complete this first stage, and to install guttering so rainwater collection can take place.

They're hoping to return in April 2009 to provide better covers for the water tanks, fix the school's water supply and install a composting toilet there, and supply more spouting for houses.

They've also raised \$200 for the older children of both villages to enjoy a weekend camp run by Peace Corps workers.

If you'd like to be part of this, become a sponsor for the Soapbox Derby or learn more about Waitakere City Rotary, contact Kerry McMillan on 832-3229, www.rotarywaitakere.org.nz. Meetings are held on Wednesdays at 6.00pm in the Rex Davy Lounge of the Trusts Stadium, Central Park Drive.



Chieftain-in-waiting of Meriu village. It is his generation who will benefit most from the work done by Waitakere City Rotary today.



The hit and miss rain collection system on Tongoa as demonstrated at the school house. Early schooling is subsidised, but it is only the very rich and very able who progress to high school in Vila.



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A Few More Photos of the John Key lunch from Monique Mataga



Bob busy networking



Bob with Patrick



The SBD Car sponsored by Douglas Pharmaceuticals with additional money from John Key



Craigie with friend and Monique Van Lier



Barbara and David Butler with Nic Bennett from the UK



Domenic and others



Graham Douglas with Bill Boyd



John Key in amongst the TV cameras



Judy Lawler with Kerry McMillan



Merv Huxford



Mike Angland with Ivan Yukich



Monique Mataga with Bill Boyd



The room filling up nicely



The room packed with people

Meeting Times and Contact Details

Where:	Rex Davy Lounge, Lower Ground Floor at The Trusts Stadium, Central Park Drive, Henderson		Committee Members:
President	Terry Hodges	838 3818 (home) 0274 312 374 (mob) terryh@unitedtravel.co.nz	Club Service: Theo Van Lier Jim Annison John Ritchie Mike Angland
Secretary	Kent Favel	Ph 849 5025(home) 0273 693 972(mob) kfavel@sunderlandcollege.school.nz	Vocational: Ross Ward Bob Langlois Roger Froes Kent Favel Peter Smith Angela Brown
Treasurer	Peter Hatch	Ph 027 203 3148(mob) hatchp@anz.com	Community: Steve Lewins Bob Benzie David Butler Derek Gee Monique Mataga Graham Nicholson
Sergeant	Jim Annison	837 7323(home) No mobile or email	International: Craig Hargesheimer Peter Hatch Kerry McMillan Alan Pattison Ivan Yukich Jack Riddell Terry Hodges
President Elect / Club Service:	Theo Van Lier	832 3044 (home) 0275 485 951 theo@vanlier.co.nz	Youth: Heather Pattison Rosemary Langham John Riddell Tony Scott Domenic Wood Jim Brown
Community Director:	Steve Lewins	833 4168 (home) 021 795661 (mob) steve@lewinselectrical.co.nz	
International Director:	Craig Hargesheimer	833 6854 (home) 021 636 854 (mob) Craig@ihug.co.nz	
Vocational Director:	Ross Ward	837 0133 (home) 0274 936 144 (mob) Baywest.plumbing@xtra.co.nz	
Youth Director / Bulletin Editor:	Heather Pattison	8109 589 (home) 0274 719 569 heather@details.co.nz	

Duty Roster and Calendar:

2009

Date	18 Feb	25 Feb	04 Mar	11 Mar	18 Mar
Guest Speaker					
Grace	Domenic	Mike	Craig	Heather	Domenic
Introduction	Mike A	Jim B	Peter H	Jack	Roger
Thanks	Jim A	David	Bob L	John Riddell	Kent
Squire	Bob B	Kent	Steve	John Ritchie	David
Squire	Jim B	Roger	Kerry	Peter S	Jim B
Parting thought	David	Derek	Alan	Ross	Mike

Date	25 Mar	01 Apr	08 Apr	15 Apr
Guest Speaker				
Grace	Bob L	Alan	John Ritchie	Roger
Introduction	Peter H	Kerry	John Riddell	Derek
Thanks	Craig	Steve	Mike	Craig
Squire	Derek	Domenic	Jim B	Peter H
Squire	Jack	Ross	David	Bob L
Parting thought	Heather	Peter S	Kent	Steve

Apologies:

You all know the drill:

Contact:

Ross Ward at
baywest.plumbing@xtra.co.nz
or 837 0133

No later than **12 noon** on the **Monday** prior to the meeting

AND: If you are bringing guests, including family members, please let Ross know this also.

No shows will, of course, be charged for their meal!