



Waitakere City Rotary Club Bulletin

This Week's Meeting

When:	Wednesday 24 th June 2009 6:00pm
Where:	Rex Davy Lounge, The Trust Stadium
Guests:	
Attendance:	13/27
Make Ups:	
Present:	Jim Annison, David Butler, Derek Gee, Peter Hatch, Patrick Howard, Bob Langlois, Kerry McMillan, Alan & Heather Pattison, Jack Riddell, John Ritchie, Peter Smith, Dominic Wood
Apologies:	Bob Benzie, Craiger (Late - injured)...?
Guest Speaker:	Kerry on Vanuatu

Bulletin Editor's Note:

- We're back! Miss us?

Important Dates and Events

5 th July 2009	District Changeover
13 th July 2009	Waitakere City Rollover – Langtons on Lincoln
5 th August 2009	Trees for Survival - Te Atatu
18 th , 19 th , 20 th Sept 09	Rotary Ski Weekend

President: Terry went missing. Derek stood in for him.

SBD:

JR is happy to report that The Trust's grant for the SBD has come through.

A reminder to all directors: Please finalize your budgets for next year prior to the next Board meeting.

Vanuatu:

The intrepid travellers have returned – almost. Craiger is currently recovering from his wounds as an outpatient of Waitakere Hospital and will be back next week. Kerry and Alan are surviving nicely on antibiotics. The flies in the tropics are faster to find blood than a Labrador in search of a biscuit and are far more lethal. Despite following the boys around with a first aid kit one or two wounds missed treatment and turned septic very rapidly.

Our trip started with all the normal dramas. Kerry diverted us to a shop out Mangere way to pick up a part for a boat owner in Vanuatu (we had to wait till it arrived), and then mislaid his tickets and passport. Those found – in the back of the car parked off site - we just squeaked the baggage in before the hold was closed. Passing through the scanners Alan ensured I was drugs tested (Note to Alan – NEVER EVER call a pregnant female Drug's Officer "Sir") – but we made it, minus any shopping at duty free.

Arriving in Vanuatu we made it up to the Rotary wing at Port Vila hospital (where Kerry again mislaid his passport and tickets in a car. Fortunately I saw it and took them off him for the rest of the trip). A cold shower then it was off to dinner with our friendly Peace Corp workers via a quick stop at the Hardware Store just on closing.

The next day we relaxed on a snorkelling/fishing/BBQ tour at a local island, dined on a home cooked omelette back at the Hospital, fought off blood thirsty mosquitos in the night and woke at

dawn for another cold shower and a fast trip out to the airport courtesy of ADG Robert Bohn who wanted to meet us.



Typical island boat used on our Lelepa Tour – we travelled on one of these last year from Emae to Tongoa



Amanda and Krissy – Peace Corp Workers

Our original goal was arrive at the island, travel in luxury on the back of a ute to the village, leisurely finish the Aid Post, enjoy an official opening, return to Vila via ute and plane and be back thoroughly relaxed in time for my daughter to leave for the States on Tuesday - she may or may not be back in a year or so.

On the 29th May our plans changed and things went downhill from there.

A large earthquake struck just off the Coast of Tongoa Island and the damage was immense. Cracks appeared in the ground, landslips closed the road, water tanks broke, a few buildings collapsed (including part of the hospital and the local dispensary); and the islanders were living in fear of the volcano springing into life or the island disappearing back into the sea or both (A long story on this one as this actually happened some years ago. An island came up out of the sea and vanished again 6 months later. People remember it and live in fear of it happening to their own islands).

The end result of all this was that due to the road closure the Ute took us partway then it was on foot over the mountain. Fortunately a few villagers turned out to help with heavy packs and the solar panel otherwise we'd probably still be struggling to get there. And our workload increased.



Craig on our small, but noisy, plane



Luxury travel on the back of the ute



Our helpers stopping for a breather near the top of the hill



Carrying a 20kg pack AND a solar panel whilst the unfit Kiwis staggered along behind



Meriu Village to the left, the school to the right. Bonga Bonga out of sight up the hill to the right

NOTE: Those in need of medical care – including pregnant women in labour – walk this route to the hospital on the far side of the island.

Completing the Aid Station will make a major difference for the villagers and will save lives.

Having heard about the earthquakes I'd bought a couple of books on earthquakes for the school, done some research on the net and printed out info on their recent quakes. Also, as Alan and I grew up in Wellington on the fault-line, and Auckland is built on volcanoes, we were all able to bring an outside perspective to the problem and these all helped calm the fears (although the boys heard kids screaming in the night during one of the bigger aftershocks. I slept through it.)

Interesting facts:

- There are around 2 million earthquakes in the world every year
- All earthquakes world wide are logged on an American site <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/>
- Earthquakes do not cause volcanic eruptions (although eruptions can cause earthquakes)

Earthquake Damage: In our two villages 14 of these un-reinforced concrete tanks were damaged which will lead to a massive water shortage at the peak of the dry season in a few months. When the springs dry up and the tanks are empty villagers walk down the cliff and use seawater.



Damage ranged from cracks that emptied the tanks to total destruction

Due to the earthquake emergency and our impending visit Kerry bulldozed his way through red tape (if anyone finds stray bits of it floating in the breeze – please give it back so we can complete the paperwork) and arranged for two tanks to be delivered to Meriu Village in time for our arrival. We wanted to be sure that the tanks were in place and properly connected before we left (Gutters have a tendency not to survive hurricanes due to poor installation)

These tanks were supposed to be dropped off in the sea at the beach – but the sea was too rough so they went to the other side of the island. The road being out of use they brought them round by fishing boat and carried them up the cliff. The first attempt nearly capsized the fishing boat but they finally made it on Tuesday (No photos – we heard about the second attempt after they arrived).

Kerry and I walked down to Meriu (and back up the very steep 1km track!) on Wednesday to oversee the installation. Kerry showed them what to do and I swanned around taking photos. Whilst there, an islander limped over to see me with a very nasty open wound on his leg covered in flies. I did what I could with our limited first aid kit but rather think he will be the first patient for the Aid Station – and will be spending a few nights there if they don't fly him out to Vila.



How to bring a water tank up a cliff.



Tank being installed at the Chief's house in the centre of the village



A length of 4 x 2 as a barge board and gutter brackets installed at 500mm centres



The tank installed by the Church (best roof in the village and at a good location to gravity feed by pipe back to the village)

However, back to our original goal – completing the Aid Station. Once at the village it was straight into work. We had helpers to do the work but this time many of the villagers had other things to do as well. Minor things like earthquake repairs, clearing the road, bringing round the water tanks, organizing the opening (200 people turned up)... so the boys had some long days to get it all done in time.

The Aid Station in November 2007



The Completed Aid Station in June 2009



Shefa Health Manager formally opening the new Dispensary



New hurricane shutter with mesh screen behind



Rooms finished, plumbing and lighting installed and rusted beds restored

I have written the first draft of a report of our activities that those at the meeting saw. Once the team have had input and it has been edited I'll email it out to you all. Also, as promised, there was a slideshow of photos showing the work involved and the amazing people we met (annoy me too much and I'll show you all 750 of the photos and describe each one individually!).

A summary is:

- We finished the Aid Station – and it has been upgraded to a Dispensary with two full time nurses for the next few months due to the earthquakes
(Medical aid is: Aid Post to Dispensary or Local Hospital and from there to Vila Hospital)
- The Aid Station is of a higher standard than the hospital – it has a solar panel, lights and running water. The hospital use torches at night and the water pump has been broken for years (one woman in the village gave birth 11 months ago. She left the village at 5:30pm and gave birth in the hospital at midnight. The midwife assisted with a torch held in her mouth)
- Work on our three trips included:
 - o Tiling the floor
 - o Installing ceilings
 - o Installing hurricane bolts to the rafters
 - o Installing a solar panel, lights and inverter
 - o Painting
 - o Plumbing
 - o Vermin proofing the roof cavity
 - o Screens and shutters on all windows
 - o Making and hanging lockable doors
 - o Installing a toilet, septic tank and shower
 - o Restoring rusty beds and medicine cabinet
 - o Concreting the outside undercover area for village use with paths to the doors
 - o Installing the water tanks and gutters
- Shefa Health have now formally accepted it and the midwife will deliver babies there (no more 4 hour walks over the mountain whilst in labour only to have the baby delivered by torchlight – if, that is, they get there in time. Women and babies have died on the mountain.)
- We installed the two water tanks in Meriu
- The Vanuatu Education Department asked for our assessment of the damage to the school (the floor has cracked, a stored bed fell out of the rafters but overall it appears sound – although the west side is at risk of landslips. The water tank disintegrated)
- Vanuatu Rural Water asked for our findings on the water supplies on this dry island (no rivers, few natural springs and damaged tanks. The biggest tank in Bonga Bonga – equivalent to 10 plastic tanks - has cracked and is now only half full)
- Despite torrential rain and the Tongoa Airport being closed we made it home in time to farewell our daughter – thanks to a 10km walk, an extremely rough 20km ride in a passing fishing boat and Air Vanuatu sending a plane specially to get us from Emae Airport.



A 20km trip across open water in a small well-laden boat. The sea looks calm in the photos but it was very choppy and a rough and uncomfortable trip.

- In Vila 4 grubby and decidedly damp tramps with sodden luggage met with ADG Robert Bohn and a member of the Vanuatu Govt to report our findings on the water situation (Robert told the Government official that we smelt and promised to disinfect his board room after our departure)

The Vanuatu Government Emergency Response team have identified an immediate need for 42 new tanks (plus fittings) on Tongoa Island and would also like to search for new underground sources of water, as the new tanks will not replace all the ones that are broken. As tanks cost around \$NZ 2,000 each, and searching for then supplying spring water takes a large amount of money, this is not a cheap exercise.

The Government doesn't receive revenue from income tax (few people would have the ability – or skills - to pay this) so funds come from 12.5% VAT on sales. There are many incomplete projects in the islands as a result of shortage of funds. The Government are therefore seeking aid from overseas governments and organizations such as Rotary and the Red Cross to pay for this work.

Waitakere City Rotary has helped two villages – but even so more tanks are required in these villages thanks to the earthquake – and there are many more villages also in need.

It was an amazing adventure amongst some incredibly friendly people and I, for one, feel very privileged to have been a part of this experience.

Craiger and Kerry are to be congratulated for finding this project and taking it on with our Club's invaluable assistance. It has made a massive difference to many lives.

Raffle Winner: Derek (No prize - but he paid his fine for winning)

Parting Thought: Unpublishable (thanks Derek!)

Second, only slightly better, attempt:

Paddy goes to the airport. Asked how many people he was travelling with the answer came "I don't know – it's your bloody airline!"

Rotary	Website
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

Meeting Times and Contact Details

Where:	Rex Davy Lounge, Lower Ground Floor at The Trusts Stadium, Central Park Drive, Henderson		Committee Members:
President / President Elect	Terry Hodges	838 3818 (home) 0274 312 374 (mob) terryh@unitedtravel.co.nz	Club Service: John Ritchie Mike Angland Terry Hodges
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
Treasurer	Peter Hatch	Ph 027 203 3148(mob) hatchp@anz.com	Community: Steve Lewins Jim Annison Bob Benzie David Butler Derek Gee Patrick Howard Monique Mataga Graham Nicholson
Sergeant	Jim Annison	837 7323(home) No mobile or email	International: Craiger Hargesheimer Peter Hatch Kerry McMillan Alan Pattison Ivan Yukich Jack Riddell
Community Director:	Steve Lewins	833 4168 (home) 021 795661 (mob) steve@lewinselectrical.co.nz	Youth: Heather Pattison John Riddell Tony Scott Domenic Wood Jim Brown
International Director:	Craiger Hargesheimer	833 6854 (home) 021 636 854 (mob) Craiger@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	1 July	8 July
Guest Speaker		
Grace	Alan	John Riddell
Introduction	Heather	Peter S
Thanks	Jack	Ross
Squire	Kerry	Mike
Squire	Graham	Bob B
Parting thought	John Ritchie	Roger

Date	15 July	22 July	29 July	5 August
Guest Speaker	ROLLOVER			
Grace	David	Robert L	John Ritchie	Patrick
Introduction	n/a	Monique	Graham	Roger
Thanks	n/a	Steve	Kerry	Bob B
Squire	n/a	Derek	Jack	Ross
Squire	n/a	Craiger	Heather	Peter S
Parting thought	Kent	Peter H	Alan	Mike

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!

Late apologies are an appreciated courtesy

Other News:

And now for something completely different: Bluelight gave me a copy of the National Bluelight magazine at the meeting on Tuesday. An article on a familiar topic is scanned and attached.

WAHINE TOA CAMP



WAITAKERE BLUE LIGHT

In February 2008, Sergeant Mark Veale took over Waitakere Youth Aid and as a long-time Blue Light volunteer, he resurrected the Waitakere Blue Light committee. At the first meeting, we decided we wanted to run a Wahine Toa camp so we set a date for September and started planning.

The committee contacted friends and colleagues and our schedule was formed. Wahine Toa is a Blue Light concept involving female victims of crime and their best friends, doing a camp to raise self-esteem and challenge them to change from victims to survivors.

We invited six victims of crime and their best friends to a week-long camp at Huia Lodge. Holly Kairua got Huia Lodge for free accommodation. We met up at Waitakere Police station on Monday at 8.30am. Camp leaders were Cushla O'Neill from Waitakere Youth Development, Kate Mason from Auckland City Blue Light, S/Sgt Sharon Stephens, Youth Services Waitemata, and Charlotte Veale, Blue Light

Event Co-ordinator. Charlotte brought in her friend Kim Anderson to be the cook. Kim turned out to be so much more! Easily the girls' favourite supervisor, Kim was cook, counsellor, confidante, masseuse, and role model extraordinaire.

First on the schedule was shopping. We hit the shops at 9am and by 10am we were gone with flash outfits for all. Next stop, morning tea at Waitakere City Council with the CAYAD team Emma Solomon, Caitlyn, Councillor Cooper and Deputy Mayor Hulse - all wonderful ladies who were role models for our girls. Waitakere City Council also sponsored the hiking/abseiling and formal dinner. Dave Trethowen got us a free yacht trip on a 30ft yacht with his mate Barry. Our young ladies were treated to a sail from

Whitford to Waiheke with many taking a turn at the helm.

Tuesday had the girls out of their comfort zones and hiking and abseiling in the Waitakere Ranges. Jewellery-making that night restored our girly factor! Child, Youth and Family had female employees volunteering to teach us all jewellery-making. Wednesday was a day of fantastic guest speakers focusing on the future and setting some goals and challenges for the girls. Presbyterian North sent us Jude Simpson (Author of *Lost & Found*) who told her life story to the girls - inspirational! That night saw some serious pampering including massages, riki and manicures.

Thursday started with a fun personality quiz at camp. S/Sgt Dave



Ryan got all the girls free haircuts and styling from Premier Hairdressing. Charlotte got all the girls free make-overs from Body Shop and glamour photos from her sister at Vivid photography. The day culminated in a formal dinner with guest speaker Robyn Malcolm (Actress, *Outrageous Fortune*) and a performance from MDM Youth. Another highlight of the formal dinner was the waiters. Our male police colleagues dressed up in suits or tunics and served us impeccably.

On Friday morning we had the girls filling in evaluations, then the camp supervisors presented gifts to the girls in front of their proud whanau at Henderson Police station. We all struggled to constrain tears as

the strangers we had met on Monday walked away as fabulous new friends and wonderful young women.

We ran our camp for 11 girls in the first week of the September school holidays. It was absolutely fantastic and from the evaluations, we know we have changed the girls' perception of police and given them some new skills for life. Our evaluation scale had four categories, Excellent/OK/Boring/Rubbish. Most scores were Excellent. For the overall rating of the camp and why: "Excellent. Getting closer to everyone!! And experiencing new things! So not really excellent, more like... I LOVED IT." "Excellent. Because it was more than I expected! Great girls, cool leaders, AWESOME cook. And a lot of the

speakers were really inspirational! You finally made me feel good about myself." Asked what they enjoyed most about the camp: "I enjoyed everything, but the opportunities that were opened were amazing." Asked if the camp was better than expected: "I thought it would be a nightmare but I was wrong; it was a dream I'll never forget!" We also asked if the camp had changed the way the girls felt about police, and got this reply: "Most people see police as meanie patinies that are always just out to arrest, but I never realised about all of the good things that they do for the whole community."

Police and Rotary sponsored clothing and food and all the other incidentals that made a great experience.