



**This Week's Meeting**

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>When:</b>          | Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2010  |
| <b>Where:</b>         | Rex Davy Lounge, The Trusts Stadium  |
| <b>Web site:</b>      | <a href="http://www.rotarywaitakere.org.nz">www.rotarywaitakere.org.nz</a> |
| <b>Guest Speaker:</b> | John Schipper – Davis Funeral Home   |

**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 16 <sup>th</sup> June                 | Club Assembly and Rotary & I - Mike  |
| Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> June                 | Trees for Survival – Matepo School. Rain date 23 <sup>rd</sup><br>Club Night – Plans for next year |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> to 23 <sup>rd</sup> June | <b>Montreal Conference</b>   |
| Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup> June                 | Guest Speaker – RYLA and Outward Bound   |
| <b>Sat 26<sup>th</sup> June</b>           | <b>Henderson Rotary 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party</b><br><b>NUMBERS NEEDED NOW!</b>               |
| Wed 30 <sup>th</sup> June                 | <b>Changeover</b>  |
| Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup> July                | Kumeu Rotary – John Key dinner (optional extra)  |
| Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> July                  | District Changeover – Whangarei (details below)  |
| Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> Aug                  | Trees for Survival – Te Atatu School. Rain date 18 <sup>th</sup>                                   |
| Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> Aug                  | West Harbour Rotary Book Fair  |

**This Week's Meeting:**

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Present:           | Mike A, Jim A, Roger F, Derek G, Craiger H, Terry H, Patrick H, Alan P, Heather P, Jack R, John R, Domenic W |
| Apologies:         | Phyllis A, Bob B, Jim B, David B, Steve L, Monique M, Kerry M, Graham N, Ross W,                             |
| Late Apologies:    | Kent F   |
| Missing in Action: | Hew M, JR, Peter S,  |
| Attendance:        | 11 / 25  |



**John Schipper – Davis Funeral Home**

Having a Funeral Director speak to our Club may seem an odd choice of speaker. But it was actually quite fascinating with members asking far more questions than they usually do.

John based his talk on Eco Funerals and filled us in on some of the details. Cardboard coffins are banned in the eco area (too much glue), woollen shrouds are OK (with a wooden base) and so is untreated timber.

Plots also have a life of 60 or 65 years – if it isn't used in that time then it reverts to the Council and needs to be repurchased (so stockpiling a few "just in case" might not be the wisest idea financially).

John is a great speaker with an excellent sense of humour which all made for a very interesting evening.



## Henderson Rotary Club 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| Date:    | Saturday 26 June 2010  |
| Venue:   | The Trusts Stadium, Central Park Drive, Henderson  |
| Time:    | 5.00pm for 6.00pm  |
| Cost:    | \$65 per person  |
| Dress:   | Men a suit   |
| Program: | 5.00pm Social hour<br>6.00pm Dinner - Wine on the table<br>7.30pm - Proceedings - Music, speeches (a few), entertainment.<br>Cash Bar available. |
| RSVP:    | To Heather <b>by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June</b>   |



### JOHN KEY COMES TO DINNER

Once a year The Rotary Club of Kumeu stages a special dinner with the Prime Minister John Key. **Thursday 1st July at Kumeu Valley Estate, 972 Old North Road, Kumeu.** The function starts at 18.00 with pre dinner drinks and 18.30 seating. A three course smorgasbord meal with coffee and tea to follow. The night as always will be fun and flavour-some with great people and a hearty speech to warm the cockles.

Limited tickets are available at \$60 per person from LJ Hooker Kumeu, 63 Main Road, Kumeu. Phone 09 412 9602 or email [kumeu@ljh.co.nz](mailto:kumeu@ljh.co.nz) with your booking. **All proceeds to charity**



JOKER

### Duties:

After months of consistently getting it wrong as to who will be there for duties I finally came to the conclusion that it is better to let YOU do it.

We now have a specially created pack of cards – one for each duty plus a couple of Jokers who can fill in if needed. Tonight a card was dealt to each member showing what duty they will be doing next week (this week we were one short so there is only one joker). If you cannot do your duty – please contact the Joker urgently.

As any good game needs some form of scoring system and rewards one has been created. Those who do their duty get points, those who fail to do their duty get a minus score. First person to 15 wins a prize – then we reset back to zero and start again.



### Soapbox Derby Brochure and Web site

The date for our 8<sup>th</sup> annual race is Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

The 2011 brochure has been written and a page for the 2011 race has been set up.

<http://www.rotarywaitakere.org.nz/our-fundraisers/soapbox-derby-2011>



Graeme Douglas

# A former chemist honoured

Boredom drove Graeme Douglas into a whole new professional direction in 1967 – sewing the seeds of what is now a \$100 million-plus company.

Mr Douglas, founder of Douglas Pharmaceuticals in Henderson, features in this year's Queen's Birthday honours list.

He's been appointed as a Knight Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to philanthropy and athletics.

It's 43 years since Mr Douglas decided life as a Te Atatu-based chemist was no longer challenging enough. And his move into a market dominated by multi-national drug firms has long since paid off.

Mr Douglas, now in his 81st year, still keeps an eye on the family firm that bears his name and is equally well known out west for his generosity in public life.

He is a financial supporter of organisations including West Auckland Hospice, Medical Air Abroad, the Heart Foundation and the Liggins Institute.

The Neurological Foundation and Starship hospital have also benefited from his generosity.

Mr Douglas, a one-time Auckland representative shot putter, is a long-time sponsor of the Waitakere City Athletics Club.

His business is one of the city's largest employers with more than 450 staff and a healthy export market involving around 35 countries.

■ More honours P4-5

## Western Leader

Tues 8/6/10

Sir Graeme Douglas – Waitakere Rotary Member

1970 – 1997

Current Honorary Member of our Club

## "Sylvia"

We received two emails from Amanda after the show:

**Number 1** (A reminder that the show is on along with a link to the review):

... Firstly, I would like to cordially remind me you that ["Sylvia"](#) is playing at The Pumphouse in Takapuna until June 12. If you are on the fence about coming, or know someone is (and you don't mind a bit of a spoiler), please check our [great review on Theatreview](#) [reprinted below] and/or watch a sneak preview on [TV3's Nightline](#).

**Number 2** (A Thank You):

Thanks so much for coming out! And for organizing such a big showing of support!

Amanda


| Sergeant's Fund |         |
|-----------------|---------|
| Fines           | \$21.80 |
| Raffle          | \$24    |

## Parting Thought: Terry

1. A closed mind is a good thing to lose
2. A conclusion is simply the place where you get tired of thinking

| Board Members                             |                 | Meeting Venue and Time  |
|---|-----------------|---|
| President                                 | (Terry/Craiger) | Rex Davy Lounge,<br>Lower Ground Floor<br>The Trusts Stadium,<br>Central Park Drive,<br>Henderson<br><br>Time: 6pm for 6:10pm |
| Vice President / Sergeant                 | Derek           |   |
| Secretary / Bulletin Editor               | Heather         |   |
| Treasurer                                 | Alan            |   |
| President Elect / International Director: | Craiger         |   |
| Club Service:                             | Bob             |   |
| Community Director:                       | Patrick         |   |
| Vocational Director:                      | John            |   |
| Youth Director                            | Kent            |   |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Apologies:</b></p> <p><b>Contact:</b><br/>Heather at <a href="mailto:apology@details.co.nz">apology@details.co.nz</a><br/>Ph 8109 589 or 0274 719 569</p> <p>No later than <b>12 noon</b> on the <b>Monday</b><br/>prior to the meeting</p> | <p><b>Late Apologies and No shows will, of course, be charged for their meal as it has been booked and paid for!</b></p> <p><b>AND:</b> If you are bringing guests, including family members, please let Heather know this also.</p> <p>Late apologies are an appreciated courtesy</p> |
|---|--|

| Date            | 16-June |   | Duties:  |
|-----------------|---------|---|--|
| Event           |         |  | If you are unable to complete your duty next week – please contact the Joker and ask him/her to fill in for you. |
| Dealer          | Jack    |   |  |
| Deputy Sergeant | Roger   |   |  |
| Squire          | Patrick |   |  |
| Squire          | John    |   |  |
| Greeter         | Heather |   |  |
| Grace           | Mike    |   |  |
| Introduction    | Terry   |   |  |
| Thanks          | Domenic |   |  |
| Parting Thought | Jim A   |   |  |
| Joker           | Alan    |   |  |

| Rotary   | Website  |
|--|--|
| <b>Waitakere City Rotary</b>   | <a href="http://www.rotarywaitakere.org.nz/">http://www.rotarywaitakere.org.nz/</a>  |
| Rotary NZ  | <a href="http://www.rotary.org.nz">http://www.rotary.org.nz</a>  |
| Rotary NZ Promotions and Information<br>District Governor's newsletter<br>Admin page and information | <a href="http://www.rotary.org.nz/information.cfm?ID=1364">www.rotary.org.nz/information.cfm?ID=1364</a><br><a href="http://www..rotary.org.nz/newsletter.cfm?District=10">http://www..rotary.org.nz/newsletter.cfm?District=10</a><br><a href="http://www.rotary.org.nz/information.cfm?ID=180">http://www.rotary.org.nz/information.cfm?ID=180</a> |
| Rotary Downunder Magazine  | <a href="http://www.rotarydownunder.com.au">www.rotarydownunder.com.au</a>   |
| Rotary International<br>Future Vision  | <a href="http://www.rotary.org/">http://www.rotary.org/</a><br><a href="http://www.rotary.org/future_vision">www.rotary.org/future_vision</a>  |
| Rotary E Club (for make ups)   | <a href="http://www.rotaryclubone.org/">http://www.rotaryclubone.org/</a>  |

**Theatre Review:**

**INSIGHTS INTO A DOG'S LIFE**

**Sylvia**

By A.R.Gurney  
Director: John Antony  
Quotidian Creative

at [The Pumphouse, Takapuna](#), Auckland  
Until 12 Jun 2010

Reviewed by Adey Ramsel, 4 Jun 2010

AR Gurney's comedy burst onto the scene in 1995 and famously featured Sarah Jessica Parker as talking dog Sylvia, pre *Sex and the City* days. For all that, this is no cutesy animal comedy. Rather it takes anthropomorphosis to its extreme as we dive head first into the psychology of man's best friend.

It's a credit to cast and crew that amidst all this hypothesising about why man wants dog, why man identifies with dog, why woman is jealous of dog, we don't actually get lost in the words. Indeed there are laughs aplenty to be found in the simple story of Greg finding stray Sylvia and bringing her home to wife of twenty-two years Kate, who is less than enamoured, especially when the threesome quickly turns into a love triangle.

Many of us identify with Greg's infatuation with his furry friend and Sylvia's outspoken remarks are a joy to our ears as we listen to what our own best friends would say if only God had given them the gift. The majority of Sylvia's dialogue is worth listening to, not only for its delivery, but its take on life. Best line of the evening, from Sylvia to owner, Greg: "*Even when you're being a complete asshole, I'll still love you completely*".

Sylvia's reaction to the cat and her joy at having mated with Bowser the male dog from across the park is wonderful enlightening prose. Sure I think we miss the occasional point on certain theories relating to Greg's infatuation, but on the whole we get the picture that he is filling a void after the kids have left home and his wife's career is overtaking his lack lustre one.

Simple setting, easy listening soundtrack and furniture used with a brushstroke direction makes the play easy on the eye, though I do wish certain members of the cast would not touch the 'blacks' on stage right. And a few technical issues with stage crew 'appearing' on stage I'm sure will be ironed out.

I have to say – and I have not said it often, if indeed ever – that this is certainly one of those evenings where the success of it falls completely upon the shoulders of one cast member. Amanda Prasow as Sylvia worked. Not only did she work her butt off, her characterisation worked and we cared. Full credit to Prasow and director John Antony for perfecting moves and motifs that painted the dog for us without slipping into caricature.

John Clarke and Denise Snoad as Greg and Kate are perfectly matched, foiled by the excellent Robert Owens as fellow dog owner and amateur psycho-babbler Tom, and actress Melissa Roberts, giving us two nicely contrasting roles in Phyllis and Leslie. In these three roles, both Owens and Roberts handle the majority of the 'heavy' dialogue and cope well, leaving Clarke and Snoad to tell the story.

If there are one or two criticisms, and this may indeed be the fault of the script, neither Kate nor Greg seem to display the nervous energy that a New York couple should possess to enable them to live in one of the world's fastest cities. Also the switch for Kate does seem too quick; in one scene she's being told by shrink Leslie to '*shoot the dog between the eyes*' and at that point we can imagine Kate buying the gun. Next scene she's leaving a business meeting early, regretful that husband Greg is taking Sylvia to her new home.

That aside, the final scene finds many of us with a lump in our throat as we hear for the first, and probably only time, what our dog would say, if they could, about what lies in their heart and the extent of the love they hold for us mere humans.

This play works on so many levels – it pleased all in the theatre tonight. Those that wish to watch a cutesy comedy about a talking dog coming between husband and wife will not be disappointed. If you seek something a tad deeper with insights into animal behaviour, thought-provoking dialogue touching on man's best friend, and the decline of the modern marriage, then you won't be disappointed.

An entertaining evening that illustrates that dogs really do lead a dog's life and maybe they are the lucky ones. I wonder how many of us in the audience went home and hugged our dogs? I did.



(Note to wardrobe dept: Sylvia's dog tag occasionally catches the lights and blinds us now and again.)

For more production details, click on the title above. Go to [Home](#) page to see other Reviews, recent Comments and Forum postings (under Chat Back), and News.



## Rotary International District 9910

District Governor Georges and Nicole Giovannelli

and District Governor Elect Maxine and Murray Neighbour

Invite you to join them to

Thank the 2009 – 2010 District Team

and

Welcome the 2010 – 2011 Team

At

District 9910 Change Over

Sunday 4 July

Forum North, Rust Ave, Whangarei

1 for 1.30pm.

The formal Change Over will be followed by afternoon tea and fellowship.

\$20.00 per head numbers and payment would be appreciated by 21 June to (With payment please state name and Club-thank you)

Paul Covacich  
District 9910 Change Over  
PO Box 896  
Whangarei 0140

