



Newsletter to Keep the Wheel Turning



President: Jeanette Thorne

Secretary: Richard Ryan

Meeting location: Royal Oak Bowls, 146 Selwyn Street, Onehunga, Auckland

Time: Monday evening 5:30pm for 6 p.m. start to 7:30pm, includes \$25 dinner

Mail: PO Box 29086, Greenwoods Corner, Epsom

Web: <https://www.rotarymaungakiekie.org.nz/>

MAY YOUTH SERVICE

"The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow"

Nelson Mandela

Newsletter 171, 6th May 2024

Present: 27

Apologies: George Arulanantham, Robin Hulford, Cat Levine, Duncan Macdonald, Ant Martin, Trevor Mosley, Tony Rayner, George Varghese.

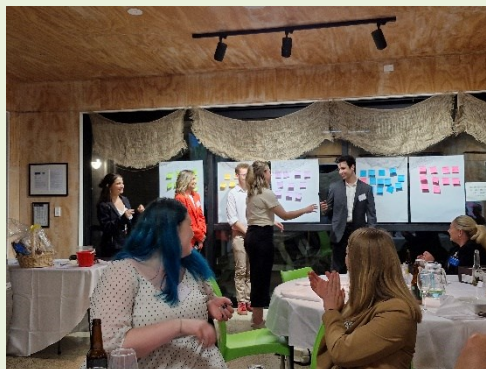
Sergeant's fines: \$62.40

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Jeanette welcomed Guest Speaker Andrea Gaskin. It was good to see Rod again as well as George Varghese before he departs overseas to continue with his business trip.

RYLA Dinner – Report from Noel Carey

Noel & Jenny Carey, President Jeanette and Paul & Leanne Jenner attended the annual **RYLA Dinner** at Muriwai Surf Club on Friday 3rd May.



Club delegate, Mark Burgess was introduced by Noel (who initially interviewed him with Trevor Mosley) to the others.

Twenty-one delegates from across District 9910 had assembled at the Surf Club the previous Sunday for a week packed with inspirational speakers, team building activities, community tasks, etc. Delegates also came from New Caledonia and Vanuatu, a number from Beca Carter and Top Energy.

The overwhelming comments from the delegates were "has far exceeded my expectations", " has given me immense confidence to inspire others", "would highly recommend this programme to others ".

We were well fed then entertained by a number of delegates. Mark played the saxophone with great skill, we heard poetry, a very emotional speech from a delegate who, two years earlier, had received a liver and pancreas transplant.

The obligatory fine session and raffle raised over \$400 for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Trust.

Another wonderful night and Mark will present to the club on 13th May with his view on what the programme meant for him.

Last week's Guest Speaker **Shree Bourke** from the ASB who spoke on Scamming Prevention has asked for any **feedback** from members.

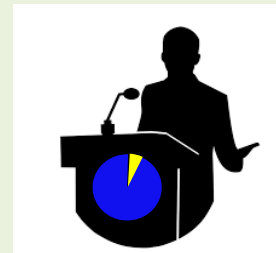
Please email feedback to Barry at barry@sklaw.co.nz.



Phil reported on a meeting that took place today in Whangarei today with the cadre, Keith, Neil, Peter Garnett and Don Smith. Cat presented to three classes who were singing the songs she wrote and playing with the Angry Dragon. We now await the cadres report, due out shortly.



Paul Jenner
Trip to Tasmania



5-minute Speaker

Paul shared a candid account of his recent escapade in Tasmania alongside wife, Leanne. Their adventure was far from ordinary, offering a glimpse into the extraordinary facets of Tasmania that left a lasting impression.

Their sojourn in Hobart commenced amidst picture-perfect weather, with four days of uninterrupted 28deg sunshine gracing the city. However, it was the meticulous organisation and cleanliness of the Salamanca Markets and streets that truly impressed, showcasing Hobart's commitment to excellence.

The highlight of their trip? A mesmerizing visit to the renowned MONA (Museum of Old and New Art), where art aficionados and curious souls alike are treated to an underground wonderland of creativity. From avant-garde exhibitions to unexpected encounters (cue the infamous wall of 76 cast of women's bits!), every turn sparked intrigue and bemusement that left Paul questioning his understanding of how far modern art has "progressed".

Venturing beyond Hobart's confines, Paul and Leanne made their way to Port Arthur [one of the 11 places that together form the UNESCO Australian Convict Sites World Heritage Property] steeped in convict history. The [mens] Penitentiary located close to the sea, with its weathered walls and haunting corridors, offered a glimpse into Tasmania's penal past. As they wandered the expansive grounds, the stories of hardship and resilience echoed through the ages.

Their next destination was Wineglass Bay Beach, where they planned a boat ride from the calm of Coles Bay. Despite concerns about inclement weather, they braved the elements and embarked on a catamaran

adventure. However, their excursion took a dramatic turn as the 4m rough open Tasman seas tested their pilot's resolve, prompting a swift return to shore.

Undeterred by their maritime misadventure, Paul and Leanne continued their journey northward to Launceston, passing through picturesque towns like Campbell Town and Ross along the way. These charming 19th century hamlets, steeped in history and adorned with well-preserved architecture, provided a glimpse into Tasmania's rich heritage.

Their travels also led them to Cable Mountain, where they braved the cooler air and rain to catch a glimpse of the elusive Tasmanian devil. Amidst the snarling sounds of these formidable creatures, Paul marvelled at the raw beauty of Tasmania's wilderness.

As their journey ended, Paul reflected on their visit to the Women's Factory [gaol], another sobering reminder of Tasmania's tough and sobering past. He commended the efforts of local communities to preserve and revitalise historic sites, noting the resilience of those who endured hardship within their walls.

Paul's captivating account of his Tasmanian journey left us inspired and intrigued, offering a glimpse into the beauty, history, and untamed wilderness of this remarkable island and its past.



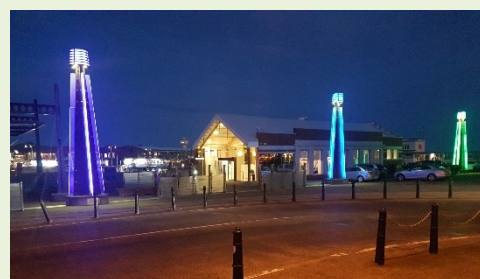
*Eliza Forlonge (1784-1859)
Introduced Merino sheep*



*Tasmanian devil.
Ave: 600cm, 8kg, 13km/hr, most
powerful bite for body size*



*Cradle Mountain Hotel
In the heart of the wilderness*



*Constitution Dock.
Finishing line for Sydney to
Hobart Yacht Race*



guest
speaker

ANDRIA GASKIN

Dir. Connect The Dots Charitable Trust

Lloyd introduced tonight's guest speaker, **Andrea Gaskin**, who is founder and director of [Connect the Dots](#) Charitable Trust. She is an artist and arts educator with a passion for strengthening communities through arts projects. She is also the Coordinator of the Families Art Programme at the Ronald McDonald House Auckland and for five years was the Access Educator at the Auckland Art Gallery.

Connect The Dots is an Auckland-based charity that uses creativity to improve the health of a wide demographic, including: older people and those living with dementia, brain injury or disability which all could be summarised as **improving brain health through the arts**.

Andrea, shared insights into the charity's journey since its start in 2014. Initially, their outreach was broader and mobile with them visiting many different Auckland locations to deliver their programmes, but over the last eight years, have honed their focus to serve older people, particularly those with dementia and brain injuries, aiming to enhance their brain health through artistic engagement.

While previously operating as a mobile arts organisation, since June 2023 have established a base in Onehunga in the blue wooden building at **354 Onehunga Mall**.



The premises has allowed them to host groups and expand their reach. Through their programs, they aim to provide equitable access to the arts, promoting inclusivity and reducing loneliness among participants.

Their flagship program, [Make Moments](#), encourages artistic expression and dialogue, fostering connections among participants. During the COVID-19 pandemic, they adapted by delivering art materials to participants' homes, ensuring continued engagement and collaboration. The program is professionally run to ensure visitors receive a 'top-notch'

experience.

The reason that art works with **those with dementia** is they are doing the activity **'in the moment'**. The simple fact that they have something in front of them where **they are not needing to recall or remember anything is such a lovely experience**, which in turn **boosts their mood** and every task they complete gives them **confidence to do more – it really is as simple as that**.

Along with the studio sessions, the charity conducts outreach programs across Auckland, partnering with organisations like [Dementia Auckland](#), [Haumaru Housing](#) and piloting initiatives with diverse communities such as Rugby Clubs, to address the connection between sports-related brain injuries and artistic engagement.

Connect The Dots commitment to accessibility is evident through their [online resources](#), including Audio Descriptions of art for the visually impaired and **Mindful Meditation** videos designed to relax the mind before quietly exploring a piece of art.

Despite challenges like securing funding and balancing costs, the charity remains resilient, driven by their mission to empower individuals through creativity. They measure success not only through growing numbers but also through the positive impact reported by participants, who feel more connected and engaged with their communities.

Derek thanked Andrea for her presentation which highlighted the transformative power of art in promoting well-being and social connection, particularly among older adults. Derek observed that many elderly just sit in their chairs in their room alone and don't look at all to see or speak to anyone. These community art programmes are so important in bringing out a bit of life in people and Andrea's dedication to making a difference is commendable.



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK provided by Barry Stafford

Your present circumstances don't determine where you go. They merely determine where you start.

Nibo Qubein

DUTIES

Unable to attend > apologies to Lloyd: albiston@xtra.co.nz

Unable for a duty > arrange own replacement & text Lloyd Mb: 022 6579 200

<p>Meeting: 6pm Mon. 13th May 2024 President: Jeanette Thorne Vice President: Barry Stafford Sergeant: Lloyd Albiston Attendance: Trevor Mosley Hospitality: Bruce Murdoch Host: Derek Neutze Equipment & Scribe: Bill Appleton Meals1: Brian Williams Meals2: Phil Aish 5-Min: Mark Burgess: My RYLA Experience Guest: Richard Greissman: U.S. Politics Thanks: Barry Stafford Thought: Rhett Stevens</p>	<p>Meeting: 6pm Mon. 20th May 2024 President: Jeanette Thorne Vice President: Barry Stafford Sergeant: Lloyd Albiston Attendance: Bruce Murdoch Hospitality: Derek Neutze Host: Barry Stafford Equipment & Scribe: Tony Rayner Meals1: Phil Aish Meals2: 5-Min: Brian Williams: Otago & Southland Trip Guest: Rob Woodley: GM, Blues Charitable Trust Thanks: Rhett Stevens Thought: Brian Williams</p>
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