



3rd March 2025

This week's meeting was Chaired by President Craig Jones

Apologies from Derek Neutze, Rhett Stevens, Jeanette Thorn, George Varghese, Tony Bradley, Bill Grayson, Noel Cary, Gwynyth Carr, Sharmeen Hyat, Cat Levine, Ernie Meyer

Visitors. Pesamino Lino, Father of Grace Lino. Leanne Jenner, Wife of Paul Jenner.

President Craig welcomed our guests and commented on the high quality of tonight's meal.

He mentioned the Remuera club and that we will be working more closely with them on membership options.

Craig mentioned we have some interesting activities coming up soon, and we are looking forward to discussions next week with Peter Mayow on the Anzac Day arrangements.

Craig then called on Paul to report on the Tractor Trek programme.

5minute spot: - Paul Jenner

Paul shared with the meeting his memories of his participation in the **Tractor Trek Feelings for Life** programme run by Cat Levine.

17 days on the road sitting on a "*comfortable?*" tractor seat.

Paul talked about the various experiences of driving tractors, from basic starting techniques to using a governor instead of accelerator. Cruise control. Generator failure, no problem. Another tractor pulls up and Graham jumps out with a couple of leads and Pauls away again. An amazing bunch of guys and very capable when anything goes wrong with one of the tractors, they swarm the tractor, and they've got it sorted.

Then we had John and Marlene as cooks. John is a cousin of Phil Aish. They were up before the team getting breakfast ready and would be making sandwiches after we were on the road, then catch us up and we would stop for lunch somewhere and have a cup of tea and sandwiches. They then would be back at base preparing dinner, and this went on for the whole Trek. Lovely couple. Fantastic job. Great food.

Paul said one of the reasons he went on this tour was to see the little children of Northland and the schools. He had a bit of a preconceived idea of what he might find, and he was overwhelmed by the conditions he found there.

You wouldn't have found a weed around any of the fence posts, along the fence lines, around any of the buildings. The grounds were immaculate.

They were immaculately laid out. The basketball courts were spotless. There was no paper anywhere or rubbish anywhere, apart from the bins.

The swimming pools were all used like a lot, which was fantastic to see, and they were immaculate. The buildings were all well-painted, tidy, everything. I was just blown away by that, which sort of made me think maybe the first school was a bit of an anomaly, but it wasn't.

All of them were the same. There were quite a few children there. I can't remember off the top of my head, but if I was to guess, maybe 100, 120, 140 kids there.

Wide-brimmed hats, uniform, just magic to see. When they were allowed to get on the tractors and in the Humvee, they just swarmed. The Humvee, there would have been pretty near at every school, 20 kids in that vehicle, and you couldn't have moved.

Phil had the old McCormack, and that, I think, was about 70 years old.

Willie, the chap that was assisting Cat, used to drive it. And the kids used to mob that as well.

I don't know whether it was because of Willie. But they used to mob it, and he would get them to sit on it, stand on it, wherever they could. There might have been like six or eight on each wheel.

They were sitting on the hood, they were standing up in the thing, and then he would start to say, it's Rusty's birthday, sing happy birthday to it. And then he would say, we've got to clap for every year. And then he would tell them it's 200 years old, and have them clapping and yelling and screaming. But the kids just loved jumping on the tractors and being just very exuberant kids.

Paul found that all the schools they visited for the programme were the same, tidy and the buildings in exceptional condition.

Paul spoke of various incidents that occurred during the Trek, one of which was a flat tyre. They managed to locate someone who would be able to fix this at Houhara. This turned out to be Past District Governor Jerry Normans brother, who Jerry had talked into buying one of the toy Diggers. Small world.

At one point they headed West to 90-mile beach where they shared the beach with 30 or 40 Blow carts, having a lot of fun and travelling probably twice as fast as the Tractors.

Apart from now being very tired, Paul said the experience was fantastic!



Guest speaker: Grace Lino

Our guest speaker was introduced by Rob Lyons as our selection for the 2025 Summer Science School Programme run by Auckland University. Grace is in her final year at Marcellin College before graduation and is looking forward to whatever comes next for her.

Grace said she never felt so nervous in her life. Grace delivered a very personal and honest address about her interactions with the other students.

She was worried about two things. Making friends and not measuring up to the academic levels of the other students.

She soon had made two friends on the first day and her worries started fade away.

She acknowledged that they were supersmart, but she had been wrong about missing home and making no friends.

Grace picked tech options of NZ Police, Biomed , and Civil Engineering.

She was allocated to Yellow Team and thought that it was packed full of future leaders of Aotearoa. It may sound like a good thing, and it is, but one issue with putting a bunch of leaders together is that everyone will want to lead, but hardly anyone will want to follow. It was a huge power struggle, and it was the biggest flaw she could see of my team.

The size of my team didn't help either, as we had 28 kids per team. Whenever we'd have group discussions and our advisors were gone, it would be chaos. Everyone would be talking over each other, and it was almost always the loudest ones getting their ideas out, and the quieter ones would be drowned out by the noise.

This made me realize that when I go to study at university, or when I start working, I'd have to interact with people who are nothing like me. It was a great experience to get to work with a broad spectrum of people. It was ironic because I thought that since we all had similar pathways, it'd be easier to get along, but I didn't take into account that we also had very different upbringings and personalities.

It was an eye-opener meeting the other kids, but it helped her to get used to different people. At the forum, she also saw that there were some other Pasifika kids there. This helped me make her feel a bit more at home as she comes from a Samoan household. Her school is Pasifika-dominated, so seeing only 8 Islanders out of 168 students was quite a shock.

But the forum really showed her that we need more diversity in STEM careers, and even STEM subjects in general. She also decided to take her original pathway, which was medicine. During the forum, she got to visit Massey University and Auckland University facilities, then an additional AUT sports science facility.

She got to go to different modules like digital construction, physics, biology, etc.

Quote: The area I could contribute was in volleyball. Each week, we'd walk up to the sports centre in the city and play other colour teams. A lot of people in the forum had trouble playing volleyball.

For some of them, it looked like it was their first time. I remember everyone had to dress in their group colour at each volleyball match and it was a lot of fun seeing the outfits people would come up with. My team won against all the cool colour groups, but we lost against the orange team by one point, so we came second in volleyball.

We also had fun events like a gender swap-themed disco, beach day, as well as a barbecue, explore Auckland day, and finally the forum dinner. The disco was my favourite. The boys came in dresses, heels, wigs, makeup, and purses, and the girls came in shorts, pants, oversized shirts, backwards caps, glasses, and fake facial hair.

We even helped pick out dresses for the boys to wear. Overall, it was truly an amazing experience that I definitely won't forget for many, many years to come. I was sad when I realized that rather than Saturday the 11th of January being the worst day of my life, it was actually Saturday the 25th of January when I had to say goodbye to everyone.

I met amazing people there who I could be unapologetically me around. I was always productive. I got to see the different facilities from the three different universities, and I also lost a lot of fat that's been annoying me for a while.

The interactions there were genuine, and people were actually interested in you and what you had to say for the most part, and most of the kids were open to making new connections. I strengthened different skills like time management and social skills, and I finally put my foot down on which career pathway I want to take, which was medicine. I still wish that the forum went on for another two weeks because the two weeks there went by in the blink of an eye.

People were right when they said it was an experience of a lifetime, but none of this would have happened without all your support. Because of the Maungakiekie club, I was able to have two of probably the best weeks of my life. Thank you all very much for sponsoring me and paying the full cost of the Forum.

Me and my dad appreciate your help very much. Thank you all again.

Guest Speaker Thanks: Gary Hays

Thank you, Grace, for your presentation. When I interviewed Grace at school last year, I think she did come across as a very shy person, but I kept thinking to myself deep down these two weeks would be the making of her, and I think from what she said tonight, it was the making of her. Our club's been quite keen to get a relationship with Marcellin for quite some time, and we've got one now, and hopefully we'll get another one for the future.

As I say, Onehunga High is also our school, but it'd be nice to be able to see people from both schools in the future. So, Grace, thank you so much.

1 Minute +: Barry Stafford. Barry read a humorous poem about a 'Letter from Heaven' by Brian Turner

Barry then circulated 2 pages of project proposals.

These proposals arose from considering papers from the Fit for Purpose Seminar held in Sydney on 13/14th October 2024.

Level one: The "Joy of Walking" was tabled on 20th January 2025.

Sponsor. Rotary Club of Maungakiekie – Promoted via club.

Object: Improve physical and mental wellbeing and knowledge of community and environment.

Audience: Anyone When: 7.30 am – 10.30am 1st and 2nd Sunday each month.

Essence: Appealing. Easy, no cost. Club pays promo. Admin costs.

Level two: Running in Parallel with Level one.

Conduct a positive campaign encouraging all MP's to do as much as they can to achieve Pact 28.

Need to be persuasive, complimentary, and optimistic.

Start slowly and develop intensity over time.

First: add Pact logo to all material for Joy of Walking. Agree % of fines earmarked for Pact 28, provide support letter to go to all MP's, consider Parliamentary Petition.

Further suggestion details available on request from Barry.

Thought for the week. Iain McCrae

We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked, and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty. (Mother Teresa)

Duties next week 10th

Guest Speaker: Catch up with Peter Mayow on arrangements for Anzac Day

President - Craig

Scribe - Bill A

Attendance – Paul Jenner

Hospitality – Rhett Stevens

Meals – Ernie Meyer – Trevor Mosley

Host – President Craig

Thanks

Thought For the Week -

Apologies to Noel before 5pm Friday

Duties 17th March

Visit to Remuera Club.

President - Craig

Scribe - Bill A

Attendance – Bruce Murdoch

Hospitality – –

Thanks

Thought for the week -

Apologies to Noel before 5pm Friday

Smile, it makes people wonder what you have been up to!

**Guest Speaker 24th
March**

GREG FLEMING

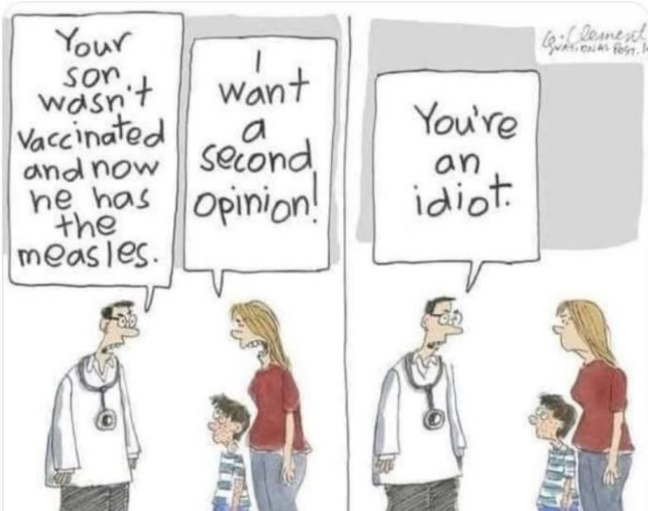
MP for Maungakiekie

GregFlemingMaungakiekie greg.fleming@parliament.govt.nz

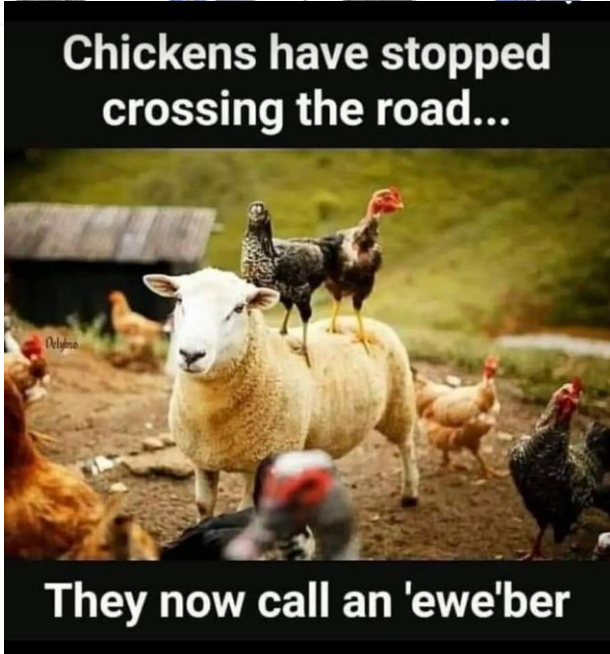
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On the Lighter Side.



**It's been a bit of a strange day!
First I found a hat full of money.
Then I was chased by an angry man with a guitar...**



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End note: What happened to the man who sat up all night wondering where the sun went to?
It suddenly dawned on him.!