



## Rotary Club of Maungakiekie Bulletin/Newsletter NL210

31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

This week's meeting was Chaired by President Craig Jones

Apologies from Rod Kestle, Cat Levine, Peter Mayow, Tony Rayner, Jeanette Thorne, George Varghese, Bob Campbell, and Tony Bradley  
Visitors. Shirley Grayson.

**Sergeants Session.** Last Week 24<sup>th</sup> March \$201.10. Which we will share with Remuera as in the past. So, \$100.55 to the kitty.  
This Week 31<sup>st</sup> March \$68.30

**President Craig** welcomed our Guests and reminded everyone that tickets are now available for the David Seymour 'State of the Nation' fundraising dinner. Just click on the link in the poster in the bulletin to go to the Ticket purchase website.

**I minute spots from:** Bill Grayson on ROMAC and Barry Stafford re Anzac Day update.

**Barry Stafford. A note in two parts.** Part a is to take advantage of the fact that Peter Mayo is not here, but to say to all of you we owe a great deal of gratitude to Peter. He's I'm very conscious of this because it was me that stood up here and said we should do this, and then Peter's taken it up. But he's done a lot of work for, Anzac Day, well organized, well underway. The posters are going up this week and out in the community.  
We must support Peter in this. We must be there on the day. We must be prepared to do anything we might be asked to do before then.

Part b is next week's speaker is a guy called James Parkinson. He's coming from Auckland Stadiums to tell us how the council's going to spend \$11,000,000 at Waikaraka Park. Should be fascinating.

**Bill Grayson:** Just a very quick update on ROMAC. As you know we are supporting a mother and child, Lafitu and Daisy. Daisy is about six months old. She's arrived here for a major heart surgery and that was carried out in the middle of last week and Daisy came through with flying colours. Since then, she's had a couple of setbacks which has kept her in paediatric ICU, PICU for those of you who get that stuff and her mother, Lafitu, got an infection, so she got tossed out of Ronald McDonald House.

So, she's residing at our place now under Shirley's tender mercies. The other little bit of news is we're beginning to now receive inquiries from our professional book buyers for the book fair, and we're able to announce the dates and so forth. So that's heading down the track again, so away we go once again on another book fair. Thank you.

**Guest Speaker:** Richard Griessman



Richard was introduced by Ant Martin who announced that Richard had just become a NZ citizen and called for a round of applause.

Richard shared a personal milestone of pledging allegiance to New Zealand on March 11, humorously reflecting on the significance of gaining citizenship in a country he admires. He recounted a memorable moment from the ceremony, where he recited the national anthem in both Māori and English. Despite his pride in being a Kiwi, he remains equally proud of his American citizenship, hinting at a deep connection to both nations.

Richard subsequently shifted his focus to American politics, particularly the dynamics surrounding the 2020 election, illustrating how first-time voters played a crucial role in Donald Trump's victory.

He elaborated on the polarized political climate in the U.S., where longstanding party loyalties have shifted dramatically. Richard noted that many disillusioned voters switched their allegiance to Trump, driven by a perception that he could address their grievances more effectively than established Democrats. While acknowledging Trump's controversial tactics, he praised his ability to connect with voters through social media and dynamic rallies. This engagement has contributed to a stark divide, with partisan responses differing significantly based on party affiliation, particularly regarding recent political scandals.

In conclusion, Richard called for a new approach to political dialogue, emphasizing the need for open communication and understanding across partisan lines. He proposed experiments in deliberative democracy, where diverse groups can engage in meaningful discussions about contentious issues, seeking common ground rather than division. Drawing from examples of successful political cooperation, he advocated for a culture of listening and collaboration to address pressing societal challenges, urging New Zealanders not to become complacent about their political environment.

**Erie Meyer** thanked Richard, on behalf of the members, for sharing his inside knowledge of American politics and leaving us with food for thought on our own political landscape.

**Thought for the week.** Trevor Mosley  
'A winner is a dreamer, who never gives up.'

### **Notice from District Governor**

We regret to advise that due to insufficient registrations, the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) event scheduled for 27 April – 3 May 2025 has been cancelled.

This has not been an easy decision. RYLA is an important and valued Rotary programme, and we extended the application deadline in the hope that additional registrations would be received. Unfortunately, the numbers remain too low to deliver the quality experience expected, and proceeding would likely have resulted in a financial loss.

We are currently exploring the possibility of rescheduling the event to later in the year—potentially in September—to allow additional time for further applications. We expect to confirm this shortly and will communicate the new dates as soon as they are available.

**Duties 7<sup>th</sup> April**      Guest speaker: James Parkinson  
Director of Auckland Stadiums



President – Craig Jones  
Scribe – Bill A  
Attendance - Iain  
Hospitality – Ant Martin  
Meals – Barry Stafford , Rob Lyons  
Host – Paul Jenner  
Thanks – Trevor Mosley  
Thought For the Week – Bruce Murdoch  
*Apologies to Noel before 5pm Friday*

**Duties 14<sup>th</sup> April**      Guest Speaker: Tina Dawber CEO HARMONY PASIFIKA



President - Craig Jones  
Scribe – Bill A  
Attendance – Peter Mayow  
Hospitality – Rob Lyons  
Meals – Barry Stafford, Rhett Stephens  
Host – Iain McCrae  
Thanks – Bruce Murdoch  
Thought for the week – Derek Neutze  
*Apologies to Noel before 5pm Friday*

# Rotary

Club of Maungakiekie



*PRESENTS*

## *“State of The Nation”*

*WITH GUEST SPEAKER  
DAVID SEYMOUR*

*The date, Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
at Sorrento In The Park*

*Tickets \$225.00 includes 3 course  
meal Wine Provided*

*Net Proceeds to Maungakiekie Rotary  
Club projects.*

Tickets available from:

Ctl + click on link below.

[Maungakiekie Rotary –](#)

[State of the Nation Fundraiser](#)

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



**Old age is a  
thing..last night I  
was in bed for 20  
min when I heard  
the pizza guy  
cough. Then I  
remembered I  
came to my room  
for my wallet 😏**

**A recent study has found that  
women who carry a little extra  
weight live longer than the men  
who mention it.**