Rotary Club of Palmerston North (1924)

President John Freebairn, Secretary Steve Paterson, Treasurer Ron Schalkwijk, Past President Dave Gaynor

Monday, 14 October 2024

Speaker: Mike Monaghan

Topic: **Three Waters – " Where to Now for Palmy"**

Intro/Thanks Steve Paterson
Attendance: Stu Schwartz
Sergeant: Liam Hehir
Corporal: Mike Charles
Parting Thought: Bill Bendall
Editor Bruce Wilson

Monday 21st October

Speaker: TBA
Topic TBA
Intro/Thanks TBA
Attendance Chris Klein
Sergeant Dave Gaynor
Corporal Brian Donnelly
Parting Thought Stu Schwartz
Editor Phil Burt

Monday 28th October

No Meeting Labour Day

From Monday, 7 October 2024
Total present:18 members and our speaker. Sergeant $37.60 + 4 vouchers = $57.60 plus internet giving.

Monday 07th October 2024

Speaker -Steve Paterson

Good afternoon, everyone. As Martin mentioned, he twisted my arm into sharing a few reflections from a recent trip my wife, Anne, and I took, and he even gave me a title to reference. I'll keep it light and touch on a few moments from our four-week journey through Canada and Alaska. Some of you may have visited Canada before, and perhaps fewer have ventured to Alaska. With that in mind, I'll focus a bit more on Alaska but will weave in a few memorable moments from Canada to connect with those familiar with that region.

Our trip began in Canada, and one of the first places we explored was Vancouver Island, home to some of the most breathtaking gardens I've ever seen. The serene beauty of places like Emerald Lake in British Columbia, which reminded me of Lake Matheson back home in New Zealand, really stood out. We also had the opportunity to travel on the Rocky Mountaineer train, a luxurious journey from Vancouver to Banff, which was quite an experience.

We then embarked on a seven-day cruise from Vancouver, winding through the Inside Passage to Whittier, Alaska. From there, we travelled by bus to Anchorage and boarded the McKinley Explorer train, which took us to Denali National Park and further north to Fairbanks. Along the way, we couldn't help but draw comparisons between New Zealand and British Columbia—both regions filled with dramatic landscapes, rivers, and glaciers.

A memorable highlight for me was visiting Ketchikan, a quaint little town that proudly calls itself the "salmon capital of the world." Watching

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the salmon fight their way upstream was a sight to behold. The strength and determination of those fish as they leapt through the air, only to be pulled back by the current, was captivating. It's incredible to think that after all that effort, they reach the top, and their life's journey ends. It felt like a powerful metaphor for resilience, even in the face of inevitable outcomes.

Moving on to Juno, Alaska's capital, I was surprised to learn that the only way to reach it is by air or sea – no roads connecting Juno to the rest of the state! While there, I took a local bus for a modest $3 fare to visit the nearby Mendenhall Glacier. It was a beautiful hike, and though I didn't have long to explore, the sight of the glacier was both humbling and concerning. The retreat of glaciers in Canada and Alaska is a stark reminder of climate change's impact. The Mendenhall Glacier has been losing ice alarmingly, with recent years seeing a dramatic acceleration in its melt.

One aspect of Alaska that left a strong impression was the sheer scale of its wilderness. Alaskans love to point out that their state is bigger than Texas, and it's true – the landscapes felt endless. Denali, the highest peak in North America, stood as a towering reminder of nature's majesty. But with this beauty came the sobering realisation that these environments are fragile and changing rapidly.

Alaska is fascinating, not just for its landscapes but its history and development. It was a hefty investment purchased from Russia in 1867 for $7.2 million. Yet, today, the state plays a critical role in America's defence strategy and is rich in natural resources. Half of Alaska's population lives in Anchorage, and while the economy relies on natural gas, oil, and tourism, it faces challenges with a stagnant or declining population.

Reflecting on our trip, I remember how travel broadens our understanding of new places and global challenges. Seeing the effects of climate change firsthand, witnessing nature's resilience, and learning about Alaska's unique position in the world left me with plenty to think about. It was a holiday filled with awe, discovery, and a deeper appreciation for the natural world.

Rocky Mountaineer Luxury train

Fairbanks, Alaska

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Rotary and Member News

Steve Parsons wishes to meet with Bulletin editors after the meeting on Monday, 14th Oct.

Parting Thoughts

Lesley Bolton

Life is like an ice cream sundae–lots of wonderful flavors to taste but if you don't eat it, it just melts away.

Sergeant Fines

Easy to pay Sergeant's fines! 02-0727-0025858-000 OR buy some vouchers to have on hand!

Guest Speaker?

If you see or hear of a good speaker, please let Martin know so we can invite them along.

New Member Form

Here is a link to the form that can be used to propose a new member. Just click on the link:
https://www.pnrotary.co.nz/ProposeNewMember.pdf

From the Archives

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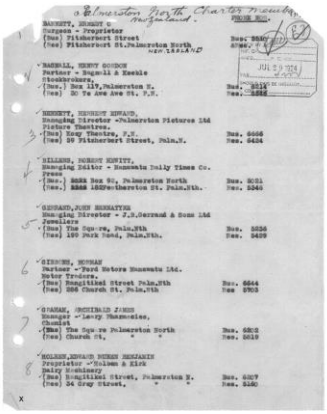
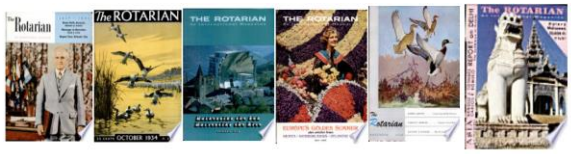
Rotary International

Charter Members 29th July 1924





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Rotary International

Confirming Application 06th June 1924

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