



## Rotary Club of Palmerston North (1924)

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

# Rotary



Monday 16 June 2025

Speaker David Chapple "Men's Sheds and More"



Intro/Thanks	Norelle Ward
Attendance	Stu Schwartz
Sergeant	Dave Gaynor
Corporal	Nick Kaspers
Parting Thought	Brian Donnelly
Bulletin Editor	Steve Parsons

Monday 23 June 2025

Speaker TBA

Intro/Thanks	Dave Gaynor
Attendance	Stu Schwartz
Sergeant	Nigel Withell
Corporal	John Brunsdon
Parting Thought	Mike Charles
Bulletin Editor	Steve Parsons

### CHANGEOVER:PARTNERS ARE INVITED

Monday 30 June 2025 12 Noon Palmerston North Conference & Events Centre

Please bring your partner.  
Please RSVP to Dave Gaynor so he can advise the caterer.

Contact [dave@davegaynor.co.nz](mailto:dave@davegaynor.co.nz)

Speaker :President John Freebairn and President-Elect Dave Gaynor

Intro/Thanks-	Nil
Attendance	Stu Schwartz
Sergeant	Liam Heir
Corporal	Brian Donnelly
Parting Thought	Ramola Duncan
Bulletin Editor	Steve Parsons

Please RSVP to Dave Gaynor so he can

Club Info meeting 09 JUNE 2025

Attendance 13 members and Nkechinyere Onyema – Visitor, looking to join  
Total Attendance -14

# Rotary



Here's a summary of the key points from John Freebairn

Summary of Talk by John Freebairn: European Pilgrimage Reflections

**Presented to the Rotary Club of Palmerston North Monday 09 June 2025**

John Freebairn, President of the Rotary Club of Palmerston North, recently shared highlights and reflections from a meaningful pilgrimage to Europe, which he undertook with his son Cullam. The trip combined elements of **faith, history, and family bonding**, rooted in spiritual exploration across Italy and other significant European sites.



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### Key Points from the Talk:

#### 1. Why the Pilgrimage?

- John chose to join the pilgrimage partly because it could be his last chance to travel with a close-knit group led by John and Jenny, long-time friends known for organizing spiritually themed tours.
- Another motivating factor was the opportunity to spend quality time with his son Cullam, now retired and able to take part in such a journey.
- There was a sense of urgency and meaning – “If not now, when?”

#### 2. Journey Highlights

- The group visited **Venice, Florence, Assisi**, and other cities rich in Christian heritage.
- In Assisi, they explored the **shrines and legacy of St Francis**, gaining a deeper understanding of his life and the spiritual traditions tied to him.
- John recounted the beauty of ancient cities, noting their remarkable preservation and religious significance, especially the marble architecture and quiet reverence in places like Assisi.

#### 3. Unexpected Connection – Cardinal John Dew

- While in Italy, they learned of the death of **Cardinal John Dew**, a prominent New Zealand figure who had served six years in Rome.
- The timing was poignant: they were in Rome around the time of the funeral, which added a reflective and emotional layer to the trip.

- John noted that **Liam**, possibly a fellow traveller or clergy, offered valuable insights during this time.

#### 4. Personal Reflections

- John watched the movie *Conclave* on the flight to Rome, which deepened his appreciation of the Vatican and church processes.
- During their stay, a group of nuns they met reacted with excitement upon receiving the news of the Pope’s successor, highlighting the immediacy and vibrancy of faith in Rome.
- The experience sparked a broader sense of **hope and renewal**, which John encouraged Rotarians to consider in their own lives and leadership.

### Closing Thoughts

John’s presentation was less a formal travelogue and more a **meditative sharing** of time well spent—honouring relationships, spirituality, and the beauty of history. He subtly urged fellow Rotarians to seize opportunities, connect across generations, and consider the global and spiritual dimensions of service and reflection..

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Here's a **summary of Liam Hehir's talk** to the Rotary Club of Palmerston North, which focused on the recent papal conclave and broader

reflections on the history and significance of papal elections:

### Topic: The Selection of a New Pope and the Role of Trust Over Nationality

#### 1. The Conclave Process and Tradition

- The conclave to elect a new Pope is a highly traditional and secretive process.
- Historically, Italian or European Cardinals dominated due to proximity and travel constraints.
- With Pope Francis appointing over 80% of the current Cardinals, many did not know each other well, making this election particularly interesting.

#### 2. The Unlikely Election of an American

- Traditionally, there has been an unspoken rule that the Pope should not come from a dominant global power, such as the United States, to avoid concentrated influence.
- However, this conclave prioritized **trust and behind-the-scenes relationship-building** over nationality or ideology.

#### 3. The New Pope

- The newly elected Pope is an American, Robert Prevost, noted for his discretion, problem-solving skills, and personal relationships with many Cardinals.
- Despite being American, he is seen as having a "non-American" temperament—careful, cautious, and diplomatic.

#### 4. Papal Election Patterns

- Liam outlined a historical pattern: Popes often contrast with their predecessors (e.g., reformers followed by stabilisers).



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- He referenced several popes from the past century, contrasting personalities, theological styles, and leadership approaches—from bold reformers to quiet scholars.

### 5. The Role of the Pope Today

- The Pope is not a CEO; he is the chief bishop and spiritual guide, bound by doctrine, tradition, and global expectations.
- While he can open windows for reform, he cannot rewrite 2,000 years of tradition.
- The Pope's job is about bridge-building—**“pontiff” literally means bridge-builder**—and the new Pope seems well-suited to that role.

### 6. Closing Thoughts

- Liam suggested the Church is currently seeking unity and healing rather than ideological battles.
- The Cardinals elected someone based on deep trust and relational understanding rather than a headline-grabbing figure.



Pope Leo XV

### Alan Ford Parting Thought -

**“The family that prays together, stays together — and in John’s case, they also work together.”**

This reflects a sentiment of unity through shared faith and collaboration, highlighting how spiritual connection and teamwork strengthen bonds.

### New Members

Progressive discussions are ongoing with the Manawatu Chamber and joint membership .Please support their club as you can.

### Awapuni Rotary Club(reminder)

Awapuni members will attend our Rotary meetings on Mondays fortnightly. Their numbers have dropped to 15 with 8-9 regularly attending their fortnightly meetings. We naturally welcomed this initiative which started on Monday 14 April 2025

Both Rotary Clubs will remain as separate Clubs.

This will improve the meeting and Rotary experience for everyone.

It will also help us achieve our minimum catering requirement of 20.

Some of their members may wish to attend more frequently than fortnightly.

We don't see any major issues in achieving this.

The meetings will remain unchanged except for the addition of Awapuni Rotary News.

Dave and Norelle are working through the details.( Published again to ensure all are aware )

### Nominate a Potential Member

Dave Gaynor asked members to nominate any person they feel is a potential member for Rotary.



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This has been the traditional way of recruiting members. Choosing people who are likely to be interested. Dave will make the approach, or members can bring a potential member for free to a meeting to check Rotary out. It takes a team effort to make a difference. Please send your nominations to Dave.

**Rotary Youth Music Festival Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2025** Look at :

<https://palmybid.co.nz/musicmonth/>

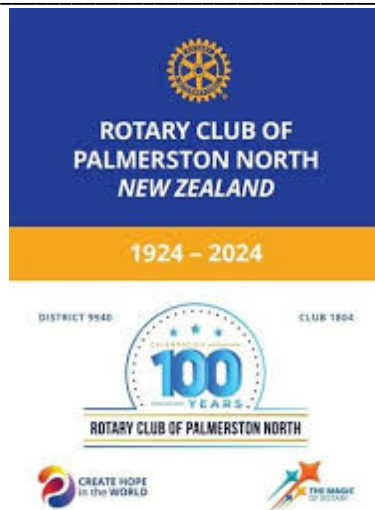
### Guest Speaker?

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

### New Member Form

propose a new member. Just click on the link:  
<https://www.pnrotary.co.nz/ProposeNewMember.pdf>

**Club 100 Year booklet update copy is available from Dave Gaynor. This final edition includes all speeches**  
**Club 100 year booklet is now live on**  
<https://manawatuheritage.pncc.govt.nz/>



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From incoming President Dave Gaynor

I'm pleased to announce that next in our Featured Speaker series is Dr Victoria Hatton, CEO, Food HQ

It was a great gathering of Rotarians from District and other Clubs to the excellent talk by Te Ahu Teki.

We look forward to having you, partners, and friends along to hear Victoria on **Monday 7 July**.

For catering purposes please reply, yes or no, to this email by Thursday 3 July.





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07  
JULY



MANAWATŪ BUSINESS  
CHAMBER

FEATURED SPEAKER

**DR VICTORIA HATTON**

CEO of FoodHQ

### THE FUTURE OF THE FOOD INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM : FOODHQ'S VISION IN ACTION

We are at a pivotal time for food innovation, and the Manawātū has an opportunity to play a key role in shaping our future food system.

Dr Victoria Hatton, CEO of FoodHQ, will share her bold and practical plan. But this isn't just a plan—it's a vision in action, and it's already underway.

Dr Hatton will outline the opportunities, partnerships, and regional impact being driven through FoodHQ, followed by an in-depth Q&A session.

Join fellow business and community leaders for this joint keynote event by Palmerston North Rotary and the Manawātū Business Chamber—and be part of shaping the future of food in our region.

07 July | 12 PM | Palmy Conference + Function Centre