

Rotary Club of Palmerston North (1924)

President Dave Gaynor, Secretary Steve Paterson, Treasurer Ron Schalkwijk, Past President Nigel Withell

Next Monday lunch meeting

10 June 2024

Speaker:

Topic:

TBA Next week

Attendance

Sergeant:

Corporal:

Parting Thought:

Editor: Steve Parsons

108 cheerful Members, partners and friends convened on Saturday May 25, 2024 at the Palmerston North Convention Centre for the Rotary Club of Palmerston North's convivial Centenary Celebration.

The festivities began with Members and guests treated to bubbles or orange juice and appetiser platters, but those were secondary to the lively conversations and catch-ups with former Members and good friends. Kane Parsons on the piano served up memorable songs at just the right volume – listenable for those who were quiet, but soft enough that conversations didn't miss a beat.



The evening's master plan to keep the party moving ahead came together well as everyone strolled to their designated, beautiful dressed tables. Commemorative tea towels and 100-Year books added colour and interest to the tables.

Quickly, MC Liam Hehir amused the crowd with comparisons of history of the early 20th Century (troubles in the Middle East, pandemics and Russian antics). He noted the "progress"? that has been made



Plenty of laughter followed and the crowd was well-warmed as President Dave introduced a video address by Gordon McInally, president of Rotary International.

President McInally hailed the Club with congratulations on all the accomplishments over the 100 years and inspired attendees to renew their commitment to Rotary and *Service Above Self*.

Apologies to Olga Barrett 358-8798 or recorded on our website...

This is important for ordering lunches. Please arrange a substitute if you have a duty rostered for a day you are apologising.

Useful web links...

District # 9940 <http://rotary9940.org/>

Club # 18626 www.pnrotary.co.nz

Link to our Facebook page

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District Governor, Wayne Gordon spoke of our Rotary and our District. He offered his warm congratulations for 100 years of jobs well done.



His Worship the Mayor, Grant Smith, recounted many of the Club's efforts for Palmerston North, the Pacific and the world beyond. His heartfelt message will certainly motivate Club Members as they continue to serve others. He even sported a Rotary tie!

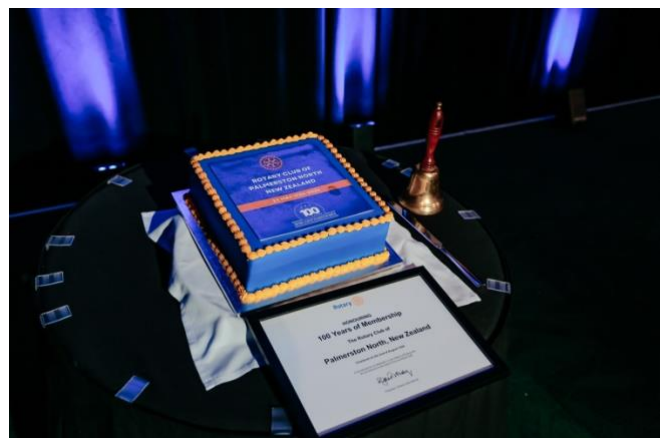


The delicious meal, served family style, encouraged interaction and subconsciously demonstrated that group fellowship remains a core value of Rotary.

Steve Paterson spoke briefly before asking everyone to raise their glasses in a toast to past Members and Members no longer with us.



President Dave engaged Roger Clausen and Ramola Duncan who represented the spectrum of Members -- the young at heart and the young as the three cut the celebration cake!



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While awaiting slices of cake, the crowd welcomed our own high seas, swashbuckling, Nigel Jolly. Nigel detailed his time in Rotary and repeatedly mentioned being the “wrong guy in the wrong place at the wrong time.” He still sounds astonished that he was “accepted” as a Member and surprised at the rules he needed to follow: Ties? Attendance? Make ups?



Nigel recapped his Rotary life and his involvement in some of our most far-reaching projects including the Alafua build where water was shut off early each day, but before the Rotary

men glowing from hard labour could shower. Ablutions were difficult, but the trip remains a grand success.

Nigel’s ships helped the Club with project success by taking books in a number of years to various islands. He recalled handling two initiations into the Club. With his usual vigour and sharp sense of humour, Nigel initiated new comers with the sacrifice of a rubber chicken. But the next time, not wanting to rest on his laurels, he stepped it up a notch which included a tomato sauce explosion on Club members sitting too close to the podium.

Nigel proved yet again that he speaks well with both intelligent verve and a sharp-eyed wit. We know that his involvement in Rotary meant that for our Club he remains certainly the right guy in the right place and at the right time!



Steve Parsons created a superb look over the 100 years with his multi-media presentation. Many historically notable unfamiliar faces from the early days through to many we recognise now. Members hearts swelled with pride at the long history of notable accomplishments.

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Neil Murray, District Governor for District 9910 and a third generation Rotarian represented his grandfather at the festivities. Neil's commitment to Rotary stems directly from his respect and love for his grandfather who helped found the Rotary Club of Palmerston North 100 years ago.



Ofttimes Sergeant and President-elect, John Freebairn looked forward as he asked all present raised glasses in a toast to the Club's next 100 years..

Member and MP Tangi Utikere offered more kudos to the Club for its history of service to Palmerston North and the world.



Then, our youngest Member, Ramola Duncan gave a strident speech inspiring members to continue using Rotary as a beacon of service above self for the future.



After President Dave's robust thoughts on finding new Members, the crowd lingered or dispersed at will – Many were loath to leave.

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Kudos and thanks to the Centenary team for an amazing celebratory evening out: Steve Parsons, Dave Gaynor, Stu Schwartz, Ramola Duncan, Mary Vervoort, Martin Townend, and Nick Kaspers.

Upcoming Events:

1 July – CHANGEOVERt Noon at the Convention Centre. Partners and friends most welcome. The bar will be open.

Sergeant Fines

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

Apologies and Club Duties:

Please apologise if you are unable to attend a weekly meeting.

Guest Speaker?

If you see or hear of a good speaker, please let Martin or Mark 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>

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