

Rotary Bulletin – 23 March 2026

RYDA

A very successful five days. Thanks for helping Nigel, Margaret, Steve D., Nick, Mike, and Dave.

NZ Rotary Summit

Steve Paterson went to the Rotary Summit in Napier which involved all NZ districts. There were some very good motivational speakers. Rotary is restructuring districts. NZ will have 2 Directors, one north of us and one including us and South of us.

Starlight Easter Eggs

Thanks to everyone who helped pack 750 easter eggs for those in need. Thanks to David Chapple and Rodney who helped organise what was a very successful endeavour.

Sports Awards

Awapuni & PN Rotary plus Milson and Feilding Orua Rotary will sponsor a community impact category.

Brew Union

27 March 2026, Friday 5.00 pm.

Red Tulip Walk in the Manawatu

11 April, Support World Parkinson's Day.

Youth Music Festival

23 May 2026. Contact Steve Paterson.

Circus Quirkus

28 May 2 shows at PNBHS. Contact Mike.

Monday lunchtime 30 March 2026

Guest Speaker: Davinia Ramdeen, CCS
Disability Action
"Empowering our at risk community"

Intro/Thanks	President Dave
Sergeant	Nigel Withell
Corporal	Stu Schwartz
Parting Thought	John Brunsdon
Bulletin Editor	Dave Gaynor
Attendance	Martin Townend

Summary of the Speech by Emma, Emileigh, and Juhi on 23 March 2026



Overview

The three students spoke to the Rotary Club about their experiences attending the **two-week National Science & Technology Forum in Auckland**. They described the structure of the programme, the academic modules they completed, and the social events that made the forum memorable.

Juhi Bothra — Structure, Organisation & Environment

Juhi explained how the forum operated day-to-day:

Daily Schedule

- Days were **fast-paced**, starting at **6am** and ending at **10pm**.
- Activities included:
 - **Early Morning Activities (EMAs):** volleyball, gym, running/walking, mindfulness
 - **Lectures and hands-on modules**
 - **Social activities, breaks, and fun events**

Group Structure & Support

- 169 students attended, placed into **six colour groups** with two advisors each.
- Advisors were supportive and approachable, and the forum director (Dr Enrico Hammeler) and team provided strong organisational leadership.

Accommodation

- Students stayed at **O'Rourke Hall (UoA)** in individual rooms with shared common

spaces such as a dining hall, games room, and volleyball court.

Overall Environment

- Structured, supportive, friendly atmosphere that encouraged learning and socialising.

Emileigh Ward — Academic Modules

Emileigh outlined the **12 academic modules** they completed across two weeks.

Week 1 Modules

- **Applied Maths** – modelling atoms moving
- **Digital Construction** – digital recreation of objects/buildings
- **Nutrition** – micro/macronutrients; testing grip strength, jump height, blood flow
- **Environment Science** – climate adaptation debate (adapt/retreat/defend)
- **Psychology** – branches of psychology and group decision game
- **Biomedicine** – heart anatomy; dissecting a sheep heart



Emma Needham, Juhi Bothra, Emileigh Ward

Week 2 Modules

- **Bioscience** – bird tracking; muscle dissection
- **Bioengineering** – body systems; temporary heart device
- **Chemistry** – identifying unknown chemicals
- **Robotics** – programming a robot for a hospital delivery task
- **Physics** – lasers, mirrors, optical illusions
- **Sports Science** – testing physical capacity (e.g., VO2 max)

Emma Needham — Social Activities

Emma discussed how social activities enhanced the forum experience.

Daily and Evening Fun

- Full-forum meetings with fun activities, e.g., advisors eating raw vegetables.
- “Fines” sessions where groups jokingly fined each other (e.g., 55 blue M&Ms for a balloon garland fire hazard).

Transport & Music

- Bus rides were lively, featuring group singing and advisor participation.

Recreation Options

- Activities **bowling, rock climbing, laser tag, & “Shrekter”** (watch Shrek together).

Talent Show & Volleyball Competition

- Talent show for skills beyond academics.
- Volleyball was highly competitive; the orange group excelled, though advisors ultimately “won,” a suspicion of rigging.

Final Events

- A disco with loud music and humorous cross-dressing.
- Final dinner filled with speeches, photos, and farewells.

Impact on Their Future Pathways

During question time, each speaker shared how the forum influenced their future:

- **Juhi:** Inspired to pursue **medicine** at Otago, with an interest in **paediatrics**.
- **Emma:** Now focused on **health science/biomed**, preferring the University of Auckland environment.
- **Emileigh:** Considering joining the **Air Force** rather than a tertiary study path.

Parting Thought:

*“If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap.
If you want happiness for a day, go fishing.
If you want happiness for a lifetime, help someone else.”*