

Meeting on Monday 29 September 2025
Welcome by President Dave

PN Rotary News

Sad News

We offered condolences to John Freebairn whose father Stuart passed away on 21 September. Funeral 11 am 3 October at St. Peters.

Also, condolences to Phyllis and Stu Schwartz. Phyllis's sister's funeral was today in USA.

Brew Union Friday Drinks

Brew Union drinks held on 26 September.



Christmas Pudding Fundraiser

Let Stu Schwartz know if you want Christmas Puddings Each pudding worth \$7.00 for Rotary.



New Constitution and AGM

An AGM/Club Day now 10 November 2025.

Croquet

Registration and practice 7 Oct 4-5 pm.

Competition starts Tuesday 14 Oct 5.30-6.30.

Latin American and Spain Film Festival

Support Shaun Kay at this Latin Cuba film at Event Cinemas Friday 3 October at 6.00pm.



Next Meeting Monday 6 October 2025

Welcome: President Dave

Speaker James Etuale

"Making Mental Health Matter?"

Intro/Thanks	Norelle Ward
Attendance	Lesley Boulton
Reception	Steve Deans
Sergeant	Nigel Withell
Corporal	Stephen Parsons
Parting Thought	Nick Kaspers
Bulletin Editor	Steve Parsons

Report on Monday 29 September



Shane Casey, Director, Kaiwhakahaere, of ACROSS was introduced by John Freebairn.

Background on Shane Casey

- Grew up in Feilding, attended Feilding High.
- Career includes leadership at Youthline Manawatū and PN City Councillor (2013–2022).

- Stood for Mayor in 2022.
- Recently appointed Director (Kaiwhakahaere) of ACROSS Social Services.
- Personal note: remembered travelling with Stephen Parsons to Gallipoli and Europe to visit family war graves – a profound life experience.



About ACROSS

- Founded: 1990 by Anglican and Catholic parishes.
- Structure: Governed by a skilled board, with a staff of 10 (kaimahi), including social workers, counsellors, and a new clinical lead.
- Funding: \$1.2M, mainly from government contracts (Oranga Tamariki, Ministry of Justice, etc.), plus grants and fundraising.
- Challenge: Demand for services is rising, but funding tight and contracts can suffer cutbacks.

Services Provided

1. Social Work & Counselling
 - Free for the community.
 - High counselling demand but few counsellors.
 - Support includes sensitive claims and trauma-related counselling.
2. Supervised Contact
 - Neutral, safe environment for parents to meet with children.
 - Staff present at all times; play-based setting.
3. Bereaved by Suicide Group
 - Fortnightly support group for people who have lost loved ones to suicide.
 - Reflects NZ's high suicide rates and needs.
4. Triple P Parenting Programme
 - Positive parenting support and education.
 - Helps parents with practical challenges (e.g., routines, child behaviour).
5. Strengthening Families
 - Works with other agencies to coordinate wraparound support for families.

6. School & Youth Support
 - One-on-one support for tamariki and rangatahi.
 - Focus on belonging, identity, safety, and holistic wellbeing.
7. Food Assistance (new partnership)
 - With Rapid Response to provide emergency 24-hour food boxes for families in need.



Current Realities & Challenges

- High demand for counselling and social services.
- Funding uncertainty – reliance on government contracts that may be cut.
- ACROSS cannot meet every need.
- Royal Commission of Inquiry – ACROSS has historical claims to work through, related to foster care and abuse cases.
- Despite challenges, ACROSS remains a free, accessible service to the community.

👉 In essence, Shane described ACROSS as a trusted, community-based social service provider that has grown from church roots into a professional organisation helping children, families, and individuals in Palmerston North. The work is rewarding but stretched, and future funding stability remains a concern.

Parting Thought from John Brunsten:

"Life is like a flat tyre. You can't fix it unless you change it."

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