

## 24 November 2025 Bulletin

### President's Dave's Welcome

President Dave welcomed members and MP Tangi Utikere and Ken and Janet Milne.

### PN Rotary News

#### Brew Union Friday Drinks

Brew Union drinks Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 5.00-7.00pm. Dave will book a table for 6 but he is unable to make it as he is away.

#### Croquet

Competition Tuesday 5.30-6.30

#### Awapuni Christmas Gift Wrapping

Craig Ross asked all members to lend a hand with Christmas Gift wrapping on Sunday afternoon 30 November at St. Mathews Church, 109 College Street, Awapuni.

### Meeting Monday 1 December

**Guest Speaker:** Rodney Wong

**Topic:** "Effects of Poll Tax on Chinese Immigrants in the 1800s"

Intro/Thanks	Norelle Ward
Sergeant	Nigel Withell
Corporal	Craig Ross
Parting Thought	David Chapple
Bulletin Editor	Steve Parsons
Attendance	Martin Townend

### Meeting Monday 8 December

**Guest Speaker:** TBA

**Topic:** "TBA"

Intro/Thanks	President Dave
Sergeant	John Freebairn
Corporal	Shaun Kay
Parting Thought	John Brunsdn
Bulletin Editor	Steve Parsons
Attendance	Stu Schwartz

### Report on Monday 24th November Trevor Shailer,

"The sinking of HMNZS Manawanui."



Trevor Shailer opened with personal stories about growing up in Palmerston North. His parents owned a small shop on a section near a campground, where Sunday treats of ice-blocks and chips were a fond childhood memory. He described a loyal upbringing in the city, attending local schools and maintaining strong roots in the community.

He then shifted to the main focus of his talk: how he ended up aboard the naval vessel *HMNZS Manawanui* during a significant maritime incident. Before explaining what happened, he clarified—humorously—that naval staff always insist it is a vessel, not a "boat."



Trevor explains that this is only the second time he has spoken publicly about the ordeal on **HMNZS Manawanui**, so the story is less polished than his usual upbeat presentations.

People often ask him why he was even on a Navy vessel. He works for **MetService**, where he manages **strategic engagement**, partnerships, and relationships. He jokes about being a “Māori forecaster” who only predicts last week’s weather with 100% accuracy.

Trevor outlines the structure and challenges of MetService as a **state-owned enterprise**—balancing public-good forecasting with the need to generate revenue, navigating government restructuring, and adapting to rapid technological changes including AI. He emphasises the shift toward **impact-based forecasting**, where the public is told what weather *means for them*, not just technical measurements.

He explains that MetService maintains a **critical weather station on Raoul Island**, which provides vital data for the South Pacific and tropical cyclone prediction. To access the island, civilian technicians travel aboard Navy vessels, as it is remote, difficult to land on, and culturally significant to local iwi.

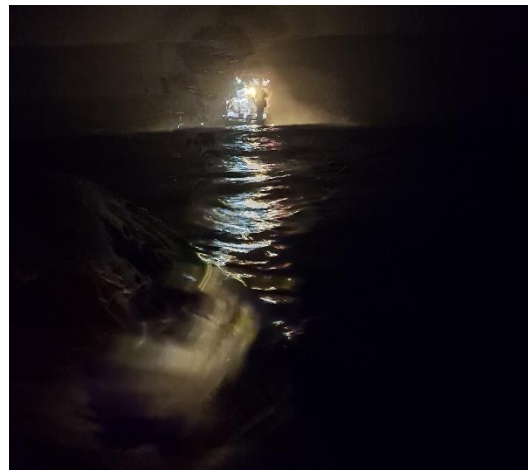


A group of civilian technicians, including Trevor and three from MetService joined **HMNZS Manawanui** for routine maintenance at Raoul Island. His humorous anecdotes include sleeping arrangements, room inspections, and being the “elder” among younger staff.

Before the sinking, there were several worrying signs: delays, last-minute changes, technical issues with the ship’s dynamic positioning system, and questions around whether the vessel was truly ready for the voyage.

On the night before landing on Raoul Island, during what seemed to be a normal evening, the vessel **struck a reef**. The impact was severe — items flew around, alarms sounded, and the ship quickly took on an unmistakable sense of emergency. Civilians were gathered, issued survival suits, lifejackets, and ordered to prepare to abandon ship.

The evacuation was chaotic and frightening. The life rafts were contaminated with **diesel**, the survival suits were overly hot, and many of the young Navy crew were experiencing their first real emergency. Trevor found himself helping others board the raft, while realising he had to focus on not becoming a burden due to lack of training.



He spent **18 hours** in survival conditions, drifting in a 5m heavy swell and diesel fumes, until eventually being rescued by a police vessel. Conditions made boarding the Police vessel extremely difficult; even ladders were dangerous due to the violent movement of the sea.

He reflects that, despite his past achievements and confidence, he realised in that moment that he could not “save the day”—the best thing he could do was stay

calm, focused on his breathing, and avoid making the situation worse for others.

He closes by noting that he later returned to SAMOA to complete the work he had originally travelled for, and to pay respect to the experience.



## Summary of AGM – Rotary Club of Palmerston North (24 Nov 2025)

President Dave welcomed everyone to the AGM for 2024-25. The focus was to confirm a new constitution, and complete overdue formalities, in the absence of recent AGM's.

### President 2024-25 John Freebairn

John delivered a brief report with the full written version to be circulated by email.

- Acknowledgement of the passing of **Roger Clausen**, recognising his long service and major club contribution.
- Membership numbers have remained **stable over the past 18 months**, which is encouraging, with several new business members joining.
- Appreciation was expressed to members who supported business-membership initiatives and those who helped steer the club through the year.
- The partnership with Awapuni Rotary has increased attendance and engagement.
- The club continues its established projects, listed in the written report.
- Thanks were extended to all board members for their support, many of whom continue to serve.

President John's report was moved/adopted.

### Liam Hehir's Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's written report was circulated at the meeting. Highlights included:

- The club remains financially steady despite ongoing challenges.
- Rising **lunch costs** and attendance thresholds are the main financial pressure.
- The club is not in crisis but must continue monitoring expenses to break-even.

The Treasurer's Report was moved/adopted.

### Resolutions

Three resolutions related to the **new constitution and by-laws** were presented together for adoption, as the club effectively had no choice but to implement them to meet Rotary requirements.

1. The Board members for 2024-25: John Freebairn (P), Dave Gaynor (PE), Ron Schalkwijk (T), Steve Paterson (S), Nigel Withell, Nick Kaspers were ratified.
2. The pre-circulated new Constitution.
3. The proposed new By-Laws.

The resolutions were moved, seconded, and passed unanimously without amendment.

### General Business

No items of general business were raised

### Closing

President Dave noted that this was likely the **shortest AGM on record**, thanked members for their attendance, and closed the meeting

**Parting thought:** Stephen Parsons.

*“There are good ships and wood ships, ships that sail the sea but the best ships are friendships and may they always be.”*

*“The sea, once it casts its spell, holds one in its net of wonder forever” - Jacques Cousteau*

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