

Rotary Bulletin – 15 June 2026

Next Brew Union

Friday 26 June 2026, Friday 5.00 pm.

Change Over

Monday lunchtime 29 June 2026. Bring your partner or a friend. Come celebrate the history of Awapuni Rotary. **RSVP is essential** – please email mary@davegaynor.co.nz

Monday lunchtime 22 June 2026

Welcome President Dave
Induction of Elise O’Shea

Guest Speaker: Elise O’Shea

Intro/Thanks	President Dave
Sergeant	Nigel Withell
Corporal	Rodney Wong
Parting Thought	Lesley Boulton
Bulletin Editor	Dave Gaynor
Attendance	Stu Schwartz

Summary of the Speech on 8 June 2026 by

Enable NZ: Scott Ambridge, Paula Bowden and Lesley Huddleston

“Enable NZ and Easi Living – Enabling your life, your way.”



Enable New Zealand is a Palmerston North-based organisation that helps disabled, injured and older people access equipment, housing modifications and support so they can live more independently and remain connected with their communities.

Key points from the presentation:

- **Purpose and ownership:** Paula Bowden explained that Enable NZ is a wholly owned subsidiary of Health New Zealand, operating independently with its own board and executive team.
- **Funding pathways:** It manages contracts and funding pathways for ACC, Health New Zealand and Disability Support Services, helping people access mobility equipment, home modifications and related supports.
- **Scale:** Chief Executive, Scott Ambridge highlighted that Enable NZ manages about \$320 million in funding each year, has around 200 staff, and works with a wider network of suppliers, repairers, freight providers and service agents across New Zealand.
- **National reach:** Although based in Palmerston North, Enable supports services from Cape Reinga to Stewart Island, with warehouses in Palmerston North, Hamilton and Christchurch.
- **Easi Living Centre:** Paula pointed out that the Easi Living store provides specialist advice, demonstrations and retail access to mobility and daily-living aids. It focuses on quality, safety, fit-for-purpose equipment and personal service rather than competing with low-cost online products.
- **Mobile outreach:** Lesley Huddleston described taking equipment, information and advice out to smaller communities, residential villages and regional areas such as Whanganui, Hawke’s Bay and Wairoa.



- Lesley at EASIE Living has helped a number of people complete applications and receive funding for scooters and accessible vehicles.
- Our mobile van travels through lower North Island and Hawkes Bay to rest homes, retirement villages and shows.

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- **Life-changing impact:** Several examples were given of people regaining independence through power chairs, scooters, vehicle support and other equipment. Lesley also helps people apply for Lottery grants, particularly for mobility equipment.
- **Equipment loan and refurbishment model:** Scott explained that funded equipment is generally provided on long-term loan. When no longer needed, it is returned, inspected, cleaned, serviced and reused where possible. Around 75% of returned equipment is recycled, saving money and reducing landfill.

World-leading refurbishment model



- National programme repair, refurbish, re-issue
- Delivers huge value for money to our funders – saving \$9.4 million for ACC alone this year
- Our Tremaine Avenue refurb centre specialises in refurbishing complex equipment such as power wheelchairs.
- Global leader in reducing waste in the assistive technology sector

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- **Home and vehicle modifications:** Enable supports ramps, lifts, bathroom modifications and other changes to help people stay safely in their own homes and communities.
- **Specialist services:** The outreach service supports people with complex wheelchair and seating needs, working with the person, whānau and assessors to find the right solution.
- **Technology and innovation:** Enable monitors international developments, works with suppliers, and is exploring

technologies such as AI tools to reduce administration and improve transparency in assessments.

- **Accessing support:** People can be referred through a GP or assessor, but self-referral is also possible, particularly through community occupational therapy pathways.
- **Community contribution:** Enable reinvests surplus funds back into its services and supports community initiatives, including ParaFed Manawatū by servicing and maintaining sports wheelchairs.

Overall, the presentation emphasised Enable NZ's focus on independence, dignity, practical support and keeping people connected with family, whānau and community.

The presentation was followed by a guided tour by Scott, Paula and Lesley of the Easi Living store and the many devices that are available to assist people with mobility challenges.



Paula, Scott and Lesley with Steve Parsons in his new fantastic mobility chariot.

UNITE
FOR
GOOD