

Rotary Bulletin – 25 May 2026

Next Meeting 8 June

No meeting on King's Birthday on Monday 1 June.

Youth Music Festival

Well done to Steve, Shaun, Mike, Jade, Nigel, Margaret, Craig and Dave supporting another successful Rotary Youth Music Festival. another successful. [See photos below]

Circus Quirkus

28 May 2 shows at PNBHS. Contact Mike.

Next Brew Union

Friday 29 May 2026, Friday 5.00 pm.

Enable Site Visit

On **Monday 15 June** we will be visiting Enable at 585 Main Street. 12-1.30 pm - includes lunch.

Change Over

This will be on Monday lunchtime 29 June 2026. Please bring your partner and or a friend. It will also be an opportunity to recognise the history of Awapuni Rotary. An RSVP for this meeting will be essential – please email mary@davegaynor.co.nz

Kahuterawa Bush

A lot of weed control (blackberry and tradescantia) has been undertaken recently. TelcoSpec have delivered more track gravel which has been spread by Corrections. Plus linking the PNCC cycleway from Bells Road to K. Bush through the pine forest is being worked on.

Monday lunchtime 8 June 2026

Guest Speaker: Remy Waldteufel-Irvine

“Youth Space – A Thriving Community”

President	President Norelle
Intro/Thanks	President Norelle
Sergeant	Liam Hehir
Corporal	Aaron Tait
Parting Thought	Brian Donnelly
Bulletin Editor	Dave Gaynor
Attendance	Martin Townend

Summary of the Speech by

Mike Monaghan, PNCC Manager of Waste Management.

“Update of Nature Calls – PNCC Waste Management Strategy”



Mike Monaghan explained that Nature Calls is one of Palmerston North City Council's biggest and most important infrastructure projects. Its purpose is to secure a new wastewater discharge consent before the current one expires in 2028, while improving environmental outcomes for the Manawatū River.

He outlined the project's history, noting that the current consented discharge at Totara Road was judged in 2013 to have more than minor effects on the river. Since then, Council has been working with staff, iwi, stakeholders, and consultants to identify the Best Practicable Option (BPO) for the city's future wastewater system.

The speech highlighted how the project became more complicated after:

- Large infrastructure cost increases following Covid-19,
- Difficulties securing suitable land for land-based discharge,
- Public concern about affordability, including projections of very high household levies,
- And the Government's introduction of new national wastewater standards.

Because of these issues, the Council paused the earlier consent pathway in 2024, reviewed its long list of options, and shifted to a “low regrets”

approach while waiting for the national standards to be confirmed.

Once the Wastewater Environmental Performance Standards (WEPS) were confirmed in November 2025, the project narrowed to two remaining options:

1. Option 1 – Upgrade the wastewater treatment plant and continue discharging at Totara Road (estimated cost: \$290 million).
2. Option 2 – Upgrade the plant, discharge at Totara Road during high flows, and Ōpiki during low flows (estimated cost: \$370 million).

Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

Proposed WWTP Concept



Mike stressed that both options would meet or exceed the new WEPS standards and both include a major plant upgrade featuring advanced treatment technology, including nutrient removal, membrane filtration, storage for wet-weather flows, and no consented wet-weather overflows into the river or stream. The new technology will decrease *E. coli* levels from 3,500 to 10 (cfu/100ml).

A key theme of the speech was adaptive management. Council has committed \$1 million per year over the life of the consent to work with iwi and others to support continuous improvement and help restore the mauri of the awa.

Finally, he noted that proposed Resource Management Act reforms may affect the consenting pathway. Depending on the final BPO decision, a new consent application may be required under the replacement legislation.

Overall takeaway

The speech presented Nature Calls as a high-stakes, long-term environmental and infrastructure decision balancing:

- Compliance with stricter national standards,
- Environmental and cultural outcomes,
- Affordability for the community,
- And the need for a future-proof wastewater solution.

Parting Thought:
Nigel Withell:

“The government cannot give to anybody anything the government does not first take from someone else.”

