



# MEADOWS MATTERS

This bulletin is the newsletter of the Rotary Club  
of Greenmeadows, Napier, New Zealand



Bulletin 2024-25 No. 29  
5<sup>th</sup> February 2025

## YOUTH EXCHANGE & FIRESIDE MEETINGS



**President Chris**, welcomed 39 members and guests who included Donna Thompson, RYE exchange student Alice Wender and RYE exchange student Bianca Ching with her parents Pip and Al, as well as our regular visiting Rotarian from the UK, Phil Cooper.



## Welfare

**Welfare Officer Stuart** reported that Geoff Bibby is awaiting results; Jenny, his partner, is recovering well from her stroke and is able to drive again; Wal Drayton is still in hospital but sadly is unable to receive visitors because of Covid.



## Announcements

**Projects Director Denise** advised that as yet there is no Art Deco list to circulate with times for manning the barriers. She then went on to say that Grey Power have sacked us from directing their parking as we are too expensive! They've tried doing it themselves but it wasn't too successful so let's see if our services are required again.

**Gardening Garth** (Solely supervising now) reported another successful morning at The Gap pulling weeds. Advise him if you'd be interested in joining this group. First Monday each month, meeting at 9am.



## Officer Holders 2024-25

District Governor Nick Dangerfield  
Dist. Gov. Elect Ken Smith  
Community Leader Grant Spackman

President Christine McKenna  
Secretary Ken Hunt  
Treasurer Graeme Muir  
PE & Club Admin Carol Charman  
Membership & PI John Mackintosh  
Service Projects Denise Brown  
Youth Gill Scarlett  
Foundation Ross Pinkham  
ArtEx TBA

## Meetings

**Weekly:** Taradale Town Hall  
Wednesday 6.00pm  
Fellowship 5.30pm  
**Firesides:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wed  
**Directors:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed

## Coming Up:

DISTRICT CONFERENCE IN MAY

## Leave of Absence

Denise P & Jenny R - ongoing

## Website/Club Contacts

Our Facebook site  
<https://www.facebook.com/greenmeadowsrotary>

Our website  
[www.greenmeadowsrotary.co.nz](http://www.greenmeadowsrotary.co.nz)

President Chris:  
mckennachristine530@gmail.com

Secretary:  
[administrator@greenmeadowsrotary.co.nz](mailto:administrator@greenmeadowsrotary.co.nz)

Apologies:  
[GR.apologies@gmail.com](mailto:GR.apologies@gmail.com) (**before 2pm Tue**)

**Stewart Skeet** enquired as to whether there was interest in visiting Hamish Lack's boat building workshop to learn about the boats he built for the Paris Olympics. He could accommodate a group of up to 20. He also mentioned an upcoming meeting (9.30am, 14 February at the Taradale RSA) of the **Super Blues** (Retired National Party Supporters) where the guest speaker is the Hon Paul Goldsmith, the list MP based in Epsom. Advise Stew if interested in joining a few of our members who attend this monthly meeting.



## Sergeant at Arms

Bob Morrison relieved members of their money, by asking us to identify with each of the 12 animals as described in the Chinese calendar. We had quite a few of the animals in the club - but no Pigs!

## SURPRISE GUEST SPEAKERS – YOUTH EXCHANGE

Helen introduced our recently arrived Rotary Youth Exchange student, Alice Wender. Alice, from the south of Brazil, told the members a little about herself and presented President Chris with a banner from her sponsoring Rotary club in Canela, the town she is from and a book about the history of Canela (in Portuguese but as Helen pointed out, we all probably have Google translate on our phones!) Alice will give us a full presentation in the coming weeks.



Helen then introduced our (main) guest speaker, Bianca Ching. Bianca was sponsored by our club to go on exchange in January 2024 to Basel in South West Switzerland. She returned home two weeks ago and is about to head off to Otago University where she will be studying Law, International Business and German.



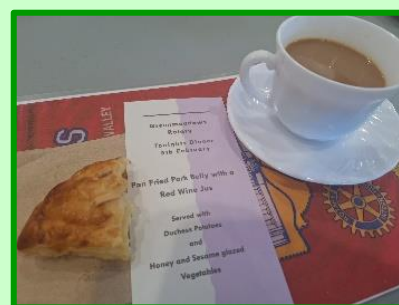
Bianca gave us an overview of her exchange year. After a stopover in Dubai with all the other exchange students from NZ, Bianca arrived in Switzerland speaking very little German so it was full immersion when she started school. She found that the Swiss people are quite reserved and so it fell upon her to make the first move and approach other students. It took her five months to make strong friendships. Students take 12 compulsory subjects at Swiss schools and with the school day running from 8am to 6pm, it was very intense.

Bianca had an amazing first host family who took her on lots of trips, from skiing in the Swiss Alps, to visiting Spain and Italy. A highlight of her year in Switzerland was the Euro tour with 11

## WORDS & IMAGES THIS WEEK

Words this week came from the radiological pen of Helen Tattersall and photographs were secretly recorded by a couple of old detectives who had infiltrated the meeting!

## The Food this week



Pan fried Pork Belly  
With Red Wine Jus

## Thought for the week (Steve Gillum)

**Opening:**

**(Referencing Martin Hawes)**

***"We all need to make the most of our 20 good summers and get out and do things."***

**Closing:**

**Steve again encouraged all members to: *"Live life to the fullest and spend our good 20 summers."***



countries were visited in 17 days. This trip included all the other Rotary exchange students then in Switzerland.

Bianca changed host families in May. She found her new family a little difficult as they have no children and didn't appear to value Bianca's opinion about anything. She survived three months with them and then moved to her final host family who have three children. Bianca felt much more comfortable with them. They also took her on some amazing holidays, including a trip to Sardinia.

Christmas was spent alone - her host family were away - but Bianca had an amazing time with all her Swiss friends who made it a memorable time for her. She visited the Lindt factory, even though she doesn't eat chocolate herself!

One of the things that Bianca wanted to do while on exchange was to take advantage of Basel's close proximity to the French and German borders and eat a meal in all three countries in one day. She didn't manage to achieve this, but did cycle to all three countries in one day and spent the rest of the week recovering!

Bianca shared that the highlights of her fun, busy, hectic exchange year were all the amazing people that she met and the memorable experiences that she had. *(Some of her slides are reproduced below.)*

*President Chris thanked Bianca and her parents for taking time to come to the club and share her experiences of her exchange year. **Then we all headed off to Committee Meetings!***



*Random  
images  
from  
Bianca's  
Power  
Point*



## ROSTER OF DUTIES

Date	February 19th	February 19th	February 26th
<b>Programme:</b> <b>Guest Speaker</b>	<b>Andy Walker</b> <i>Erosion issues at Westshore</i>	<b>Jo McDougal</b> <i>Experience in Antarctica</i>	<b>Brian Peploe</b> <i>History of Artex</i>
Host and Thoughts Top Table introduce Speaker Vote of Thanks Cashier Three Minute Speaker Sergeant	Peter Thompson Graeme Ryan Neil Smith Robert Pearson - Les Mockford	Edwin Brown Steve Gillum Lynne Gibson Gill Scarlet - Mike Owen	Gail Kelly Kelvin Winnie Helen Tattersall Judy McKelvie - Kevin McCormack
<b>Stewards</b> <i>One per table and the named Members to clean up</i>	Peter Waldin Brian Hall	Curley Carpenter Frank Heuser	Bill Hawkins Bryan Matthews

### UNABLE TO PERFORM DUTY or an ABSENCE COMING UP

*If you cannot perform a rostered duty, YOU must arrange a substitute and advise the President of this.  
If you are going to miss a meeting, email the apologies link and if you have a long-term absence planned,  
write to the Secretary seeking "Leave of Absence."*

## MISCELLANEOUS MEADOWS MATTERS

### A RANDOM RHYME

Wednesday evening often brings us a surprise  
This time it was from two girls who are so wise  
Alice reported arriving from the south of Brazil  
With 12 months of experiences with us to fill  
Then Bianca reported on last year in Switzerland  
With Youth Exchange experiences that were so grand

(From Pat the Poet)






**BETTER TOGETHER**  
**ROTARY**  
**CONFERENCE**  
**16 – 18 MAY 2025**  
ROTORUA, NEW ZEALAND

**THIS WILL BE  
SPECTACULAR.  
TWO DISTRICTS  
COMBINING FOR  
THE CONFERENCE.  
LET'S MAKE UP A  
TEAM LIKE LAST  
YEAR TO SUPPORT  
CHRIS AND CURLY AT  
ROTORUA**

**Interested members  
to meet with Chris  
after our meeting  
next week**





**#31 – February 6, 2024**

*1' to discover Rotary news*

### **Peace and Conflict Resolution: Rotary's Commitment in February**

February is dedicated to *Peace and Conflict Resolution* in Rotary.

As an international organization, Rotary believes that peace is not just the absence of war but the presence of justice, understanding, and opportunity.

Through its global network, Rotary actively works to prevent conflicts by promoting dialogue, supporting education, and addressing the root causes of violence—such as poverty and inequality.

Rotary's Peace Centers train leaders to become effective mediators and changemakers in their communities.

At the local level, clubs engage in projects that foster social cohesion, provide humanitarian aid in crisis zones, and support refugees.

By building bridges between cultures and communities, Rotarians contribute to a more harmonious world.

This month, let us reflect on our role in promoting peace and finding solutions to conflicts.

Every action, no matter how small, can make a difference in creating a more peaceful future.



***Next Week – regular meeting and a speaker on erosion!***