

## Meeting on Monday 11 August 2025

### PN Rotary News

#### Venue Decision

The PN Rotary Board on 11 August decided that Rotary will stay at the Palmy Conference and Function Centre and there will be no change in the price and arrangements. \$30 pp for lunch and venue for those attending. The only change from 1 October is – no dessert. Other options were explored but the current venue is excellent both in the facilities offered and the level of support from their very helpful staff. The possibility of separating the venue from the lunch fees will be addressed before next Rotary year.

#### Last Friday of the Month Drinks

Meet at **Brew Union on 29 August between 5-6.30 pm** - the last Friday of the month. Please bring your partner, friends and prospects. If you are coming let Ramola or Dave know so we can book a table big enough.

#### New Badges

The new badges have arrived for PN Rotary members and are in the Rotary cabinet. David Chapple of Awapuni Rotary and Menzsheds is repairing the cabinet (wheel missing and door falling off).

#### Kahuterawa Bush

A lot of work is going on behind the scenes toward changing Kahuterawa Bush into an ecological park. Plant labels are being organised, the tracks will be upgraded, weeds controlled, lawns mowed, cycle track extended, bridge installed, pond filled, and signage improved. Discussions have been held with NZDF (Army), Horizons, Higgins and others. As the weather improves more will be done.

### Awapuni Rotary News

#### Daffodil Day 29 August



Jo O'Neill is looking for volunteers for Daffodil Day. Here is her note to Norelle.

*We are still in need of Volunteers to help us man our Stall sites around the city on Friday the 29th August. Please get in touch if you can help with any of the below sites and times, much appreciated. If you need anymore information do not hesitate to reach out to me.*

**Jo O'Neil**

**Volunteer Coordinator Manawatu**

Te Iti Pounamu

Phone: 06 3565355 ext 826 cell: 027 2124657

email: [jo.oneil@cancercd.org.nz](mailto:jo.oneil@cancercd.org.nz)

Contact Jo for the sites and times.

### Next Meeting – Run by Awapuni Rotary Monday 18 August 2025

**Speaker** Nevinka Hewana Arachchige, PNGHS  
*"My experiences at RYPEN (Rotary Youth Programme of Enrichment)"*

Intro/Thanks	President Norelle
Attendance	Martin Townend
	Lesley Boulton
Sergeant	Liam Hehir
Corporal	Dan Wheeler
Parting Thought	Allan Ford
Bulletin Editor	Steve Parsons

## Report on meeting Monday 11 August 2025

**Guest Speaker: John Prendergast**, Rotary District Learning and Development Director.

### *"This is Rotary and what to do about it"*

John, a 34-year Rotarian (Masterton South Rotary), spoke on Rotary's structure, current challenges, and the need to adapt to ensure relevance.

- Rotary Structure:
  - 1.14M members worldwide, 36,000 clubs, 545 districts, 34 zones, 17 elected directors, 8 regional offices, HQ Chicago.
  - Governance includes the Council on Legislation (meets to update rules).
- Key Objectives:
  - Increase impact.
  - Expand reach.
  - Improve engagement (members & non-members).
  - Increase adaptability.
- Challenges & Change:
  - Membership in NZ has fallen from 10,000 (2008) to ~5,000 today; Palmerston North clubs from 236 to 112 members despite population growth.
  - Greatest declines in traditional lunchtime clubs; growth occurring in South America, Africa, India, and Asia.
  - Evolve club models, meeting times, and culture to attract and retain members.
- Flexibility & Inclusion:
  - Women admitted to Rotary only since 1989; now 29% of members in NZ.
  - Rules relaxed (e.g., attendance requirements) to allow more flexibility.
  - Modernising image, brand, and operations to keep pace with societal change.
- Opportunities in Rotary:
  - Service, friendship, personal growth, networking, and ethical leadership (Four-Way Test).

- Clubs must "rebuild the 1965 Ford Fairlane" — keep core values but modernise for the 21st century.

### Core Message:

Rotary's survival and growth depend on embracing change, increasing flexibility, and actively adapting to the needs and lifestyles of current and future members, while preserving Rotary's service ethos and fellowship.

### Response

President Dave thanked John for his insights and for the support from the District, which is always welcome. The recent District, President-Elect training was particularly helpful. Dave confirmed that PN Rotary was adopting many of John's suggestions.

The Club is actively improving the meetings with interesting speakers, creating more fellowship opportunities, engaging members in projects, being more flexible about attendance, increasing its public profile, and asking businesses and prospects to join Rotary to give back. Linking with Awapuni Rotary has been very successful. PN Rotary is growing through members actively nominating new prospects.



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