Monday 28 July 2025

Induction of **Aaron Tait, Agri Accounting**
Presenters   Nigel Jolly, John Freebairn

Speaker   **Dave Gaynor, Nigel Withell,
                    John Brunsden.**
"Kahuterawa Bush – an ecological park"

Intro/Thanks	President Dave
Attendance	Martin Townend
Sergeant	Liam Hehir
Corporal	Ramola Duncan
Parting Thought	Brian Donnelly
Bulletin Editor	Steve Parsons

Monday 04 August 2025

Speaker   **Shaun Kay**

"Showcasing Palmy's Creative Pulse: Celebrating our Arts Community and Placemaking Pride"

Intro/Thanks	Steve Parsons
Attendance	Stu Schwartz
Sergeant	John Freebairn
Corporal	Nick Kaspers
Parting Thought	Iain Waugh
Bulletin Editor	Steve Parsons

Monday 11 August 2025

Speaker   **John Prendergast,** Rotary District

"This is Rotary and what to do about it"

Intro/Thanks	President Dave
Attendance	Martin Townend
Sergeant	Nigel Withell
Corporal	Lesley Boulton
Parting Thought	Mike Charles
Bulletin Editor	Steve Parsons

Report on meeting Monday 21 July

Guest speaker Aaron Fulton, EO ManawaTech

Aaron Fulton's Journey & Early Tech Work
Aaron attended Massey University and became involved in the local tech scene. He co-founded a company that developed **farm fuel tank monitoring systems** for logistics, fuel theft prevention, and compliance. It expanded to monitor milk temperature in response to MPI regulations, growing to operate in 30 countries.

Starting ManawaTech
Aaron, with others, initiated a **formal industry body** in 2020, post-COVID, called **ManawaTech**, with the aim to connect and grow the local tech community. Key initial steps:
- Aaron a Board member
- 45 local companies paying a membership.
- Benji Pritchard Executive officer appointed.
- Aaron now interim Executive Officer.

Purpose and Vision
The organisation aims to:
- **Connect**: Foster collaboration between local tech companies and students, increasing visibility and communication.
- **Grow**: Support workforce development and promote career pathways from junior to senior tech roles.

The Local Tech Landscape
- **Around 120 tech companies** operate in Palmerston North, many focused on business-to-business services and not well-known.
- Examples include:
- **ITL**: Integrates fuel pump systems with point-of-sale tech.
- **Objective**: Builds council software with 40+ local staff.
- **FMG**: Develops internal insurance management systems.

ManawaTech's Activities

- Organises **Tech Week** and other networking/training events.

- Works to build the region's tech profile to retain Massey graduates.
- Promotes knowledge sharing and career pathways to grow regional tech capability.

Looking Ahead

Manawatū Tech plans to continue strengthening connections while expanding the local talent pool and capabilities of the tech sector. They operate on a lean structure—currently about 10 hours a week of paid staffing—and rely on continued business support and volunteer contributions.
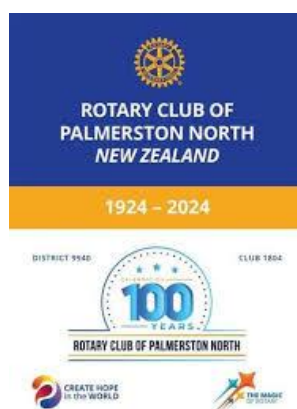

Nominate a Potential Member

Please nominate a potential member or business for Rotary. Send your nominations to Dave Gaynor who will make the approach, or members can bring a potential member for free to a meeting to check Rotary out. It takes a team effort to make a difference.

If you see or hear of a good speaker, please let Dave know so we can invite them along.

Club 100-Year Booklet

Club 100 Year booklet update copy is available from Dave Gaynor. This final edition includes all speeches. The booklet is now live on https://manawatuheritage.pncc.govt.nz.

More Photos Monday 21st July 2025