

## Rotary Club of Palmerston North (1924)

President John Freebairn, Secretary Steve Paterson, Treasurer Ron Schalkwijk, Past President Dave Gaynor

### Monday, 17 February 2025

Speaker: Mayor Grant Smith



Topic: State of the City 2025  
Introduction: President John

Thanks: Amanda Lindsay :CEO  
Manawatu Business

Sergeant: Liam Hehir  
Corporal: Steve Paterson  
Parting Thought: President John  
Editor: Bruce Wilson



### Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Speaker: Anna Cuming  
Topic: Shearing Sheep in Mongolia

Introduction: Allan Ford  
Attendance: Stu Schwartz  
Sergeant: Nigel Withell  
Corporal: Mike Charles  
Parting Thought: Steve Parsons  
Editor: Phil Burt

Meeting held 10 February 2025:  
Total present: 15 members & Guest Speaker Karin Job  
Apologies 2.  
Sergeant's session: \$52.70

### RYDA = Rotary Youth Driver Awareness

REMINDER .Nigel Withell advised members the dates for "RYDA" this year are March 18, 19 & 20 at Manawatu Arena and volunteers are needed each day

Here's a summary of Karin Job, Lawyer presentation –Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February  
Special Counsel, Freebairn & Hehir Lawyers



Karin Job, a lawyer, discussed a recent High Court case involving complex and novel legal issues in family law, particularly concerning assisted human reproduction, guardianship, and the best interests of children. She noted that such cases rarely reach higher courts due to the emotional and legal burden on families.

The case involved a Pākehā mother and a Māori sperm donor father who conceived a child via artificial insemination through a written agreement found online. Disputes arose post-birth regarding the father's role in the child's life, with the father seeking legal recognition as a guardian.

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The court had to consider the Treaty of Waitangi, tikanga Māori, and international law in determining the child's best interests, particularly regarding Māori identity and whakapapa (genealogy).

The Family Court ruled in favor of appointing the donor father as a guardian, emphasizing the importance of preserving the child's Māori identity. The mother appealed, arguing that New Zealand law does not recognize sperm donors as legal parents and that appointing the donor as a guardian would create future complications. The appeal highlighted legislative inconsistencies and concerns over parental conflict.

Job and her co-counsel argued that the court should prioritize the child's best interests, Waitangi, and the child's right to a cultural identity. The case demonstrated the evolving nature of family law and the challenges of balancing legal principles with cultural considerations.

### Commentary

Karin Job's talk highlights the intersection of family law with cultural and indigenous rights, emphasizing how legal frameworks must evolve to accommodate diverse family structures. The case underscores the complexities of guardianship, especially when balancing biological connections, cultural identity, and legal precedents.

From **President John** (look alike !!!!to who)



Here are a few things I want to draw to your attention.

### Monday 17 February (next meeting).

Our Mayor Grant Smith will be the speaker, addressing us on the state of the city. This is an annual event. As has become our custom, we've invited members of the business community through the Business Chamber ( aka Chamber of Commerce) so we expect that it will be well attended. I encourage you to attend as we will be showcasing our club, and the address is usually interesting for those of us who love our city.

Our Club Forum will be postponed to a later date.

### President 2025/2026

This could be the opportunity you have waiting for! If you would like to take a chance on yourself, we'll give you all the support you need. I've been very grateful for the daily assistance of a handful of our loyal members so that the work can get done. I expect that will continue to allow the President's job to be easier than it once was. Our Rotary year starts on 1 July. Please contact me or a former President if you would like to know more. I'll mention it again soon, but don't wait for that.

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### Rotary Youth Music Festival

As you know, this is an event we've organised for some years. It's usually held on a Saturday morning in May, but we haven't set a date for this year yet. With the recent resignations of Mark Buxton and Chris Klein, our organising team needs refreshing. Could that be you? Or would you agree to be one a few organisers? Please contact me if you can help with some of the organising. You'll all be called upon to assist on the day of course.

Thanks for your continuing membership and attendance when you can. We appreciate your friendship and support.

### Circus Quirkus 2025 May – dates to be advised

Thanks for your continuing membership and attendance when you can. We appreciate your friendship and support.

Best wishes.

John.

El Presidente

From the Archives

The presentation of a Japanese national flag, brought back from the nation of the East, marked a pleasing little ceremony at the Palmerston North Rotary Club's weekly luncheon to-day, when the secretary, Mr C. T. Salmon, who last week returned from Tokio, where he had been a delegate to the Pan-Pacific Rotary Conference, handed the handsome emblem to Rotarian N. H. Mackie, president of the local club. Mr Salmon stated that the flag, together with an accompanying letter, had been entrusted to him in Japan to deliver to the president of the Palmerston North Club. The communication which he read was as follows:—"To the fellow Rotarians of the Palmerston North Rotary Club, New Zealand.—This is to keep you and your club within our high esteem forever with you—Yunosake B. Kojima and his family, Kyoto Rotary Club, Japan."

Rotarian N. H. Mackie, in accepting the gift from far Japan, commented: "The red spot in the centre will represent the sun which will never set on Rotary."

The flag was one of a number presented to visiting delegates in Japan, from which country Rotarian Salmon has brought many mementoes, particularly of Rotary receptions.

Rotarian Salmon also handed to the president a doll, the figure representing the geisha girl of Japan.



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**Please send Apologies** to Olga Barrett 358-8798 or recorded on our website... This is important for ordering lunches. Please arrange a substitute if you have a duty rostered for a day you are apologising.

**Useful web links...**  
District # 9940 <http://rotary9940.org/>  
Club # 18626 [www.pnrotary.co.nz](http://www.pnrotary.co.nz)  
Link to our Facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/rotarypalmerstonnorth>

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Another post we need filling is a helper for Martin. ( Guest speakers etc)

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**Parting Thought from Ron Dobson:**  
**Be a good listener – Your ears will never get you into trouble**



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<https://www.pnrotary.co.nz/ProposeNewMember.pdf>

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