

Meeting on Monday 15 September 2025

Welcome by President Norelle



Awapuni Rotary News

Rotary National Science and Technology Forum
Awapuni has evaluated and approved their applicant. Thanks Rodney.

PN Rotary News

New Member

Steve Deans and Steve's Tyre Service and Autocare was formally inducted into PN Rotary as a new Business Member. Welcome to Steve and James Deans.



Kahuterawa Bush

Community Corrections hope to move TelcoSpec's track gravel onto the tracks this week (weather permitting). Dave will be at K. Bush on Friday 18 September at 10 am to clear weeds. Anyone who wants to lend a hand will be most welcome. If it is raining this will not happen.

New Constitution and AGM

An AGM/Club Day will be held on (tentatively) 3 November 2025.

Brew Union Friday Drinks

Next Brew Union drinks are on 26 September 5.00-6.30. Bring your partner, and friends.

Croquet

Lesley advised that the Rotary Wheelers and Rotary Teamsters hit the Croquet green on 7 October (4-5 pm for registration) and the Twilight Competition starts on Tuesday 14 October 5.30-6.30.

Rotary National Science and Technology Forum

Interviews are underway of the four candidates for PN Rotary. Thanks Brian and Nick.

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

The process of calling for and assessing candidates for 2026 RYLA has begun.

Resignation

It is with sadness we record the resignation of Ramola Duncan. Ramola has done a great job with events, like the Centenary, promotions and attracting excellent speakers. Ramola was our President-Elect – so back to the drawing board.

Christmas Pudding Fundraiser

Stu Schwartz is again co-ordinating the Christmas Pudding fund raiser. Buy one yourself, for your friends, family, clients, and employees. Or sell to others. Each pudding sold raises \$7.00 for Rotary.



\$25 each

Fabulous gifts,
vacuum packed for
superb freshness

Rotary Traditional Christmas
Puddings use only the best fruit,
spices and wholesome ingredients
to a time-proven recipe that
everyone loves year after year

They are the most delicious and easy way to turn
a meal into a celebration. Ready to eat hot or cold,
you just can't beat them. Simply serve with custard,
brandy butter, caramel sauce, cream, ice cream,
yoghurt or a piece of cheese and glass of port - yum!

Rotary Traditional Christmas Puddings make the best
seasonal gifts for family, friends and corporates to say
thank you to clients or staff. Gift them, share them or
hide them until you're alone - they're just so good!

Whatever you do, make sure you order yours today.
Each one you buy includes a substantial donation to
Rotary projects and community projects in your area.
Proceeds from sales, shared with participating Rotary
clubs throughout New Zealand exceed \$2 million
since the project began.

Events Coming Up

Shaun Kay encouraged everyone to support the
Latin Cuba Event. TelcoSpec are a sponsor.

Next Meeting Monday 22 September 2025

Welcome: President Dave

Speaker Zandra Vaccarino,
National Executive Officer, NZDSA
*"Inspiring Inclusion - The work of the NZ Down
Syndrome Association (NZDSA)."*

Intro/Thanks	President Dave
Attendance	Stu Schwartz
Reception	Dan Wheeler
Sergeant	Liam Hehir
Corporal	Shaun Kay
Parting Thought	Enkay Onyema
Bulletin Editor	Steve Parsons

Report on meeting Monday 15 September

Awapuni member **Rodney Wong** spoke about the art
and tradition of roasting a whole pig and how this
practice connects Chinese heritage, community, and
media representation. It was also a story about the
challenges facing Asian movie making in New Zealand.



• Personal Story & TV Series

- In 2022, Rodney and his daughter Jessica created a six-part TV series, *Sik Fan Heung* (Let's Eat), funded with \$450,000 from NZ On Air.
- One episode featured roasting a whole pig in Palmerston North, documenting the process for the first time in a published cookbook.

www.nzonscreen.com/title/sik-fan-lah-palmerston-north-2023/overview



• Cultural & Historical Roots

- Roasting pigs is a long-standing Chinese tradition, though recipes were never formally written down.
- Chinese earth ovens (“pig ovens”) were once common in Australia and New Zealand, especially in Chinese market gardens during the gold rush era.
- Today, few ovens remain accessible due to land use changes and health/safety issues.



• Community & Leadership

- Rodney used pig roasting as part of leadership programs for young Chinese in New Zealand, teaching cultural traditions while building community.
- He shared a story of turning a family pig roast into a fundraiser for the Christchurch Choir, raising \$5,000.

• Practical Challenges & Adaptation

- Roasting a whole pig is labour-intensive, so they developed a method using pork bellies on custom frames, which allows for up to 20kg of meat and is easier to manage.



- Modern gas or electric pig roasters exist but lack the flavour and communal experience of traditional methods.

• Equity in Media Representation

- Rodney highlighted underrepresentation of Asians in New Zealand’s screen industry.
- In 2018, he co-founded the Pan-Asian Screen Collective to advocate for equity and build capability.



- Since then, representation has grown significantly, with alumni working internationally (e.g., Netflix’s *3 Body Problem*, Angelina Jolie film projects).

• Linking Culture & Media

- The TV series on pig roasting was both a cultural preservation project and part of building Asian visibility in New Zealand media.
- What began as documenting a tradition became a platform for equity, storytelling, and celebrating Chinese heritage in Aotearoa.

Social Equity-

is ensuring that everyone has fair access to resources, opportunities, and outcomes, regardless of their background or social standing

Parting Thought from Steve Paterson:

Old Chinese quote “Food comes first for the people” meaning ‘food is the foundation of life and society itself’