

## Meeting on Monday 1 September 2025

Welcome by President Dave

### PN Rotary News

#### Brew Union Friday Drinks

On Friday 29 August Ron and Rae, Stu and Phyllis, Nick and Dave had drinks at Brew Union. It was a great catch up and hopefully more will join on 26 September. Bring your partner, and friends. Thanks Ron and Rae for picking up the tab.

#### Kahuterawa Bush

Downers at work clearing tracks, lawns and weeds. **Thanks to Downers and NZDF!!**



A picnic area cleared by Downers and awaiting picnic tables.



Iain Waugh of TelcoSpec organised a load of Mixed Grade chip for the tracks.



Iain, Len Carney and Jon Bryant of TelcoSpec planning the building of the bridge.



### Rotary National Science and Technology Forum

Brian and Nick are shortly conducting interviews of the 4 RNSTF student applications.

## Next Meeting

**Monday 8 September 2025**

**Welcome:** President Dave

**Speaker** Rebecca Culver,  
Managing Director, Just Zilch  
"The Role of Just Zilch in Our Community."

Intro/Thanks	President Dave
Attendance	Lesley Boulton
Reception	Aaron Tait & Ron Dobson
Sergeant	Nigel Withell
Corporal	Ron Schalkwijk
Parting Thought	Ramola Duncan
Bulletin Editor	Steve Parsons

## Report on meeting Monday 1 September

A combined Manawatu Business Chamber and PN/Awapuni Rotary meeting. In attendance were also members of Business Networking International.



**Dr Johan Potgeiter** gave a very thought provoking, and informative speech on:

**"The AI and Robotics Revolution. Don't Miss Out"**



Johan Potgeiter described himself not as an AI *expert* but an *emerging expert*, noting that the field changes so quickly no one can truly claim mastery. He shared stories from his diverse career, ranging from landmine clearance in Mozambique and engineering projects to robotics and supercar design. These experiences led him into today's work with artificial intelligence and robotics.

### Key Themes of the Talk:

#### 1. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Today and Tomorrow

- AI attempts to replicate human thinking by processing large datasets and generating responses.
- Current AI is powerful but still limited; the next stage, *general AI*, would be machines reasoning and creating new knowledge.
- Elon Musk has claimed this is only about 14 months away, but Johan suggested caution.
- Debate continues about how humans should regulate AI to avoid risks, including ideas like training AI to see humans as "its children" so it won't harm us.

#### 2. Robotics and Human Design

- Robots are shaped like humans not because it's most efficient, but because the world is designed for human bodies (teacups, doorknobs, steering wheels).
- Practical uses are emerging, such as robots doing plastering in construction.

#### 3. Three Great Technological Shifts

- Internet, smartphones, and now AI — Johan argued these are the three defining technological revolutions of our lifetime.
- Each brought both dangers (e.g., dark web, social media bullying) and opportunities.

#### 4. Impact on Jobs

- By 2030, AI may replace 92 million jobs globally but create 170 million new ones, mostly in tech and energy sectors.
- New Zealand's biggest challenge is energy supply to power advanced computing.

#### 5. Energy and New Zealand's Opportunity

- Geothermal energy is reliable and renewable; with deeper wells and hotter casings, NZ could triple its output.
- This positions NZ as a potential world leader in powering AI, quantum computing, and genetics research.

#### 6. Everyday Uses of AI

- Johan personally uses AI for automating social media, video production, email communication, and even real-time translation.
- He pays for professional AI subscriptions rather than relying on free tools, which allows him to streamline and "multiply" his productivity.

#### Closing Message:

AI is not to be feared as Doomsday technology but embraced as a tool to amplify human capacity. Like calculators or excavators before it, AI represents the next stage of scaling human effort. Used wisely, it can free us to be more creative, efficient, and globally connected.



#### Thanks, from the Chamber

Nikki Maw on behalf of the Manawatu Business Chamber thanked Johan for his excellent presentation that got everyone thinking. AI and Robotics are certainly going to impact on every business and everyone. There are many challenges and opportunities ahead. She encouraged all businesses to prepare now for the new tomorrow.

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