

17 November 2025 Bulletin

President's Dave's Welcome

President Dave welcomed members and their partners to this social occasion. A particular welcome back to Bruce Wilson and Jill White.

PN Rotary News

Brew Union Friday Drinks

Brew Union drinks to be held Friday 28th November 5.00-7.00pm - all welcome.

Croquet

Competition Tuesday 5.30-6.30

Happy Birthday



Happy 90th Birthday to Philip Boulton for 18 November.



Meeting Monday 24th November

Conference and Function Centre

Guest Speaker: Trevor Shailer

Topic: "The sinking of HMNZS Manawanui"



Intro/Thanks

Sergeant

Corporal

Parting Thought

Bulletin Editor

Attendance

Martiin Townend

John Freebairn

Shaun Kay

Steve Parsons

Steve Parsons

Stu Schwatrz

Also, on 24 Nov Liam Hehir will facilitate an AGM to:

1. Ratify the election of the current Board
2. Adopt a new Constitution (circulated)
3. Adopt revised Bylaws (circulated)

Meeting Monday 1 December

Guest Speaker: Rodney Wong

Topic: "Effects of Poll Tax on Chinese Immigrants in the 1800s"

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Attendance

Norelle Ward

Nigel Withell

Craig Ross

David Chapple

Steve Parsons

Martin Townend

Report on Monday 17th November Stu Schwartz's Travelogue to USA

Stu presented a light-hearted travelogue covering his and Phyllis's trip across the United States during October–early November.

He began by noting contrasts in the American economy: many empty shops and malls, yet luxury events such as the New Jersey steeplechase still thriving. Airports were crowded, travel was busy, and daily life largely normal at street level.

Their journey covered **Pennsylvania, New Jersey, North Carolina, Florida, and Puerto Rico**. After flight delays and a tense moment with U.S. Customs—where a young border officer nearly denied them entry because they travelled on NZ passports—they finally made Pennsylvania to visit Stu's sister and extended family. They toured historic sites, Amish country, charity shops, apple orchards, and the Mercer tile works.

In New Jersey, they stayed with the mother of Joey—the young man who received Stu's bone marrow in 1992. Now 40, Joey is married with children, and the families remain deeply connected. Stu shared this as one of the emotional highlights of the trip.



From there, they flew to **Raleigh, North Carolina**, to visit Phyllis's family. They reconnected with long-time friends, including former Palmerston North residents Max and Esther Scott. They attended the **North Carolina State Fair**, enjoying traditional foods such as *turkey legs*, roasted corn, and maple-syrup cotton

candy, and unexpectedly met someone who knew Stu from his archaeology work decades earlier.

The next stop was **Florida**, where they visited close, long-time friends and Stu's father's grave—something he had not been able to do since 1978.

Finally, they travelled to **San Juan, Puerto Rico**, to spend a week with their daughter and son-in-law. They were delighted to be there when their middle daughter competed in an international opera competition. Stu attended a Rotary meeting in San Juan, where he received a club banner and warm hospitality despite the club facing similar funding challenges to PN Rotary.

He described Puerto Rico's intense heat, chaotic driving, and their reliance on air conditioning—but also the island's beauty, culture, and friendliness. The couple spent time visiting museums, galleries, and Costco, and used wheelchairs at several airports to navigate long distances.

The journey home was long (San Juan → Houston → Auckland → Palmerston North), and Stu acknowledged that because of age, health, and finances—both theirs and their loved ones'—this may be their last major overseas trip.

He closed with humour, gratitude, and reflections on family, kindness, and the joy of reconnecting with people they may never be able to see again.

Parting thought: Aaron Tait.

“98% of the adults in this country are decent hardworking honest Americans. It's the other lousy 2% that get all the publicity. But then we elected them” ..Lily Tomlin“

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FOR
GOOD**

