



Monday 07 July 2025





MANAWATŪ BUSINESS  
CHAMBER

**FEATURED SPEAKER**

**DR VICTORIA HATTON**

CEO of FoodHQ

07 JULY

THE FUTURE OF THE FOOD INNOVATION  
ECOSYSTEM : FOODHQ'S VISION IN ACTION

We are at a pivotal time for food innovation, and the Manawātū has an opportunity to play a key role in shaping our future food system.

Dr Victoria Hatton, CEO of FoodHQ, will share her bold and practical plan. But this isn't just a plan—it's a vision in action, and it's already underway.

Dr Hatton will outline the opportunities, partnerships, and regional impact being driven through FoodHQ, followed by an in-depth Q&A session.

Join fellow business and community leaders for this joint keynote event by Palmerston North Rotary and the Manawātū Business Chamber—and be part of shaping the future of food in our region.

07 July | 12 PM | Palmy Conference + Function Centre

Speaker            Dr Victoria Hatton,  
                                 CEO, Food HQ

Intro/Thanks     Ramola Duncan

MBC Thanks      Amanda Linsley

Attendance        Stu Schwartz

Parting Thought    Martin Townend

Bulletin Editor     Steve Parsons

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Speaker            Adrian Gregory,  
                                 Rotary District Secretary  
                                 "Lifting the lid"

Intro/Thanks-     President Dave

Attendance        Stu Schwartz

Sergeant           Nigel Withell

Corporal           Brian Donnelly

Parting Thought   Norelle Ward

Bulletin             Steve Parsons

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Report on Changeover meeting 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Attendance – members including partners & guests and Awapuni members and three new members



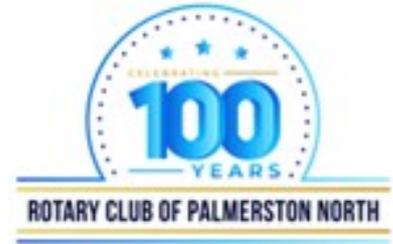
**New Member Induction Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

**Three new members were officially welcomed to the club:**



**1. Nkechinyere (Enkay) Onyema**

- **Originally from Nigeria Africa**



- Holds a **Master's in Aviation** at Massey.
- Has **20+ years experience** with Federal Airports Authority Lagos Nigeria.
- Enkay and Michael have **three children**.
- Passionate about **community service, singing, cooking**, and reading motivational stories.
- Currently in her final year of higher studies Applied Health at Brigham Young University, Idaho, USA.

## 2. Iain Waugh

- **General Manager** at TelcoSpec a telecommunications firm involved in **fibre-optic network installation**.
- Background includes **marine electronics** and **stonemasonry**.
- Grandfather was a pioneer in NZ telecommunications.
- He and **Lauren**, have **two young children**.
- Their firm is growing rapidly, servicing large-scale fibre optic installations, connecting kiwis at the speed of light.
- Supported by Associate Members Len Carney, Jon Bryant and Sarah Kay.

## 3. Dan Wheeler

- **Born in Dannevirke raised in Palmerston North**.
- Studied **hospitality** management in Wellington.
- Established his first business leasing a kitchen.
- Founded Freedom Print and Design from his bedroom.

- Now manages Freedom Plus a team of **35 staff** offering services from print, signage to digital marketing.
- Married to **Erin** (primary school principal and runner); together for **17 years**.
- Very active: cycles, plays pickleball, and the gym.
- Involved in **property investment** and **charity cycling events**.

## Closing Comments

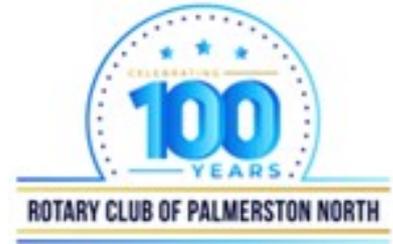
- Each new member received a **welcome letter** and a **Rotary welcome pack**.
- President John welcomed all three new members to Rotary and Rotary International.



Welcome words from **Stu Schwartz**

You have joined a global organisation of over 1.2 million Rotarians in 36,000 clubs worldwide, all working to build better communities. Our club meets at lunchtime, unlike most in the district which meet in the evening, making you possibly the newest Rotarians on the planet today. Congratulations!

We are especially pleased you've chosen our club, which has served this community and others since 1924. We are proud of our legacy but also aware of the need for fresh, younger members like you to continue this important work.



Rotary is involved in major global efforts like eradicating polio and supporting health, education, and literacy initiatives around the world. You now have the opportunity to contribute your skills, energy, and ideas to help strengthen our club and its impact.

Being a Rotarian opens doors to friendships, international connections, and meaningful service—locally, nationally, and globally. Whether it's helping with youth programs, science forums, community projects, or international aid, your involvement matters.

We welcome you as new members and look forward to your active participation. The ideals of Rotary are now in your hands, and we trust you will uphold them with pride and commitment.

Welcome to Rotary—we're glad to have you with us.



Here's a summary of the key points from changeover Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025

## **The Year Just Past for PN Rotary – President John Freebairn**

### **[Opening & Induction]**

Good afternoon fellow Rotarians, friends, and guests,

Today, we celebrate the spirit of Rotary, the passing of leadership, and the welcoming of new members into our club.

To our newest members—welcome. We are so pleased to have you join us. Through your words and actions, we trust that you will demonstrate the ideals of service that define Rotary. Your commitment to community is already evident, and that's why you've been inducted. We believe the values of our organisation are in safe hands with you.

We look forward to your participation, your ideas, and your involvement for many years to come. This club will be stronger with your energy and dedication, and we are genuinely excited to share this journey with you.

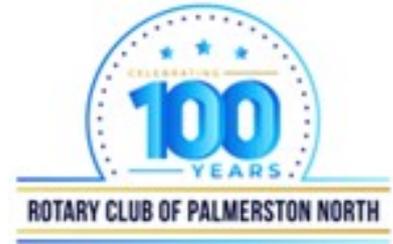
As I bring my term as President to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect with gratitude and humility. It has been a year of quiet maintenance, meaningful progress, and enduring spirit.

Our strength has always come from two pillars: the projects we deliver, and the friendships we nurture.

This year, we continued to support the Mātauranga Tūpuna Trust—an initiative rooted in our club's own history. We've also carried out important environmental work in our local bushland, thanks to Dave and Jewel's leadership in organising working bees and keeping an eye on ecological impact.

A highlight of the year was our Youth Music Festival. It showcased the power of planning and teamwork, and I want to especially thank Steve Paterson & Steve Parsons—for handling the logistics with care and dedication.

I'm sorry to have missed it due to travel, but I know how much effort went into its success. Likewise, Circus Quircus—although always challenging—was pulled off brilliantly once again. Thank you all.



Financially, we made strong contributions:

- \$3,500 in dues to Rotary International
- \$550 to The Rotary Foundation—one of the world's largest and most effective charities
- \$1,000 to the End Polio campaign

Last night, I received an update from the District Governor's office. The news is encouraging—polio cases globally are now in the **dozens**. But the campaign remains expensive because we cannot predict who may be affected, so immunisation must continue. We thank the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for their ongoing support of this vital cause.

We've welcomed three new members—what a great sign of our club's health and future. We now have 25 active members and 5 honorary, with two honorary members present tonight.

At the same time, we've farewelled some valued friends. Phil Burt moved to Christchurch, Bruce Wilson has taken a leave of absence, and Chris Kline has stepped down due to family commitments.

And we were delighted to see Lesley and Philip Boulton return after a period of health recovery—your presence today means a lot.

We also acknowledge, with affection and deep respect, the passing of our dear member **Roger Clausen**. His contribution to this club was immense, and he will be remembered with great fondness.

Our meetings this year have been engaging and well-attended, thanks in no small part to our wonderful Sergeants. The board has met regularly, with thanks to Steve Paterson's excellent secretarial work, and Mary and Ron for their financial stewardship.

Thank you to all board members for your humour, patience, and unwavering dedication.

A major development this year was our new alliance with the **Awapuni Rotary Club**. President Narelle is here with us today. Their request to join our meetings has added new energy and fresh connections. While our clubs remain separate, this collaboration strengthens us both. I'm thrilled it happened during my year—whether I can claim credit or not!

Looking back, I believe we can be proud of our steady, quiet success. We've maintained our core projects, supported our community, expanded our membership, and built new relationships.

None of this would be possible without each of you—those who show up, who lend a hand, who keep the Rotary spirit alive.

To Dave—thank you for your steady hand as President-Elect, and for stepping in during my absence. It is with relief and confidence that I now pass the presidency to you.

And yes, the chain may be symbolic—but I now officially pass it on to you, with all the responsibilities, joys, and occasional headaches it brings.

Rotary has a great history in this club. It's up to us to carry it forward—with humility, with heart, and with quiet determination.

Thank you all. Here's to another year of service and friendship.

John Freebairn

### **Summary of Norelle Ward's Year in Review – Rotary Club of Awapuni President 2024/25**

Norelle Ward reflected on a year of growth and community service, despite personal circumstances limiting her original plans. She expressed appreciation for learning more about Rotary and the history of the Awapuni



and Palmerston North clubs. Key achievements from the year include:

- **Starlight Project:** Over 2000 gift bags were distributed to deserving families, supported by new partners and generous donations. Easter parcels also exceeded expectations and reached more groups than initially planned.
- **Youth Development:** Two students were supported to attend RYPEN, thanks to collaboration with the Feilding club.
- **Community Partnerships:** Partnered with Zonta for a fundraising walk for Women's Refuge. The club ran a successful BBQ, raising an additional \$100 for the cause.
- **Children's Emergency Department:** Contributed early support and funding to the PN Hospital Children's ED and were among the first to tour the new facility. The club looks forward to supporting the next stage of development.
- **Annual Daffodil Day Stall:** Continued presence at Massey University was successful, with strong community support. The next event is scheduled for 29 August.
- **Club Fellowship:** Dinners at Rodney and Agnes's remain a cherished tradition, with hopes to resume more soon.

Norelle concluded with gratitude for what the club achieved together, despite the challenges.



**The Year Ahead** from **Dave Gaynor**, incoming President 2025/26

### Change Over Speech 30 June 2025

Thanks, Past President John. Thanks for overseeing the Club in the past year and ensuring that all the projects were successfully achieved.

Welcome to Nkechinyere, Iain, and Dan to Rotary International and also our new Associate Members Len Carney, Jon Bryant and Sarah Kay of TelcoSpec whom we will get to know in the future.

I want to echo John's thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Club either on the desk, behind the scenes, on projects, as Sergeants, finding speakers, sorting meeting schedules, promoting the Club, writing the Bulletin, on the Board, sorting the finances or lending a hand where required.

It's really pleasing that all those capable have been willing to do their bit. That has ensured the community has continued to benefit from Rotary.

The list of members who have assisted me personally is too long to single out individuals except one and that's Mary. Not only has she had to put up with my endless ramblings about Rotary she has also done a great job of keeping track of the pennies. I can assure you the accounts are in great shape.

It's also fantastic to have Awapuni Rotary join us. We hope you are enjoying being here as much as we are enjoying having you here. It makes a big difference.

We are a small but very effective team of Rotarians, ready for action.



And action this year it will be.

I've already written about what's ahead, but I'll summarise the key points today.

Our Club is 101 years old, and my goal is to ensure that the Palmerston North Rotary Club will be helping the community for another 100 years.

It's great to have Nkechinyere join us along with our Business members, the Manawatu Business Chamber, TelcoSpec, and Freedom Plus. I'm currently talking to four more businesses and by the end of my term I aim to have added 20 new members. As I say to Steve – 16 to go. Together with Awapuni this will add to the vibrancy of the Club and build a solid base from which to grow.

To achieve this, I need each member to nominate someone, an individual or a business, that I can visit to invite to join us. This is working really well at present so let's keep it up.

We are working on making the meetings more enjoyable and interesting. Ramola is inviting more significant business speakers every two months to support our business members. Plus, I've asked Norelle to run the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the month to give things an Awapuni flavour. I'm looking at making some other minor changes – so watch this space.

Rotarians join Rotary for an opportunity to give back by serving the community. I'm keen to make sure our existing projects are well supported with at least two members on every project or Club duty. Team work helps everyone.

I'm also ramping up the Kahuterawa Bush project to create an educational Ecological Park with native plants named and the whole

place looking great. Last week we met with the Army at Linton, and they were very supportive. Our team of Nigel, John Brunsdon, Brian and I are a bit small so I'm looking for others to help.

Nick Kaspers and I are working on a major new project RYMHA – Rotary Youth Mental Health Awareness. We hope to create a one-day mental health awareness programme for High schools to help young people handle the mental health challenges that they face today. It is modelled on the successful RYDA programme.

Manawatu has the highest Youth suicide rate in New Zealand and hopefully we can help lower this. RYMHA is at the early and uncertain concept stage but feedback from people in this field has been positive. I'm looking for members who want to help develop this. My target for the first pilot is 2027.

As a Club we are almost invisible in Palmerston North. Few know who we are, what we do, why they should join and the importance of giving back. Nkechinyere is already helping Ramola to improve our social media profile, but we need to do a lot more to lift our presence. I'm looking for those who want to help make this happen.

There's plenty to do for everyone. If you don't have a task to do or want to do more let me know and we'll work out what best suits you.

So, as you can see, we are moving onto the front foot.

Our goal is to enjoy giving back through Rotary and to ensure our Club can keep doing that for the next 100 years.

Thank you.