

AN INTRODUCTION TO ROTARY

WHAT IS ROTARY?

Founded in 1905 to promote friendship and service, Rotary today has more than 1.2 million members in over 34,000 clubs in some 210 countries and regions. In New Zealand, there are 9,800 members in 268 clubs in 6 Districts.

Rotary is a worldwide fellowship of men and women who accept the ideal of service above self as a basis for meeting needs in the local and wider communities.

The Rotary Club of Karori was formed in 1982, with 23 members. Our current membership is around 40.

THE ROTARY ETHIC

This encourages an appreciation and a desire to practice high ethical standards in members' personal and business lives. The Rotary Code of Ethics is stated in the **Four-Way Test**:

- * **Is it the TRUTH?**
- * **Is it FAIR to all concerned?**
- * **Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**
- * **Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?**

HAVING FUN

Fellowship is a strong part of our activities and will usually include partners and, on occasions, families as well. We believe that it is important for partners to have a tangible link with the Club. For this, we have special dinners and theatre visits, hold auction nights, family evenings, Ambrose golf evenings and participate in fundraising events. We have visited Parliament Buildings and been invited to inspect the Emergency Disaster Bunker in the basement.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Over recent years we have supported the community through fundraising: with the sale of Christmas Puddings, by holding auctions, quiz nights, business research evenings and organizing the Karori 'Gutbuster' event around the perimeter fence of Zealandia. Here, we have helped with the sale of fence posts and in establishing and supporting Zealandia's Discovery Area.

Fundraising is for the benefit of many charities, such as the community bus, Karori Park and its Park Seats, Karori Playground, Karori Library Bricks, the Rosie Jones Kidney Transplant, Cure Kids, Pike River Disaster, St John Ambulance appeal, Karori Food Bank, local schools and Kindergartens. Significant funds were raised for the premises, and ongoing support is given, to the Marsden Club (which provides day care for those suffering from Alzheimer's and other age-related dementias). Charities supported by the Rotary Club of Karori are Karori- or Wellington-based or are national ones - with a strong emphasis on youth programmes.

We were delighted recently to publish the "Welcome to Karori" information pack which is full of information to help newcomers settle into our community.

Karori Rotarians have also helped to establish the two Probus Clubs in Karori. Probus Clubs cater specifically for retired or semi-retired people.

OUR MEETINGS

We meet every Tuesday evening at Samuel Marsden Collegiate School, (Vera Street entrance) in Karori at 5.50pm to 8pm.

We socialize until dinner is served at 6.20pm then hear from our Guest Speaker - a major attraction every week. Club business follows and the meeting concludes by 8pm. Everyone is welcome to bring their partner and/or guests to any meeting

GUEST SPEAKERS

These are a highlight of our weekly meetings, with a wide range of topics covered, e.g. a Civil Defence view and updates on the recent earthquakes in Christchurch and discussions on international events. Future speakers are Governor-General-designate, Lieutenant General, Sir Jerry Mateparae and Dave Ross, National Operations Officer, Community Patrols of New Zealand - formerly Karori's Senior (Community) Constable.

THE REWARDS

The personal satisfaction and growth that comes from serving others is the most important reward of Rotary membership.

There are also other benefits such as:

Development of leadership and organizational skills

Acquaintances in numerous businesses, professions and communities.

An opportunity to benefit from the business experience of others

Exposure to stimulating speakers, increased knowledge of world and national affairs.

Close contact with community leaders.

Recognition for service to the community.

A broader range of social life and a warm welcome in unfamiliar communities through New Zealand and worldwide.



INTERNATIONAL

Most of Rotary's international service programmes are achieved through the Rotary Foundation which gives millions of dollars every year to educational and humanitarian programmes. These include scholarships, group study exchanges and youth exchanges to name just a few of the many international programmes undertaken annually for the benefit of non-Rotarians.

Major international projects for Rotary are "PolioPlus" a programme to eradicate polio worldwide and also the "ShelterBox" programme and emergency response kits for places in urgent need of day-to-day supplies and shelter following natural disasters. ShelterBoxes, containing tents and other vital supplies, have been sent from New Zealand to Asian countries, the Pacific and Australia following bush fires and flooding. Haiti and Japan have also received these boxes for victims of the recent earthquakes and the tsunamis.



A Group Study Exchange Team from Scotland with their Karori Rotary Hosts



The front runners of the children's section of the Rotary Club of Karori's annual "Gutbuster" race.

Attendance at the club's weekly meeting is expected, but a member unable to attend may attend a meeting at another Rotary club. Members pay an annual subscription, a contribution to the Rotary Foundation and dining costs and are required to subscribe to either "The Rotarian" or "Rotary Down-Under", which are monthly magazines for Rotarians. Contributions to the Rotary Foundation are charitable donations and are tax deductible.

If you would like to know more about Rotary, please contact us at:

www.karorirotary.org.nz

Membership enquiries to
Coral Aitchison
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or

The Rotary Club of Karori Inc.
PO Box 17-239, Karori

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*Meetings - Tuesdays
Time - 5:50pm to 8:00 pm*

*Samuel Marsden Collegiate School,
(Vera Street entrance),
Karori*

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