Guests this week were PJ Faumui, Mike Webber, Doug Davidson, our exchange student Ella, and Mary Hill and guest speaker Cr Rob Vinsen.

President Peter presented a cheque to PJ Faumui and Mike Webber. This was for $2000 raised at the ‘Rotary Stakes’ evening. An application to the Harold Thomas Trust should see this amount matched, so a wonderful result from this fund raiser for a surgical toolkit for use by ENT surgeons in Samoa. PJ told the Club that the Toolkit will be used by anyone volunteering their surgical skills in Samoa and will be returned to Auckland after each use for servicing.

Peter congratulated the Social Committee and especially the Carols team for two great events in the last week.

After fining pretty much everyone for pretty much anything, Mike Green introduced the guest speaker, Rob Vinsen who apparently took Mike’s seat on the District Council sometime last century (report on Cr Vinsen’s presentation later in the Bulletin).

Marion reported that the City Mission were thrilled to receive a cheque for $300 from entry fees for our Spud Growing Competition.

Doug Davidson (member of Daybreak Club and reporter for River City Press) surprised the Club with the announcement that we have been awarded River City Press’s Citizens of the Year in recognition of the many activities for the benefit of the Community and Youth of Wanganui. All the members present managed to squeeze into the photo which will appear in next week’s River City Press – watch out for it! We also received a very nice plaque.
Guest Speaker

Cr Rob Vinsen gave his view of the history of the City’s waste water treatment plant, its failure and plans for replacement.

The original plant, designed by MWH, appeared to have had some fundamental flaws right from the start. Few councillors questioned the advice of the waste water engineers and no alternative plans were given any consideration. As aerators failed and were replaced by a different type, odour problems became apparent. Eventually the remaining aerators were turned off and we all know what ensued in the summer of 2012-13.

Council were told the old plant was unsalvageable and the cost of a new plant has risen from the original $18 million to $42 million with an annual operating cost of over $5 million

Cr Vinsen is convinced that the better option would have been to rectify the old plant but that was not an option once legal action against the plant’s designers had commenced. He considers the city was fortunate to receive a settlement from MWH. We must continue now with building a new plant as contractors Higgins have already started work and the cost of breaking their contract would be greater than any savings made by rectifying the old plant. The 7 councillors who opposed this option now agree we have to proceed with it

The new Activated Sludge Plant will process sludge into a dry pellet form daily, which will be of far less bulk and easier to dispose of than the sludge that the old system built up. However, the new system will have far greater capability than is needed if Affco and Tasman Tanning withdraw from the system. At this stage Affco intend to process their own waste water, but want to use the city’s outfall pipe to discharge to the sea, and discussions are still be held with the tanneries

Calendar

16 December
Club Pub Night
Rutland Arms Inn
5pm
18th January 2017
First Meeting for 2017
8th February 2017
BBQ and Potato Judging

2018/19 President

Nominations for this position are sought and can be submitted in writing to President Peter.

Duties

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<th>Meeting</th>
<th>18 January 2017</th>
<th>25 January 2017</th>
<th>1 February 2017</th>
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<td>Speaker</td>
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<td>Topic: Social Gathering</td>
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<td>Committee Meetings</td>
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<td>Host:</td>
<td>Bryce Coneybeer</td>
<td>Deon Hazelhurst</td>
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<td>Appreciation:</td>
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<td>Reception:</td>
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<td>Sue Gardner</td>
<td>Nathan Cleveland</td>
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<td>Sergeant:</td>
<td>Craig Cleveland/Mike Green</td>
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<td>Bulletin Editor:</td>
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Those scheduled to assist on 24 and 31 December are no longer required as UCOL have closed access to the car park from 24th December to and including 7 January for security reasons.

From the meeting

Garth reported that car-parking has gained us $593 so far this month.

Maree reported on Carols by Candlelight: despite the wind there was a great turnout. She thanked all the Club members who turned out to help on Sunday and particularly Jane, Dugald and Bruce. The Club will be donating $1000 to Birthright.

Cranleigh reported that we will be inducting a new member at the end of January and we have another prospect for February. His Bushy Park committee are taking a well-deserved rest until the end of January, then the community service workers will be back to help with track restoration. We will be having a working bee at the end of February to lay shellrock under the new shade sail.

John van Dalen reported on progress with the Art in Hospital project: $7000 has been raised (including the Hospital’s contribution) and the photographs chosen will be installed in the main second-floor corridor before Christmas. He thanked Deon for all the work he has put into this project.

It was moved by Terry Coxon, seconded by Bruce Kennedy, that Mike Green and Garth Barlow be appointed to the Club’s Nominating Committee. Along with Peter and Graham Prince, this Committee will select our President Nominee.

Pub night Friday from 5 pm at the Rutland!

Next meeting will be 18 January – keep an eye on your email for more details.

President Peter presenting Mike Webber and PJ Faumui with a cheque for Rose Charity - Project Toolkit
Carols by Candlelight

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year