Sergeant Mike, who had no mike initially, found reasons, dubious in most cases to extract money from everybody. He also brought to our attention that he and 5 others flatted as single guys in Lower Hutt many years ago. After 53 years they are still all alive, still married to their first wives, and still friends. Not bad going.

As tonight was club forum night there was no guest speaker and Directors and club officers gave a run down on their committee’s or group’s activities.

Garth Barlow

- As the AGM told directors to give away more money, $10k has been transferred to the club’s charity trust, $3k from the Sunshine fund and $7K from club funds. There was a need to retain some money in club funds because of the planned move to the Cosmopolitan Club - some more tables needed, the Honours Board needs updating and a suitable projector is also needed.
- Subs will remain unchanged at $140 per half year.

Cranleigh

- Next week Wilf Emmet will be inducted and there are three more getting close - Gary McIlwaine, Raj Patel and Donna Highland.
- Bushy Park trustees are looking at a 10 year plan. Rotary North involvement officially ends 30/06/17 but directors have extended this to 30/06/18 as a number of projects will need extra time to finish - Ratanui Track, Outdoor reception, Wetlands Plantings, Better Wetlands signage, and restoration of the roadside front entrance.
  From 30/06/18 the club will consider annually (but not necessarily commit to) ongoing projects.
- Upgrading toilets and refurbishing the bunkhouse has been completed and re-roofing the homestead needs urgent attention as it leaks badly in places.
**Kiwi at Bushy Park.**
There are lots of bird calls to be heard but where are the kiwi, our national icon? Kiwis for Kiwi Trusts aim to increase the numbers of kiwi in the Taranaki/Wanganui region. They need predator free crèche’s and Bushy Park is predator free. The need is urgent and our club would likely support the concept provided there was a guarantee of ongoing future funding. There is an absolute need to concentrate on the positives - not CAN it be done but how it WILL be done. DOC and Horizons are supportive but where are Forest and Bird AND Wanganui District Council?

**Maree - Project Group 1**
**Art in Hospitals**
This has been a great success with positive feedback from all quarters. So far it is mainly in the corridor leading to maternity. Ideally we need a plaque noting Wanganui North Rotary Club’s involvement.

**Carols by Candlelight**
This is a Wanganui institution and continues to be successful year after year. A cheque for $1000.00 will be presented to Wanganui Birthright next week.

Thanks must go to St. Johns, Community Patrol, Adrian Barnes, Shelley Wells, Bruce Jellyman and the Band and Choir, and Tee -Jay Horrell. Thanks also to the entire club for pitching in year after year to make it such a success.

Song books and candles need replenishing and a review is under way to see if improvements are possible.

Next year the beneficiaries will likely be St. Johns and the Brass band.

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**Calendar**

- **Saturday 4th March**
  - Rotariannes Coffee Morning
  - Element Café
  - 10am

- **Wednesday 8th March**
  - Partners Night and Grand Auction

- **Friday 17th March**
  - Club Pub Night
  - Rutland Arms Inn
  - 5pm

- **Sunday 26th March**
  - Rural Urban Night
  - Kaitoke School
  - 6pm

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**Rotariannes Coffee Morning**
- **Element Café**
- **10am**
- **Saturday 4 March**

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**Duties**

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**Wanganui North Rotary Stakes**
The brainchild of Shaun Hogan to raise funds for PJ Faumuina and his Operation Toolkit project for ENT services in Samoa. This was a hugely successful as well as entertaining evening, with the end result-a cheque for $2k being presented to PJ and Mike Webber. On top of that, the Harold Thomas Trust has matched our donation so in total our club is responsible for $4000.00 going towards Operation Toolkit. Take a bow Shaun - a great piece of innovative thinking.

There were some left over prizes in the form of gift vouchers and these will be auctioned on 8th March. Quiz Night. Last year was a great success. This year it is planned for 26/05/17 so keep that night free. Once again club members are encouraged to advertise, form teams with friends etc outside of Rotary and make it another great night at Stellar.

**Brad - Project Group 2**
This group runs five projects.

**RYLA and RYPEN** - Rotary Youth Leadership Award and Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment. Unfortunately we were unable to send anyone to either program this year, due to circumstances entirely beyond our control. Bill Byford of Taihape Rotary Club, who organised RYPEN, passed away unexpectedly and there was no time to organise his replacement.

Our RYLA candidate had his leave cancelled at the last minute due to an Armed Offenders squad callout.

**Trailer Raffle**
This continues to be a successful fund raiser, with around $5K raised each year. Some changes may be made re prizes and selling venues.

**Rural Urban**
This year it will be on a Sunday evening at Kaitoke School on 26th March.

**Books in Homes**
Has now been running for 16 years and continues to be very popular with the recipients.

**Dictionaries in Schools**
Again a very popular project, especially with the pupils who receive the dictionaries. The pupils quiz night based on the dictionaries has also received very positive feedback from both participants and parents.

**Graeme Prince - Club Service**
Club service handles the brickbats and the bouquets.

Our new venue at the Cosmopolitan Club will require some work to bring it up to requirements but all in all looks to be a promising new home for the club.

Could all Committee minutes be forwarded to Keith Safey, who, as Club Historian, needs these as a matter of course.

**Apologies**
Non-attendees MUST apologise. Call, text, or email Brian Smith.

- Please keep interjections while people are addressing the club, to a minimum. Also, People talking while the guest speaker is addressing us is completely unacceptable! It is the height of bad manners.
- PK - Reminded the club that when Marion becomes DG in 2018-2019, she will need, and has every right to expect, the full support of every club member in any way, shape or form that may be required.