



ROTARY CLUB of PAPAIOEA

President: Bruce Markwell
Meetings 5.30^{pm} 1st & 3rd Wednesdays
Upstairs at FocalPoint, 223 Cuba St. Palmerston North



Bulletin 11th September 2026

At last week's meeting: **Baz's Antarctic Sojourn**

Barry Fairbanks entertained the Club with an account of his 'working holiday' in Antarctica in the summer of 2025/26. He had sought a position for several years on a team to spend a summer season on the ice as a cook/chef and as a field worker. He, and others, had two weeks orientation and kitting out in Christchurch, before 5+ hours travel 'cattle class' in an USAF C30 Globemaster flight to Scott Base & McMurdo Station on Ross Island.

He described the 'alien' environment where it was almost perpetual daylight and the temperature could fall to -37deg very quickly. Some storms could last for 3 days and all personnel would be confined to the buildings and only ventured outside to collect supplies for food, etc. Close encounters of the furred kind involved seals on the ice (about to give birth!), and Emperor and Adelie penguins were also seen close to the Base.

At the Base, he experienced close communal living, great companionship and a varied social life where everyone participated enthusiastically. People had specific roles but also were expected to assist with other tasks as part of the experience. Often volunteers were asked for and people always responded, as it would allow many short trips around McMurdo base and other occasional flights to work with field officers on specific tasks such as, in one case, excavating up to 5m to recover equipment antennas buried for two years in ice.

Barry's talk was well illustrated with photos, and some hand-out photos of the immediate area around Ross Island, and he spoke with clear delight in having had an experience available to very few people.

David Everett conducted a cryptic quiz on Prime Ministers of NZ - members were a bit slow on the uptake and gradually improved their responses to answer perhaps the best example 'This person lets you into the toilets' John Key!

Duties	16 th Sept	7 th Oct	21 st Oct
Host:	Don	Dennis	
3 min talk:	John	Bede	
Sunshine:	Roger	Katharine	
Thanks + Parting Thought:	Lynne	Bob	

Upcoming Dinner Meetings at Focal Point
Wednesday September 16th
Wednesday 21st October Polio Plus evening
Wednesday 4th November **AGM**

Members: please apologise or add guests on website :[Papaioea Web Page](#)
Members Area/Record My Attendance/tick if apologising /or +Guests
don't forget to then **Submit.**

Alternatively Txt to Don 027 222 8776

Always before 3pm Monday