



Meeting – 17 Dec 2018
Annual General Meeting

Last meeting this year

Next Meeting –

Informal
14 January 2019



Merry Christmas,
and a
Happy New Year
to all

Apologies:

To Peter Smith please:
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Phone: 342 5812

Attendance at Last Meeting:
10 December 2018)

Present - 27
Apologies: - 4
Silent : - 10
41

Men's Care Bags

Donations for Men's Care Bags to Henry Ngapo. Items may be left at the meeting.

STEVE WALKER RIYE SWISS INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENT.

Before Steve began his presentation, President Stuart issued a series of questions on Switzerland not all of which were answered correctly despite something similar being done last year.

Steve arrived in New Zealand last July and was hosted by Daybreak before moving to our club. He attends City College and is enjoying the variety of different studies. His presentation was divided into five sections, covering Switzerland, himself and family, local culture, what he has done already in NZ and what he would still like to achieve.

Switzerland is a landlocked country of 41,000 km², with a population of over 8 million. There are 26 Kantone (Canton) and Steve comes from Wallis, an amalgamation of two areas. The area is 2/3rd French and 1/3rd German speaking, with a rather harsh accent difficult for others to understand. As they are living in the middle of the Alps, all mountain pursuits are followed, not least climbing the Matterhorn. This mountain is deceptively appealing to climb, but is difficult and has a high death toll, over 500 since the first ascent in 1865.

He lives in a typical Swiss house with his Mother, a dressmaker, his Father, a train driver and his brother who is a student. His hobbies are photography, playing the guitar and the Jungwacht (similar to Scouts). He currently has work experience with Lonza, a chemical factory, 4 days per week, for a 3-year apprenticeship, only 1 year to go. At this time of year, St Nicklaus is very prominent and there is Carnival to look forward to for the month of February.

Steve introduced us to many of the Swiss common foods which all looked extremely mouth-watering, from cold meats, cheese and bread to chocolate. He has achieved much in his time in NZ and has an extensive photographic record as a reminder – as well as letting folks at home what is happening. Stock cars and the observatory in Wanganui, visits to New Plymouth and Wellington but most memorable, perhaps, was the trip to the South Island. Not only did he have experiences of the different landscape, but also took part in kayaking and bungy-jumping. Unfortunately the sky-diving was cancelled because of the weather at the time.

He still has several items on his Wish List to complete before next July, including: sailing, surfing, seeing a live Kiwi, more photography and Maori culture. More adrenalin-inducing activities along with just doing as much as possible! I'm sure members will help Steve to tick off things from his list!

Welcome to our new member, Louise Follett.

We look forward to getting to know you better and working with you.

VISIT OF NAGAZUMI ROTARIANS

If you are able to host a Rotarian from Nagaizumi Cho, please get in touch with PP Lei for details.

**December is
Rotary Disease
Prevention Month**