



Rotary Club of Christchurch South Inc.

P O Box 12-243, Christchurch 8023, NZ.

SERVICE ABOVE SELF



Bulletin

#34 for 18 March
2026

Meeting Report – 18 March 2026

We were privileged to have the opportunity to visit Turanga, the central Christchurch library, this week.

We were introduced to the library by Kim Slack, who is a Floor Leader. Kim advised that Turanga means “gifted” and speaks of family (whanau) connections across New Zealand.



Turanga was built post-earthquakes at a cost of \$92m, and was one of the first anchor projects built after the earthquakes in 2010 – 2011, and after community consultation, opened in 2018. The building, in the North-eastern corner of Cathedral Square, is the largest library in New Zealand, with a floor area of 9,850 square metres. Last year Turanga had 850,000 visitors, with representative numbers between 1,600 and 2,000 per day. The library contains 209,132 books, and visitors regularly include schoolchildren. There is also a library choir (things have moved on from the traditional libraries where silence was sought!). The most popular category of books is Fiction, and the library has an online website.

Kim commenced working as a librarian at the Spreydon library, before commencing work at Turanga.

We were shown some “behind the scenes” parts of the library by Andre, who looks after collections of magazines, newspapers, DVDs and films. We were also shown a book sorter which sorts out returned books into their areas which are then placed in trolleys for return to the shelves.



On the first floor, Paris spoke to us about the Imagination Stations, which were accessed by children and other young people. Former Mayor, Vicki Buck, had a hand in establishing this area. There was a children’s slide on this floor, but it is being replaced for health and safety reasons because there had been some injuries by users.

Paris had studied Public Health at University, and as a result of her studies, became interested in libraries, initially joining Halswell library, before taking up a role at Turanga.

80 – 100 people work at Turanga over the seven days of the week it is open. There are 21 libraries in the Christchurch City Council area.

On the 2nd floor, Lauren pointed out the computers, card files and microfiche records which are utilised by people studying genealogy. A Penny Farthing is displayed on this floor, and with an emphasis on history, this floor has an association with the Canterbury Museum. There is also good exhibition space on this floor.

Lauren commenced her library journey at Papanui library before taking up a role on the ground floor at Turanga, before taking up her current role on the second floor. She enjoys her job as librarian, and finds that every day is different, making it a stimulating place to work.

We then moved up to the third floor, where Mary introduced us to this floor which is a non-fiction floor of the library, with a collection of art books, and even a meeting area for Justices of the Peace (who were meeting while we were there). Natural history was also covered on this floor, with a small insect collection and a plan for urban explorations to look for bugs in our backyard.



Mary had commenced her working life in architecture, and then became interested in ecology, before succumbing to the lure of a librarian role at Turanga.

The fourth floor of Turanga features creativity, with the librarian on this floor showing us laser cutting, 3D printing, sewing machines, overlockers, and embroidery machines, and a film/recording studio and editing suite which people can use – really interesting and above and beyond anything which most of us expected to find in the library.

Logan had commenced working in big barn retail, before taking up a library role.

This visit was most interesting and I'm sure we all learned new things from this visit. The trajectories of the librarians (and how they got into their librarian roles), was also interesting.

After leaving the library, our group enjoyed a lovely meal at a restaurant in OGB (the Old Government Building) in another corner of Cathedral Square.

A great night, enjoyed by all. Thank you, Linda Bougen, for arranging this for us.

Thanks to Athol for the report and Viv for the photos.



Upcoming meetings:

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25/03/2026	Club Night – Committees Updates	Club Night – Committees Updates
1/04/2026	Tracey Hawkes & Susan Gee	The Burwood Therapeutic Garden - Our vision is to create a wheelchair- accessible and dementia-friendly therapeutic outdoor area
8/04/2026	Paul Gardner	An update from the Sydenham Corps of the Salvation Army – Major Paul Gardner

- **April Walk - SATURDAY 17 APRIL**

- **UPCOMING ROTARY COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS**

1. Cashmere Stream Esplanade

Saturday 2nd May '26.

10-12 for maintenance followed by a shared lunch.

2. John Taylor Walkway

Saturday 13th June '26

10-12 for maintenance Followed by a BBQ.

Notices:

- River Clean Up (Mother of all Clean Up's)


Date: Saturday 9 May

Start time: 10am by the Scout Den, Centaurus Road next to The Brickworks

It would be great to support this again this year as we have over the last many years.

**I will check the support at Club Meeting on Wednesday and take it from there.
Viv.**

Duties:

	25-Mar-26	1-Apr-26	8-Apr-26
 Desk	G Bailey	A McKinnon	A McCully
Cash Desk	M Bruce	M Opie	M Osselton
Reception	V Ellis	H Garlick	S Mackenzie
Speaker's Host	#N/A	A Airay	M Soares
Grace	D Peterson	A Airay	M Soares
International Toast	V Ellis	H Garlick	S Mackenzie
Thanks to Speaker	#N/A	A McKinnon	M Osselton
Quote for the Week	G Bailey	M Opie	A McCully
Speaker Reporter	A McKinnon	D Peterson	V Ellis
Sergeant	G Dockrill	L Bougen	M Bruce

Leave:

	from	to
S Haye	11/08/2020	TBA
E Bermingham	01/01/2023	TBA
SMcLean	20/03/2024	TBA
A Kim	30/06/2025	TBA
R McKinney		mid April

The link for the club web pages is

www.christchurchsouthrotary.org.nz

Facebook pages is

<https://www.facebook.com/ChristchurchSouthRotary>

Reminders:

**Record your apology at the Reception Desk at a prior meeting,
OR email: chchsouthrotary@gmail.com before
11.00am Wednesday.**

**You will get a reminder a couple of days before the meeting re
apologising and to advise if bringing a guest.**

Emergency apologies to Alan McKinnon (021 142 7668)

OR, Club Secretary Viv Ellis (027 490 3161)

DUTIES If you are unable to carry out your allocated duty, it is **YOUR** responsibility to arrange a substitute.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Please advise all leave of absence of 3 or more weeks to the Secretary, by email or in writing.