

Rotary Club of Christchurch South



10 April 2024

Taming the wild grape – an address to our Rotary Club by Janet Wells

Taming the Wild Grape is an historical fiction novel of one man's dream to create a legacy in the newly settled land of Ohio in the 1800s. Jan related to us how a woman from Waimate might write a novel set in far away Ohio by explaining that when she retired from teaching she did some family tree research and found a family link to Josiah Pelton who had farmed in Killingworth, Connecticut.

He fought on the side of the Patriots in the Revolutionary War or American War of Independence (1775 – 1783) and although America won its independence from Britain in the war the destruction made Josiah Pelton realise that his farm, could no longer support him and his wife or allow their sons a place to prosper. For his service during the war and in compensation for what he had lost on the East Coast, Josiah was offered an opportunity to acquire land in the “Connecticut Western Reserve” on the shores of Lake Eyrie. His purchase of 6,605 acres in the Western Reserve prompted Josiah to embark on a six-hundred-mile journey with his son Jesse so that they could inspect the land and begin clearing it. When Josiah returned to Connecticut to bring the rest of his family west, Jesse, at the age of twenty-two, was left behind in the wilderness—his only companion a young man hired to help with the heavy work of felling trees and uprooting the wild grape vines that covered the land. Josiah and his sons worked tirelessly to make their farms productive, and as more settlers arrived in what became the town of Gustavus, Josiah turned his attention to creating a community. Through personal tragedies as well as those of his fellow settlers, the ever-present threats of Indian attack, adverse weather conditions, and the War of 1812, Josiah's dream took shape.

In her novel Jan gave Jesse a fictional partner but she told us that much of her fictional novel was based on fact. To this end she and her husband who was at our Rotary meeting visited what remained of the town of Gustavus in Ohio and the graves of the Peltons. She discussed with us the trials and tribulations of publishing a book and how she had to follow the goals of publishing the first book and selling enough books to write more. Lessons learnt helped her to publish a second book, “Secrets not shared” where she continues to follow the Pelton family seen through the eyes of one of the wives, Chloe who becomes involved in the “Underground Railway” helping escaped slaves flee to Canada.

Janet is currently working on a third novel which continues the Pelton family story through the eyes of a grandchild.



Thank you Geoff for the report and Viv for the photographs

Upcoming Meetings

17 April 2024

Carl Davidson

Loneliness in Christchurch – Researching the Facts

24 April 2024

Club Forum

1 May 2024

Braintree Wellness Centre – 5.45pm for 6.00pm Start 7.45pm Finish

Off site Dinner and Tour of the Braintree Wellness Centre with **Malcolm Rickerby**

8 May 2024

Jo Houghton

Christchurch Kidney Society Making a difference in Canterbury

15 May 2024

Ross Haggart

Family Help Trust Helping Children and Families achieve wellbeing

Upcoming Events

South Island Rotary Conference 2024 *Creating Hope*

**Te Pae, Christchurch
20 April 2024**

Note: All Ticket prices revert to \$150 from Saturday 2 March

Notices

April Walk and Luncheon

Date: Thursday 18 April

Park: Park in the Victoria Park car park

Meet: 10.30am in the Visitors Centre Victoria Park

Walk: Harry Ell Track. Walk over to Sign of the Kiwi and admire the view if time

Lunch: 12:00 Protocol Colombo Street

Organiser: Viv

If you are unable to join the walk, then feel welcome to join the walkers for lunch.

If the weather is unsuitable for walking, we will still meet for lunch at Protocol 12:00.

IMPORTANT: There will be work being completed on the roundabout by Protocol, top of Colombo Street so please expect delays.

Please let David know if you are walking, lunching or both **BY Monday 15 APRIL** as Viv will need to confirm numbers at Protocol.

david.buist@xtra.co.nz

An early response would be appreciated.

John Taylor Walkway

Our next visit to the Walkway will be Saturday 27th April 10 - 12 with a BBQ afterwards. We need to do more planting and maintenance.

Christchurch South Community Garden

Every Wednesday 1pm to 2pm, 188 Strickland Street, come along and lend a hand.

Archives

We are now at the point of collecting photos from members, past members, honorary members and friends of Rotary for our archives.

Please contact Kim at tanner.kimberley@gmail.com if you have any photos from the year **2000 onwards** of **significant events**. We are hoping to have this project completed by the end of this year

AVIVA STREET APPEAL

FRIDAY 17th May and

SATURDAY 18th May

From 9-6pm in 2 hour slots

At New World St. Martin's.

Please keep these days free to help.

Rotary Club of Christchurch South

'WORKING BEE'

Cashmere Stream Esplanade

Sunday 10-12 28th April

Shared lunch to follow.

CANCER SOCIETY

Relay For Life CHRISTCHURCH

Let's do something remarkable together!
Sat 6th April 2024, 10am - 10pm Lancaster Park

relayforlife.org.nz

John Taylor Walkway

We had a super turnout from our club today and it was great seeing Graham Fowler who came to help out. We also had Diane's partner David and Troy who is a 15 year old from Hillmorton High School, who initially came on a school trip in Year 9 and he has been coming to help ever since. He's also keen to help out at Cashmere Stream Esplanade.

Nigel (Park Ranger) gave us a tour showing us what he wanted.

After we finished we all enjoyed a BBQ, cooked really well by Troy.

A big thanks to all of you who came to help out.

Nigel would like us to go back during July to do some planting. I will confirm the date as soon as I get it.

Thanks to Sara for the report and Viv for the photographs









The Welcoming Team



Duties

Duty	17-Apr-24	24-Apr-24	1-May-24
Cash Desk	A McKinnon	G Bailey	#N/A
Cash Desk	D Peterson	M Bruce	#N/A
Reception	A Kim	V Ellis	#N/A
Speaker's Host	S Mackenzie	#N/A	#N/A
Grace	S Mackenzie	D Buist	#N/A
International Toast	A Kim	V Ellis	#N/A
Thanks to Speaker	A McKinnon	#N/A	#N/A
Quote for the Week	D Peterson	M Bruce	#N/A
Speaker Reporter	A McCully	A Stewart	A Airay
Sergeant	A Airay	L Brown	#N/A

Leave

Who	From	To
M Whitehead	9/9/15	TBA
J Wylie		TBA
S Haye	11/8/20	TBA
K Moss	24/6/23	30/6/24
E Bermingham	1/1/23	TBA
R McKinney	16/9/23	30/4/24
S McLean	20/3/24	1/5/24

The link for the club web pages is: www.christchurchsouthrotary.org.nz

The link to club Facebook pages is: <https://www.facebook.com/ChristchurchSouthRotary/>

Reminders

APOLOGIES

- Record your apology at the Reception Desk at a prior meeting OR
- Email: chcsouthrotary@gmail.com before 11.00am on the Wednesday; you will get a reminder a couple of days before the meeting re apologising and to advise if bringing guests.
- 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 (three or more weeks) to the Secretary by email or in writing