



Rotary Club of Christchurch South Inc.

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

SERVICE ABOVE SELF



Bulletin

#12 for 16 September 2026

SPEAKER REPORT – 16 September 2026

This week's speaker was Dr Reuben Woods, Creative Director of Watch This Space, who led us through a journey of exploring Christchurch through Urban Art.



Reuben had spent time in Bristol, England, where he saw street art and thought how great it would be if that art could be brought to Christchurch, which at that time was going through

the post-earthquake phase of reconstruction.

Initially the Canterbury Museum had a display of street art, which was a new concept here, and attracted 250,000 visitors.

Urban Art brings buildings to life, and Reuben drew our attention to the Ballerina painting by Owen Dippie on the rear of the Isaac Theatre Royal which illustrates this concept in stunning form.

Another example provided was the three sets of lips on the rear carpark wall at Christchurch

Casino which was painted in 2015, and yet a further stunning example is the Cat named

Olive painted on the rear of the Little High complex in 2022. The subject was a homeless

cat which subsequently found a home after the artwork was completed.

Another Gardening mural, including tools, watering can, spade, etc. was also crafted on a wall in Manchester Street. And in the SALT District, Paul Walters added the Otautahi mural.

In 2023 a mural celebrated the legacy of 5 women in Christchurch, and on the Manchester/Armagh Street corner, Kophie Su'a-Hulsbosch painted the Knowledge is Power street art as a reflection on the Dwn Raids of the time.

The SHIFT Exhibition, Decypher 2023, was held in Canterbury Museum, being staged throughout the museum for 70 days as a temporary work.

More recently, spotlight projects showing up clearly at night, have been added to the city

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with Reuben showing us an image of one on Te Pai, the Convention Centre.

A number of smaller paintings have also been applied recently (e.g. mushrooms on walls), with some of these being part of the Little Street Art Festival 2024. There were also signs put up for humour in the city. An example was:

WALKING SPEED LIMIT – 2.83 km/hr

Poster Art has involved students and workshops, with various artistic projects occurring during 2024 – 2026.

There are more NZ artists participating in Urban Art now, after the movement commenced with overseas artists. Many of the works are temporary, and may get covered over by construction, or painted over to produce a new mural.

Christchurch has built a reputation for its urban landscape, and artistically has been identified as one of the best cities in the World – truly a major coup.

Thank you, Reuben, for coming and sharing your knowledge of Urban Art with us – your talk brought it all to life.

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

Footnote: Pretty impressive the speakers Graham D. lines up. Last night he [Reuben] addresses us; today he is in the paper!

President Geoff.

- To view article, see attachment to this email.



Upcoming meetings:

- **23 September**

Glenda Goatley - Glenlothian Farm & the Rare Breeds Society of Canterbury

- **30 September**

Club Forum Night – Committee Updates

- **07 October**

Mark Atherton - San Francisco, The Underbelly, A collection of short essays about unexpected adventures during the 90's

Community Service project:

- **John Taylor Walkway**

A new date has been confirmed with the Park Ranger Nigel.

Saturday 17th October 2026

10-12am Work details to be confirmed nearer the time and BBQ to follow.

Notices:

- **OCTOBER WALK/LUNCH THURSDAY 15**

- **Project Rotary – Say No to Domestic and Family Violence**

This is a nationwide initiative to raise awareness of domestic and family violence. Australia has already raised the campaign across the country.

The organising team have been communicating with Police, Social Welfare, Rape Crisis, White Ribbon, Salvation Army etc.

The initiative will focus on two key activities:

1. Purple Fridays – wear a purple Rotary t-shirt
2. A District purple walk in November – bringing our communities together.

At the moment the organisers are gauging interest and wish that those clubs wanting to participate register their interest. They wish to have this project ready to launch on 1 October if there is enough interest.

The next step is to register our interest.

- Viv

Duties:

Duty	23-Sept-26	30-Sept-26	7-Oct-26
Cash Desk	M Bruce	A Airay	M Bruce
Cash Desk	A McCully	H Garlick	A Stewart
Reception	H Garlick	S Mackenzie	A Airay
Speaker's Host	A Stewart	#N/A	G Dockrill
Grace	A Stewart	L Bougen	G Dockrill
International Toast	H Garlick	S Mackenzie	A Airay
Thanks to Speaker	M Bruce	#N/A	A Stewart
Quote for the Week	A McCully	H Garlick	M Bruce
Speaker Reporter	M Opie	D Peterson	A McKinnon
Sergeant	G Dockrill	M Bruce	D Peterson

Leave:

	from	to
S Haye	11/08/2020	TBA
E Bermingham	01/01/2023	TBA
A Kim	30/06/2025	TBA
M Bruce	15 July 2026	09 Sept. 2026
M Soares	01/05/2026	04/11/2026

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

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.

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