

Rotary Club of Christchurch South



24 January 2024

Tonight, we were addressed by Bob Parr, a security specialist with an impressive military and security services background who together with his wife Nicky is to undertake what is claimed to be the “world’s toughest row” at the end of this year. The race involves 35 participants who will be rowing either single, double, triple or 4-person boats which carry their provisions and a solar powered desalinator to provide water. The boat they will be on is to be called “The Glimmering Sea” which has a connection to the British SAS unit where Bob served during his 24 years in the British Army and Royal Marines. The boat weighs 700kg, is 7.3m long, 1.7m wide and has a 0.26m draught and is self-righting, which is most important as one of the biggest challenges they face is the weather.

The race starts on the island of La Gomera in the Canaries off NW Africa and ends 3000 miles to the west in Antigua in the Caribbean. As such they will be assisted by prevailing NE trade winds and associated ocean currents but nevertheless the first boat is expected to take 38 days, the last 100 days. Bob expects he and Nicky will take a “couple of months”. They are doing the race to raise funds for Pilgrim Bandits, a charity set up by special force members in 2007 to help injured men and women from the Military or Emergency Services who suffer Post Traumatic Stress Disorder as a result of their activities.

Bob left the army in 1999 and subsequently worked for the next 10 years for CBS in Los Angeles as a producer in charge of co-ordinating security, risk management, communications and film crew competition logistics for The Amazing Race, filmed in more than 100 countries. He then emigrated to New Zealand having been inspired at an early age by kiwi rowing and sailing icons and has been running his company called SO3 from Pegasus.

Nevertheless, his boat’s name and the charity Bob and Nicky are raising funds for hark back to his SAS days.

A line from a poem "The golden journey to Samarkand" by James Elroy Flecker runs:

But who are ye in rags and rotten shoes, you dirty-bearded, blocking up the way?
We are the Pilgrims, master: we shall go Always a little further: it may be beyond that last blue mountain barred with snow, across that angry or that glimmering sea.

The italicized portion is inscribed on the clock tower at SAS headquarters in Hereford explaining the name he has chosen for his boat and use of the word “Pilgrims” when referring to members of the SAS unit.

An inspiring address by an inspiring man - "that island of England breeds very valiant creatures" (but they didn’t win the Rugby World Cup 2023).



Thank you Geoff for the report and Viv for the photographs

Upcoming Meetings

31 January 2024 Renee Jones
Life Education Trust – Learning with Harold the Giraffe

7 February 2024 Club AGM
Election of Officers. Presentation of Audited Accounts

14 February 2024 Jeremy Nurse
The 180 Degrees Trust - utilising the natural environment, challenging youth to achieve their potential

Upcoming Events

To be announced

Notices

A promotional banner for a 'Walk for Dementia' event. The left side has a red background with white text: 'Walk for Dementia' in a large, elegant font, followed by 'Sunday, 3 March, 2024. 10.30am - 12 noon' in a smaller font, and a white button with the text 'REGISTER NOW'. The right side of the banner shows a photograph of several people, including women in red vests, walking on a blue track.

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

Duties

Duty	31-Jan-24	7-Feb-24	14-Feb-24
Cash Desk	P Mears	G Bailey	S Harris
Cash Desk	A Stewart	D Buist	A McKinnon
Reception	M Bruce	A Kim	R Palmer
Speaker's Host	S Mackenzie	#N/A	D Buist
Grace	S Mackenzie	H Garlick	D Buist
International Toast	M Bruce	A Kim	R Palmer
Thanks to Speaker	A Stewart	#N/A	A McKinnon
Quote for the Week	P Mears	G Bailey	S Harris
Speaker Reporter	A McKinnon	A Airay	A Stewart
Sergeant	G Dockrill	V Ellis	D Peterson

Leave

Who	From	To
M Whitehead	9/9/15	TBA
J Wylie		TBA
S Hays	11/8/20	TBA
K Moss	24/6/23	TBA
E Bermingham	1/1/23	TBA
A Kim	9/8/23	18/1/24
R McKinney	16/9/23	30/4/24

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Website

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.