

Rotary Club of Christchurch South



3 April 2024

Orana Park - the Christchurch treasure that many of us have forgotten about. Tonight's talk by Nathan Hawke, Orana Park's Marketing, Public Relations and Visitor Services Manager, was a reminder to many that it is far too long since we have been to this wonderful zoo on the outskirts of our city.

It is coming up to 50 years since it was started by the South Island Zoological Society. In those early days they had a drive through lion reserve and then from 1999 a lion encounter which was unique in the southern hemisphere, although this is not operating at the moment. Currently the zoo is operated by the Orana Park Wildlife Trust which has expanded it to involve 60 staff (48FTEs) and 70 volunteers including our own Andrew Kim. Remarkably, the zoo has about 1000 animals of 70 different species on their 185 hectare site.

A visit to Orana Park is an opportunity to see many animals from Africa, New Zealand, Asia, Australia and America. The Gorillas are particularly special, being the only ones in New Zealand since 2016. The Tasmanian Devil is the only one to be found outside Australia. It's important to remember that running a zoo is much more than looking after some special animals. Many of them are threatened species so Orana Park is involved with other zoos around in the world in breeding programmes aimed at preservation and maintaining genetic diversity. This is time consuming and expensive.

The zoo has an extensive native fauna collection and is inevitably involved with organisations such as the Department of Conservation in programmes aimed at preserving some of our endangered species. They have a breeding programme for brown kiwi and are also involved in conservation programmes for South Island whio (blue duck), pāteke (brown teal), orange-fronted parakeet/kākāriki karaka and Maud Island frogs. 10 staff are dedicated to this work.

It is well known that interaction with animals helps to break down barriers and build confidence. Being able to hand feed animals such as the giraffes and pet animals in the farmyard are therefore important aspects of the zoo visitor's experience. Groups often visit the zoo specifically to give their members the benefit of this experience. The Orana Park staff also run formal education programmes which line up with the school curriculum from new entrants right through to year 13.

So what about the future? A new programme involves exploring the "non-public" part of the zoo site to identify the biodiversity that naturally exists there and making it a habitat in its own right. However, all of this costs – about \$100,000 per week! Prior to 2015, about 95% of the required income came from gate takings from the 160,000 to 200,000 annual visitors, but increased costs have reduced that to about 65%. The Park is hopeful the current deliberations on the Christchurch

City Council Annual Plan with result in some financial assistance from that source. We can help by making a submission of we're so inclined, but beyond that it behoves us all to visit the zoo and enjoy the experience that is sitting there waiting!



Thank you Alan for the report and Viv for the photograph

Upcoming Meetings

10 April 2024

Author **Jan Wells**

'Taming the Wild Grape' – A fictional account of the State of Ohio in the 1800s

17 April 2024

Carl Davidson

Loneliness in Christchurch – Researching the Facts

24 April 2024

Club Forum

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.

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

Duties

Duty	10-Apr-24	17-Apr-24	24-Apr-24
Cash Desk	G Dockrill	A McKinnon	G Bailey
Cash Desk	P Mears	D Peterson	M Bruce
Reception	M Bruce	A Kim	V Ellis
Speaker's Host	H Garlick	S Mackenzie	#N/A
Grace	H Garlick	S Mackenzie	D Buist
International Toast	M Bruce	A Kim	V Ellis
Thanks to Speaker	G Dockrill	A McKinnon	#N/A
Quote for the Week	P Mears	D Peterson	M Bruce
Speaker Reporter	G Bailey	A McCully	A Stewart
Sergeant	V Ellis	A Airay	L Brown

Leave

Who	From	To
M Whitehead	9/9/15	TBA
J Wylie		TBA
S Hays	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