



Rotary Club of Christchurch South Inc.

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

SERVICE ABOVE SELF



Bulletin

#04 for 22 July 2026

SPEAKER REPORT – 22 JULY 2026

Captain Phillip Sweetman - From Ocean Horizons to Harbour Lights: A Sea Pilot's Journey.

Tonight, we were taken on an intriguing 'journey around the world' and eventually to home here in Lyttelton. But firstly, we were told a bit about Captain Phillip's early life as a child. We were told that through his father's employment postings, he went to many schools around the world; every six to nine months a new school and from time to time a new country. He never got to have school mates as we did.

Captain Phillip's career at sea actually started by accident. After failing the eyesight test for an aircraft pilot, he was told that he had achieved the maritime standard with his results.

After completing two years of theory at the Maritime Academy in Auckland, he then spent the next 18 months travelling around the world. In 2008, he was an Officer Cadet (Officer on Watch) onboard tramp ships based out of Singapore. This meant that wherever the cargo was, the ships would go - the Caribbean, Europe, USA and Africa - enjoying the challenges of deep-sea voyages. His talk was greatly supported by video showing the various routes.

We were shown pictures and video sketches of various aspects of sea life – foam fire fighting (can't use water on oil fires!), free-fall abandon ship, pirates We were told that a major retrofit of 3 (5?) years duration was in contrast to its disassembly over 2 months in Sri Lanka. Of training cadets. Of Christmas redundancy and for his 24 crew members whom he had to tell. Photographs of ships' collision damage - 2 inch steel plating ripped open along its seam. So much more



At Lyttelton port, Philip says the two tugs, Blackadder and Piaka, require a separate skill set in that they have twin propellers that can swivel to allow the vessels to move sideways. They are essentially 200-tonne bumper boats with a lot of horsepower.

AI has it that “These [Lyttelton] tugs assist with approximately 1,800 ship movements each year”.

An understanding of and background to, the tugs, makes for a better pilot - one aware of what the tug capabilities are.

Being based ashore has the great advantage of being home at nights, not-with-standing that, quote: “the port handles ship movements at night. As the South Island's largest import/export port, it operates continuously” AI.

An intriguing presentation, generating plenty of questions and comments from the audience.

Thanks to Viv for the photo

M.

Upcoming meetings:

- **29 July**

AGM and Club project updates. RYLA student Gabby Brown reporting

- **5 August**

Aurora Collier-Lowe - An adventure at Rotary Science & Technology Forum

- **12 August**

Caleb Ryder & Jackson Meecham - Fish & Game NZ

- **19 August**

Tayla Neal - Full Bellies - providing children with nutritional food delivered into schools for families in need.

- **26 August**

Club project updates

UPCOMING ROTARY COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

1. John

**Saturday 8th
10-12 for**

CANCELED
To be held at another date.

Taylor Walkway

**August '26 (this is an amended date!)>
maintenance Followed by a BBQ.**

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Notices:

- **Reminder that our tour of the ONE NZ Stadium is 30th July, Thursday, 2pm.**

Meet at Gate A.

Parking is available in the nearby high rise parking buildings.

Look forward to seeing you there.

- **The Big Sleepout Fundraiser for Christchurch Methodist Mission**

As many readers will know, some members and others connected with Christchurch South Rotary are participating in the Big Sleepout Fundraiser where they will be sponsored to sleep rough on the grass at Te Kaha (the new stadium) on the night of Thursday 13th August.

Those participating are: Mike Osselton, Geoff Bailey, Linda Bougen, Alison MacDonald and Martin T (friends of Linda's), and Alan McKinnon.

Thank you for the generous sponsorship received so far which as at 9.00pm on 26 July (time of this Bulletin preparation) has amounted to \$4341. We are keen to raise as much as we can to help Christchurch Methodist Mission help those for whom sleeping out is their norm. So, if you wish to contribute please follow the link:

<https://bigsleepoutsouth.nz/t/christchurch-south-rotary>

and donate to one of the people listed there. Any questions to Alan McKinnon (alan.barbara.mckinnon@gmail.com or 021 142 7668)

- **AUGUST WALK/LUNCH THURSDAY 20th.**

Duties:

Duty	29-Jul-26	5-Aug-26	12-Aug-26
Cash Desk	A Airay	A McCully	L Bougen
Cash Desk	D Peterson	M Osselton	H Garlick
Reception	L Bougen	G Dockrill	A McKinnon
Speaker's Host	#N/A	A Stewart	M Opie
Grace	H Garlick	A Stewart	M Opie
International Toast	L Bougen	G Dockrill	A McKinnon
Thanks to Speaker	#N/A	M Osselton	H Garlick
Quote for the Week	D Peterson	A McCully	L Bougen
Speaker Reporter	V Ellis	D Peterson	A McCully
Sergeant	A Stewart	A Airay	V Ellis

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
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.

