



Rotary Club of Christchurch South Inc.

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

SERVICE ABOVE SELF



Bulletin

#43 for 20 May 2026

The White Room Creative Space for People with Learning Difficulties

Simon Gray spoke to us about The White Room, a charity and a creative space that removes barriers for those with disabilities to make art. It enables artists to access materials, develop their creativity and express themselves through art at the same time connecting with others. The White Room offers art sessions with over 60 artists attending each week, Monday to Saturday.

This space started in 2014 and has since grown to a dedicated art space now located in Avonside Drive. The room chosen for this at SkillWise HQ just happened to be painted white hence the name The White Room. It is four times as big as the original space.



Facilities in the Christchurch Public library, Turanga, to include sewing machines, 3D cutters and craft and vinyl cutters to make vinyl stickers are also used by this group. It's great to see Turanga used in this way.

The community can also enjoy the art produced through many exhibitions and events, for example in Linwood at the Eastside Gallery, The Christchurch Art Show and an annual Pop Up Shop.
Viv. (Photo)

There is a shipping container in Cashel Mall that can be rented to display their art. The Tannery also rents out space where the artists help operate the shop, at the same time talking and engaging with the public. In 2025 over 150 pieces of art were sold.

Gary, who also attended Rotary the night Simon spoke, is a wonderful example of someone who has worked in The White Room and produced many pieces of Art. He has an interest in the architecture of the City depicted in his art. Gary entered the IHC Art Awards and won third Prize. The art I liked the best, Artist Gary, was the one of Sydney Harbour to include the Harbour Bridge, Opera House and fireworks. Thank you Gary you are certainly incredibly passionate about your work. Thank you too for answering our questions.

Another piece of art that I found intriguing was one made from used paper coffee cups to represent a Christmas tree.

The White Room is funded and supported by: SkillWise, Ministry of Social Development, Arts Access Aotearoa, Christchurch City Council, Creative – the Arts Council of New Zealand, Rata Foundation, Kiwi Gaming Foundation to name a few. Since Covid The White Room has received a lot of support.

The White Room is always seeking volunteers. If you are wanting to support this programme ‘volunteering with The White Room is a great opportunity to support accessible arts, connect and be part of a vibrant, creative space’.

If you’re interested, the contact email address is: thewhiteroom@skillwise.org.nz

It is hoped that The White Room continues to receive the sponsorship it needs to enable it maintain its success well into the future.

Thanks to Viv for the report.

Upcoming meetings:

- **27 May**

Club Forum Night

- **3 June**

Hannah Reed - Blood Cancer NZ

- **10 June**

Josh Gardiner - Christchurch City Mission Community Outreach to the Homeless

- **17 June**

Gabby Brown - my RYLA experience

- **24 June**

Change Over Night - the year past and the year ahead.

- **UPCOMING ROTARY COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS**

- 1. John Taylor Walkway**

Saturday 13th June '26

10-12 for maintenance Followed by a BBQ.

- 2. Cashmere Stream Esplanade**

WINTER PLANTING DAY

Saturday 18th July

10-12 with a shared lunch to follow.

- 3. • Save the Date:**

Dementia Canterbury Street Appeal

Friday November 6th 2026 – St Martins New World

Notices:

- **Come join us on our walk and/or lunch on Thur 21 May**

Date: Thursday 21 May

Park/Meet Old Stone House, (Shalamar Drive off Cashmere Road

Time: 10.30am

Walk: Worsleys Road, Long Acre Road, Tracks across Wet Land Areas. Shirley will touch on the early Indian history of the Old Stone House and new developments.

Lunch: Urban Eatery, Oderings, Cashmere Road, 12 noon

Leader: Shirley

If you are unable to join the walk, then come and have lunch with us.

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

Please let David (david.buist@xtra.co.nz) know if you are walking, lunching or both.

- **June Walk - SATURDAY 20 June**

• From: Paul Gardner <paul.gardner@salvationarmy.org.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 12 May 2026 9:48 am

To: Graham Dockrill - Citrus Tree Consultants <graham@citrustreeconsultants.com>

Cc: Raewyn Gardner <raewyn.gardner@salvationarmy.org.nz>

Subject: Christchurch South Rotary and The Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal

Kia ora Graham

I want to personally thank you and the whole team that so kindly helped us with our appeal this year.

Just to let you know that Sydenham TSA had four sites and a target of \$15,000. We actually achieved \$22,000 (the best result to target in the country) and that our best performing site was the New World, St Martins, where you provided us with collectors for a full day! (Go you lovely people)

We are planning a celebration Sunday service starting at 10.30am on 31 May (Certificates, thank you's, and... most importantly... a barbecue after) and we would love to welcome any of our friends at Rotary who are available to attend.

Once again, thank you all so much. Your help is what allows us to provide the assistance that so many need at the moment.

God bless

Paul Gardner | Corps Officer

The Salvation Army | Sydenham

Duties:

Duty	27-May-26	3-Jun-26	10-Jun-26
Cash Desk	G Bailey	A Airay	G Bailey
Cash Desk	A McKinnon	M Bruce	M Opie
Reception	M Osselton	S Mackenzie	V Ellis
Speaker's Host	#N/A	L Bougen	H Garlick
Grace	H Garlick	L Bougen	H Garlick
International Toast	M Osselton	S Mackenzie	V Ellis
Thanks to Speaker	#N/A	A Airay	G Bailey
Quote for the Week	A McKinnon	M Bruce	M Opie
Speaker Reporter	A McCully	A McKinnon	D Peterson
Sergeant	M Opie	V Ellis	D Buist

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 Soares	01/05/2026	04/11/2026	MEM

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.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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