Rotary Club of Christchurch South Inc.

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

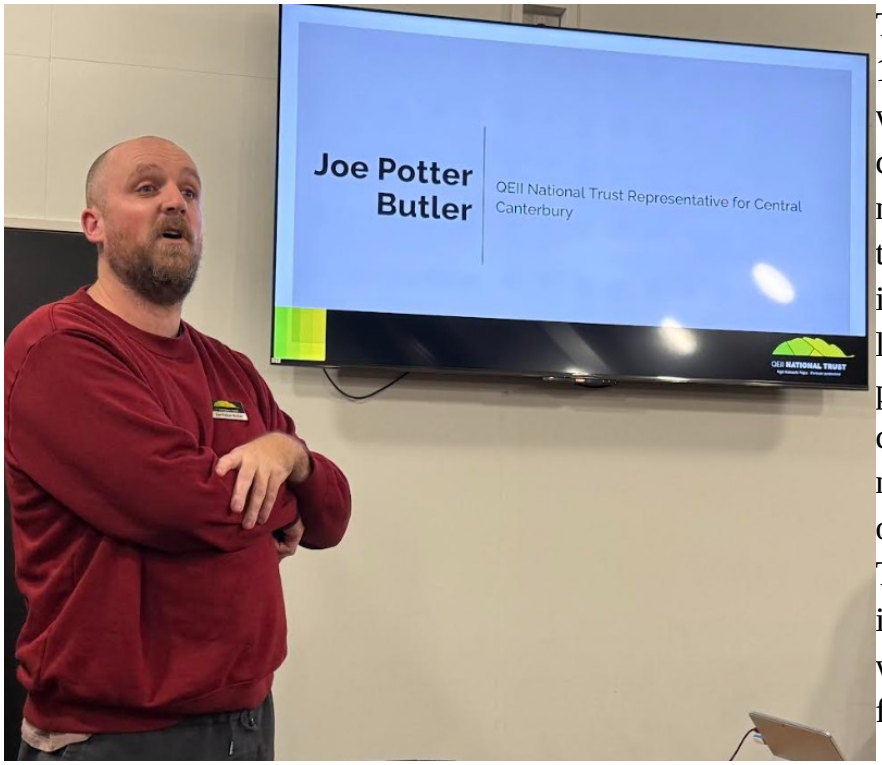
SERVICE ABOVE SELF

BulleTin

#10 for 02 September 2026

SPEAKER REPORT – 02 September 2026

Tonight's speaker was Joe Potter Butler from the QEII National Trust. Joe is QEII representative for Central Canterbury.



TheTrust was established in 1977 in an act of parliament with powers to deal with conservation. DOC absorbed many of those powers, so that now, the Trust's core job is in partnering with private landowners, to create perpetual open space covenants that legally protect natural and cultural heritage on private land, forever. Thus, to protect for example, indigenous vegetation, wetlands, dunes, reptiles, fish, ...

To that end, there is more demand now for covenants, than the Trust can handle, an advantage for farmers being that they don't have to deal with Government and in particular DOC.

The setting up of a covenant comes about from a farmer's initiative, an opportunity bearing in mind that 75% of NZ land is privately owned, mostly mountainous.

Some grazing is sometimes a feature, e.g. wetlands. Fencing is often on the Deed and the actual fencing is often done by local body.

The QEII National Trust Board is made up of six directors, four of whom are appointed by the Minister of Conservation. They reflect environmental and conservation values, rural landowner interests, and the Māori community. Two directors are elected by the members of the QEII National Trust. There are around 20 staff members based in Wellington covering legal, ecology, policy, communications, and operations. In the regions, twenty seven independent contractors (ground staff} monitor covenants and negotiate new protections.

Joe's role is on the ground and includes:

- Monitoring: meeting people; recording species; checking conditions of forests; working out solutions for breaches of Deeds; repeat photographs for records and analysis.
- New covenants.
- Accessing finance
- Community engagement

The Trusts philosophy is to see nature do well. Legacy was a reason for its establishment.

Interestingly/encouragingly there is a Christchurch city rates relief for having a covenant.

So where is QEII Trust in 2026? Funding is mainly Government, so is uncertain. Initiatives for covenants is oversubscribed, a function of available money.

Ways to help:

- Will gift
- Donate
- Join as a member

Next year is the Trust's 50th Jubilee. Fifty years then, since our club's very own member, Peter Mears, set up the very first national covenant (#001}, at Mears Bush (Track) at Oxford.

M.

Thanks to Viv for the photograph.

Harold. 50 years in Rotary

Harold with certificate recognising 50 years service within our club and presented by President Geoff.

Wonderful achievement, Harold. A gift to mankind.

Upcoming meetings:

- **9 September**

  Grant Ryan – The Cacophony Project. Predator management, and restoring native bird populations.16 September

- **16 September**

  Dr Rueben Woods - 'Watch This Space' Exploring Christchurch through urban art

- **23September**

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

- **30 September**

`Club Forum Night – Committee Updates

Hensh 2026

Student Volunteer Army (SVA) Platoons:

Acknowledging the willing, cheerful, charitable help on home deliveries day that we had from the student volunteer army.

(Find SVA in their banner).

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:

- **Your editor's new email address:**
  melvilleopie@gmail.com

- **Nepal Crisis -** Assistance to survivors of Nepal flash flooding

Please be aware of the content in the attachment to this Bulletin issue, of a conversation between President Geoff and

PHF. Rtn./Rtr. Roshan Karki

President-Elect

Rotary Club of RudramaΘ Kathmandu

Rotary Internatonal District 3292, Nepal

- GET READY FOR RYLA 2027!
  Empowering Future Leaders Since 1959

Applications are open! This is your Club's chance to sponsor the next generation of changemakers.

Our District is fortunate to offer 2 RYLA Courses. Your candidate can select from either Queenstown or Christchurch. Factors that might effect their choice is location, their age or date suitability.

RYLA Queenstown 31st January – 5th February
Age: 20-30 years
$1,175pp for Clubs and non-profits (add GST for Corporate applicants)
RYLA Christchurch 17th – 21st January
Age: 18-25 years
$1,175pp or Clubs and non-profits (add GST for Corporate applicants)

RYLA Overview

The RYLA Leadership Programme is a transformative 4-5 day live-in experience designed to develop leadership, self-awareness, and a sense of community in young leaders aged from 18-30. It's not just about learning leadership — it's about living it. Participants are immersed in a dynamic, supportive environment where they are challenged, inspired, and empowered.
Applications will be considered from clubs, corporates and other community groups who wish to sponsor their rising stars within their business or organisation. A **flyer** is attached for each course for you to email to your networks/contacts/local business owners.
Head to the District website HERE for all info

- **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	9-Sept-26	16-Sept-26	23-Sept-26
Cash Desk	A Airay	L Bougen	M Bruce
Cash Desk	A McCully	A McKinnon	A McCully
Reception	M Opie	M Bruce	H Garlick
Speaker's Host	V Ellis	G Dockrill	A Stewart
Grace	V Ellis	G Dockrill	A Stewart
International Toast	M Opie	M Bruce	H Garlick
Thanks to Speaker	A McCully	L Bougen	M Bruce
Quote for the Week	A Airay	A McKinnon	A McCully
Speaker Reporter	D Peterson	A McCully	D Peterson
Sergeant	D Buist	M Opie	M Osselton

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 11.00amWednesday.

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.