

Rotary Club of Christchurch South



31 January 2024

Learning with Harold the Giraffe – sound familiar? There’s a good chance that many of our children had the benefit of school visits from Life Education Trust Canterbury, of which our speaker, Susan O’Meagher is the current chairperson. The hallmark of these education sessions was, and still is, a popular hand puppet called Harold the Giraffe which originated when the organisation was first formed in Australia over 35 years ago.

Life Education Canterbury, one of 32 similar trusts in New Zealand, began in 1988 and operates in the region from Rakaia to Hurunui. Originally working from a static classroom, the courses are now delivered from four especially fitted out trucks that offer a portable environment for the sessions to take place as they move from school to school. From the pictures we were shown these appear to be very attractive and high-tech.

The objective of the Trust is to inspire tamariki and rangitahi to make positive choices in their lives.

The main area of activity is in primary and intermediate schools although there is increasing involvement in high schools recognizing that these days “growing up isn’t easy”. The anxiety levels among New Zealand children are reported to be higher than in many OECD countries. The programmes line up with the national curriculum but what is presented in each school is tailored according to the wants and needs of the school. For primary schools the topics covered are how special the human body is, relationships and communities, resilience and identity and helpful and harmful substances. The Two Raw Sisters, who operate out of Welles Street, Christchurch are also involved in providing cooking and nutrition sessions for the children.

Their high school programmes include SMASH which uses live theatre and interactive workshops to engage students on the dangers of underage drinking, BEHIND THE SCENES which uses theatre-in-education to explore the health risks related to vaping and social media and SMART\$ or MONEY MOJO which is aimed at provoking thinking and conversation around everyday financial decisions and opportunities impacting young people. There is also a professional development programme for teachers to help them more confidently deal with these issues in the classroom.

Susan described to us a “lean” organisation employing trained teachers as educators, of course, but otherwise keeping costs to a minimum. The ongoing maintenance of the trucks is a significant issue and they are exploring what the future might look like without them. However, they recognise the importance of Harold and would not want to undermine his image. Their major fund-raiser is their annual duck race which involves many personal and corporate sponsors helping to raise the \$350,000 they need to each year to operate.

Life Education Trust is to be commended for stepping in to help our young people as they confront the increasingly complex issues of modern life. Some would argue that such education is a matter for parents and teachers, but the evidence is very clear that many parents and teachers are not prepared or able to address these issues with their children.



Thank you Alan McKinnon for the report and Alan Airay for the photographs

Upcoming Meetings

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 is a photograph of several elderly people walking on a blue track, some wearing red vests.

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

John Taylor Walkway

Maintenance work is scheduled for Saturday 6th April from 10 - 12, followed by a BBQ. Looking forward to seeing you there.



FASHION

For Hope

HOSTED BY PAIGE SULLIVAN
FINALIST, MISS CANTERBURY 2024

FEATURING LOCAL
CANTERBURY
FASHION DESIGNERS
AND BUSINESSES

**FEBRUARY
29TH**

LINCOLN EVENTS CENTRE
DOORS OPEN AT 6.30PM,
GRAZING TABLE, BAR AND
RAFFLES ON THE NIGHT

A CELEBRATION OF FASHION, FUN AND FRIENDSHIP
JOIN US TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND GIVE BACK

ALL PROFITS DONATED TO I AM HOPE

TICKETS \$30 OR TABLES OF 10 \$300
PLUS BOOKING FEE



TICKETS

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY
ONE AGENCY
REAL ESTATE SPECIALISTS

Duties

Duty	7-Feb-24	14-Feb-24	21-Feb-24
Cash Desk	L Brown	S Harris	L Brown
Cash Desk	D Buist	A McKinnon	R Palmer
Reception	A Kim	R Palmer	S Mackenzie
Speaker's Host		D Buist	G Bailey
Grace	M Bruce	D Buist	G Bailey
International Toast	A Kim	R Palmer	S Mackenzie
Thanks to Speaker		A McKinnon	L Brown
Quote for the Week	L Brown	S Harris	R Palmer
Speaker Reporter	A McCully	A Stewart	V Ellis
Sergeant	V Ellis	D Peterson	A McCully

Leave

Who	From	To
M Whitehead	9/9/15	TBA
J Wylie		TBA
S Haye	11/8/20	TBA
K Moss	24/6/23	TBA
E Bermingham	1/1/23	TBA
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: chchsouthrotary@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.