



Rotary Club of Christchurch South Inc.

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

SERVICE ABOVE SELF



Bulletin

25 for 14 January 2026

Speaker Report for 14 January 2026
Katharine Watson – Christchurch Archaeology Project



We were fortunate to have Katharine speak to our Club and the Cashmere Rotary Club for the first meeting of 2026.

Katharine was a dynamic speaker and is totally passionate about her work. She began her self-employment as a Consultant Archaeologist in 2000, at 23 years of age. Her studies took her to Otago University 1995-1998 – BA (Honours) in Anthropology and 1999-2000 MA Anthropology. She also attended University of Canterbury and achieved Doc of Philosophy in history 2018-2022. and in addition Institute of Directors in NZ Not-for-profit Governance Essentials in 2024.

Katharine was one of the only working Archaeologists in Christchurch for 10 years. A lot of her work was in response to legislation that protects archaeological sites in

NZ and all relating to the European settlement of the City, and items relating to the everyday life in 19th Century Christchurch.

Katharine started up her consulting company Underground Overground Archaeology and when the earthquakes struck she and her team were heavily involved in retrieving and recording items they unearthed from demolished buildings in the central city. There are some half a million artefacts relating to these demolitions and the rebuilds that followed. She said that they are literally from the dustbin of history.

Katharine gave some amusing accounts about the “rubbish” problems in 19th century Christchurch including some reports from the Inspector of Nuisances. In 1863 Christchurch City Council began the first organised collection of rubbish in New Zealand.

After selling her business in 2017 she co-founded Christchurch Archaeology Project and hopes one day to open a museum of Archaeology in the central city. At the moment the museum is online and is searchable by the public.

Between 16-22nd February 2026 there is a free exhibition of some of these items at Christchurch Cathedral.

If you are interested in going tickets are available via
<https://www.christchurcharchaeology.org/cathedral-square-unearthed>

Thanks to Diane for the report and Viv for the photograph.

- **Joint Meeting with Cashmere Rotary, 14 Jan.**



Upcoming Meetings

21/01/2026	Noy Shani – Sports Journalist	Noy Shani - Stories & Life Lessons from Sports Journalism and Beyond
28/01/2026	Club Night – Committees Updates	Club Night – Committees Updates
4/02/2026	Rose Challies	Terra Nova Foundation, Our planet is crying out for change. Join us, as we answer the call - Global Think Tank and Change Activator.

Notices:

- **We sadly record the passing of Club member, Keith Gunasekara.** Keith joined our club in 2006 and was Club President in 2017-18. He was a greatly loved member with a lovely sense of humour.
Always reliable, he had been greatly missed at Club in recent times, as health problems took their toll.
Our deepest condolences go out to Vayomi and family.

Duties:

Duty	21-Jan-26	28-Jan-26	4-Feb-26
Cash Desk	A Airay	H Garlick	D Buist
Cash Desk	A McCully	M Soares	M Opie
Reception	H Garlick	M Bruce	A Airay
Speaker's Host	D Buist	#N/A	G Dockrill
Grace	D Buist	S Mackenzie	G Dockrill
International Toast	H Garlick	M Bruce	A Airay
Thanks to Speaker	A Airay	#N/A	D Buist
Quote for the Week	A McCully	H Garlick	M Opie
Speaker Reporter	M Opie	V Ellis	A McCully
Sergeant	L Bougen	A McKinnon	M Bruce

Leave:

	FROM	TO
S Haye	11/08/20	TBA
E Bermingham	01/01/23	TBA
S McLean	20/03/24	TBA

A Kim	30/06/25	TBA
R McKinney	01/09/25	mid April 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:

APOLOGIES

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.