

Rotary Club of Christchurch South



27 March 2024

Eric Livingstone spoke about

Rewi Alley 1897-1987

An Extraordinary Ordinary New Zealander?

We were very fortunate to have Eric Livingstone talk to us about Rewi Alley's life. I have to admit that I had heard the name but knew nothing of the man himself. Thanks to Eric's detailed talk we are all now very informed.

Rewi was born in Springfield and attended Christchurch Boys High. He died at the age of 90 in Beijing, China.

He served overseas during WW1. Rewi returned to New Zealand for a short while before heading to China to work as a fire officer, factory inspector, relief worker and laboured among the Chinese trying to improve their working conditions. The work listed exposed him to poverty in the Chinese community. During the Japanese invasion of China in 1937, he became involved in Chinese Industrial Cooperatives, known as 'Gung Ho/Work Together,' to create employment. Rewi was also involved in setting up schools in various parts of the country.

For the League of Nations National Flood Relief Commission, Rewi Alley arranged for camps up and down the rivers, becoming very involved in flood and famine work. He potentially saved 300000 refugees from the flooded city of Wuhan.

It has been stated that Rewi '*was a remarkable man and his work is beyond praise*'.

Rewi was a prolific writer and a member of the Communist party.

Both New Zealand and Chinese Governments have honoured Rewi and his work. There are over 40 monuments and memorials to Rewi in China ranging from schools, statues, busts, roads, libraries, hotels, museums, parks, squares and memorials. A house he stayed in has been kept as a memorial and now part of it is a museum. It has been renovated and contains a permanent exhibition of Rewi and his work. He stayed and worked in China for 60 years becoming one of China's best-known and best-loved foreigners.

Eric noted the influences on Rewi's life to include: his parents and upbringing, his deep religious beliefs, home and school education, country life in Amberley and Southland, high school and sports,

war service, military medal and war wounds, witnessing the plight of the ordinary Chinese people, flooding and famine devastation and his amazing success of helping huge numbers of people.

I will conclude by adding some quotes that Eric shared with us:

'You are NZ's greatest son,' NZPM David Lange.

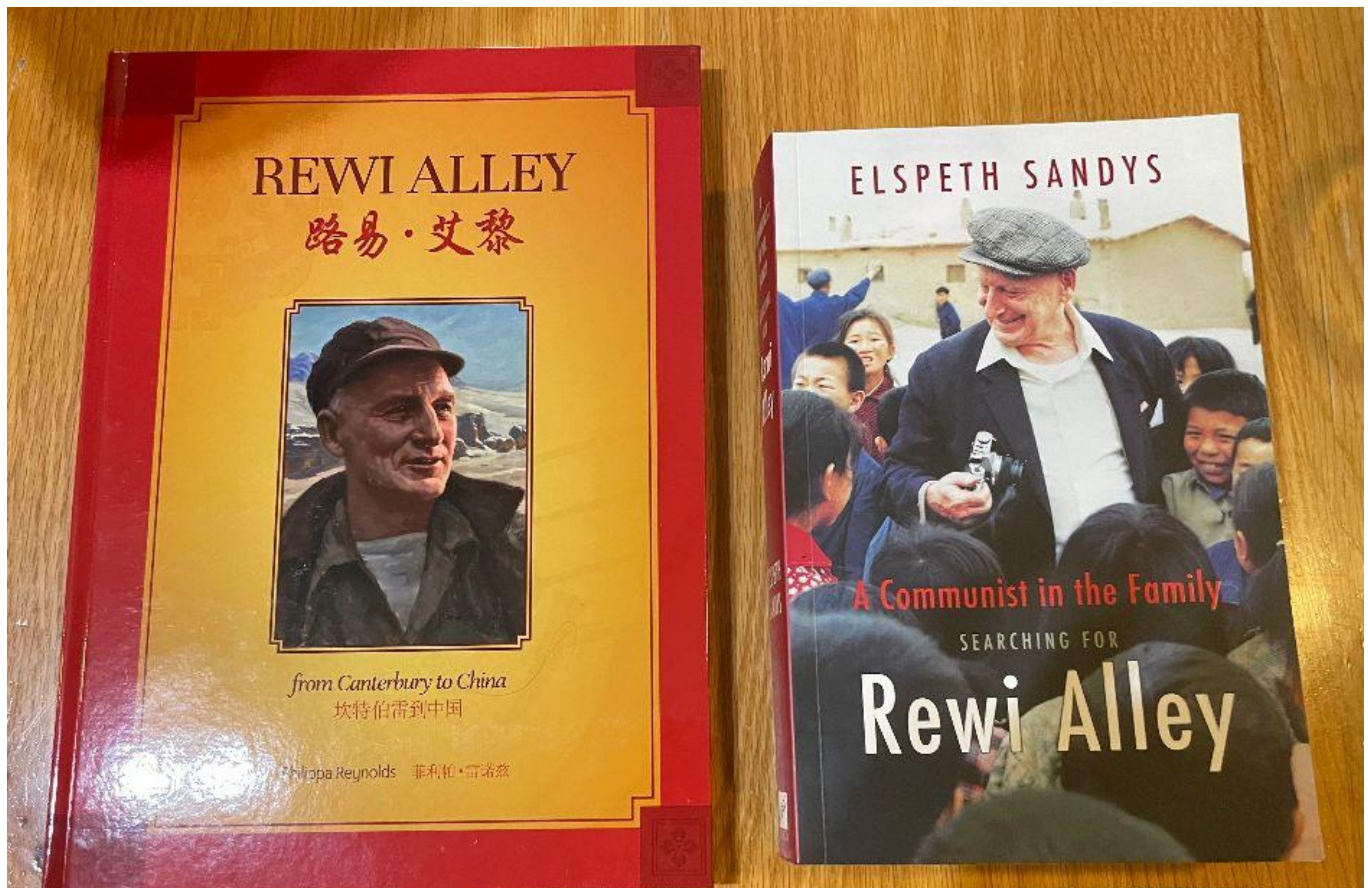
'I have met a Saint,' visiting British Bishop.

'He is amongst my list of Immortals,' Dr Needham, China.

'No one else could have done what he did,' Sir John Hope Simpson, China Head of League of Nations.

Thank you Eric for a very informative talk about an amazing New Zealander.





Thank you Viv for the report and the photographs

Upcoming Meetings

3 April 2024

Nathan Hawke

“The Animals Went in Two by Two, the Elephant and the Kangaroo” - An update from the Orana Wildlife Park

10 April 2024

Author **Jan Wells**

‘Taming the Wild Grape’ – A fictional account of the State of Ohio in the 1800s

17 April 2024

Carl Davidson

Loneliness in Christchurch – Researching the Facts

24 April 2024

Club Forum

Upcoming Events

South Island Rotary Conference 2024 *Creating Hope*

**Te Pae, Christchurch
20 April 2024**

Note: All Ticket prices revert to \$150 from Saturday 2 March

Notices

April Walk and Luncheon

Date: Thursday 18 April

Park: Park in the Victoria Park car park

Meet: 10.30am in the Visitors Centre Victoria Park

Walk: Harry Ell Track. Walk over to Sign of the Kiwi and admire the view if time

Lunch: 12:00 Protocol Colombo Street

Organiser: Viv

If you are unable to join the walk, then feel welcome to join the walkers for lunch.

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

IMPORTANT: There will be work being completed on the roundabout by Protocol, top of Colombo Street so please expect delays.

Please let David know if you are walking, lunching or both **BY Monday 15 APRIL** as Viv will need to confirm numbers at Protocol.

david.buist@xtra.co.nz

An early response would be appreciated.

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.

AVIVA STREET APPEAL

FRIDAY 17th May and

SATURDAY 18th May

From 9-6pm in 2 hour slots

At New World St. Martin's.

Please keep these days free to help.

Rotary Club of Christchurch South

'WORKING BEE'

Cashmere Stream Esplanade

Sunday 10-12 28th April

Shared lunch to follow.

CANCER SOCIETY

Relay For Life CHRISTCHURCH

Let's do something remarkable together!
Sat 6th April 2024, 10am - 10pm Lancaster Park
relayforlife.org.nz

Duties

Duty	3-Apr-24	10-Apr-24	17-Apr-24
Cash Desk	A Airay	G Dockrill	A McKinnon
Cash Desk	R Palmer	P Mears	D Peterson
Reception	H Garlick	M Bruce	A Kim
Speaker's Host	A Kim	H Garlick	S Mackenzie
Grace	A Kim	H Garlick	S Mackenzie
International Toast	H Garlick	M Bruce	A Kim
Thanks to Speaker	A Airay	G Dockrill	A McKinnon
Quote for the Week	R Palmer	P Mears	D Peterson
Speaker Reporter	A McKinnon	S Harris	A McCully
Sergeant	D Peterson	V Ellis	A Airay

Leave

Who	From	To
M Whitehead	9/9/15	TBA
J Wylie		TBA
S Hays	11/8/20	TBA
K Moss	24/6/23	30/6/24
E Bermingham	1/1/23	TBA
R McKinney	16/9/23	30/4/24
S McLean	20/3/24	1/5/24

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