Rotary Club of Christchurch South Inc.

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

SERVICE ABOVE SELF



Bulletin #17 for 21 October 2026

SPEAKER REPORT – 21 October 2026



This week's speaker was Dr Richard Gibbs who is a Soil Science and Sports Surface Specialist, speaking to us about growing grass indoors – the science and technology behind Christchurch's new Te Kaha Stadium.

Richard obtained his PhD at Lincoln and then moved into the field of turf at Aberystwyth University in Wales, after which returned to Palmerston North to continue his turf studies.

he Richard had also worked on the turf surface of the Forsyth Barr Stadium in Dunedin, after being in Auckland working, and seeing an advertisement for the Forsyth Barr Stadium in Dunedin, a fixed roof stadium.

A fixed roof stadium utilises a material called ETFE (ethylene tetrafluoroethylene) as the roof material. ETFE is lightweight, durable, self-cleaning, and has excellent transparency and light transmission, along with being thermally efficient. Richard had spent some time at the Eden project in Cornwall, England, where a trial of growing grass indoors had been successfully undertaken.

Turf plant growth requires:

a. Sufficient light

b. A good balance of drainage and aeration

c. Adequate soil moisture

d. Adequate nutrients

e. Sufficient air movement/ventilation

f. Adequate temperature for growth

In terms of light, the turf needs to have photosynthetically active radiation. Shading can adversely affect growth. ETFE can reflect sunlight, bouncing it off. In the Forsyth Barr Stadium, the stands on the north side were lowered to allow more sunlight on to the pitch.

With Te Kaha Stadium, a stitched turf reinforcement system is used – Richard had a sample of this material to show us. The surface has to host around 13 non-sports events a year (concerts, exhibitions, etc.) in addition to 15 to 17 sports events each year.

The principal challenges for the pitch design include the right turf technology – an optimum temperature of 15 – 25degC (15 – 20 deg C for root growth, and 20 – 25 deg C for leaf growth), along with mist fans to produce humidity, along with the use of hybrid artificial and natural turf.

The base of the pitch is 150mm fine gravel over 300mm sand (with some organic matter included).

This is grown and rolled into large rolls which are then laid in strips.

The pitch has to provide a strong base for scrums in rugby, and for the horses on display at Crusaders' matches. There is the ability to take up damages area and repair them if required.

This was an informative and fascinating address illustrating the practical use of scientific principles in our new state-of-the-art Stadium. Thank you Richard for your address, and for bringing your wife, Helen, along to the meeting.

Thanks to Athol for the report and the photograph.

Upcoming meetings:

- **8 October**

  Club Forum Night – Committee Updates
- **4 November**
- **Hamish Fairburn - Conservation Volunteers New Zealand - A world where people and nature flourish together**
- **11 November**

  TBA
- **18 November**

  Greg Britt - Elgregoe the Magician; A life of magic

Notices:

- **Canterbury Family Violence Collaboration's event on Nov 26, 2026**

Thank you so much for offering to share the information through your club and wider Rotary networks. I really appreciate your support in helping us spread the word about this important kaupapa.
You and your colleagues are warmly welcome to join us for the **Canterbury Family Violence Collaboration (CFVC) White Ribbon Breakfast and Masterclass** on **Thursday 26 November 2026** at the Youth Hub, 109 Salisbury Street, Christchurch.
We have **Jude Simpson MNZM** joining us as our keynote speaker. Jude is a Family Harm Training Advisor with New Zealand Police and brings more than 20 years of experience in family harm prevention and training, alongside a powerful personal story of overcoming adversity and rebuilding healthy relationships.
We have two ticket options available:

- **Morning breakfast and presentations:** $25 early bird / $30 standard
- **Full day, including the afternoon masterclass with Jude:** $50 early bird / $60 standard

Early bird pricing is available until 7 November. The morning session is a great opportunity to come together, hear Jude's story and reflect on how we can all contribute to preventing family violence. The afternoon masterclass offers a chance to continue the kōrero and explore the issues in greater depth.

You can find more information in our latest newsletter here:
https://mailchi.mp/barnardos/cfvc_newsletter_oct_2026
Tickets and registration are available through Humanitix:
https://events.humanitix.com/cfvc-white-ribbon-breakfast-and-masterclass-or-26-november-2026

- **D9999 RYLA 2027 - Applications are OPEN! ...**

The D9999 RYLA Christchurch and Queenstown committees are reaching out to see how your Club is tracking with your candidate selections for RYLA 2027!

Candidates may choose either course, depending on the candidates' age, preferred location, and their availability. It is at the descretion of each committee to consider applicants outside of the stated age range.

- **Christchurch Course: 17–21 January 2027 at College House**

(Ages18–25) — *Applications close 18 November 2026*. Cost $1,175pp (no GST for Clubs)

- **Queenstown Course: 31 January – 5 February 2027 at Lakeland Park Camp (Ages 20–30) — *Applications close 30 November 2026*. Cost $1,175pp (no GST for Clubs)**

All information and application packs are readily available on the Rotary District 9999 Website. If you have any questions or need a hand matching a candidate, please don't hesitate to reach out directly to the course Facilitators.

Queenstown Facilitator - Lee-Ann Murray d9999rylaqt@gmail.com
Christchurch Facilitator - Alan Morgan d9999rylachch@gmail.com

Queenstown ONLINE application form HERE
Christchurch ONLINE application form HERE

Just a reminder, all candidates must be interviewed and endorsed by the sponsor Rotary Club to emailed to the course committee. Selection criteria and interview questions are attached.

Also, please reach out to your business community and networks to offer them the opportunity to sponsor one or more of their rising stars within their workplace.

- ## Dementia Collectors

Dementia Canterbury
St Martins New World
Friday November 6th 2026

Rotary

Dementia Canterbury

Friday November 6th 2026		
Time	Person A	Person B
9:00-11:00am	Sara	Sharon
11:00-1:00pm	Geoff	Alan McKinnon
1:00-3:00pm	Alan Stewart	Graham
3:00pm-5:00pm	Athol	Mel

Duties:

Duty	28-Oct-26	4-Nov-26	11-Nov-26
Cash Desk	G Dockrill	L Bougen	A Airay
Cash Desk	M Opie	H Garlick	G Dockrill
Reception	S Mackenzie	M Opie	A Stewart
Speaker's Host	#N/A	A Stewart	L Bougen
Grace	D Buist	A Stewart	L Bougen
International Toast	S Mackenzie	M Opie	A Stewart
Thanks to Speaker	#N/A	L Bougen	A Airay
Quote for the Week	M Opie	H Garlick	G Dockrill
Speaker Reporter	V Ellis	A McCully	M Opie
Sergeant	M Bruce	A Airay	V Ellis

Leave:

	from	to
S Haye	11/08/2020	TBA
E Bermingham	01/01/2023	TBA
A Kim	30/06/2025	TBA
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 Deskat 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.