



WESTHAVEN VIEW

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Bruce Lawley Tuesday 11th February 2020



It was a pleasure to welcome **Bruce Lawley** to talk to us about the **PBY Catalina, an Amphibious Flying Boat, based at Ardmore Airport in Auckland.** The Catalina plane is Australasia's only active WWII flying boat and the NZ Catalina is one of only a handful of airworthy Catalinas left in the world. Bruce has been involved with The Catalina Club, a voluntary non-profit organization since before the plane's arrival in NZ in 1994, and he has held roles as Director and Committee Member and Pilot for many years.

Saving New Zealand's aviation past for future generations

The history of the Catalina is as fascinating as the plane itself. It started life as an air force plane in the war - the US Navy asking manufacturers to build them a plane capable of long-range flight patrols. And of course, being able to land on sea meant for many runways around the world as the ocean is the longest runway in the world! The plane is capable of flying for 28 hours although 16-18 hours was usually a standard day. The Royal NZ Air Force at one stage during WWII operated 56 Catalinas in the Pacific. These particular aircraft had no wheeled undercarriage and could only land at sea.

The journey to get a Catalina back to NZ started in the early 1990's where a group of 22 passionate people self-funded to buy a plane from a private collector in the United States. The flight started from Hawaii at 2am with a group of people on board, including a journalist from TV3. About halfway back to NZ the right engine started to play up and eventually shut down. This forced an emergency landing in the middle of a (thankfully!) calm Pacific Ocean. However, the emergency landing caused rivets to start to spring leaks and with an 8 hour wait until help could get to them (a container ship from Auckland) they were forced to the life boat and the plane unfortunately sank. *Continued next page....*

Rotary



Upcoming Speakers

10th March: No speaker — Admin meeting

Upcoming Events

April 4th: Nepal Society @ Aotea Square (we will have a stand)

27th June: Elaine Mead's Changeover event

May 2020: Club Leader's Seminar

Boat Trip to Motuihe Island: date to be confirmed

Harbour Clean-Up: date to be confirmed



THOUGHT

"PEACE IS NOT THE ABSENCE OF CONFLICT, BUT THE ABILITY TO COPE WITH IT"

Mahatma Gandhi

Want to know more about Rotary?

Click on links below:

[Rotary Westhaven website](#)

[Rotary District 9910 website](#)

Meetings

When: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays

Venue: Billfish Café Z Pier Westhaven Drive

Time: 7.00am for 7.15am start

President: Regina Smuga

Secretary: Louise Shearer

Treasurer: Tom Morton

Bulletin: Clare McCall

To unsubscribe or amend email:

d9910rotarywesthaven@gmail.com



They have no idea where she landed on the ocean floor as the plane would've 'flown' underwater and her final resting place could've been many miles from where they got onto the lifeboat.

After returning, disheartened, to NZ they received a call from a man in Zimbabwe who, after seeing how determined they were, offered them his plane. It had been running trips up the Nile and he was ready to retire and wanted to see the plane go to such supporters. Following a successful trip back to NZ this adventure aircraft was revamped, with Air NZ donating seats, where it operates pleasure flights out of Ardmore Airport.

The plane can seat 18 passengers in 2 cabins with 4 crew.

And 4 people are able to sit in

the blister which would be a fascinating (& terrifying to some!) view from the air. There are only 7 of these aircraft still flying in the world and this plane is only one of two that can take passengers, so it really is a

Conflict and violence displaced more than 68 million people in the past year and half of those are children.

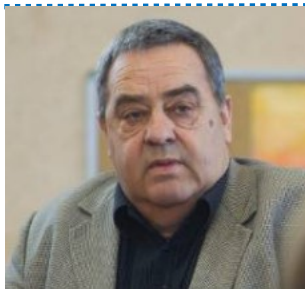
UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 15 Ardmore Airport Ardmore Warbirds Open Day

<https://nzwarbirds.org.nz/news-and-events.html>

WARBIRDS OVER WANAKA AIRSHOW 2020

www.warbirdsoverwanaka.com



Mike Williams, Tuesday 25th February 2020

We were delighted (and a little awestruck - guilty!) to welcome **Mike Williams, CEO of The New Zealand Howard League for Penal Reform**. Whilst Mike is more famous for his role as President of The Labour Party which he held for length of Helen Clark's term, following a break after this role, he has been involved with The NZ Howard League since 2011.

The Howard League was formed in England in 1866 and in New Zealand in 1923 by Sir Peter Williams, however it had petered out over the years and didn't really exist until Mike got involved in 2011. NZ only got rid of corporate penalty in jail in 1938, following praise by Hitler for still whipping prisoners. Certainly the final push needed to see how terrible this behavior was! This organization has mighty people behind it, along with Mike as CEO, Tony Gibbs was President from 2011-2020 and The Honourable Judith Tizard is now President with Patron Emeritus Dame Catherine Tizard.

Reducing prison population, reducing recidivism rates and helping reintegration into communities

NZ has one of the highest rates of incarceration around the world; 212 people per 100,000 are in jail, compared with 136 in Australia, 146 in the UK and 58 people per 100,000 in Finland! The

statistics get even more horrific, with Maori making up 51% of the prison population. When you combine this with the fact that Maori in NZ makes up approximately 14% of the population you start to see how prejudiced our prison system is. For context, Pakeha make up 80% of the population and only 33% of the prison population. Research has shown that our high rates aren't because of longer sentences or a wider range of offences, it's because of reoffending.

The Howard League works to reduce prison population, reduce recidivism rates and help integrate prisoners back into the community by offering support such as basic literacy and numeracy programmes in jails & alcohol and drug rehabilitation facilities, providing 1:1 support to for participants to get drivers licenses, providing Te Reo programmes, donating books and many other wonderful initiatives, all working to reduce the number of people in prisons and reintegrate them back into society in a meaningful way.

Mike quoted author Neil Gaiman, who stated, show me how many 10 or 11 year old boys can't read or write and that's the incarceration rate in 10 years. One of the many of the biases that exist in our judiciary show that 2/3 of first sentences for Maori include driving offenses, with rural Maori being particularly effected. Once these young men get into the prison system they cannot survive without joining a gang, their 3 month prison term for a minor driving offense could see them spend many years in and out of the prison system. Getting a drivers license, or learning to read and write, or learning employment skills heavily reduces the risk of reoffending and gives these marginalized communities opportunities to thrive.



Former PM Helen Clark attends Literacy Programme award ceremony. Photo by Anna Loren

Mike shared with us some of the many success stories of the programme, one of the first graduates was on his 13th jail sentence when the Howard League got involved. Since graduating this man has not reoffended since 2013.

Another let down of the system in NZ is that when prisoners are on shorter jail sentences they get no opportunity to attend any training. In California an Act was introduced that would see shorter prison sentences for improved skills, like literacy.

This has resulted in a massive 26% reduction in prison population in just 7 years. One of the other programmes the Howard League offers is beekeeping training; to date 60 “beekeepers” have graduated from this programme and have been released from prison, never to reoffend again and they are all now beekeeping as fulltime employment. It really does open your eyes to a better way of doing things doesn’t it! Since The Howard League have been involved in literacy programmes in NZ jails the illiteracy rates have dropped from 65% to 57%!

The Howard League also now runs programmes in 14 locations aimed at getting drivers licenses for youth on probation. The three main reasons that were found why youth are not getting licenses are lack of money, having a legal vehicle and a classroom setting doesn’t work for a lot of these people, 1:1 training is proven to be far more successful. This programme was started in the Hawkes Bay area where Corrections offered \$20,000 to get this programme up and running, after raising another \$80,000 themselves the training started with 168 youth offenders, 148 of these people got licenses and half of these got jobs and disappeared from the justice system. Just mind blowing isn’t it! This has also been successfully repeated in West Auckland and Whangarei with similar success stories. Getting a drivers license, something so many of us take for granted, really does change lives.

We would like to thank Mike for taking the time out of his busy schedule to come to our Club for this interesting, engaging and sobering presentation. We as a Club would love to get on board to help The New Zealand Howard League undertaken this life changing work.

If you are interested in supporting this amazing programme then visit www.nzhowardleague.org.nz – this programme wouldn’t exist without the wonderful support of their volunteers.

February 2020 - ‘Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution’



Through our service projects, peace fellowships, and scholarships, Rotary members are taking action to address the underlying causes of conflict, including poverty, inequality, ethnic tension, lack of access to education, and unequal distribution of resources.

\$142 mil 65 mil 1,000+ 100

has been raised by Rotary
to support peace

people are currently
displaced by armed
conflict or persecution

students have graduated
from Rotary’s Peace
Centers program

peace fellowships are
offered each year at
Rotary Peace Centers
around the world

St Joseph's School News



Opening Mass

A beautiful opening mass was held on **Wednesday 5th February** where we welcomed our new parents with school candles presented by members of our Board. Our Tuakana also welcomed our Teina's by giving them a heart to show our love for each other.



New Uniforms

We again have been blessed with supporters for our school. Tony Murray, an ex-pupil of the school, has kindly gifted all of Room 9 with new uniforms. These were presented to all children in our Friday assembly.

MOTUIHE TRUST NEWS

During January and February there were 3 mid week Dreamweaver trips with a total of 146 adult volunteers plus 17 regulars.

The next volunteer days are:

Mid week trips organized by Simon using Dreamweaver.

Leave from Z pier Westhaven at 8.30am and return at approx. 4.30pm, \$40pp return. Beach landing using a tender or, if the tide is suitable, using the block.

Thursday March 5th

Friday March 13th

Wednesday April 1st

Thursday April 16th

Contact Simon on volunteermotuihe@gmail.com

Wharf and House update

Below is DoC's official statement on the wharf printed in full.
[13/1/2020]

Motuihe Wharf Closed until further notice

Motuihe Wharf has been closed due to safety concerns. An engineering report conducted towards the end of 2019 found that significant structural work needs to be carried out in order to secure the wharf and protect public safety. Operations Manager, Scott Antcliff said "The Department is committed to re-opening the wharf to the public as soon as possible and recognises the importance of the wharf infrastructure to domestic and international tourism on Motuihe".

Due to the complexity of the work involved; which includes engineering specifications, procurement and specialist contractor availability, it is expected that the wharf will be closed for an extended period. Once the Department has completed the plan for the program of work, we will update the public with an expected timeline for that work. In the meantime people can visit the island privately at high tide by disembarking at the mole or by a wet beach landing.