

Rotary Focus - *arotahi* Rotary

District 9980 Rotary Club of Waimate Newsletter - 27 July 2017



Apologies txt 027 6896006 by midday Wednesday



Chair John Abraham with guest speaker Jim Pearce

Biking the Wild Atlantic Way - Jim Pearce

Guest speaker Jim Pearce, a retired Alpine Energy & Network South CE and member of several community groups spoke about his 2200km bike ride in Ireland. Accompanied by his wife Ngaire and cycling friends from Timaru and Canada the group cycled from Mizen Head in the south to Malin Head in the North in 30 days. They averaged 80kms each day riding for around 5 hours @ 16kph. One third of the trip was wet however that didn't deter Jim, he said they just kept riding. The route is well signposted and generally along quiet country roads with a few hills and typical Irish pubs!

Staying in B & B's and experiencing a range of coastal and historic sights the group thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Ireland. Asked the number of punctures Jim said one, it pays to have good tyres and keep them pumped up.

Jim has also ridden several charity bike rides and seven overseas rides, including in Australia, England, Canada, North America and Singapore.

Sergeants Session

Pete Hughes seen in town in what was thought to be a black ute and turns out it was a muddy white ute, Pauline away in Hamilton and left Colin to sandbag during the rain, Jim Y was a farmer on the Taieri now flooded, Russell record sale of gumboots, Paul G has leaky gumboots, Bev has her first great grand daughter, Ken forgot meals on wheels, Jim R forgot to give name badges to our High School reps, Pip has new runners, Michael H had the Fire Brigade pumping water, Highlanders supporters suffered a loss, Alan M for his citation and receiving a book and whisky too, Mick L recipient of fertilizer washed down, Rebecca lost her i-phone and found it in the toilet.

Thanks for Volunteering

Gary Dennison as Rotary rep on the Waimate Theatre Trust and
Grant Eames as Rotary rep on the Waimate Community Vehicle Trust

Notices

Raffle Winners - Shirley Abraham, John Abraham

Membership Anniversaries - Paul Grigg 29 years on 20 July, Dave Chamberlain 30 years on 23 July

Timaru Rotary Club Exchange, 1 August 5.30pm @ Timaru Town & Country Club. Meal \$21. Meet at the Waimate Clock Tower prior to 5pm with the aim of leaving at 5pm.

Bledisloe Cup Trip - 26 August. Organiser Dylan

Abandoned Husbands Brew Club Vocation Day - 1 September

Clutha Gold Cycle Trip next March - 3 day cycle trip Alexandra to Lawrence, maximum of 20 people, already have 10 people. Check out www.cluthagold.co.nz and let Russell know your interest by end of August.

Bruce The Conference in Dunedin May 2018 - A Brilliant Rotary Unique Conference Experience

Do you know your user name and password to check out **Club Runner**? If not ask Russell Wallace.

Well Done

Pauline and Colin Dore received a \$50 donation for speaking to a community group. They invested the \$50 into Polio Plus which then grew. A reminder to keep filling your polio pottle with spare change. Read more about Polio on page 2.



Parting thought - A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions -
Oliver Wendall Holmes

John Abraham Recognised for 50 years Service

John F. Germ President, 2016-17

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11 May 2017

Mr John Abraham
1 Fisher Place
Timaru New Zealand

Dear John,

I'm honored to congratulate you on fifty years of Rotary service. This accomplishment is truly worth celebrating.

Each year since you were inducted into your club you have chosen to devote your time, energy, and skills to our organization. You remain a member because of your passion for service, and your dedication has helped make Rotary such a great force for good in the world.

As members of the Rotary family, we are part of a worldwide organization making a difference around the globe. It is because of Rotary that we have the opportunity to make history by ending polio, to educate the children of the world, to feed the hungry, and to meet the needs of local and international communities. By working together, we are capable of accomplishing great things.

I wish you all the best on this anniversary and many more to come, and look forward to working with you as we continue the tradition of Rotary Serving Humanity.

Sincerely,

John F. Germ 2016-17 President, Rotary International



President Dylan awarding John Abraham honorary membership for his 50 years of Rotary Service



Our honorary members from left - Jim Young, Bruce Arthur, John Abraham, Bev White, Alan Meyer, Donald Hunt. (Absent Brian Kitchen)

Farm Forestry Association Citation Alan Meyer

Alan Meyer has been actively involved in the South Canterbury Farm Forestry Association for over 60 years. Alan was a foundation member of the South Canterbury branch and an early Chairman. He was a member of the National Executive from 1963-1967 and he is currently the Patron of the South Canterbury Branch.

Enthusiasm for farm forestry in the 1950's must have been an exciting time. The Waimate branch was formed in 1957 following a visit by the organisations founder Neil Barr, and a meeting of the minds at Centrewood. Alan was the first chairman. In 1961, Waimate was amalgamated to form the South Canterbury Branch which has remained vibrant in no small way due to Alan's continuing enthusiasm.

In 1982 Alan was awarded Sach Dolmar's South Island Farm Forester of the year. His farm, Akatere, now farmed by his sons is living evidence of this award and also the continued passion he has for trees. In the early 1990's he generously gifted an area of land for a *Macrocarpa* mixed genus trial which has continued to be monitored by Crown Forest Research and visited by branch members and interest groups.

Akatere has continued to provide an incentive to those who seek to adopt tree planting on farms including being included in the field day programme in two national conferences. The property includes some stunning trees, some of which have been milled and the timber included in Alan and Patti's current home.

Driving past the farm you can't fail to admire the impact all those plantings have had on the farm which also displays he was a perfectionist as well.

Alan identified and was eventually recognised for having discovered an upright form of red oak on his farm plantings. It has been botanically named *Quercus rubra fastigata* and recognised by the International Dendrology Society of which Alan is also an active member. However it is more widely known and sold commercially in many nurseries throughout the world, as the Akatere Oak.

His knowledge of the heritage of trees, their botanical names, their habits, the list goes on. There are not many meetings that Alan does not turn up with something of interest, a branch, a pocketful of acorns, and an observation.

Alan you are an inspiration, on behalf of all of us all in the Farm Forestry Association and the many past members of the South Canterbury Branch and the wider community, we have much pleasure in confirming your life membership status together with a citation and a book in recognition of the lifelong commitment you have made to Farm Forestry in New Zealand.

Peter Evans - South Canterbury Branch Chairman

Allan Laurie shared the citation with Alan Meyers Rotary friends at the 27 July meeting.

