

Rotary Club of Christchurch South



Deborah Bush—The Pink Painted Door—a NZ journey with endometriosis

Our speaker tonight was Deborah Bush. Her topic was entitled 'The Pink Painted Door A Journey'. The significance of the title comes from the fact that the private girl's school that Deborah attended in Wellington had one of the toilets door painted pink. It was the toilet that was used by pupils during their monthly period.

Deborah trained as a teacher and in 1985 was diagnosed with endometriosis. Endometriosis is a condition in which cells similar to the lining of the uterus, or endometrium, grow outside the uterus.

Endometriosis often involves the pelvic tissue and can envelop the ovaries and fallopian tubes. It can affect nearby organs, including the bowel and bladder.



At that time Deborah was experiencing a crisis. She had two young boys, her husband had left her and a car accident put her in hospital for six months. She sought help with her endometriosis. She wanted answers to why so little was being done to help cure the disease. Deborah felt she had a calling and started a quest to seek government help. After several years of meetings with government departments in 2007 she was asked to write a report. More meetings and fruitless results followed by after relentless lobbying a decision was made in 2015 to set up a clinical pathway for treatment of endometriosis. This was launched in 2020 in Parliament.

In the meantime, Deborah developed the world's first Menstrual Health and Endometriosis (me™) programme for schools in 1997, which has significantly influenced early recognition of symptoms and timely intervention in adolescents in New Zealand. It was the first programme of its kind in the world.

Bad periods or dysmenorrhea affects 71% of women under 25 years old. Endometriosis is an inflammatory gynecological condition which runs in families through genes and heredity. Women are 7 to 10 times more likely to have it if relatives have it. Asian and African do not get endometriosis. It was called the career women's disease. In the past doctors would say "you will be okay after you have had a baby". Symptoms show discomfort, pain and distress during periods. Treatment is generally hormonal and surgery. 1 in 10 women have endometriosis. 1 in 3 have fertility problems. It generally takes 7 to 12 years to diagnose. Endometriosis affects 130,000 New Zealand women, over 200 million worldwide.

Deborah has been instrumental in establishing support organisations such as Endometriosis New Zealand, the World Endometriosis Society and has worked tirelessly coaching and consulting in the field of Endometriosis. Deborah has been awarded MNZM and QSM.

Upcoming Meetings

22 March (partners night)

Paulien Martens

Canterbury Museum—the Barker family collection

29 March

Kevin Parthonnaud

The Pohatu Penguins & Marine Reserve on Banks Peninsula—the largest Australasian Little Penguin colony on mainland NZ

5 April (partners night)

Flying Doctor Worksite visit 5pm to 6pm followed by dining at Madam Kwong Chinese Restaurant 6.30pm

12 April

Allesandra Ward

RYLA student

Upcoming Events

5 April

Flying Doctor Worksite Visit

20 April

Walking group

5 and 6 May

Aviva Street Appeal (St Martins)

13 May

Mother of all Cleanups

Notices

5 April Meeting—Flying Doctor Worksite Visit—partners night

Wednesday 5 April 5pm to 6pm worksite visit to the Flying Doctors at 73 Grays Road, Yaldhurst

Followed by dining at Madam Kwong Chinese Restaurant (licensed) 6.30pm onwards

2/155 Blenheim Road, Riccarton, right behind the Caltex Petrol station (corner of Matipo Street and Blenheim Road)

Community Garden

Viv and Geoff working at The Christchurch South Community Garden putting straw around silverbeet plants. Massive thanks to Viv for arranging this volunteer slot so we can contribute to our community



Duties

Duty	22 March	29 March
Cash Desk	G Dockrill	A Airay
Cash Desk	M Opie	L Brown
Reception	A Stewart	D Buist
Speaker Host	D Peterson	S Mackenzie
Grace	D Peterson	S Mackenzie
International Toast	A Stewart	D Buist
Thanks to Speaker	M Opie	A Airay
Quote	G Dockrill	L Brown
Speaker Reporter	V Ellis	G Fowler
Sergeant	G Fowler	M Opnie

Leave

Who	From	To
M Whitehead	09/09/15	TBA
J Wylie		TBA
S Haye	11/08/20	TBA
R McKinney	28/09/22	14/04/23
K Moss	20/03/23	31/12/23

Don't forget to follow us on our [Facebook](#) and [Website](#)

Reminders

Record your apology by:

- Notifying the Reception Desk
- Email chchsouthrotary@gmail.com before 11am on that Wednesday
- Emergency apologies to Shirley Harris on 021 198 2234 or Viv Ellis on 027 490 3161
- You will receive an email reminder a couple of days before the meeting re apologising or bringing a guest
- If you are unable to do your allocated duty, it is your responsibility to arrange a substitute and advise the President
- Leave of absence requests (three weeks or more) must be in writing to the Secretary

