

# Rotary Club of Christchurch South



## Visit to Cashmere Rotary

At this first Rotary meeting of the year, we were hosted by Cashmere Rotary at The Old Stone House. It was great to meet in that environment and enjoy a good meal and the fellowship of our Cashmere Rotary colleagues. Of particular significance was marking the 90th birthday of our member Bruce McKessar and sampling the excellent cakes provided by Helen. The speakers for the evening were Lois Hill a coordinator from Bike Bridge and Jess Smale, a coordinator from Recycle a Dunger (RAD). These two impressive charitable organisations have developed an affinity related to bicycles.

Lois pointed out that although the typical Kiwi takes the opportunity to ride a bike pretty much for granted, that is not the case for many of our immigrants, particularly women, who in many cases have never had the opportunity to ride a bike perhaps because of cultural taboos or simply lack of opportunity. Bike Bridge addresses this problem. Starting out bike riding as an adult can be both intimidating and scary so they offer free bike riding lessons to refugee and migrant women. The interest in their programme has been well beyond expectations with immigrants and refugees from a large number of countries and backgrounds taking part. Some are refugees who have fled conflict such as from Afghanistan and Somalia while others are "economic" refugees.



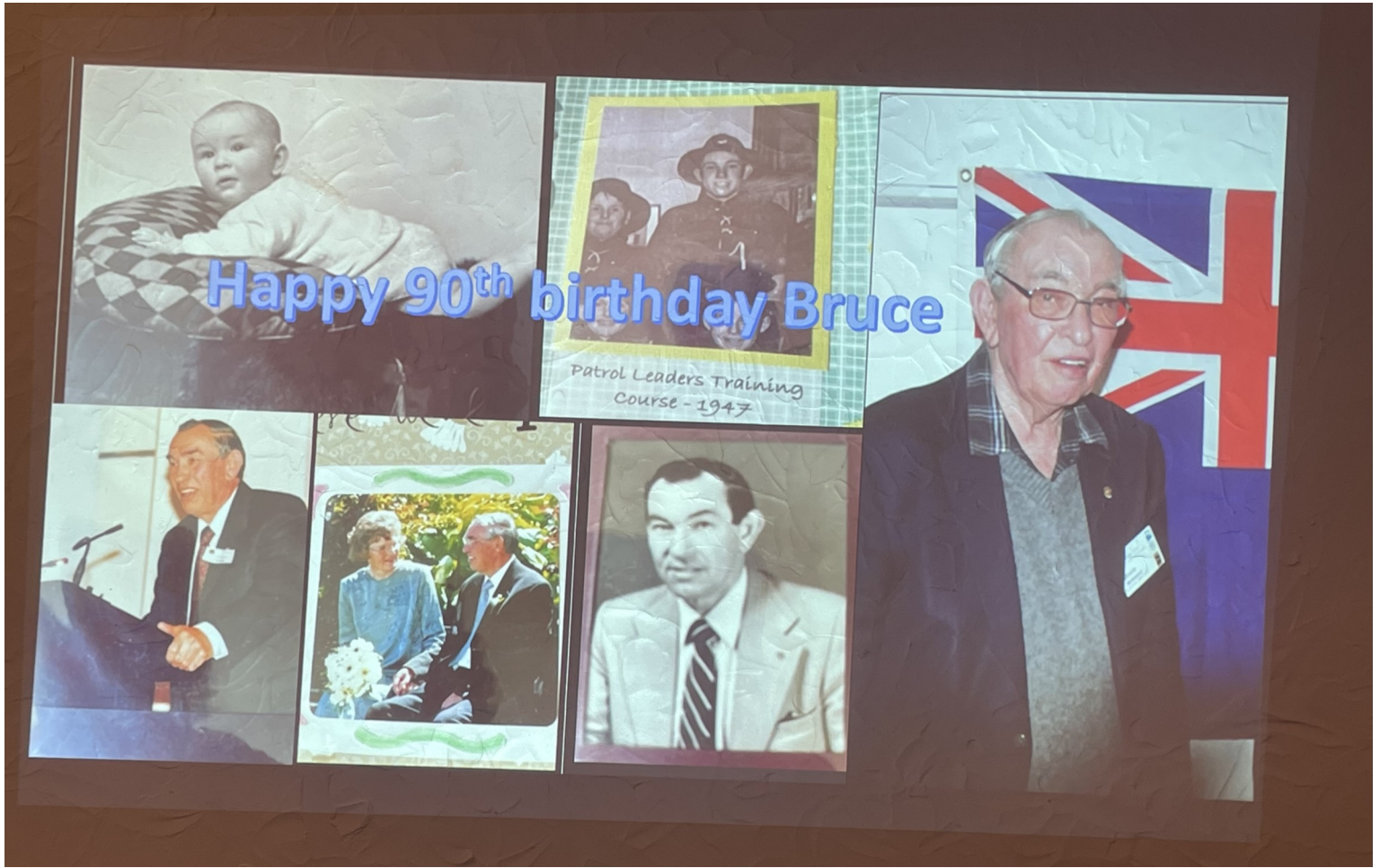
Bike Bridge grew out of a "Learn 2 Ride" event held as part of International Women's Day in 2019. From there the organisation developed as a collaboration among a number of community groups. They are heavily dependent on volunteers who take the participants through a programme starting with off-road cycling, then on-road with support and finally independence – the ultimate objective. We were shown testimonials from a number of participants who had clearly gained a lot from their experience. For some, cycling provided the practical benefit of making it easier to get to work or to meet children after school. For others, the benefit was more social.

Bike Bridge operates out of a shipping container, funded by Cashmere Rotary, located at Addington School which has been a keen supporter of their work. The intention is to develop links with other new migrant support organisations. Interestingly, there was little interest from male immigrants when the programme was offered to them.

One of the issues for Bike Bridge has been obtaining suitable bicycles and this is where RAD comes in. The "Recycle a Dunger" concept has been in existence in many cities throughout the world but it surfaced in Christchurch as one of the "Gap-Filler" projects following the 2011 earthquakes. RAD's motto is Empower, Repair, Ride with the objective of improving access to cycling, minimising waste and developing community well-being. They do this by providing bicycle recycling facilities for "old dungs" which are either repaired and refurbished for re-use, or stripped of useful parts. Of course, it is the re-use where the connection with Bike Bridge comes in. Many of the bikes used by its participants come from RAD – what a great synergy! Beyond that, RAD provides an opportunity for people to learn how to maintain bikes, to provide bikes for people who can't afford them and to make sure that as little of possible of a disused bike is discarded. RAD operates an extensive programme of activities consistent with this theme such as Club Nights, Mechanics Courses, Charity Fix-Ups, Kids Fix-Ups, Pop-Up Fix-Ups, an after schools programme and a cycle-powered cinema facility. They have part time experienced mechanics who share their expertise and knowledge.

Both Bike Bridge and RAD are to be congratulated for developing the synergy between their two organisations. Ultimately, they are both about helping people and our city is much the better for having them operate here.

# Happy 90th Bruce!



## Upcoming Meetings

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### 25 January

Geoff Bailey (Partners Night)

Out of Africa—the life and times of our very own Geoff Bailey

### 1 February

Jenny May ONZM

Heritage in the City and the Rebuild of the Cathedral

### 8 February

Club Assembly/AGM

### 15 February

Healthy Heroes Launch

## Upcoming Events

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### 15 February

Healthy Heroes launch

## Notices

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### Healthy Heroes

On Wednesday 15 February 2023 our Club will be holding a Special meeting to celebrate the launch of the new Healthy Heroes website. The launch will commence at 6.30pm and will mean some changes to our usual meeting format.

Our Club was chosen given that we host the Healthy Heroes Charitable Trust. This means we will have guests and people zooming in from around the country.

You should have received information about this in the Friday mailout and a personal invitation (separately). The information under the heading **TO ATTEND THE LAUNCH** does not apply to us—we will use the attendance email sent out by Alan McKinnon to notify apologies



## Duties

Duty	25 January	1 February
Cash Desk	P Mears	A McKinnon
Cash Desk	A Stewart	D Peterson
Reception	S Mackenzie	P Mears
Speaker Host	A Airay	A McCully
Grace	A Airay	A McCully
International Toast	S Mackenzie	P Mears
Thanks to Speaker	A Stewart	D Peterson
Quote	P Mears	A McKinnon
Speaker Reporter	L Brown	G Fowler
Sergeant	A Stewart	D Buist

## 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

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

## Reminders

Record your apology by:

- Notifying the Reception Desk
- Email [chchsouthrotary@gmail.com](mailto: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

