

Rotary Club of Christchurch South



Geoff Gabites - World Class Cycle Experiences - and why us baby boomers love the cycle trail network

This week our speaker was the highly entertaining and very interesting Geoff Gabites from Cycle Journeys. Geoff describes himself as a "broken down cyclist" however after being a co-founder of Macpac and Adventure South before developing Cycle Journeys, I doubt that is true but if it is it is well-earned! Geoff first explained the concept and funding behind the Great Rides along the New Zealand Cycle Trail, which were funded by the government based on the Central Otago Rail Trail which revitalised the Central Otago area.

What is a World Class Cycle Trail? I started off dutifully copying the key points, thinking there were approx. 10 – but when we got to page 2 and still hadn't finished I thought perhaps it was best to simply say that there are numerous attributes that contribute to a great cycle trail and they range from the landscape to the amenities to the access to the websites and booking systems etc. From a financial perspective, investing in cycle trails brings a great return with numbers showing an investment of \$1 will return \$3.55 – and some showing even higher numbers.

Geoff's second question was "Why do Baby Boomers Love the Cycle Trails"? Basically, it can be summed up with lifestyle, fitness, social interaction and exploring our own country. The vast majority of initial interest came from women – with groups of 8-10 making bookings. The innovation of the e-bike has exponentially amped up interest and projected numbers show that in the near future 1 in every 2 bike sales will be for e-bikes.

Apart from the high percentage of women interested, there are now 85-87% of domestic users vs international, and from 1.3 million trail users 70% are 40+ and 10% are 70+ !

Geoff then showed us some stunning photos of the very interesting cycleway from Seoul to Busan – which had intricately carved shelters, statues and incredible infrastructure along the way. It scored very highly in a comparative rating with NZ trails but surprisingly to me lost numerous points for not having a website nor contact people and ancillary services making it relatively difficult for non-locals to find and enjoy.

Cycle Journeys operates on the West Coast Wilderness Trail, the Alps to Ocean and shortly the Paparoa Trail when it opens. Apparently, it costs around \$130/m to create a trail on the West Coast and a little less in dryer areas.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable talk from an experienced raconteur, and I am sure any trip with Cycle Journeys would be one of life's great adventures.

Thanks to Geoff for his vibrant presence and some very appealing photos!

a2o@cyclejourneys.co.nz Tel: [0800 224 475](tel:0800224475) or [03 377 2060](tel:033772060)

Thanks to Chantal for this weeks report.



Geoff Gabites, pictured with our own cycling enthusiast, Andrew Kim

Bernie Lawrence

Family man.

Charter Member, 1957.

Classification: Hotels.

Paul Harris Fellow and Sapphire.

Honorary Member.

d. August 2019, aged 93.

'Our Bernie' was quite the dapper Rotarian, immaculately attired with tie at meetings, as was tradition that has greatly disappeared in recent times.

Bernie had a manner of humour and charm towards our women members that endeared him to them greatly ... a mantle that his fellow male members, might but only aspire to.

From the outset, Bernie was very much a leader, yet he never acceded to becoming club president, much preferring to put his time and energy into projects and activities and fellowship. Thus, in 1958-59, in the first year after Charter; he was Vocational Service Committee chairman. And in 1961-62 *"Bernie Lawrence portrayed in this year, as he has done so many times since, his exceptional organising ability. Among these projects were the cost and installation of the YMCA septic tank, a TV set to Nazareth house and rostered out-patients transported to Princess Margaret Hospital – to mention just a few of this year's efforts set up by Bernie's committee"*.



Directorship and chairmanships continued. In '70-'71, there was *"a determination to raise \$20K towards The George Manning Home Appeal and the main purpose was to have a fair in October, under the chairmanship of Bernie Lawrence to raise a considerable [eventually \$6K] sum. [...] Bernie did a great job and none of the members will ever forget the way he rallied everybody up to make this one of the great fairs in Christchurch"*. *"Rotary began with fellowship. [...] Often, a visit to Bernie's Club Hotel, was a pleasant way for members to end the year"*.

These excerpts from jubilee journals reflect wonderfully, Bernie's energies and commitment to, enjoyment of, and great love for his club and Rotary.

He displayed too, an infinite love for his family.

RIP Bernie.

Next Week

Dr Samantha Bailey - On Line Doctor

Upcoming Rotary Events

23 September

Speech Competition, St Martins School

dianepeterson@chcrealestate.co.nz

11 October

Pink Ribbon Appeal

12 October

Guess Whose Coming To Dinner

19 October

Cashmere Residents Association BBQ

Notices

- Hensh debrief on Wednesday 2nd October after normal club meeting
- Please attempt to have all bulletin information to Kim Friday morning so I am able to print and post to Jack, Val and Harold



We are seeking applications for RYLA candidates for the 2020 course

The course is for 18-25 year olds who have shown leadership potential or may be involved in a leadership activity currently

Course date: Sunday 12 to Friday 17 January 2020

Venue: College House, 100 Waimairi Road

Applications: To be received by **28th September 2019**

Please note that the course will be a week earlier than recent years.

Applications forms can be found [here](#)

Applications should be forwarded to Tony Blackler who will handle communications with the Lincoln club organisers - blacklers@xtra.co.nz

Regeneration Conference

Joey Chamberlain, MC



Graham Dockrill, Keynote Speaker



Duties

Duty	25 September	2 October
Cash Desk	J Chamberlain	A Kim
Cash Desk	B Wales	A McKinnon
Reception	K Gunasekara	C McCarthy
Speaker Host	A Stewart	S Mackenzie
Grace	V Ellis	L Brown
International Toast	J Woodward	K Dalziel
Thanks to Speaker	B Wales	A Airay
Quote	R McKinney	C Ayrey
Speaker Reporter	C McCarthy	J Chamberlain
Sergeant	S McLean	V Ellis
Deputy Sergeant	D Buist	D Peterson

Leave

Who	From	To
R Blyth	08/04/15	TBA
M Whitehead	09/09/15	TBA
G Dockrill	21/06/16	TBA
J Wylie		TBA
V Nossiter		TBA
M Rickerby	01/01/19	01/01/20
K Tanner	04/07/19	12/12/19
V Ellis	23/10/19	27/11/19
S Hays	21/08/19	09/10/19

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 Mike Bruce on 022 540 1251

- 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