

Rotary

Christchurch South



'Odyssey House, Rehabilitation of Offenders' was this week's topic, presented by Odyssey House Christchurch's Karen Fordyce, Organisation Services Manager.

Odyssey House was named after Greek God, Odysseus, famous for his long odyssey, or journey, trying to return home after the events of the Trojan War and whose wife suffered his infidelities. That Odyssey House provides rehabilitation services for drugs and alcohol and is mainly male orientated seems reasonable cause for the name.



Odyssey House therapeutic communities are found across the States (concept, 1960's), as well as Australia (from 1977) and New Zealand (Auckland-1980, Christchurch-1985). Although they bear the Odyssey House name, the treatment centres have operated as independent entities. Their origin is in dissatisfaction with the practice of using drug replacement medications, such as methadone, as the primary therapeutic intervention. Their work is mainly with men, but is inclusive of women and of youth mental health problems. Odyssey House Christchurch operates from sponsors' donations and 18 government ministries funding contracts. Its therapeutics involve peer support and working within the community.

Alcohol remains NZ's drug of choice, so is NZ's biggest problem - violence, mental harm, assaults ... and the number one reason for harm. Twenty five percent of emergency department admissions on Saturday nights involve alcohol; 40,000 will present of a year.

Odyssey House Christchurch works closely with Corrections and its client cost runs out at half the cost of someone in prison. It is situated Greers Road, somewhat surprisingly opposite Burnside High School, on the old Cottesmore site. It has residency for 23 men and up to 11 youths living in, and for 10 women at a rural site. Most residents have anklets, electronically monitored. All must have had a drug abuse addiction. All are aged under 65.

Clients at Odyssey House are self-sufficient – cooking, gardening, housework – so, promoting changes of the behaviours that lead to convictions. There are pro-social and maori and pacific programmes and group therapy for problem gambling and relapse prevention. And 'at the end of the day', Odyssey House has an open gate policy: choose to leave, as some do because they can't cope with the unfamiliar structure, and its back to prison without ever the chance to return.

So much more to mention:

'Odyssey House, Rehabilitation of Offenders' cont...

- 75% of women clients have been raped, so have turned to drugs to 'escape'.
- women concern for their families.
- Woodwork shop for NCEA credits - producing picnic tables and window frames.
- Young boy runner with Fitbit timer on his wrist, who asked clients why they had theirs on their ankles.
- Socially reluctant women clients who have taken greatly to walking Billy, the goat.
- It is hard to detox mixed drugs.
- Addiction knows no boundaries.
- Connection is the opposite of addiction.
- **Odyssey House, where recovery gets real.**

Thanks to Mel Opie for the speaker report this week



Westport Flood Relief

Donated goods are **not needed right now**. A shopping list will be prepared next week. The Nelson cluster is getting organised to source and deliver furniture, when needs are confirmed. The response team is being coordinated by Richmond Rotary Club.

Please put offers of help through Gary Hopkinson, to give the team in Westport some breathing space. hopkinsonrotary@gmail.com .

Cash donations to the Westport Rotary club are most welcome at this stage.

Lunch & Walking in the Rangiora Wetlands

On **TUESDAY** 19 October 2021 our walk/luncheon group will be meeting in Rangiora. The walk will be around a local wetlands area and lunch will be at the North Canterbury Community College Café. We will be hosted by students in the **Cookery, Front of House and Food & Beverage Programme** who will prepare and serve us with a three-course meal. Fruit juice and tea or coffee is included in the cost - \$15.00. Sign-up for the event will be in early October. All welcome.



Upcoming Meetings

28th July: AGM & Club Assembly

4th August: Mike Bruce – Poverty in NZ

Notices

7th August

Rotary Centennial Tree Planting at Peace & Remembrance Park

25th August

Tricky Tray Polio Evening with Partners and Cluster Clubs



HENSH 2021

As per previous years we welcome donations towards the costs involved with purchasing bags.

Please deposit donations into the Trust Account, remember they are tax deductible and receipts will be provided.

Important dates (please put this in your diary)

21st August - Home deliveries

28th August - Roadside sales (*backup day 4th September*)

Lets all hope for some great spring weather ☺

Christchurch West Inner Wheel Coffee Invitation

"You are very welcome to join us for coffee on Friday 30th July at 10am in the Park Lane Retirement Village Cafe, 35 Whiteleigh Avenue, Addington." If you would like to come along please let Rosemary Wales know on 332 7196 or 021 487 196



Duties

Leave

	28th July	4th August	Who	From	To
Cash Desk	G Bailey	R McKinney	M Whitehead	09/09/2015	TBA
Cash Desk	A McCully	M Rickerby	J Wylie		TBA
Reception	A Kim	C Ayrey	S Haye	11/08/2020	TBA
Speaker Host	N/A	D Buist	K Moss	04/07/2019	30/06/2022
Grace	L Brown	D Buist	J Chaimberlain	01/07/2019	31/08/2021
International Toast	A Kim	C Ayrey			
Thanks to Speaker	N/A	N/A			
Quote	G Bailey	M Rickerby			
Speaker Reporter	S Harris	V Ellis			
Sergeant	A Stewart	D Peterson			

Reminders

Record your apology by:

- Notifying the Reception Desk
- Email alan.barbara.mckinnon@gmail.com before 11am on that Wednesday
- Emergency apologies to Liz Bermingham on 021 2456875
- 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
- Please advise all leave of absence (three or more weeks) to the Secretary by email or in writing