

# Rotary Club of Christchurch South



## Pauline Martens—The Barker Family Collection

Paulien Martens, Curator of Human History at The Canterbury Museum, spoke about The Barker Family and the collection associated with them. Details of this family are reliant on photographs and letters sent to relatives in England. In this way and thanks to people such as Paulien, our past is being preserved.

Such letters and photographs are, for the next few years, safely tucked away in secure storage to make way for the repair and revamp of The Canterbury Museum.

'Shift: Urban Art Takeover' is an exhibition presently showing in the cleared out Museum. As an aside to Paulien's talk, I'd like to say that Shift is amazing art experience and well worth a visit. The proceeds are going towards to Museum's redevelopment. It's showing until the 11th April.

Paulien is a Curator involved in collection management, public engagement talks, exhibitions and research. She specialises in Canterbury Social History.

The Barker family came to New Zealand on board the Charlotte Jane one of the first four ships to carry emigrants from England to the new colony of Canterbury. The Charlotte Jane sailed out of Plymouth England and was the first of the ships to land in Lyttleton on 16 December 1850. Dr Barker a doctor and surgeon, received a free passage and payment in return for looking after the 150 emigrants and settlers on the ship. The family arriving were Emily and Dr Alfred Barker together with their 3 boys Richard, Samuel and Arthur. Their children born later in Christchurch were Sarah, Mary, Francis, John and William.

After landing, they Initially lived in a tent home that Alfred named 'Studding Sail Hall'. He continued his work as a Doctor and was the only one on the Canterbury Plains in the early years of European settlement. Alfred found this work difficult as many could not afford to pay. He lost interest in his practice and at that time other Doctors had established themselves in Canterbury. He was well known as an eccentric figure in early Christchurch.

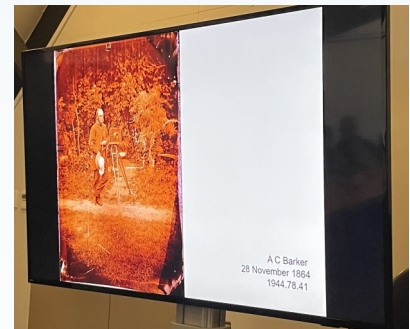
Dr Barker developed his skill as a photographer. It is those photographs that today give us an insight into their lives and the lives of others to include activities, outdoor pursuits and children's lives at that time. There is also a collection of self-portraits produced until a month before his death in 1873 from Meningitis. Such photographs have been a good source for knowledge of early Christchurch and Colonial life in Christchurch.

After Emily passed away, Alfred was left to raise their eight children. At this time he further developed his interest in photography by building a darkroom in their home in central Christchurch. Many of his photographs have been on display at the Canterbury Museum.

The collection has been added to over time to include many letters, furniture and jewellery. There is a fireplace screen displaying Emily's decorative needlework. A mourning brooch belonging to Emily is in the collection, made to include a piece of her Mother Mary's hair. Letters written by their children and from Alfred to Emily are carefully preserved and have been on display.

Such collections are stowed away and no doubt will re-emerge and become part of the redeveloped Canterbury Museum. A case of watch this space.

*Thank you to Viv for the report and photos*



## Upcoming Meetings

### 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

### 19 April

Blair Jackson

Celebrating 20 Years of the Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū

## Upcoming Events

### 29 March

Christchurch South Community Garden

### 5 April

Christchurch South Community Garden

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)

### Luke Di Somma—RYLA Alumnus

“The New Zealand public are opera singers, and the tourists are must theatre actors. So there’s a stylistic eclecticism, but also a clash of styles, which is fun for the audience but that tells the story in the way we want it to,” said Luke Di Somma, composer and conductor of The Unruly Tourists.

Read more [here](#)



### Christchurch South Community Garden

Every Wednesday 1pm to 2pm, 188 Strickland Street, come along and lend a hand

### 2023 National Bonsai Convention and Show

We have been invited by the Christchurch Bonsai Society to join them for the 2023 National Bonsai Convention and Show at the Richmond Club on 22nd and 23rd April. The event will be held over two days and both days will feature demonstrations and presentations by some of NZ’s best bonsai practitioners and international talents. Alongside the demonstrations will be an Exhibition of NZ’s best bonsai curated from artists around the country, as well as the Best of Canterbury bonsai. To top it off, there will be a packed sales area full of trees, tools, posts, and accessories.

This event is not to be missed by anyone with an interest in bonsai or plants. Admission to the Exhibition and Sales area is \$5 at the door. All demos and extras are ticketed events which require prepayment. Find out more [here](#) or [here](#) (and see attached flyer)

### Breakfast with Tim Jarvis—world renowned explorer

Renowned Shackleton expert, explorer and environmental scientist [Tim Jarvis](#) joins guests over breakfast to celebrate our city and regions connection to Sir Ernest Shackleton.

Special guest Sir Ernest Shackleton’s granddaughter, the [Hon. Alexandra Shackleton](#), President of the James Caird Society will also join us via live feed from London. See attached flyer and buy tickets [here](#)

## Duties

| Duty                | 29 March    | 5 April    |
|---------------------|-------------|------------|
| Cash Desk           | A Airay     | N/A        |
| Cash Desk           | L Brown     | N/A        |
| Reception           | D Buist     | N/A        |
| Speaker Host        | S Mackenzie | N/A        |
| Grace               | S Mackenzie | N/A        |
| International Toast | D Buist     | N/A        |
| Thanks to Speaker   | A Airay     | G Bailey   |
| Quote               | L Brown     | N/A        |
| Speaker Reporter    | G Fowler    | A McKinnon |
| Sergeant            | M Opie      | N/A        |

## Leave

| Who         | From     | To       |
|-------------|----------|----------|
| M Whitehead | 09/09/15 | TBA      |
| J Wylie     |          | TBA      |
| S Haye      | 11/08/20 | TBA      |
| K Moss      | 20/03/23 | 31/12/23 |
| 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

