

Rotary

Christchurch South



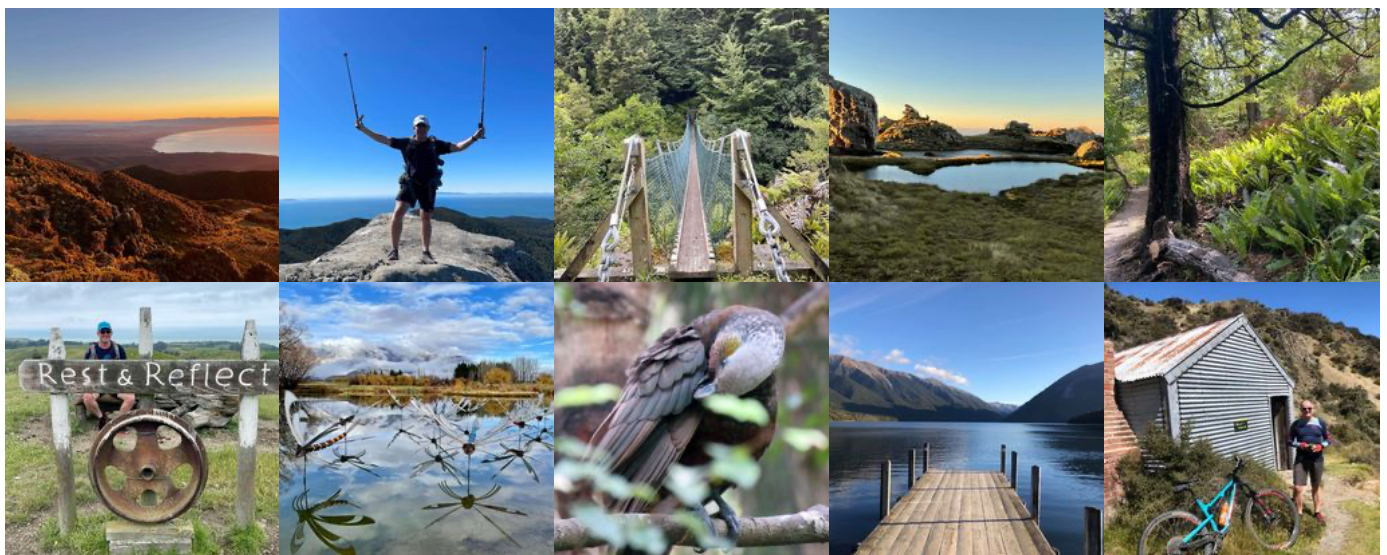
COVID

Given the number of COVID cases has grown significantly the Board has decided to continue our meetings via Zoom. Meetings will be scheduled for 6pm each week and to save confusion it will be the same link each week. Please watch your inbox for the invitation from Sarita. We have also decided to cancel the pre-screening of "The Duke" to help support the health and wellbeing of all of our members. Stay safe everyone, this looks like it will be around for a little while.

GREAT WALKS – ADVENTURES IN NEW ZEALAND

What do you do if want a challenge, enjoy solitude, recognize your lesser physical fitness, are NZ 'Covid bound' and yet wanting to slow down to improve your photography? Well, if you are club member, Graham Dockrill, you take on NZ's Great Walks – 8 of them so far and counting.

Much have I travelled in the realms of 'God' (apologies to Keats), is a malapropism that describes Graham's long term overseas absences from Club, but these were for meetings and hadn't included great tramps. And so, with power point display and great eloquence and humor, Graham reeled off his achievements. His amazing cellphone photography set the scenes for absorbing and picturesque presentation. For the novice, to "quit talking and begin doing" (Walt Disney), start with the Abel Tasman coastal walk – "safe, warm, no bother" – 6 days, 60 km. If you haven't prepared well, you will quickly learn that baked beans, dehy. food and canned chicken are not the way forward.



The 'Heaphy' – 5days, 80 km – gave rotten weather, but wonderful virgin native bush. Here-in, were Takahe, released in 2018, currently now 40pairs max. Graham's personal lesson – "Code red weather warning is serious. Be prepared for all conditions.

'Routeburn' – 3 days, 33 km. Snowing Christmas Day! "Can't use soap in the lake". And Graham got into trouble with his sister for forfeiting their Christmas Day together.

'Kepler' - 4 days, 60 km – the feature Ridgeline track “can be gnarly” - wind. Keas were there with their intelligence of a 4 year old. Now 5,000 left in NZ. Its pest habits, with, in particular sheep farming, saw NZ Gov't bounty of \$15/beak in today's money and 150,000 culled over 100 years. Now protected since 1986.

'Milford' – 5 days, 58 km – one way only. Regarded as the #1 hike in NZ. Graham agrees. No camping. Freedom trampers have DOC huts strategically located for each day's walk. Sandflies(!) at journey's end, Sandfly Point. Southerland Falls and McKinnon Pass (1888) to the West Coast were beautifully captured photography.

'Rakiura', (Stewart Island) - 3 days, 32 km. White tail deer, the only herd in the S. Hemisphere, at Stewart Island and Wakatipu. 20,000 kiwi, cf 450 human kiwi. Graham told of the taiha (Maori spear) that was his part-Maori mother's and which he played with as a child. It became lost for some 20 years after his mother died and he was able to trace and view it via the Rakiura Museum. A fascinating tale.

'Paparoa' – 3 days, one way, 56 km. Blackball to Punakaiki. Shared with bikes. Crosses the Paparoa Range, traversing alpine tops, limestone karst landscapes, thriving rainforests, and provides breath-taking views. 'Tongariro, Northern Circuit' – 4 days, 45 km. Graham's last hike, 2021, “bloody cold” and with added concern for making the first hut before nightfall with weather worsening.

'Humpridge' (S. Fiordland) – 3 day loop, 61 km. Designated 'Great Walk, 2023'. In 2019, it was announced that the Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track would become NZ's next (11th) Great Walk - seascapes, sandy beaches, native forests and an alpine environment with soaring limestone tors.

There you are then $\Sigma = 36$ days, 485 km and 58,000m vertically. Graham lauded “such diversity in a very short time” and reflected on what his father had told him, “you're a long time dead - get out there”. If you have suffered this report in its entirety, then you might have just the right fortitude to emulate Graham's endeavours.

Huge thanks to our Speaker Reporter Mel Opie

PRIDE OF WORKMANSHIP & YOUNG TOTARA

The Awards Committee is looking for nominations for both Pride of Workmanship and Young Totara.

The Pride of Workmanship award is designed to acknowledge volunteers or employees, irrespective of age or vocation, who, in the eyes of their employers, display outstanding qualities in terms of approach, attitude, dedication and commitment, to their jobs.

The Young Totara Award is designed to recognize significant contributions by youth to the life and well-being of their community, affecting those around them in a positive manner. It reflects the importance of qualities such as innovative thinking, effective enterprise, leadership and planning abilities. Nominations must be not less than 20 years at the time of nomination.

Please submit your nomination to Graham Fowler before the 31st of March for consideration.



Upcoming Meetings

2nd March – Zoom

9th March – Zoom

16th March – Zoom