

Rotary

Christchurch South



RED CROSS IN KIRIBATI

As well as having 18 people at the Cashmere Club for tonight's meeting, we enjoyed having two of our members as well as our speaker join us over Zoom. The speaker was Steve Manson a colleague of our President at the Department of Corrections. In a former life Steve was employed by the NZ Red Cross – he was involved in their response to both the Christchurch and Kaikoura earthquakes. He has also worked for them doing emergency response in various locations in the Pacific.

In 2019 he was living in Fiji as the Red Cross Operations Coordinator and in February/March of that year he was sent to Kiribati to assist with the recovery following a tropical depression weather system which affected the islands. Kiribati is a group of atolls north-east of Fiji near the equator. Most are very low lying being no more than 2-3m above sea level. The population is about 120,000 people about half of whom live on the coast at the south end of the main atoll Tarawa.



As well as a major threat from rising sea levels, Steve told us about the other significant environmental problems that Kiribati confronts. The foremost of these is the lack of any effective wastewater treatment which means that lagoon areas are severely polluted with human waste. The country imports a lot of processed food products which are often packaged in plastic. The upshot is that otherwise pristine beaches are covered with piles of plastic waste. This lies alongside the machinery waste that still litters the beaches following the battles fought there during the second world war.



Most Kiribati people live in "shacks" many of which were damaged by the tropical storm. Steve's job was to work with the local Red Cross volunteers to coordinate the clean-up and recovery. The storm damaged houses and also caused sea water to get into drinking-water wells. Livestock and crops were affected as well. Much of the recovery effort was funded by the NZ and Aus Red Cross organisations. At one stage Steve had to source gumboots for the local volunteers from Fiji because the locally available gumboots from China were too narrow for the Kiribati people. Mosquitos were a problem

causing dengue fever so nets were provided and education sessions run to help people learn how to avoid the various health hazards that surrounded them.

We all know about the Red Cross, but we are very grateful to Steve for his insights into how the organisation responded to assist a struggling country like Kiribati.

Huge thanks to Alan McKinnon – Meeting Reporter

UPCOMING MEETING LINK *(if you are unable to attend in person)*

Date: Wednesday 27th April 2022

Time: 6.00 pm – 7.00pm

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6411133984?pwd=TIkzbGpPWU9wZFawUCtxVVFjQzBjdz09>

Meeting ID: 641 113 3984

Passcode: 428301

SAVE THE DATE - JOHN TAYLOR WALKWAY TREE PLANTING

When: Saturday 18th June

Where: John Taylor Walkway

Time: 10am – 1pm (BBQ Lunch included)

Bring: Gardening gloves, Rotary hi-vis jacket if you have one.



Further details to follow

MOTHER OF ALL CLEANUPS

When: Saturday 7 May

Where: Meet by the Beckenham Scout Den Centaurus Rd (near The Brickworks)

Time: 10am - 12 noon

Bring: Gardening gloves, Rotary hi-vis jacket if you have one.

This is a city- wide effort which covers the Opawaho-Heathcote River, Otakaro-Avon River and the Estuary. Christchurch South Rotary is allocated a section of the river.

It won't take 2 hours. Afterwards meet at The Brickworks for coffee or early lunch. If you can't make it by 10am just turn up and catch up with one of us. Viv

COLLECTING FOR AVIVA – SAVE THE DATE

Aviva Street Appeal Friday 20th & Saturday 21st May at Bunnings Tower Junction 9am to 6pm.



There are a few spots left on Saturday if you would like to help, reach out to Malcolm Rickerby if you are available.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The only thing worse than starting something and failing...is not starting something." - Seth Godin

Upcoming Meetings

04/05/2022 Malini Raghwan- Fiji Rotary Update & Youth Committee Meeting to follow

11/05/2022 Dame Sue Bagshaw - Youth Support in Canterbury & Board Meeting to follow

18/05/2022 John DeGarnham - The Tour Aotearoa (Southern Leg)

25/05/2022 Ukraine Fundraising Evening at the Cashmere Club (all clubs welcome)

Duties			Leave		
	4 th May	11 th May	Who	From	To
Cash Desk	G Dockrill	G Bailey	M Whitehead	09/09/2015	TBA
Cash Desk	A McCully	G Fowler	J Wylie		TBA
Reception	H Garlic	S Mackenzie	S Haye	11/08/2020	TBA
Speaker Host	S McLean	M Rickerby	K Moss	04/07/2019	30/06/2022
Grace	D Peterson	P Mears	R McKinney	03/11/2021	31/03/2022
International Toast	H Garlic	S Mackenzie			
Thanks to Speaker	A McCully	G Fowler			
Quote	G Dockrill	G Bailey			
Meeting Reporter	V Ellis	J Chamberlain			
Sergeant	M Bruce	S Harris			

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