

Rotary Club of Christchurch South



Mike Bruce—The Lyttelton Tug

(Click [here](#) for photos)

After stepping into the role of Acting President in the absence of Joey, Past President Mike Bruce moved into the roll of speaker for the evening. Mike shared that outside of Rotary, his passion was the tug boat, **Tug Lyttelton**, which he has shared with likeminded men and women for nearly 40 years.

The brief history of the former tug, was that *she*, and *she* was the only *woman* that could be seen in the numerous slides that Mike showed, was built in 1907 by Fergusson Bros in Glasgow for the sum of 14,126 pounds, and arrived in Lyttelton in September 1907 to replace a paddle steamer. She was re-branded as *Lyttelton* in 1911. The tug has twin screws, and was originally 1,000hp generated by twin engines, and was capable of 12.4 knots. The biggest boat that she berthed was the Dominion Monarch, weighing 26,500 tons.

She was retired from service in 1970 and in the absence of an immediate buyer, the **Tug Lyttelton** Preservation Society was formed and took over the preservation of the vessel at the end of 1972. A year of hard work was needed to re-commission the ship and many fund raising projects were required to buy the extra equipment necessary to obtain a New Zealand Marine Department Passenger Survey.

Tug Lyttelton was downgraded from 1,000hp to 750hp, reducing her load from 150 passengers to 100 passengers. She consumes 750kg of coal per hour, and there has been some public resistance to contamination, raising consideration to retrofitting with gas fired injectors to reduce environmental impact.

In September 2019, the Christchurch City Council's Social, Community Development and Hosing Committee agreed to give **Tug Lyttelton** a grant of \$41,620 towards conservation and maintenance work, including Dry docking fees. The grant was in addition to a \$10,000 grant from Council's Metropolitan Discretionary Response Grant fund.

There remains a constant requirement for grants and donations, to meet the ever increasing dry lock inspection and maintenance costs.

A Google search of the former *Lyttelton* tug comments:

- One of the Lyttelton Harbour Board's first significant undertakings when established in 1877, was to order a tug at a cost of £9,000 from Laird Brothers of North Birkenhead, Liverpool. Delivered at London in July, 1878 and rigged as a Brigantine, the *Lyttelton* arrived under sail at Cooktown, in the far north of Queensland for provisions, some four months later. Proceeding to Brisbane for ballast coal, the *Lyttelton* arrived at her home port via Wellington and Blenheim on the 21st of November 1878
- After her arrival the paddle wheels were fitted and the gaff rigged mizzen mast removed. Equipped with a twin diagonal compound steam engine, the 193 ton vessel, with 60 pounds of steam turning her paddles at 73 revolutions per minute, achieved a speed of almost 12 knots during her trials on the 12th of December 1878. Thus began her first career under the command of Captain J. W. Clark, with Captain James Storey Brownell as Mate, and a Mr Miller, as Engineer.
- *Lyttelton's* black topped Buff funnel was a familiar sight on the harbour until her 29 years of service ended on the 22nd of August, 1907, with the inauguration of the new twin-screw *Canterbury* (subsequently renamed the *Lyttelton*). The old paddle steamer was then sold for £3,500 to the Devonport Steam Ferry Company of Auckland

Thank you Mike for sharing your passion with the Club membership.



Past President Mike

Thanks Graham Fowler for this weeks report and Sarita for the photo

Next Week

Community Awards Evening

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 5 August

Community Awards Evening

Wednesday 19 August

Hensh delivery to A&P and bagging commencement

Saturday 22 August

Hensh home deliveries

Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 August

Hensh street sales

Friday 4 and Saturday 5 September

MS & PD Collection

Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 September

Hensh reserve dates street sales

Friday 18 September

AVIVA Collection

Notices

MS & PD Collection

Pak n Save Moorhouse

Friday 4 September, 11am to 1pm **one person**

Saturday 5 September, 10am to 12pm **two people**

Contact Malcolm if you can help

AVIVA Collection

Date: Friday 18 September, New World Ferry Road

Shifts: 9.00-10.30

10.30-12.00

12.00-2.00

2.00-4.00

Contact Chantal if you can help

Past President Mike organised for Bob and his wife Vicky to join us on the 22nd July to present his Honorary Membership Certificate, however due to a slip of memory to bring the certificate, Past President Mike organised a personal visit on Sunday and presented it at his home



A promotional poster for a concert. At the top left is the logo for 'The Christchurch Liedertafel'. The main text reads 'Isaac Theatre Royal PRESENTED BY LIEDERTAFEL MALE VOICE CHOIR CHOIRS FOR THE ISAAC THEATRE ROYAL! SUNDAY 23RD AUGUST 2:30PM'. Below this, it says 'A VIBRANT AFTERNOON OF MUCH-LOVED SONGS AND ANTHEMS FROM NEW ZEALAND POP CULTURE AND BEYOND, PERFORMED BY CHRISTCHURCH CONCERT CHOIRS'. At the bottom right, it says 'TICKETS \$25 PLUS FEES WWW.TICKETEK.CO.NZ'. The background is dark blue with musical notes and stars.

Duties

Duty	5 August	12 August
Cash Desk	D Peterson	A Airay
Cash Desk	A Stewart	L Bougen
Reception	J Chamberlain	R McKinney
Speaker Host	N/A	N/A
Grace	H Garlick	B McKessar
International Toast	N/A	R McKinney
Thanks to Speaker	N/A	N/A
Quote	N/A	L Bougen
Speaker Reporter	M Opie	S Haye
Sergeant	N/A	G Dockrill

Leave

Who	From	To
M Whitehead	09/09/15	TBA
V Nossiter		TBA
J Wylie		TBA
K Tanner	04/07/19	31/12/20
C McCarthy	17/06/20	31/12/20

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