

# Rotary Club of Christchurch South



## Zooming Towards Reconnection

### President Mike:

Hi everyone, I trust you are all safe and content in your bubbles.

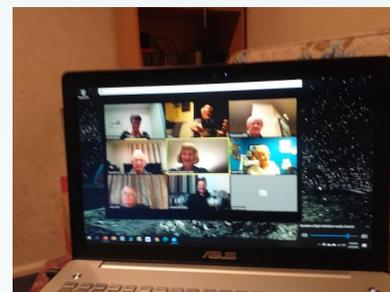
With level two pending it may be possible for some of us to get together around a table again within the next month or so. I'm really looking forward to that opportunity.

At our Wednesday nights Zoom meeting, which began its planning amid great confusion, went very well. I welcome a guest to this one, Jan Boustead Assistant Governor.

The sad passing of Tony was remembered and anecdotes of his time within Rotary shared, as were many stories of lockdown projects and plans.

Alan Airay was able to update us on Daniel Boone who is still in contact, once the opportunity allows there may be an opportunity to further assist Daniel in his garden.

The conversation flowed, laughter rang out, memories and plans shared right until the Zoom cut everyone off.



### Alan McKinnon:

Chris Ayrey and I had a nice chat with Sara, Mel, John, Lew, Andrew, Bruce Wales on Wednesday night. Not surprisingly our conversation started with thoughts of Tony and Allison and Gill. We reminisced over Tony as a person but also his remarkable contribution to Rotary over the years and particularly his involvement with and support of programmes involving young people. We talked about RYLA and the Rotary Youth Exchange students Pauline, Laura and Charlotte that the club had hosted over the years. We also had a brief discussion about Lew Brown's new look (all will be revealed at some later time). Inevitably we discussed the lock down and what might be possible as we move to level 2. When will the club be able to meet physically? Will Hensh be possible? How will we manage to keep social distances in shops and restaurants? Some present remembered the polio epidemic of the late 1940s and early 1950s. Being a disease that primarily affected children, schools were closed for extensive periods and things like drinking fountains were turned off. Some remembered receiving both the needle vaccine and the oral one in the little paper cups. We also rejoiced in hearing that Doug Johns was now back at home. So much easier for him and Anne and their family. As we finished, people commented how worthwhile they found these weekly Zoom sessions as a way of keeping in touch and supporting each other.



### Sarita and Alan Stewart:

Tonight we had Linda, Bruce McKessar and Graham D join Alan and I on our group chat.

We had a few minutes to share our memories of Tony, may he rest in peace.

Graham just popped in for a bit as he was in the middle of dinner service at his home restaurant. On the menu was fancy baked chicken and kale plus some other stuff which I didn't catch. Linda is working from home and is in the middle of chopping down an apricot tree which doesn't seem to bear any fruit. After our meeting she had to rush off to an online quiz evening (wonder how that works?)

Alan and Jan have continued with their daily walking and biking. Bruce was patiently waiting for his dinner to be served up. Helen was multitasking as she popped in and out of our conversation. The polar fleece which she has ordered will be delivered shortly so she can restart the soft toy production line using her super fancy sewing machine. The toys range from puppy, pig, dinosaur, cat and rhinoceros. I cannot wait to see these.



# Tony Blackler

27 November 1949 – 4 May 2020



Forty-eight years after I met Tony, he was in primary school then, I asked him if he would be interested in joining a service club. This was very opportune as he had been thinking about how he could utilise the free time he had. Tony had the motivation, energy and the interest to being involved in a community based service group. The idea of joining Rotary appealed to him and this was supported by Allison.

On 12 April 2006 Tony became a member of the Rotary Club of Christchurch South, quickly involving himself in the life of the Club. As members do, Tony served the Club in a variety of roles but his passion, without a doubt, was in the area of children, youth and young adults. During most of his fourteen years membership of our Club Tony served on the Youth Service Committee. Through this vehicle he played a leading role in the establishment of the Club's Young Adult Group and the junior speech competition for year 7 and 8 pupils from the schools linked to the St Martins School Cluster. When our Club accepted responsibility for organising the Rotary Youth Leadership Award programme for three consecutive years (2014-2017). Tony accepted the challenge to manage this. It was from this programme that Tony recruited members for the Young Adult Group. Tony, Allison and Gill spent time with two of the Inbound Student Exchange students – Laura Buchler, Bounas, Switzerland (2010-2011) and Charlotte Moeri, Lyss, Switzerland (2013-2014), and continue to keep in contact with them.

Tony served as President of our Club for the Rotary Year 2011-2012 and in recognition of his commitment to many aspects of Rotary life and his leadership he was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship on 25 June 2014.

Tony also served at the District level and has been a member of the Rotary District Board for a number of years, serving as the District Youth Director. He was an Assistant Governor for three years, incumbent Training Team Convenor, on the RYLA and Youth Exchange Committees. In this latter role Tony maintained contact with the Outbound Exchange Students as well as supporting and keeping their families up-to-date with their family member's exchange experience. Following the 2010-2011 earthquakes he was involved with the Rotary Neighbourhood Support and Earthquake Committees. Tony was the convenor of the Organising Committee for the very successful Rotary District Conference in Akaroa in April when Club member Sarita McLean was District Governor.

In recognition of his contribution to the District, the Board awarded Tony a Paul Harris Fellowship Sapphire on 6 July 2019. Tony and Allison worked very much as a team on the Rotary projects dear to their hearts and that was recognise too at District level with Allison receiving a District Paul Harris Fellow Award on 24 June 2015.

Over the last eighteen months Tony has had a number of health issues which have prevented him attending our regular weekly meetings. However, this did not prevent him from continuing to fulfil his roles at both the Club and District levels.

We miss you Tony, your presence amongst us and your expansive Rotary knowledge as well as the way you served our local, national and international communities. We will treasure our memories of you and continue to support the programmes you believed in.

Rest in peace, Tony.

David Buist  
8 May 2020

## Notices

### Bulletin Editor

Kim is back on board now so please send any notices and Zoom reports directly to her at [tanner.kimberley@gmail.com](mailto:tanner.kimberley@gmail.com). Thank you

### CHCH South Awards Evening

The CHCH South Awards Evening scheduled for 20 May has officially been postponed. More information shall follow once organised.

## Next Week

Zoom Zoom Zoom

## Upcoming Rotary Events

### POSTPONED

[CHCH South Awards Evening](#)

## Leave

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

## Rotary and COVID-19

- In Italy, one of the countries that has been affected most, clubs in District 2080 are raising funds to purchase ventilators and protective gear for overstretched hospitals. And when the worst of the outbreak was raging in China, the district's clubs raised more than \$21,000 for protective masks to prevent spread of the disease there.
- Clubs in District 2041, also in Italy, raised funds online to buy protective gear for health workers who will care for COVID-19 patients at a 400-bed hospital being built at Milan's fairgrounds.
- In Hong Kong, Rotary clubs have raised funds, packed medical supplies, and visited public housing to distribute masks and sanitizers.
- Rotary clubs in Sri Lanka installed thermometers in airport bathrooms and produced posters to raise awareness about the coronavirus for schools across the country.
- The Rotary Club of Karachi Darakhshan, Sind, Pakistan, distributed thousands of masks to people in Karachi.
- Clubs in District 3700 (Korea) have donated \$155,000 to the Red Cross.
- Rotary clubs in Nigeria's Akwa Ibom state conducted a campaign to raise awareness about the threat of the virus. Members shared information about the illness and how to keep safe at two schools and distributed materials about using good hygiene to stay healthy.
- The Rotary club of Metro Bethesda, Maryland, USA, is contacting neighbors who live alone and are quarantined. Volunteers are asked to contact at least five of those people each week to ask how they are and if they need anything. Members are also leaving flowers on their doorsteps.

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