

Rotary Club of Christchurch South



Hatesa Seumanutafa: Canterbury Museum—Local early settlement

Hatesa Seumanutafa's talk to us was a very enlightening presentation of the very early settlement of the Pacific region and for your reporter at least, a reworking of the negative perceptions of early Pacific civilisation as promulgated by the European colonisers. Hatesa, herself of Pacific heritage, is involved in curation and collection management at the Canterbury Museum with, among other things, specific responsibility for repatriation of objects. She was introduced to the museum as a teenager whose life experience had been such that she did not expect to feel comfortable in what she perceived as a Pakeha environment. She later worked there as an intern and following study became a permanent member of the museum staff.



The "Pacific Highway" began the exploration and settlement of the Pacific region about 1100-800 BCE when voyagers spread to Fiji and West Polynesia including Samoa and Tonga and about 1000 years ago people began to inhabit the central East Polynesia including what is now French Polynesia and thence to Hawaii and then to New Zealand. This was a "truly epic" process involving the construction of sturdy catamaran-type sailing vessels and remarkable celestial navigation. These were explorers in the true sense of the term. Over the years, the various settlements formed became thriving civilisations with trade, industry and alliances and wars just as in the modern day. There were even Pacific Learning Centres in what is now French Polynesia and Hawaii. Although there was no written language as Europeans would traditionally view it, there was a vast system of recorded communication such as in tattoos, art of various forms and also things like the woven rope patterns used to lash beams together in their wooden structures. We were shown a remarkable example of this.

Hatesa showed us photos of a "back pack" used by Maori to carry pounamu from the West Coast to the East in the South Island. It was discovered in 1983 in the Cave Stream area near Flock Hill and comprises a wooden frame covered with a woven fabric. It even has a draw-string to pull it closed. Maori began permanent settlements in Aotearoa about 1250-1300 AD although examples of rock art show there were visits to the South Island as early as 850 AD. They came from a strong cultural and material base and were well equipped to take on the challenges of settling this new land. It is a travesty that depictions such as the painting, "The arrival of Maoris in New Zealand" by Goldie give such an erroneous impression.

European (Portuguese, Spanish, German, French and British) colonisation had a huge impact on this thriving civilisation throughout the Pacific. The colonisers brought guns, Christianity, alcohol and disease and pillaged local taonga, land and other resources. They brought an attitude of superiority that totally undermined the thriving communities that were there. The legacies of this exploitation are with us today in the form of lost identity, lost culture, lost resources and most importantly, lost confidence and self-esteem.

We thank Hatesa for opening our eyes to how advanced the pre-European civilisation in the Pacific was. It behoves us all to remember this and reflect on the damage done by the early colonisers as our various cultures move together into the future.

Thanks to Alan M for the report and Viv for the photo



Wear a Xmas Hat!

Bring a gift

DECEMBER

14TH

Wednesday

6 pm to 9 pm

Cashmere Club

**GIFT UP TO \$10 IN A
BOTTLE:**

**PICKLES - JAM - WINE
- BATH SALTS - ETC**

\$36pp, please pay to the below account

03-1599-0081963-00

Upcoming Meetings

14 December

Partners Night

Christmas Function

18 January

Cashmere Rotary visit

25 January

Geoff Bailey (Partners Night)

Out of Africa—the life and times of our very own Geoff Bailey

1 February

Jenny May ONZM

Heritage in the City and the Rebuild of the Cathedral

Upcoming Events

14 December

Christmas Function (6.30pm)

18 January

Joining with Cashmere Club Rotary

Notices

Imagine What's Next in Melbourne, Australia

Take advantage of the reduced rate by registering now for the 2023 Rotary International Convention, 27-31 May in Melbourne, Australia.

The reduced rate expires 15 December. Registration link below
[2023 Rotary International Convention Melbourne](#)

Christmas Party

14 December, 6.30pm to 9pm, \$36pp

The Christmas function will be themed this year—wear a Christmas hat! It can be a favourite hat decorated, or a Christmas themed hat.

We will also bring a gift for each other—a bottle of something up to \$10—it can be pickles, jam, bath oil etc. These will be exchanged through the evening.

Pay on the night or via bank transfer: 03-1599-0081963-00

Harmony Waitaha—Songs for Christmas

Purchase tickets here: [Harmony Waitaha tickets](#)

Change of Address

Robin Redpath

Russley Village

73 Roydvale Avenue

Apartment 114

Christchurch 8053

Hensh Photos

If you have any hensh photos, please send them through to Viv

Bulletin notices

If you would like anything included in the final bulletin for the year, please make sure it is sent to chchsouthrotary@gmail.com before Sunday 18 December

Duties

Duty	14 December	18 January
Cash Desk	M Bruce	
Cash Desk	A McKinnon	
Reception	S Harris	
Speaker Host	N/A	
Grace	S Mackenzie	
International Toast	N/A	
Thanks to Speaker	N/A	
Quote	N/A	
Speaker Reporter	G Fowler	
Sergeant	N/A	

Leave

Who	From	To
M Whitehead	09/09/15	TBA
J Wylie		TBA
S Haye	11/08/20	TBA
R McKinney	28/09/22	14/04/23
L Bermingham	17/10/22	31/12/22

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 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

