

Rotary Club of Christchurch South



Philip Aldridge—Arts Centre Update

The last time Philip Aldridge spoke to Christchurch South Rotary he was the CEO of the Court Theatre and he read poetry to us. This time he spoke to us as CEO of the Christchurch Arts Centre—of which the Court Theatre was a prominent tenant prior to the February 2011 earthquakes.

It is not surprising that Philip's talk focused on the repairing/rebuilding at the Arts Centre necessitated by the severe damage the earthquakes caused. It's been a remarkable effort. Plans are in hand to restore 20 out of the 22 stone buildings in this Heritage Category 1 listed complex. This work has been recognised by an Asia Pacific UNSECO Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation. Philip showed us photos of the beautifully restored Great Hall with its new rimu floor made from storm-damaged rimu trees and also mentioned its new artesian heating system which is a significant step up from open fire—although the latter can still be used!

The Arts Centre employed their own stone masons to carry out this restoration work. At one stage there were 30 employed from many parts of the world. Currently there are 5.



The mission of the Arts Centre is "Restoring Memories and Creating Vibrant Futures", and from the photos we were shown this is being well adhered to. The old Christchurch Boys' High School gymnasium looks spectacular as does the reconstructed clock tower. The 33-room boutique Observatory Hotel which is now part of the reconstructed observatory building is an example of the innovation behind the Centre's redevelopment. The observatory was the only building that completely collapsed during the earthquakes. The only thing that remained was the archway at the entrance with two engineers standing under it—they were there doing an inspection of damage resulting from the September 2010 earthquake.

Both the Music and Classics Departments of the University of Canterbury have a significant presence in the Arts Centre. Of particular note is the Teece Museum of Classical Antiquities and the regular concerts run by the University.

The final two stone buildings planned for restoration will be used as a health technology centre—a use allowed under the "creative" aspect of the Act that the Centre operates under. That will leave just 2 stone buildings which will be moth-balled. Philip discussed the much loved "23rd" building—the Old Students' Union building which became the Dux de Luc. The proposal that had been publicized in the media for reinstating the building wasn't seen as viable from the Centre's point of view and he is hopeful that other proposals may now be developed that will allow the building to be used again.

According to Philip's research, the Arts Centre is unique internationally in that it receives no operational funding support from local or central government. This raises some alarm bells as the rental of the buildings is not predicted to provide sufficient funds to ensure its ongoing financial viability. However, Philip is optimistic and believes now is the time to be encouraging the public back into this fabulous complex. There are many ways people can become personally involved with this such as offering their services as voluntary guides.

Thanks to Alan A for this week's report and Di for the photo

Upcoming Meetings

14 September

Club Assembly

21 September

Speaker: David Dunn

The Crafty Weka Bar Story

Rotary Club of Cashmere will be joining us

28 September (Partners night)

Craig South

Architectural Trends & Award-Winning Designs

5 October

Murray Kennedy

Prisoners Going Straight—How we do it

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 14 September

Board Meeting

Monday 26 September

Years' 7 and 8 Speech Competition

Inner Wheel

Members of the Christchurch West Inner Wheel invite you to join us for coffee at 10am Monday 26th September, at The Black and White Cartel, 55 The Landing, Wigram. Please let Rosemary Hewson know if you wish to attend.

rosemarymoherson@gmail.com 027 971 8522

Notices

Rotary Walk/Luncheon

Come join us on our next walk/luncheon

Date: Thursday 15 September

Meet: Near Fava Café, 236 Centaurus Road, St Martins

Time: 10.30am

Walk: Hanson Park and surrounding area

Lunch: Fava Café

If you are unable to join the walk, then come and have lunch with us.

RSVP to David on 027 2900 946 or by email

David.buist@xtra.co.nz

An early response would be appreciated

Rotary World Action Day

On Saturday we helped Rotary Passport Club Otāutahi with a make-over at the Canterbury Refugee Centre.



Thanks to Geoff for organising this and for those who attended: Alan McK, Alan A, Alan S, Mike B, Diane P, Graham F, David B & Shirley H.



Duties

Duty	14 September	21 September
Cash Desk	G Dockrill	M Bruce
Cash Desk	H Garlick	M Rickerby
Reception	D Buist	D Peterson
Speaker Host	N/A	A Airay
Grace	D Peterson	A Airay
International Toast	D Buist	D Peterson
Thanks to Speaker	N/A	M Rickerby
Quote	G Dockrill	M Bruce
Speaker Reporter	L Bermingham	G Fowler
Sergeant	M Bruce	G Bailey

Leave

Who	From	To
M Whitehead	09/09/15	TBA
J Wylie		TBA
S Haye	11/08/20	TBA
S McLean	01/07/22	01/10/22
J Chamberlain	17/08/22	TBA
K Moss	29/08/22	31/10/22

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

