

# THE BULLETIN

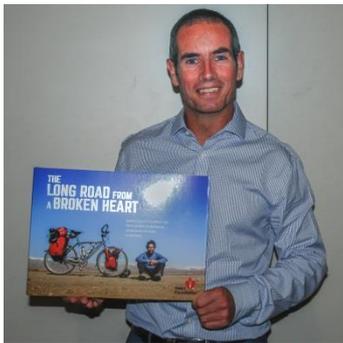
Rotary Club of Christchurch South  
District 9970  
P O Box 12-243, Christchurch 8242



**SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

Attendance Wed 08 Mar. 2017			Total Membership: 49 (45 Active, 4 Honorary)				
Members and Associates	32	Apologies	13	Visitors	11	On Leave	10

Jeremy Scott addressed the combined Christchurch South and Cashmere Rotary Clubs at this week’s meeting. This inspiring speaker came with a prop, his bike, on which he had cycled for almost 52,000km from London to NZ, through 29 countries, a trip which took him 2½ years to complete.



Jeremy Scott with his book 'The Long Road from a Broken Heart'

Jeremy was born in Auckland, and as an infant suffered from severe health issues, which, after his mother’s persistence in getting to the nub of the problem, were eventually diagnosed as being due to a huge hole in his heart which he had been born with. The eminent heart surgeon, Sir Brian Barratt-Boyes, endeavoured to hold off operating on Jeremy until he had grown, but with Jeremy’s seriously failing health, the operation was undertaken when he was just 4 years old (in 1977). Jeremy then recovered and progressed from rolling around as an infant (unable to walk at that time) to taking up playing sport as a child.

At the age of 28 (in 2001) Jeremy went to London working as an architect, but in 2004 his hunger for adventure and exploration was fired up by magazine articles he read on cycle tours. From this point on the planning of a cycle trip which was to take him across the world was commenced.

In 2011, after seven years of planning, Jeremy set off from London on the trip of his life, having little or no real training for the task ahead, and wondering what he had let himself in for. When the day to leave on his journey arrived, and his alarm went off, he felt scared, and the options at that point for him were either to get on and start, or to admit he was scared and call it off. He felt that he had told too many friends what he was planning to do to consider taking the latter option, and so, very apprehensively, he set off.



Jeremy and his purpose-made bicycle

It took some time to gain confidence, and an important part of the initial stages was to break the journey into small achievable segments. The weather was an issue, and later in his journey, as he rode further east from Europe into Asia, he struck the worst Winter weather the region had suffered in 50 years. In Iran, he was held at gunpoint by drug dealers, and managed to escape when two people arrived where he was being held, and he managed to ride away into the night on his cycle. Despite this ordeal, Jeremy found the hospitality in Iran to be outstanding, citing “beautiful humanity” in this country, as in the example of the shepherd who cooked Jeremy a meal using all the food the shepherd had. Jeremy found that the people with the least to give, gave so much to him.

Cycling on through places such as Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan, he finally reached China, cycling through a huge desert in temperatures exceeding 50 degrees Celsius, encountering sandstorms which would take between 1 and 5 hours to get through, but after striking the first of these he gained confidence that he could cycle through these storms.

He then went through South Korea, and Japan. There were times where there were accidents – where he skidded off his bike on an icy mountain pass, and on another occasion ripped his achilles tendon area on the pedal of his bike in freezing conditions, which bled profusely when he reached warmth.

After cycling around in Japan, he went back to China and then down through Vietnam, and eventually on to Indonesia. In Vietnam, he met a Kiwi whose brother had been operated on by Sir Brian Barratt-Boyes approximately two years before Jeremy's operation. The operation on this young boy was unsuccessful, but Jeremy felt that his own life might have been saved because of what Sir Brian had learned from that experience.

In Indonesia, Jeremy was under some pressure to reach Bali to rendezvous with some family members there, and at this point, trying to get there in time he "hit a wall" mentally, and had to talk hard to himself to continue on. Part of the reason for this was that he had a severe stomach upset from food in Indonesia, and by the time he reached Bali his weight was just 59kg.

From Bali he flew to Darwin where an uncle (aged 70) and aunt (aged 63) of his from Healesville in Victoria (where they are Rotarians), joined him to cycle 3,100 km, which helped to lift his spirits. He spoke of a magpie attack on him on a cycle track near Brisbane, from where he continued to cycle on to Melbourne, then flew to Christchurch, before continuing his journey to his final destination, Auckland.

Jeremy felt that he was happiest when he just had his survival basics – he discarded much of the gear he had packed into his five panier bags a short time after he commenced his journey, reducing his load to the very basics – food and water were very important to him right through the journey. Jeremy achieved a wonderful sense of pride in stepping out of his comfort zone and achieving the goal of completing the journey, even although the route he had planned to take at the outset ended up being 70% changed as the journey progressed.

In answer to questions, Jeremy told us that he had not had any cycle breakdowns on the trip, had just seven punctures, went through three sets of tyres in 50,000 km, so that the fourth set were on the bike when he finished. His adventure was self-funded, and he had budgeted \$800 per month to cover food, transport, accommodation, etc., and he found that this budget was sufficient.

When Jeremy completed his journey, he wrote a book – "The Long Road from a Broken Heart", detailing his experiences. He is currently on a speaking tour throughout NZ promoting his book which is available for \$65, of which 10% goes to the New Zealand Heart Foundation, which supported Sir Brian Barratt-Boyes research work in the earlier days.

This was a truly inspiring address, and both Clubs were fortunate to have had the opportunity to have heard from this outstanding adventurer.

*(Our thanks go to Athol McCully for the report and Doug and Anne Johns for the evening's photographs).*



Left: Gavin Kingston from Cashmere Rotary Club with Doug Johns from Christchurch South Rotary

Right: Anne Johns, Liz Bermingham and DGE Sarita McLean celebrate International Women's Day at the combined Rotary meeting 8th March, 2017



## Notices

- 29 March is 'Bring a Friend to Rotary' night. This is the important evening of the year when we promote our club with gaining new members in mind. The speaker is Joy Reid, TV reporter, who spoke so engagingly and eloquently at last year's (2016) RYLA dinner. Topic: 'One Mother to Another'. So, Friend or indeed, Family member.
- **Committee meetings notified to the Editor for after club this coming Wednesday (22 March):** Board of Directors.

### Walkers' Group



### Come join us for our next walk and or lunch.

**Date:** Thursday 16 March.

**Meet:** Port Hills Road & Chapmans Road Cnr (near French Bakery) for bus trip to Lyttelton – bring your Gold Card.

**Time:** **Bus Departs 10.00am – Ferry Departs 10.50am.**

**Walk:** Around Diamond Harbour.

**Lunch:** Diamond Harbour.

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

**Please let Harold know if you will be joining the walkers for lunch on or before WEDNESDAY 15 March.**

- Just a handful of member subscriptions remain outstanding. Almost all of the subscription goes to RI and District dues and so outstanding subscriptions are drawn down on the club account. Treasurer Bruce's job is made easier by prompt payments.  
**You might have forgotten? Please bear with Bruce if he sends you a reminder**

## Previous Notices

- Robin McKinney announced that 'Guess Who's Coming to Dinner' evening is likely to be for Sat. 25 March. Please consider the possibility of being a host. Guests \$20 pp. Proceeds going to the Club Charitable Trust. Clipboard going around.
- Vocational Service Committee is seeking candidate/s for Pride of Workmanship Award. Nominations from our members should be directed to Dan Christophers (Chairman) or Doug Johns.
- **New Meals regime for club night:**  
1st Wednesday of the month, a self-serve Buffet.  
2nd week - Roast meat  
3rd - Fish chips Salad  
4<sup>th</sup> - Kitchen's discretion  
The new charge to our regular evening meal is \$18 (includes the club surcharge of \$2).
- Reminder to remove Cc's when using Bulletin contacts for 'Reply all' personal messages.
- In the absence of the Editor, up to and including 22 March, all Bulletin matters should be forwarded to Mel.

## Next Meeting

**Mar 15 Paula Harborne Southern Environmental Trust Scholar**

## “Duties”

## “On Leave”

Duty	15/03/17	22/03/17		Inclusive	
				FROM	TO
Cash Desk	LBrown	A McKinnon	L Kelly	23/02/12	TBA
Cash Desk	D Buist	V Nossiter	G Dockrill	21/06/16	TBA
Reception	J Chamberlain	B Wales	B Blyth	13/04/16	TBA
Speaker's Host	S Collins	M Rickerby	M Whitehead	02/08/15	TBA
Grace	S Harris	J Chamberlain	M Ireland	01/01/17	28/06/17
International Toast	M Bruce	R Mackie	B Lawrence	02/08/15	TBA
Thanks to Speaker	D Johns	G Foulds	E Musson	01/01'17	TBA
Quote for the Week	H Garlick	J McKessar	A Airay	08/01/17	18/03/17
Closure	K Tanner	T Blackler	S Hays	22/03/17	12/04/17
Speaker Reporter	J Woodward	Q Moss	B SoutheyJensen	15/03/17	



### Looking Ahead

**Mar 22 Ashley Stuart Internship in Thailand**

**Mar 29 Joy Reid One Mother to Another Bring a Friend to Rotary**

### A TWIST IN THE TAIL

A juggler, driving to his next performance, is stopped by the police. “What are these matches and lighter fluid doing in your car?” asks the cop.

“I’m a juggler and I juggle flaming torches in my act.”

“Oh yeah?” says the doubtful cop. “Lets see you do it.” The juggler gets out and starts juggling the blazing torches masterfully.

A couple driving by slows down to watch. “Wow,” says the driver to his wife.

“I’m glad I quit drinking. Look at the test they’re giving now!”

**If you are going to be absent from a meeting would you please advise on the contacts below and if you have a duty, please arrange a substitute**

**APOLOGIES** – Record your apology at the Reception Desk at a prior meeting  
OR Email: [chchsouthrotary@gmail.com](mailto:chchsouthrotary@gmail.com) before 11.00 on the Wednesday.

Last minute apologies to Mike Bruce, 022 540 1251 or Val Nossiter (339 8441).

**DUTIES** - If you are unable to do allocated duty, it is YOUR responsibility to arrange a substituent  
AND advise the President.

**LEAVE of ABSENCE** (three weeks or more) advise the Secretary by email or in writing.

Our Club is on Facebook. You will find us at:

<http://www.facebook.com/RotaryClubOfChristchurchSouth>

