

Rotary Bulletin – 30 March 2026

Youth Music Festival

23 May 2026. Contact Steve Paterson.

Circus Quirkus

28 May 2 shows at PNBHS. Contact Mike.

Red Tulip Walk in the Manawatu

11 April, Support World Parkinson's Day.

Brew Union

24 April 2026, Friday 5.00 pm.

Monday lunchtime 13 April 2026

Guest Speaker: Maria Bayley

“Training tomorrow’s workforce”

Intro/Thanks	President Dave
Sergeant	Liam Hehir
Corporal	Martin Townend
Parting Thought	Aaron Tait
Bulletin Editor	Dave Gaynor
Attendance	Stu Schwartz

Summary of the Speech by Davinia Ramdeen and Sharleen Fields, CCS – Disability Action



Celebrating 90 years of impact

CCS Disability Action & Rotary
Presented by Davinia Ramdeen & Sharleen Fields



Davinia Ramdeen, Service Manager for CCS Disability Action in the Manawātū region, introduced the organisation’s purpose, history, and future direction. She acknowledged CCS Disability Action’s 90-year legacy, highlighting its origins as the Crippled Children’s Society and its long-standing partnership with Rotary, including local support that helped establish the Palmerston North office.

Davinia emphasised CCS’s evolution into a pan-disability organisation, supporting people of all ages with physical, neurological, and other disabilities, with a vision of fully reintegrating disabled people into their communities.

 CCS Disability Action Manawatu-Horowhenua-Whanganui

Rotary’s role in establishing CCS Disability Action

- In 1935, Rotary clubs founded branches to support disabled children and their families.
- Rotary’s commitment led to a national movement, advocating for inclusion and accessibility.
- Their vision created a foundation for one of New Zealand’s most enduring disability support organizations.



She outlined current regional initiatives across Manawātū, Horowhenua, and Whanganui, including community events such as ADAPT, Karanga Maha, and International Day of Persons with Disability.

A major focus of her talk was the “Voice in Action” programme, which empowers disabled people to advocate for changes that matter to them. She shared a practical success story involving improved mobility parking access at Palmerston North Plaza, demonstrating how guided advocacy can lead to tangible community improvements.

Davinia also spoke about stabilising CCS services after several years of organisational change. She highlighted a renewed focus on youth under 19, helping them transition from school to employment and independent living, and stressed CCS’s philosophy of “walking alongside” people rather than doing things for them. She described this as a unique, empowerment-based model aimed at clients eventually no longer needing CCS support.

Looking ahead, Davinia emphasised strengthening partnerships, expanding services based on community need, advocating for systemic and policy change

(including funding and fuel cost impacts), and increasing CCS's visibility in Palmerston North.

CCS Disability Action Manawatu-Horowhenua-Whanganui



Looking ahead – Our vision for the future

- Building on 90 years of progress to create a fully inclusive society.
- Strengthening partnerships with organisations like Rotary to drive change.
- Expanding services to support more disabled people in innovative ways.
- Advocating for systemic change to ensure equal opportunities for all.



She invited Rotary members to collaborate through accessibility projects, mentoring, networking, and renewing long-standing community connections.

Sharleen Fields, Senior Coordinator at CCS Disability Action, spoke about the ADAPT initiative, a community participation programme currently running in Levin. She explained how ADAPT connects disabled people with community members—particularly retirees—who volunteer their time and skills. These connections have helped participants build practical skills, confidence, and pathways toward employment, such as gardening and other hands-on activities.

Sharleen emphasised the untapped value of community skills and how ADAPT strengthens inclusion by creating shared spaces where disabled people are active and visible members of the community. She expressed enthusiasm for expanding the programme into Palmerston North.

Together, Davinia and Sharleen presented a strong message of empowerment, inclusion, community collaboration, and renewed partnership, inviting Rotary and the wider community to play an active role in creating lasting change for disabled people in the region.



Parting Thought:

John Brunsdon:

“Believe in yourself and you’re half way there.”

