



Whangarei Rotary

(Chartered 1925)

District 9910



Chronicle for 8 June 2016

Int President K.R. Ravindran

President – Gail Taylor, Secretary- Alison Rossiter, Treasurer – Bill Rossiter, Chronicle - Andrew Bax, Community – Andrew Bax, International - Roger Barber, Programme –Mike Elrick, Almoner - George Wilson, Historian - Lloyd Morris, Website - Andrew Bax, Youth – Maurice Schicker,
District Governor – Peter Garnett, Assistant Governor – Rosemary Meyer

President Gail welcomed everyone to the meeting

Apologies:-

Mike & Pat, Jack & Barbara Lucy,

1 Minute notices

- Bill reported that we are better off financially since the move to the RSA, now we are covering our expenses.
- Discussion took place re meeting times, all agreed that lunch will start 12:00 for 12:30 downstairs and evening 5:30 for 6:00 upstairs speaker will start at 6:00.
- Latoya is down for RYLA next year.
- 5th Wednesday this month is diner at Shiraz

Guest Speaker – John Barber -autobiography

Born and bred in Fiji for his first few years.

Johns grandparent's moved to Fiji in 1895ish. They went into partnership in Fiji exporting bananas to NZ. John father born in Fiji 1904, went to Kings school in NZ and went back to Suva and onto NSW to study Agriculture. Johns Mother went to Fiji to visit her sister and met his dad, she was 16 and dad was 24. Later after a serious accident Johns father was recuperating in Hospital when his mother made acquaintance again and they decided to get married. They started off in farming which was very isolated, mum had to ride a horse 6 miles to get the mail. John sisters where first on the scene then John was born in 1945. His parents decided to look after a 5-year-old friend who became Johns brother.

They moved to NZ in 1953 with Grandparents and headed to Whangarei which was the furthest north that was still civilized. His parents bought the Regent Greengrocers.

John went to Whangarei Primary then Whangarei Intermediate (1958) then WBHS. Was in the top classes throughout and enjoyed his time in school.

John joined boy Scouts and spent 15 years with the movement and went to outward Bound in 1964 . Went to University but didn't do particularly well but just plodded along.

Met Katherine Ellis through friends and the rest is history. In 1966 at his 21st he reacquainted with Katherine. They decided to move to Christchurch to study and Katherine took that as a proposal which they agreed was appropriate. Applied for a job as a quantity surveyor and got it, so moved back to Whangarei. Moved to Auckland with the firm and saw another add for professional quantity surveyors,

which he got and stayed with the firm for 9 years. In 1979 John was offered a partnership but declined as they wanted to return to Whangarei where he started in business with a couple of friends.

John has been involved in designing and building many building around Whangarei, such as Morris & Morris. Times were tough and decided to go into liquidation.

John has been in practice since 1988 and was involved with the Waitangi Museum & Waiuru Museum,

John and Katherine have hosted 15 Exchange students over the years and really enjoyed the experience.

Eldest son is a Structural Engineer, middle son Winemaker, youngest son is a watchmaker.

Invited to join Rotary by a friend and was introduced by shovelling sheep shit with a bunch if great people so he joined up. Was president of the Whangarei North Club then amalgamated with South.

Roger thanked John for an interesting talk.

Duty Roster (a.m – noon for 12:30, p.m. – 5:30 for 6:00pm) R.S.A.			
Lunch first, dinner second – 1 st Wed lunch 2 nd dinner etc			
Duties	15 June (am)	22 June – (pm)	Hospital
Speaker	Lunch Forum	Tony Collins	Gail
Host	None	Peter	
Thanks	None	Peter	
Reception	Everyone	Everyone	
Parting Thought	Andrew	Peter	

Parting thought from Roger

“Five percent of people think. Ten percent of people think they think. The other eighty-five percent would rather die than think”

- Thomas Edison