



Whangarei Rotary

(Chartered 1925)

District 9910



Chronicle for April 2017

Int President John Germ

President – Shirley Faber, 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 Smith, Assistant Governor – Rosemary Meyer

Presidents Monthly Report

March was a busy month for our Club. We collected for the Hospice and Puppy appeal. Paid for two colleges to attend MUNA. We have started organizing this year's Speech Contest. I presented Frank Jackson with a PHF with sapphire pin at our 5th week dinner at Suk Jai. We are sponsoring a Student to RYLA, we visited the Waipapa Rotary Club after being invited accidentally but we were made welcome and had a good time.

Guest Speaker – Peter Gleeson – WDC Finance

Peter came from the Manawatu and was in Commercial Lending and was tapped on the shoulder to come to Whangarei District Council in a new role as Economic Development. He was asked to write his own job description and was successful in getting the job.

The Rugby World Cup was the first challenge that he worked on and turned out to be a very successful event. Sprucing up the City was important so Peter helped with the Whangarei Arts Museum and information center at the front. The aim is to turn people into Whangarei rather than just passing through.

After the world cup Peter was told to head off and bring back some industries. However, Peter wanted to get our own house in order first. He realized that WDC had a fortress mentality and the different sections didn't talk to each other and we needed to be more enabling and remove bureaucratic hurdles. When business turned up on our doorstep the first answer was NO, why not? policy! So, Peter set out to try to get WDC to be more enabling. It is better but still not perfect yet. Whangarei had the reputation of being full of unemployment and drug addicts and we were at the bottom of the list along with Gisborne. A group of people put their heads together and asked the question, "Who are we, what are we?" We don't have a Carrot or Kumera, we had Manmia, Arts etc but no identity and that when they came up with "Love it here". This has given us a sense of belonging and realized that we have got a unique place with good weather, great beaches, beautiful harbor etc. So, we needed to inject some money to improve our image and increase the visitor pot of money. This started the Sense of Place Project scheme and the Hatea Loop was one of the main initiatives along with the extras like the canopy bridge etc. The town basin has had a huge benefit from this and now the ratepayers can see where their money has been spent. WDC had been spending but most was under ground and out of sight.

So the next challenge was to figure out how to get the outside money into Whangarei. They developed the Events strategy and introduced MEMA (Major Event Management Act) which aims to bring events to Whangarei from concerts to sporting to flower shows. In 2014 We put in a bid for the Lions Tour and our Bid was as thick as the Auckland phone book. We were the only provincial area to get a game and the feedback was that our proposal was the best, quite rightly Peter was very proud of that. We got Game 1 on June 3rd, so get you tickets.

So Peters roll as Economic Development Officer is to get that money in, grow the population, which did increase by 1400 last year.

There were lots of questions from the floor and John thanked Peter for his interesting talk.

Notices

May is a busy month with the Speech Contest being held a little earlier this year at the request of the colleges.

So remember Zone finals on 17th and finals on 31 May. The usual people will be asked to help so make yourself prepared

A Blast From The Past

Here is a scrapbook of Photos that may jolt some older member's memories.



We gave \$10,000 to kick start Angel Flights



Some of you will remember celebrating Ashton's 60 years in rotary



Christmas BBQ 2013

Only one lunch meeting this month!!!

You'll need a daytime sleep to cope!!!

March 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	3 Apr (am)	10 Apr (pm)	17 Apr – (pm)	24 Apr – (pm)	31 May (pm)
Speaker	Lunch	Davis Moss travel highlights	Zone finals Speech Contest	Dinner out Pizza Barn Waipu	Finals Speech Contest
Host	Everyone	Rodger	Everyone	None	Everyone
Thanks	None	Rodger	None	None	None
Reception	Everyone	Everyone	Everyone	None	Everyone
Parting Thought	None	Rodger	President	None	President

Parting thought



