



Whangarei Rotary

(Chartered 1925)

District 9910



Chronicle for March 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 5 week dinner at Suk Jai.

Autobiography by Frank

This is where I bear my soul is it? Good presentations are characterised by a strong opening, a body and an ending, please excuse me if while talking about my life I don't mention an ending.

My life has been led by two things, luck, of which I have had my fair share and paper, which has played a significant part of my life. I came from very humble beginnings, born in Wiggin in poor living condition as a post war baby in a terraced house with no bathroom, bath hung on the outside wall and got a bath once a week weather we needed one or not. My parents were typical of that era, my father was wounded in the Italian war and was restricted to factory work in the cotton industry which was declining rapidly and was made redundant 6 times during his working life so we never had much money. We were poor but we were happy. They could afford two children, myself and my older brother and as with older siblings I followed whatever my older brother did. He was my hero until I found out the truth about him. We lived in the era of rationing with our ration books and existed the best we could.

My dad had a motorbike which impressed on me how to live life and I have had motorbikes all my life too. Dads bike had a side car and mum & I sat in that while my brother was strapped to dad on the back in case he fell asleep. That's how we went on holiday all over England visiting the seaside. One thing that was dominant in our life was church, going three time a week for many years, so I have done my service and don't need to attend anymore. However it gave me a sense of ethics, what is right & wrong and a love of music being involved with choirs, anthems, solos etc. Music has been a bit part of my life ever since. When I turned 11 we had to sit an exam call the 11 plus, which divided us into Grammar School or Technical School. I was the first person in the history of my family to pass the 11 plus and go to Grammar School. My mum was thrilled to bits as it was great honour but my dad didn't know what was going on. This was a strange part of my life where I learnt Latin, Chemistry, physics and maths etc while my brother went to Technical School and learnt metalwork, woodwork and all these useful things. So we had different lives and as soon as I could, I was expected to leave and get a job, which I did at 16 and got a really good job learning how to make cardboard boxes. This really was a good job with a 3 year training process and every 6 weeks I was sent to Kent to learn the skill of paper making which started my paper career. Traveling to Kent put me through London twice so I explored all sides of London both Museums and the not so cultured side. Its funny how little things can change your life completely. I was working away in the factory making cardboard boxes while chatting to a fellow worker and he discovered that I



had "O" levels in Physics & Chemistry and said to me that I shouldn't be working here, I've just finished working on this big laboratory in Warrington, you should apply to work there. I did and got a job there in the Lab. Fortunately while I was working in the cardboard factory I studied mechanical & electrical engineering on day release, then went to Crossfield and studied Chemistry for seven years until I became a member of the Royal Society of Chemistry and became a professional Chemist. Crossfield did a lot with soluble silicates which were used in glue in the cardboard boxes etc, then they went into paper chemicals which put me back into paper Mill all around England which became a large part of my life. I then moved on to a small family run paper mill the specialized in Long fibre paper making and stencil paper. Then this same technology was used to make tea bags which is a high-tech process. I then experimented with other products like banana skins and New Zealand hemp.

I was at this time I got married to a Lady from Liverpool (Wendy). As a youth, I loved to travel so decided head overseas and thought Canada would be a great choice and wrote to several companies asking for jobs with no success. However, my brother, the Gasfitter, ended up in a job in New Zealand in Wainuiomata. He kept telling how wonderful Wellington was so I thought let's try there. I wrote to all four Paper Mills in NZ asking for a job and Caxton took me on in Kawerau. So, in the 1970's we said goodbye to the family and left for NZ on the other side of the world and in those days, you knew that you wouldn't be popping back for a visit very easily, in fact I never saw my father again. He wished us well and said he would miss us but we were doing the right thing. Not long after I moved to Kawerau my brother moved to Melbourne!!

It was a huge change moving from Manchester to Kawerau, leaving on a jumbo Jet to Wellington and then hopping on a 5 seater and landing on a grass strip in Kawerau. That was our introduction but we absolutely loved it. The company was wonderful for me sending me to 14 countries in Americas, Asia & Europe. I loved my job. We then had a daughter born on Rotorua, who still lives in Auckland.

I progressed in the business from Laboratory Manager to Technical Services Manager, then they needed a new Manger in Auckland in the baby diaper factory with a staff of 300. They also made facial wipes, tissues etc. and I was there in Henderson for about 5 years. I then had some good luck and bad luck, my wife was diagnosed with incurable lung cancer and died from it, having never been a smoker. Good luck is I met my new wife. Five years on they asked me to move to Melbourne to run the hygiene factory, women's products etc. So, I followed my brother to Melbourne. I was operation manager for both NZ and Australia which meant I lived 6 months in each country commuting across the Tasman. Clocking up large amounts of air points but found working Australia quite challenging as you can imagine. Four years later I was ready for a move so put my ring in the hat for a job in China which they were happy to sort but they were desperate for someone to move to Fiji and manage the South Pacific, I agreed as it sounded interesting and off we went. The contract ended in the 3 years and was asked to move to a site in Melbourne, I had 2 choices, take it or retire and I decided I had enough and retired. We planned to say a couple of years in Australia exploring and return to NZ where our 3 children and grandchildren were. That where the bad luck kicked in again and I gat bowel cancer but fortunately it was curable so after Surgery, Chemo and Radiation here I am. Once the Oncologist gave me the all clear we moved to the lovely Ruakaka. So that's my business CV it anyone wants to offer me a job.

But me personally, well I'm lucky to have been married to Yvonne for 10 years now with 3 children, four grandchildren and life is just full. I have been playing the guitar for 50 years and one day I be able to play. I have been heavily involved in theatre, acting, singing, dancing, directing, technical etc. I have been lucky to perform with people like Rob Guest, Derrick Metson etc. I used to be sporting although was never very good at sport but always enjoyed it, half Marthons, Soccer until my 30's, now play golf, fishing and I have one more Motorbike to get out of my system, and I like traveling so will be absent for 6 months of the year.

The other big thing in my life is Rotary, going back to Kawerau I was asked to join and went along to a couple of meetings but I decided it wasn't me. Then in Fiji one of my colleagues said why don't you come to Rotary where I asked what its about to which he went through the four way test with me and I thought that fits my ethics and I joined, that's another Story.

So that my life in a nutshell

While we are on a roll with autobiographies, here is Bill's Story

Pictured here is the Tui Brewery and that's where Bill past every day on his way to school. Born in Ekatahuna and below was their first



home.

Built by Bills grandfather in 1892 and is still there.

Bill remembers bathing outside in their bath and remembers the big day when his dad installed a hot water cylinder, and what a day. Bill remembers living in Ruawhata where their family farm was, that flooded regularly. Bills mother complained on regular basis about the dust and when they demolished the house many years later the silt was 4 feet up the sides of the walls, so some time before they

purchased the farm there were some real big floods.

Bill whole family, Mum, Dad, Bill, Ben, Jim & Gwen here.

Bill's father was killed at the age of 52 when a truck backed over him.

Bill got a job in the railways in 1955 and started off at the bottom as a cleaner and worked his way up to a Engine driver on the Fell Engines at Cross Creek (that's another whole story)

Bill is the youngest person alive who worked there. Bill lived in a camp in Featherston where there where 60 huts about 8' x 10'(feet).



Bill joined the traffic force at the age of 23 where he trained

in Christchurch and was later transferred to Whangarei. Bill mainly rode motor bikes both Auckland and Whangarei.

In 1971 they set up their own printing business in the basement of their house and then moved in to town. (Another whole story)



One of Bill great passions is gliding and this is a "Prat", a Polish glider. Not the best plane but Bill got into a better glider and performed a few amazing feats. In this glider, Bill managed a 300-km flight around the north. In the "Nimbus" glider which was a lot bigger. Bill achieved a 594km flight from Marsterton and up to Napier and more... where he went to 26,000 ft which was very cold. On oxygen at -

40C and down to only 800ft where he nearly had to land in a paddock. Managed to find a bit of lift so managed to land just inside the Marsterton airfield.

At 26,000 ft it was getting a bit cold, and dressed in two pair a trousers and Israeli boots wasn't Enough and his toes were like ice cubes so he dropped to 21,000 ft which warmed up a bit. This Was above the clouds, so he got a call from Ohakea Air control asking if he knew where he was To which Bill replied, yes just west of Norsewood, and they replied that's pretty bloody good. About then a plane took off from Napier and asked for clearance to 25,000 ft and was told no, he Could go to 18,000 ft. The plane asked why and was told there is a glider at 21,000 ft. The pilot Asked if he could speak to the Bill, which was granted and asked Bill a few questions and then shortly after told Bill all the passengers were looking out the windows trying to find him. That flight earned Bill, from FAI (Federation Aeronautical International) 3 diamond and a gold badge. When he finally landed, he took out his filled roll which was frozen solid.

Bills next life experience was joining St Johns. While running the printing business he worked on permanent night shift for 3 years, Monday to Friday and volunteered for 21 years with St Johns and earned a medal & bar for his efforts. One call out to a serious accident suddenly set of alarm bell for Bill when he realized that he wasn't up to speed, as he used to be, so decided it was time to retire from St Johns.

Bills next adventure was being elected to Whangarei District Council when Stan was the Mayor.

Bill and Roger Scampton were the main drivers behind the "Helmet champagne" and they raised over \$90,000 and pictured here, they are receiving a "Civic Award" for their efforts. This was the beginning of the Road Safety Trust. Bill felt that as armatures \$90,000 was too much for them and the Trust was formed. Bill and the team identified that many without a driver's license couldn't read. The education department didn't agree with Bills report so were taken up north to check for themselves and when they tested the group that Bill had identified, (7 out of the 17 were illiterate) the education department wanted to use their test and whoa!! They identified 13 as illiterate. Bills reports were recognized all over the world and the campaign is still operating today.

This is when Bill decided to keep Alison and she made an honest man out of him.



And the rest is history.

Bill summarized that life has been pretty good to me and at the age of 8 he was diagnosed with TB and double pneumonia and his parents were told that he was going to die, Bills sister had just died of measles and his cousin had just died of Tetanus. The death rate back in the forties was quite high. Then one day the Doctor walked in as said I've got a magic bullet for you, bend over, and with that he got a jab of penicillin left by the US army who donated cases of penicillin when they pulled out. Three weeks later Bill walked out of hospital.

Notices

President Shirley presenting Frank with a PHF with Sapphire Pin. A few years ago, Frank and several of his fellow Rotarians wanted to support the Rotary Foundation and the great work it is doing and started contributing every month to the Foundation. After a few years, the Foundation have recognized his contributions accordingly.



There are always a few that don't want to leave! Rumor has it that this lot enjoyed the meal along with the other 20 but as can be seen in the photo, the glasses and wine bottle are empty and Management had to ask them to leave. This time Shirley did pay for her meal, after leaving early last time, once she got home, suddenly realized she hadn't paid. The joys of

having an OBE. (Over Bloody Eighty).

Incidentally after my Chronicle last month some of Bill's friends in Australia rang to congratulate him on his OBE. Bloody Aussies didn't read the full description. Ha Ha!!

A Blast From The Past

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



March Duty Roster (a.m – noon for 12:30, p.m. – 5:30 for 6:00pm) R.S.A.					
Lunch first, dinner second – 1st Wed lunch 2nd dinner etc					
Duties	5 Apr (am)	12 Apr (pm)	19 Apr – (pm)	26 Apr – (pm)	
Speaker	Lunch	Peter Gleeson WDC finance	Waipapa Club Visit	Peter Mulhare Police	
Host	Everyone	John	None	Peter	
Thanks	None	John	None	Peter	
Reception	Everyone	Everyone	None	Everyone	
Parting Thought		John	None	Peter	

Parting thought

“One small POSITIVE thought in the morning,
can CHANGE your whole day.”