

Whangarei Rotary

(Chartered 1925)

District 9910

Chronicle for March 2018



Int President Ian Riseley

President – Maurice Schicker, Secretary- Alison Rossiter, Treasurer – Bill Rossiter, Chronicle - Andrew Bax, Community – Andrew Bax, International - Roger Barber, Programme –Mike Elrick, Almoner – Graeme Corbet, Website - Andrew Bax, Youth – Maurice Schicker, District Governor – David Oliphant, Assistant Governor – Brian Burnett

Presidents Report

We are into another exciting year ahead. We started late but already have had several social get togethers and some interesting speakers. Shirley is flying the Rotary flag by visiting the old folks homes and just talking to people who don't have family around.

I have been out of action for a while so apologies for my absence. (see below for details)

We have been busy with collections after wrapping up last year with the trailer raffle which raised us over \$3,000 profit. We have already booked in with Mitre10 for December BBQ times.

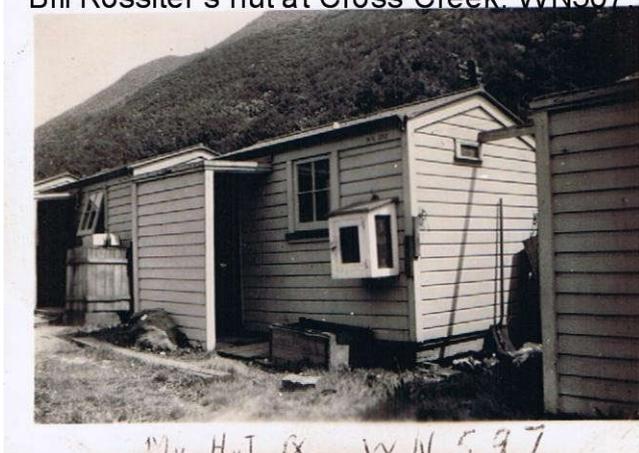
As you will read below we have had 3 members requiring surgery this year already, lets hope we have no more.

President
Maurice Schicker

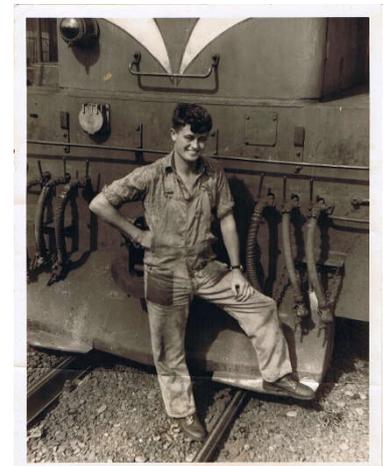
Guest Speaker (14 March) – Bill Rossiter

Bill talked about his job working on the Fell Trains at Cross Creek in Featherstone.

Bill Rossiter's hut at Cross Creek. WN507



Bill joined as a cleaner when he was 15 and lived in a mansion at Cross Creek. It didn't take him long to work his way into being and Engineer on the new Fell Trains. The section of track over the summit was 1 in 14 and a conventional train couldn't make it over the top, so the

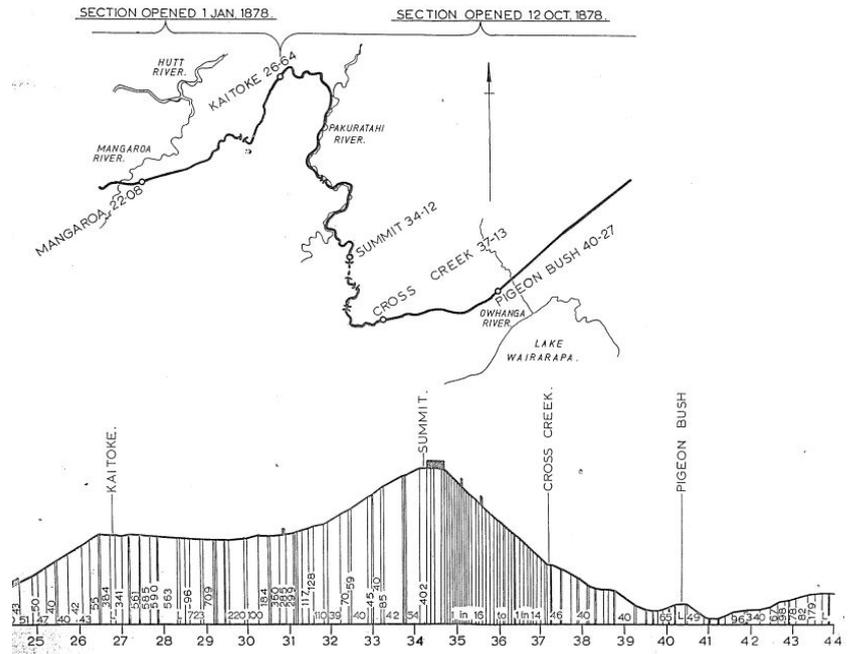


Fell train was imported from England and assembled in NZ. Everything went together very well, and the engineers were very surprised with the precision engineering.



It still took 4 Engines to haul the train over the hill and when they headed down the brakes were working overtime and had to be replaced each trip.

The little H-class Fell engine went up and down the Rimutaka Incline railway for 77 years from 1878. The line closed in 1955 when the 8.8-kilometre tunnel through the mountain range was opened. The Fell locomotive had a special set of horizontal inner wheels which gripped a raised centre rail, pulling it up the steep incline on the Rimutaka Range's eastern flank, where the railway line climbed 265 metres in 4 kilometres.



There is a Museum in Featherstone featuring the Fell Engine and it is worth a visit next time you pass. H 199 was placed in a Featherston park in August 1958 where, exposed to the weather and vandals, it deteriorated quickly. Restoration of the locomotive commenced on 15 March 1981 with the removal of many parts and fittings. On 10 March 1984, H 199 was moved to the specially built Fell Locomotive Museum where it was rebuilt. Restoration was completed after eight years and 9,000 hours of voluntary work on 31 March 1989.

In 1990, the Friends of the Fell Society received from the National Federation of Rail Societies the prestigious A & G Price Award for the best locomotive restoration.

A very interesting talk from Bill with great photos and information. Always great to hear our fellow Rotarians remembering the forgotten past.



Rotating Dinners

We started with a BBQ get together hosted by John Barber and their new house for the start of the Rotary year. We all enjoyed the social occasion so as we left I agreed to host the next one in February and despite a bit of rain we had another great social evening. The BYO salad or desert produced a beautiful Smorgasbord.

We are missing March, but Bill & Alison will host the next BBQ dinner in April continuing the Old Rotary tradition of Rotating around members houses.

This is a **huge** advantage of having an intermit club.

Stop Press!!! – things happen in threes.....



Maurice is missing a figure... if you find it, please return ASAP. This is what happens when you help your Brother in Law harvest onions.

Also.. Margaret had a fall and broke a few bones and split open her knee. After spending time in Auckland Hospital having surgery she is at home but will take time to recover.

So as not to feel left out Mike has had both knees fixed and has bounced back fast. Pat keeps telling him to relax.

Another fun filled evening at the Octagon Theatre is coming up.

Mike has booked 20th April for the dinner & Show. Let him know if you can make it.

Speech Contest

We are about to organize the next speech contest to be held Saturday 9 June.

This year we are holding a final only, asking for one contestant from each school.

We may be in trouble if all 35 want to attend!!

If we get 10 to enter it will be a fun evening.

Watch this space!!

Octagon Theatre
PRESENTS
CURTAIN UP
A comedy
by Peter Quilter Directed by
Cynthia Cahill
"Fast paced bitter sweet comedy
starring 5 very funny women"
PERFORMANCES:
Friday April 6, Sat 7, & matinee Sun 8,
Thurs April 12, Fri 13, Sat 14, & matinee Sun 15,
Thurs April 19, Fri 20, Sat 21 & matinee Sun 22
PRICES:
Dinner and Play 7pm, \$45, Play only 7.55pm. \$28,
Matinee lunch and Play 1pm, \$35,
Matinee Play only 1.55pm. \$28
BOOK at The Piggery Bookshop - Walton St - 4385481
www.octagontheatre.nz
Printed with pride by COPYWORLD - WALTON ST

Mar/Apr Duty Roster (a.m – 11:30 for Noon, p.m. – 5:30 for 6:00pm) KAMO club					
Lunch first, dinner second – 1st Wed lunch 2nd dinner etc					
Duties	28 March Dinner	4 April Lunch	11 April Dinner	18 April Lunch	25 April BBQ - Bill
Speaker	Jo Caldwell	None	Sharon Crean	None	None
Host	Mike	None	Roger	None	None
Thanks	Mike	None	Roger	None	None
Reception	Everyone	Everyone	Everyone	None	None
Parting Thought	Mike	John	Roger	Pat	Bill

Parting thought – From Andrew

I guess the real fact of the matter is, we don't know what tomorrow is going to bring and the only thing we really have is right now. So, don't stay angry for too long and learn to forgive. Love your friends and family with all your heart. Have fun and live your life the way you want to live it. Most of all, don't worry about people that don't like you and enjoy the ones who do.