

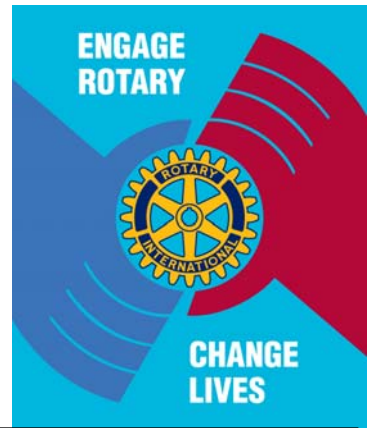


The Rotary Club of Whangarei

(Chartered 1925)

District 9910

Chronicle for 12 March 2014



Int President Ron Burton

President - Peter Mulhare, President Elect & Secretary- Gail Taylor, , Treasurer - Peter Bayne, Chronicle - Andrew Bax, Community – Andrew Bax, International - Roger Barber, Programme –Rex Morris, Almoner - George Wilson, Historian - Lloyd Morris, Website - Andrew Bax, Board Member – Bill Rossiter, Board Member – Frank Geddes, District Governor – Phil Ashton, Assistant Governor – Peter Smith

President Peter welcomes Members to the meeting.

Appologies :- Gail & Brian, Peter & Margaret, Alison

One minute notices

- Red puppy appeal on Friday 28th March outside the library, if you can spare some time let Peter M know.
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- **Can you help??** - Wanted - a book about the medical units in World War 2 titled "*Medical Units of 2nd NZEF in Middle East and Italy*" by J B McKinley"

Guest Speaker – Steve Westgate on Canal Du Midi

Steve & Margaret have spent a bit of time in France and its fair to say, they love the place.

Steve presented an extensive array of information and photos on the Canal Du Midi, however, they took photos from the sideline, so to speak, as they traveled along the canal on push bikes.

The blue line shows where the canal is situated in the South of France



CANAL STATISTICS

One of the greatest engineering feats of the seventeenth century.

A UNESCO World heritage Site.

240 kilometres from Toulouse to the sea.

Average depth 1.8 metres, width 20

metres. Order of 9 million cubic metres of earthworks dug or placed.

WHY WAS IT CONSTRUCTED?

Alternative route from Med to Atlantic, Channel and Baltic ports, by sailing ship, was hazardous –

- climate, Bay of Biscay storms,
- pirates off Gibraltar, Spanish and

Portuguese coasts.

Opened up the French interior to trade routes for produce – woad, cereal crops, etc.

Led to less political agitation from local residents



HOW WAS IT CONSTRUCTED?

For 15 years, up to 12 000 workers – men and women, including labourers, stone cutters and stone masons – worked on the Canal. Women from the low Pyrenees were found to have more knowledge of irrigation canals than military engineers,

Tools:

Picks, hoes and shovels were used for digging, including a 173 metre long tunnel.

Baskets and stretchers were used to transport the excavated material.

A most interesting presentation from Steve as he painted a very clear picture of his experience along with the many photos of flora & fauna.

Duty Roster (a.m – 11:30 for noon, p.m. – 5:30 for 6:00pm)

Lunch first dinner second – 1st Wed lunch 2nd dinner etc
 Notify Club of apologies – 4387429 (by Tuesday)

Duties	19 Mar (am)	26 Mar (pm)	Hospital	
Speaker	Lunch Forum	Maurice Schicker Autobiography	Gail	
Host	None	Andrew		
Thanks	None	Peter B		
Reception	Everyone	Everyone		
Raffle	Bert	Peter B		
Parting Thought	Bert	Peter B		

Parting thought from Bill

**“Revenge is mine saith the Lord, my sister says let him doeth the revenge,
 but you may never know that it happened”**