



# The Rotary Club of Whangarei

(Chartered 1925)

District 9910

Chronicle for 28 May 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's** welcomed members

**Apologies:** Jack & Barbara Lucy, Frank

### **One minute notices:**

- Speech contest preparation is underway, Date are pencilled in for 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> September for Semi and Finals. I am checking with secondary schools to see if those dates are ok
- **Changeover night** – Guest Speaker Sheryl Mai (Mayor) – Whangarei's Future Venue A'Fare Time 5.45 for 6.30 \$30 per head A cash bar will be available Please RSVP to this email address or phone Gail on 4329542 by Friday the 20th of June
- Our club received \$100 from the quiz night to be used for education activities.
- Daffodil collection on 29<sup>th</sup> Aug – keep a few hours free to help
- Gail has been in contact with Puriri Court Rest home and they are very happy for us to help and support their patrons- watch this space.

### **Interest Spot**

#### **Polio survivors face the past with hope for the future in Ethiopia**

A team of determined Rotarians from the USA and Canada tramped through rural southern Ethiopia delivering oral polio vaccine, two drops at a time. The 32 volunteers wrapped up their two day effort in Yirgalem, sweaty, muddy and tired, yet oblivious to any discomfort. Tears flowed and faces glowed as the group counted at least 1,000 children vaccinated under the age of five.

For Rotarians Dennis Wilford, Patricia Turner and Steve Crane, of Washington state, the experience was intensely personal. All three are polio survivors. Crane made the long and difficult trip in a wheel chair, determined to help save children from the challenges he has had to face.

“It is a fabulous service by Rotary and its partners to bring the polio vaccine to the remote villages where we were. I know how badly it is needed and how critical it is to press on until polio is eradicated,” says Crane.

This is Wilford's 10th trip to Ethiopia to vaccinate kids. He was amazed as mothers with babies emerged from the forest, dressed in their Sunday best.

“What that meant,” Wilford explained. “Is that this was a big event in this village's life. Parents can tell their children and grandchildren one day that people from far away cared.”

Wilford envisioned and is now overseeing the final construction of a hydro-therapy pool at Cheshire Services/Ethiopia outside Addis Ababa. The facility provides therapy and surgery for disabled children as well as orthotics and wheel chairs.

It was the sight of braces and crutches at Cheshire that resonated with Pat Turner. Choking with

tears, she describes how it sparked memories of her childhood being fitted with special shoes and battling the stigma of the disease.

Later, at the hotel in Hawassa, Past District Governor John Adams of District 6740 was able to Skype into his District Conference going on back home in Kentucky. As a polio advocate in Washington D.C., Adams was able to share his own emotional experience of being boots on the ground giving those two drops.

This late fall Sub National Immunization Campaign (SNID) was an emergency response to recent outbreaks of wild polio virus in the Horn of Africa. Ezra Teshome, team leader and District Governor in Seattle WA, felt the campaign was a big success. He expressed his gratitude to Rotary’s dedicated polio partners in Ethiopia. The group met with partner representatives from UNICEF, the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control, USAID, the US and Canadian Ambassadors to Ethiopia, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, local Rotarians, the Minister of Health and his Department’s regional and local health workers. Everyone expressed appreciation to these partners for their response to the current outbreak.

Ezra Teshome, who is Ethiopian, has been making this trip with Rotarians for many years. His leadership has been the catalyst for launching and sustaining National Immunization Campaigns that eliminated polio from Ethiopia and built the health system to respond quickly and effectively to its recent reappearance from across the Somalia border. During a reception at the Presidential Palace, he presented the Rotary International Polio Free Award on behalf of the trustees to former President of Ethiopia Girma Wolde-Giorgis for achieving a polio-free Ethiopia during his last eight years in office. The reception was hosted by President Mulatu Teshome (no relation), who pledged to continue the fight until polio is eradicated.

The traveling Rotarians return to the US and Canada as dedicated advocates for the government funding needed over the next five years to banish polio forever.

<b>Duty Roster</b> (a.m – 11:30 for noon, p.m. – 5:30 for 6:00pm)			
Lunch first, dinner second – 1 <sup>st</sup> Wed lunch 2 <sup>nd</sup> dinner etc Notify Club of apologies – 4387429 (by Tuesday)			
<b>Duties</b>	<b>4 Jun (am)</b>	<b>11 Jun (pm)</b>	<b>Hospital</b>
<b>Speaker</b>	Lunch Forum	MUNA Team	Gail
<b>Host</b>	None	Mike	
<b>Thanks</b>	None	Mike	
<b>Reception</b>	Everyone	Everyone	
<b>Parting Thought</b>	Andrew	Mike	

**Parting thought from Roger**

“My country owe’s me nothing. It gave me as it gives every boy and girl, a chance. It gave me schooling, independence of action, opportunity for service and honour. In no other land could a boy from a country town without inheritance or influential friends look forward with unbounded hope”

Herbert Hoover