



Hokianga Historical Society Inc.
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Incorporating
Hokianga Museum

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 26 AUGUST 2012, 2.30 pm At the Omapere Church Centre.

It's that time again – your chance to decide who is going to control the destiny of the Hokianga Historical Society and its museum for the next year. You may think it will all go on without your input being needed, but you'd be wrong – it won't.

The Constitution lays out quite clearly how we all go about it.

Rule #5 says, The Officers of the Society shall be a President/Chairman, one (1) Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Curator. The retiring President shall hold office, ex officio, for one year as Immediate Past President.

And Rule #6, (a) The Executive Committee of the Society shall consist of the Officers (refer Rule 5) and two (2) other members. These members to be elected for two years on a rotation basis (one to be re-elected each year and none to serve more than five years continuously)

(b) The Museum Management Committee shall consist of nine (9) members and be under the leadership of the duly elected Curator.

Then there are the Bylaws, spelling out **Elections and Voting:**

1a The election of all officers and committees shall be carried out by the receipt by the Secretary, at least fourteen (14) days prior to the AGM, of written nominations from a current member, which have been seconded by another member.

And the sting in the tail:

1b Nominations or seconding of a sitting member will not be accepted from another sitting member.

So you see it really is over to you. If you don't exercise your democratic right the whole organisation more or less grinds to a halt – no committee, museum doors permanently closed, no trips, no lovely newsletters....what else...?

One difficulty always has been the huge geographical spread of membership – only a smallish number live close enough to take part in activities easily, comfortably attend monthly planning meetings, and so forth. Unless you live handy, or are a frequent visitor or a relative, you're not familiar with many names or faces either. So it is very easy to lie low and let it all happen without your input. Yes, we do mostly depend on those few living locally, but who is to nominate them? You could.

The reason I'm hammering this point is that last year's AGM did run more smoothly because of the pre-meeting nominations, and it was clearly worth doing. However, it took a lot of arm-twisting and stand-over tactics to get those forms used, and such a small

number took part. This year it would be just great if we had a real election! And we do need new and younger blood (as does every voluntary organisation these days).

Just as a sweetener, we are hoping that after all the anxieties and roller-coastering of the last few years, this is going to be one year of quiet consolidation – finding our strengths, without being distracted by crises all the time. Well, we can hope!

To remind you, here is a list of the committee members voted in last year:

Executive Committee:

Chairman: Hiku Cherrington

Secretary: Alexa Whaley

Curator: Donna Washbrook

Members: Grace Wilkinson, John Metcalfe

Vice Chairman: Barbara Coulter

Treasurer: Doug McKenzie

Museum Management Committee

Curator ex officio: Donna Washbrook

Jean Garriock

Marlene Mills

*Sue Toorenburg **

Owen Whaley

** Retired during year*

*Lindsay Gray**

Bryan Russell

Jackie Walker

You'll note that last year we didn't reach the full nine people for this committee. It is a high number, but if you consider the number of needs the running of a museum has, nine makes a good working team.

You will find nomination forms accompanying this. You can multiply them as much as you like but please use them!

Our "Sunday Afternoons in the Museum" series kicked off with an excellent talk from Louis Toorenburg describing his Hippie days and after, emphasising the values that have always fostered his lifestyle - still do. He gave us the text of his talk later and suggested that it could make a booklet for sale, if we wanted to. We certainly do – watch this space!

The second "Afternoon" fell on a truly awful day – howling gale and pouring rain, both coming from the north so right in the museum door. Nevertheless eight people bravely turned up for Barbara Ward's entertaining tales from the Hokianga Coastguard, and all were delighted that they'd made the effort – she has a low-key, drily humorous way of describing the most appalling situations boaties bring upon themselves, some of their difficult rescues – and the self-control needed by the rescuers to enquire mildly "Are there some things you would do differently next time?" (Their strict Code of Conduct precludes any words of criticism)

One more "Afternoon" remains, on August 12th. Seabourne Rust recently achieved his PhD in Geology with a study of Hokianga's fossils, so we have asked him to give us an overview of Hokianga's prehistory and of some of the more interesting fossils he has met round here. Perhaps not as interest-grabbing as the hippies, but who knows?

After that, the AGM on the 26th August. We hope for a good crowd!