



Hokianga Historical Society Inc.

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Incorporating  
Hokianga Museum

### **NEWSLETTER, DECEMBER 2013**

I promise this will be short since December is not a good time for reading long screeds, let alone writing them. It's mainly to say A Happy Christmas to everyone, and to let you know our plans for the summer break. – And also to note that on the 14<sup>th</sup> of this month we will be celebrating our second anniversary in the new building and so far we have survived really quite well. A lot of things to do yet of course, but all in good time.

So what do we plan for the summer? Of necessity it's aimed at the visiting holiday-maker, but it goes without saying that members are more than welcome.

1. On **Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> December, an hour's Sunset Cruise, 7 – 8 pm.** This will be round the lower harbour, and the emphasis will be on "lifting our eyes to the hills" round about us – the names, and the stories that are told about them, both legendary and historical. The charge will be \$20, and there is a limit of 30 on the *Hokianga Express* so booking is preferable – first come, first served. We'll leave from Opononi wharf strictly on 7pm – no messing about.

**To book, please ring 4058 641 (Alexa, home) or the Museum 405 8498** between the open hours of 10am – 2 pm. And remember - with a limit of 30, if you book you're committed to going – no changing your mind at the last minute. If the weather is awful it will be Captain Pete who calls it off, only then are we let off paying him for the full 30!

2. On **Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2014, a walk to view Waimamaku from on high.** This picnic / walk is on private land and has been arranged specially with the Ambler family - a big thank you for their kindness and cooperation. Amblers Road leaves SHW 12 on the right going south and heads towards the Piwakawaka ridge of hills, rising all the way. We meet at their old woolshed at 10.30 am, and walk from there, although vehicle access to the top is available for non-walkers. Lunch on the summit (bring your own lunch and drinks) and enjoy the historical information, pure air and absolutely spectacular views. Should be a great day, especially if, as we hope, the weather is kind – not wet, not too hot.

For more information, or to express interest, please **phone 405 4844 (Barbara) or the Museum (405 8498) 10am – 2pm.** There is no charge BUT a gold-coin koha would be greatly appreciated.

3. On **Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2014, an hour's Twilight Cruise, 7 – 8 pm.** This is actually a repeat of cruise # 1, but since it's a month past the longest day we're regarding the time as being Twilight rather than Sunset. You're welcome to come with us a second time if you are so inclined! But since it's Anniversary Weekend we trust there is a new group of visitors just dying for some time on the water. Same charge (\$20) same strictures apply.

That's all for just now, but there are more plans afoot for later in 2014. If there is room, I had planned to include a view of what is happening just now in the I-Site area at Opononi, where the long graffiti-ed wall is being transformed into a long colourful mural depicting the history of the harbour. Bev Cox, the mural artist, has relied on photographs in our collection to guide her over the later decades and the result is a very lively series of episodes. She's being helped by children from the art classes in the Opononi Area School and other volunteers, and they hope to have it completed before the holidays really begin – though right now all the activity going on is just as crowd-pleasing! Maybe a small view, just to end the year with a flourish...you'll need a magnifying glass.

We all here wish you a happy & healthy 2014.

