



Hokianga Historical Society Inc.

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Incorporating
Hokianga Museum

CC 32572

NEWSLETTER, DECEMBER 2014

First of all, warm Christmas greetings to one and all, and a big thank you for your support and interest over the year. Being December, this will be short. There haven't been amazingly spectacular activities or achievements to record, but we're working on that, and have more than kept our heads above water in the meantime. Those in the museum should be quietly proud of the way it's looking, both inside and out. We can always do with more visitors to appreciate it, but that seems to be the case for most places in the north just now.

Please note we can always do with more volunteers to keep it reliably open as well. This summer is proving hard to manage as a number of regular workers are going to be away, or tied up with family and/or mokopunas a lot of the time. So please, if you live at all handy and have some semi-spare time or are feeling extra altruistic, just pull out your phone and let us know!

I had planned to be much earlier with this newsletter and include a bit of advertising about the range of books and other potential Christmas gifts the museum has for sale – but at this point, with just two weeks to go, it would be more frustrating than anything and only useful to those within easy distance. Worth a visit though if you can, as we have a range of crafts - all produced here in Hokianga - that would make excellent gifts.

Harbour Trips We always try to plan an hour or two on the harbour over the Christmas /New Year break and though we do miss the old *Alma* with her ability to chug way up the smaller rivers, there is a different kind of excitement with the speedy *Hokianga Express*. It's more expensive though and not knowing how many people we're likely to get, we can't gamble on any trip that takes more than an hour. So an hour it is, and this year look for us on Sunday, December 28th, before 5.30 pm (17.30 hours, if you prefer) at Opononi wharf Cost will be **\$25.00**, children half-price depending on size (i.e. very small = free) If you like to lie back and drink wine on board, feel free. We'll be back by 6.30, in time to catch a meal somewhere.

We'd prefer you to book for this, either through the museum (number above) or by ringing me (home 09 405 8641) so we can tell if it's going to be viable, and if the weather turns nasty we can let you know what's happening. There will be posters all round soon to say all this, but you are the first to know.

At the moment we have no other trips planned (I know, I know, we're getting slack) but that's not to say somebody couldn't get a sudden bright idea and it will be All Go.

Alas, my own bright idea of putting out a newsletter of Excellent Talks – the speakers we have had over the last year – has not yet come to fruition, partly because it is turning into quite a

booklet with photographs as well: how big can a newsletter get? For just now, it's sitting in the Too Hard basket and taking second place to WW1 discoveries. We would still like to hear from more people with a Hokianga story from 1914-18 and after – particularly the aftermath. Not just the flu, but Hokianga's land ballots, the growth of the RSA throughout Hokianga, the state of the men who came back. It has to be stories, family or other unpublished accounts, because nobody's own memories go back that far. Not accurately, at any rate.

It's Christmas and a pile of cards is waiting. But I've a little sting in the tail. Doug our Treasurer has emailed "I've sent an invoice and two reminders without result to these people: Hazel and Grainger Brown, Gerard and Lora Campbell, Hera Linter-Cole, Ian and Sue Leigh McKenzie, Terry Newton, John and Linda Pattinson, Nanette Smith, Johanna Baker, Mr and Mrs Cardno." The Constitution says that we continue to keep you in touch until the end of the financial year, but after that – you're gone. We really don't want to see you go, though!

On that rather unhappy note, I pass on the good wishes from all here for a very happy Christmas and a better 2015. Let's make it the best ever!

Alexa Whaley.