



Incorporating
Hokianga Museum and
Archives Centre

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Kia ora e hoa maa

Finally, a newsletter with dates! Or one date, at least. All going well, the **Waimamaku Garage** will be open to HHS members and visitors on the afternoon of **Sunday, 15th March 2020 – from 2 pm onwards**. The secrets of its past will be revealed! There will be a koha, but all are welcome, and afternoon tea is included as well.

It's very much worth a visit. A lot of people stop to buy petrol here and many locals take their cars, old and new, to 'Dr' Bruce for attention (plus as the AA Agent for the area he's out on rescue missions to AA members as well) – but not everyone gets a chance to explore all the history hiding in every corner of the building. I had a guided tour a while back, when we were first talking plans for this, and I was amazed – I had NO IDEA! So be prepared: it will all be on show.

Our second event for the year, **the ascent of Piwakawaka**, is still going to happen, but the continuing heat wave is pushing prospective dates further and further back. Present thinking is to try for the Saturday of Easter weekend, which would be 11th April (surely it must have rained before then!) but that's anything but definite, so don't quote me. It would be very suitable for any time in the school holidays following Easter. But all we can say at this stage – as we've been saying in every newsletter – We'll Let You Know.

Other things have been happening. I've asked Claire, our wonderfully efficient and knowledgeable secretary, to report on two occasions she attended recently.

The first: **Te Kamaka o Kahurangi Whina Cooper** – unveiling of a statue of Dame Whina Cooper at Waipuna Marae, Panguru, Hokianga, 3 February 2020. "Over a thousand people, including government ministers, several local schools and a large media contingent, came to watch the Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern accompany two of Dame Whina's children, Joe Cooper and Hinerangi Puru, as they unveiled a statue in their mother's honour. The manaakitanga of the Ngati Manawa hosts at Waipuna Marae was overwhelming. Please check out our further coverage of this event on our Hokianga Historical Society facebook page."

Take care of our children.

Take care of what they hear

Take care of what they see

Take care of what they feel.

For how the children grow,

So will be the shape of Aotearoa.

(- Dame Whina's words on the plinth)



The second event Claire attended was at Waitangi: on 5th February: the **opening of the 28th Maori Battalion museum – Te Rau Aroha** .

“Sitting across from the Whare Runanga on the upper Treaty grounds, this purpose-built museum will house taonga, photographs and records relating to the 28 Maori Battalion.

The karakia at 5 am was followed by a parting of the clouds to reveal the stars and a light shower of rain as hundreds of people made their way through the waharoa dedicated to Tu and Rongo and into the building. Many tears were shed as people recognised their tupuna and their whanaunga as the faces of the brave young men looked down from the walls. Military Cross recipient Captain Harding Waipuke Leaf (Hokianga) fought in both World Wars and was killed in action in Crete in 1941. He is honoured at the entrance with a panel documenting his service. The name **Te Rau Aroha** was given to recognise the canteen truck, which was donated to the Battalion through huge fundraising efforts of the native school children across the country.”



These are some of the photos Claire took on the morning of the opening – they don't need captions! But the recognition of Harding Leaf is of special significance to all Hokianga-ites, as well as to the Leaf family as they continue their preparations for their family commemoration which will be held (planned dates) 26th – 29th December 2020 in Whirinaki. The family formed a Trust for this purpose: the Te Rangahau Whanau Trust, and planning is ongoing.

From the sublime to the day-to-day.- note that I'm not saying 'ridiculous' or 'gor blimey' either)... As ever, **Waimamaku's Wild West Fest** being a February institution is coming up on the 22nd, and as ever, the HHS has a space in the hall to do our historical thing in.

We will always miss Barbara Coulter for masterminding this (she's now in Hamilton, closer to her son and family) but Dawn Metcalfe, Rae Dellaca and Sandy Clark have stepped into the breach so our show will go on. The **Fest** is always hot, very entertaining and a lot of fun so if you can, do come and support it. With the closing of Morrells Café, Waimamaku is fighting for its life and they need all the support we can give.

Mind you, we need support too as our volunteer team dwindles (ageing, selling houses, changes in lifestyle etc) and we are facing the possibility of cutting down to four days of public opening for the museum; it's a matter of which day to drop off next. A depressing note to end on! I blame the heat and the water shortage.

Till next issue – ka kite ano! - Alexa.