



Hokianga Historical Society Inc.

PO Box 26 Opononi 0445

Ph. 09 405 8498

Incorporating
Hokianga Museum

NEWSLETTER – July 2011

First things first: our AGM is scheduled for Sunday 28th August, at 2 p.m. in the Omapere Church Centre. It is going to be interesting to see how this goes, since in the Constitution which we voted in last year, the requirement is for all nominations to be received in writing by the Secretary a fortnight in advance. We have never done this before and it may take a little getting used to. You will find nomination forms on the last page of this newsletter. Please use them, otherwise we may end up with no executive committee at all!

A quote: *“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... The Executive Committee of the Society shall consist of the Officers, and two (2) other members. These members shall be elected for two years on a rotation basis...”*

Another ‘first’ is that the Museum Management committee is also elected at this meeting. It has nine members, including the Curator who is also part of the Executive. Another quote: *“The election of all officers, committees except sub-committees, shall be carried out by receipt by the Secretary, at least fourteen (14) days prior to the A.G.M., of written nominations from a current member, which shall have been seconded by another member.”*

We may have made a rod for our own backs, but time will tell. It is a much more professional way of handling the business of the election, after all.

After the business is over the entertainment begins – A small number of ‘mini-speakers’ describe their long-past school-days, each in 5 mins. flat; following that - afternoon tea!

Next: a look at

What’s been happening?

Our **Queens Birthday Return to the Water**, using Peter Clarke’s *Hokianga Express VIII*, was against all the odds, a great success. If you remember the weather then, it was quite horrible right up to the very day. But that morning it cleared, the wind dropped, and by 2 p.m. the water was not pond-like but near enough. We filled the boat! And everyone had a happy time, then came in for tea and cake and a good talk, and the organisers heaved a sigh of relief. Next day of course it was raining again, but we were smiling.

Owen discovered that commentary-technique had to be a little different from the old days on the Alma. “If you look over on the right you’ll see....um, no – if you look back there...” Pete really goes!

We think we’ll try a water trip twice a year and make the next one at Labour Weekend, maybe to around Onoke.

Then there has been our garden-shed **raffle**, just drawn. The winners were:
#132, Paul Bowker for the shed; #050, Angela Guest for the laminator.

It is always a regret that everyone can’t win, though. A big thank you to all the people who manfully sold tickets, hating every minute of it, and also to those who bought them even when they didn’t want or need a shed! It was a much-needed boost to our funds.

Which brings us to **the building**.

It has to be said that we make haste slowly. The weather has been dead against progress, there is no way to escape the sticky yellow clay surrounding it and preparing to lay concrete paths just now would be a nightmare. However, the electrician has started work and that is definitely progress. And Sky City have come to the party with half the cost of lining and insulation, so now we are scratching round for the rest of the cost since neither plumber nor electrician can finish their part until the lining is done. Two steps forward but always one back! There has been a slip or two from the bank along the side, indicating the need for a retaining-wall as well – not exactly anticipated, but it's best to find out now rather than later. We suspect it's caused by incompleting drainage from the development above, then again it could simply be a result of the huge amount of rain over the last few weeks.

We still hope to start occupying it by Labour Weekend. Somehow.

Planting the circumference is another necessity required by the Council within a year of granting the consent. The car-park has to be screened from the neighbours (holiday homes, every one of them) and the building from the school as well. Natives are preferred. So Pakanae Nurseries have provided a landscape plan for us and we have a list of trees / shrubs to go in once the holes don't fill up with water as soon as they're dug. The Garden Circle are raising koromiko cuttings and others are dividing flaxes, saving self-sown seedlings and whatever - but if far-flung members would like to donate the cost of a plant, that would help a lot (see subscription form, back page) Remember – we're registered with the Charities Commission and we'll receipt you appropriately.

Future happenings: This weekend, July 22-24, the Hokianga Country Music Festival will be held and we are taking advantage of the hoped-for crowds to have a fund-raising **sausage-sizzle** at Opononi on the Saturday.

Then there is the AGM on the 28th August, and the next likely event will be the Labour weekend Harbour trip. After that, either our **annual dinner** (date not yet fixed) or the weekend of **November 12-13**, when the Lions Club are holding a **Garden Safari** as a fund-raiser for us – we provide the refreshments, they provide the programme and the gardens to be visited. This is really great of the Lions, as they already have more than enough causes and needs in the community to consider. There will be a programme, and we'll make sure to get it out to you in good time. But mark that weekend in your diary.

At some stage, surely, there will be the grand opening and blessing of the building included as a future event, but at this stage it's an outcome to be just dreamed about.

In last newsletter there was a mention of **subscriptions** to the effect that all memberships run from 1 July – 30 June. This was wrong! Another change we voted in without really noticing last year was that "Membership will be for twelve months from the AGM..." Which gives you almost two months more than you knew. I have included a subscription form anyway, and if the amount does happen to be increased this year, those who have paid early will have a bonus for a year.

Les (treasurer) is keen to get as many members as possible paying by direct credit, but he does emphasise that your **name must be included as reference**, otherwise it can only be treated as an anonymous donation – nice for us, but not much use as a sub. payment. We have some duplicate surnames on file so it would be as well to have both names to be sure. The other move is to save postage by using email as often as possible. It seems like doing the dirty on NZ Post, but their postage rates are exorbitant. So please, if you are on email and we don't have your address already – and you don't object to the whole idea – would you email your address to Alexa and we'll put you on the list. It will speed up our newsletters no end. (The other reason is, our photocopier has finally died and we have to pay to use others)

Remember – AGM 28th August. Be there!

A final note: Please give your earnest consideration to the position of **Curator** now that the building is approaching completion. Over the last year with everything in storage it hasn't really mattered that the position was left vacant. Now it's becoming urgent. The Museum Management Committee is going to need someone willing to take the leadership role ...the building will be crying out for someone to turn it into a thing of beauty.....the visiting public will be piling in. Please, someone, gird your loins and take it on!

NOMINATION FORM FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 28 AUGUST 2011
HOKIANGA HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Nomination for position of.....

Nominee:.....

Proposer:.....

Secunder:.....

I agree to accept this nomination:

Signed:..... (Nominee)

Please complete this form and return to:
Secretary, HHS, Box 26 Opononi 0445 by 13 August 2011.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 2011 – 2012

Single - \$15 Family - \$20 (Please circle as appropriate)

Name.....

Address:
.....

Phone:..... E-mail.....

Direct credit:

Account - Hokianga Historical Society Inc. 123097 0209444 00

Note: Include your name as reference.

Optional:

I would like to donate a tree costing \$.....

I'd like to make a donation towards finishing the building \$.....