



Incorporating
Hokianga Museum and
Archives Centre

Hokianga Historical Society Inc.
PO Box 26 Opononi 0445
Ph. 09 405 8498
hokianga@gmail.com
CC 32572

POST-COVID NEWSLETTER, JULY 2020

The number of times this newsletter has been begun, then faded off into nothing... I think it all stemmed from the joyous lethargy that the lockdown brought. It's taken a while to wear off for most of us up here, I think. The last day the museum was open was 20th March and during the lockdown the Executive decided by email that, not knowing how long it would last and it would be winter anyway, we'd stay closed until spring. But we just can't! There are lots of NZ visitors around and it's becoming obvious that we're the last ones still shut, and if we stay that way too long, we'll all get used to it.

The big drawback to running a museum, as I have often warned people, is that no matter what, you're stuck with it forever. Oh, I know there's a clause in the constitution about winding up that says we can offer the material back to the original donors or give it to another charitable organisation, local or regional - but the very thought of doing all that is off-putting in itself. Having drawn together a marvellous archive, still growing, how could we say we can't handle it any more, you can have it?

So, having the end of the financial year upon us anyway, we got together and had a meeting last week and decided (with the school holidays in mind as well) that we'd re-open at the first opportunity. Which has turned out to be **Tuesday, 14th July** - theoretically, at least.

Some of our usual volunteers have decided this is too early for them, so we are reducing to four days a week, for the time-being: **Tuesday and Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Same hours, 10 am to 2 pm.** We'll still have our sanitisers at the ready and try to keep the numbers reasonable - they usually are anyway. Good health, everybody.

At the same meeting (it was a long one) we also turned our thoughts to the forthcoming **AGM** although it doesn't seem that enough has been happening since the last one to justify having it. However, the financial year (and the constitution) decrees, so we hold it within two months of its end, so it's set at **August 30th**.

As usual, the election of officers is held at the same time; you all have nomination forms accompanying this, so any of you can nominate anyone to any of the usual positions (president, v.p., secretary, treasurer, curator, plus 5 members). Provided they're willing, of course. It's a big executive, but we like to give as many of the workers a say in what goes on as we can. And many of us being grandparents, there are always one or two people tied up or out-of-town. It's one of the many times I wish more of our members would come back to live here!

As far as the Historical Society itself goes, it has naturally been a very quiet time. Our last activity was on the afternoon of 15th March, when **The Waimamaku Garage** opened its doors to us and let us look at EVERYTHING! It is the most amazing place, with its accumulation of - well, it would be nearly 100 continuous years of being there for all kinds of motors. And a range of related items accumulated on the way as well. Waimamaku people can be depended on to love their history, so it was a crowded garage the whole afternoon, with many reminiscences from many old-timers spurred on by Bruce's introductory history. Then a wonderful spread for afternoon tea - hospitality is another of Waimamaku's strengths, even though Morrells is no longer a part of it. It was a great day - truly one of our best. And fortunately, **Bill Keir** (who has just joined the Society, after many years in charge of its photograph collection) has agreed to write the

full history of the garage based on what was presented that day. Watch this space for publication details!

We have just received other members too: Pam Collins, who was a volunteer ages ago but needed to work full-time until now, and Wai-marie Hadfield Te Paa, whose whakapapa is an enviable one – both are happy to be volunteers as well as members so we are very lucky – and grateful.

On a sad note though we farewelled Barbara Coulter for the last time at a memorial service held for her just before lockdown. We have lost a hard worker, an imaginative planner and a long-time member of the executive and she is being so missed! She had been fighting her illness for a year or more before leaving to be closer to her family in Hamilton, but that was where she died on March 13th. Her ashes were brought up here to go beside Paul in the Waimamaku Cemetery, and it was fortuitous that the lockdown was announced just days after that, though we were already having to hold back from touching anybody.

To end, I'm showing you the last display that went up in the museum before it had to close: (so now it's also the most recent) - our commemoration for Anzac Day, and of the 28th Maori Battalion A Company whose history has been collected. Thanks to Diane, Claire and Kathryn for mounting it then.



HOKIANGA HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 30th AUGUST 2020

Positions to be filled:

**Chairman
Secretary
Curator** **Vice Chairman
Treasurer
and five ordinary members.**

**NOMINATION FORM FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
POSITIONS 2020-21**

Nomination for the position of

.....
Nominee
.....

Proposer
.....

Secunder.....

I agree to accept this nomination

.....
(Nominee)

Please complete this form and return to Secretary, HHS, Box 26 Opononi 0445, or scan, attach & send to hhs@ourhokianga.com by 10 AUGUST 2018.

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