



Incorporating
Hokianga Museum and
Archives Centre

Hokianga Historical Society Inc.

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Kia ora everyone

This will be brief! It's mainly to say that everything is all set for our Annual Lunch this Saturday (21st November 2020) – Opononi Hotel, 12 noon for 12.30 seated, Speaker Barry Jones, no places left: we are packed to the gills (whatever that means). Really, it sounds as though it's going to turn into an Old Contemporaries Reunion, judging by the names rolling in; so let's hope Barry doesn't get too talked out before his actual talk begins. It should be a really good day (barring accidents and last-minute Covid strikes of course) and the weather looks fine for Saturday at least - Sunday not so promising, but we've been promised rain far more than it's actually fallen here.

We asked Barry if he'd make copies available of his two books, his *Opononi Memories 1938 –1951* and *The Drewet Girls and their families* (one being his mother) or at least to bring them as samples for ordering, but he prevaricated a bit. I'm not sure whether it was due to his natural modesty or that he wanted to travel light, or that he only prints a few at a time when there's a demand. In any case it's a possibility, so best to have a bit of cash available just in case. There are times when a chequebook is really really handy, it's so frustrating without when there's no EFTPOS either.

In relation to having cash available, though: copies of the *Waimamaku Garage History* are going to be on sale there, at \$25.00 cost price. The author, Bill Keir, will be at the lunch and might just be persuaded to autograph it (this has not been mentioned to him yet but seeing he's a member, he'll be reading it now.) It will be selling through the museum after this but not quite at cost price.

Our other events are not progressing as well as they might. Our hopes of going up Piwakawaka seem to have faded into the never-never – for just now, at least. We just can't hit on a date that fits in with the people involved, other events happening, and of course a likely cool-but-fine time of the year. It seems to tempt fate to say "Watch this space" so I'll fall back on "Don't hold your breath" instead.

It has been suggested that a *collection of Doctor Smith stories* (the "tonsils out on the kitchen table" kind, I gather) should be put together before there's no one left able to tell them – though the next generation would be able to pass on the ones they've been told, surely the best ones anyway. What do you think? Could you supply any yourself?

Apart from that, if anyone would like to suggest any historical topic to do with Hokianga that we might investigate as a society we would love to take it up and run with it - if we can. I think we're running out of good ideas ourselves.

And I have run out of words to fill this page.

With luck there will be a Christmas letter to increase our tally for the year but the days are racing past rather scarily – still, we'll have to report on this lunch at least.

Ka kite ano

Alexa.