



Hokianga Historical Society Inc.

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Incorporating
Hokianga Museum

NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2015

Spring is upon us, bringing the need to make plans for a busy summer ahead: or rather, the hoped-for busy summer. Hokianga has had an amazingly quiet winter and we think we deserve a change: our museum volunteers have better things to do than sit waiting for visitors who aren't here! It's difficult to know how best to handle this: you can't go out and compel people to visit the best place in the world, but it's a temptation to do something physical....

Anyway, we've been planning. No naked women wrestling in mud (sorry), but walks, explorations, harbour cruises - First, however, we have our **Members' Christmas Lunch**, which unlike Christmas is in November. Well, there are so many other things on in December, aren't there.

When is it? On **Saturday, 21 November: 12.30 for 1.00 pm.**

Where is it? At the **Copthorne Hotel, Omapere**

How much is it? Tickets are **\$25.00 p.p.**

What's interesting? We have asked **John Klaricich** to tell us something of his plans for creating a **Kupe Experience** on the land his Trust has been given at Opononi. At the moment this seems to be the most likely form of a 'Maori Museum' dream of his which has been drifting in the background for years, and we really want to know more about it. It's at his request that we have always kept out of Hokianga's pre-European history area but it has been hard to do at times, especially when we're being asked genealogical questions.

We hope you too are interested in this and will make time on 21st November. Tickets will be available both at the Museum and through **Grace Wilkinson, ph.09-4058665, or Waitemarama Gorge Rd., RD 3 Kaikohe**, up to three days before. Grace does not have email, but the museum is hhs@ourhokianga.com.

Then we're into the busy season. If the weather is favourable (and who knows until the day) we've planned a **harbour trip Opononi to Kohukohu** for **Tuesday, 29th December**. We will leave from Opononi at 2.30 pm, go up to Kohukohu and base ourselves on the grassy area by the wharf, where we'll hear about the various **fires** which have so changed the face of Kohukohu over the years. It will be afternoon-tea time, so we can either buy it from the café at Kohukohu's pub across the road (they are very good) or if you prefer, bring your own. Around 4.30, we'll embark again and return to Opononi, hoping to be back just before **6 pm**. The cost will be **\$50.00**.

The snag is, **we're limited to 17 people**. The big boat is licensed for 40, but it costs twice as much and we just can't take the risk of not filling it enough to break even. So it has to be the smaller one, with pre-booking essential. (However, there's always the ferry for those who would prefer to be independent and join us for the talk only, though we'd appreciate a koha for the speaker in that case)

Tickets for this will be available from the **Museum** or from me, **Alexa Whaley, ph. 09 4058641**.

Later on we will welcome 2016 with our usual **evening cruise** on the lower harbour, weather permitting as usual, on **Friday, January 6th**. This time we will very much miss the spiel from Tony Tupe, Hokianga's 'Guide Rangi', who died earlier this year. It's hard to find someone who can take his place. We'll leave from Opononi wharf at 6 pm, returning there by 7 pm – cost **\$25.00**.

Fast forward to Anniversary Weekend and **January 30th**, when we go on an exploring walk along the coastal strip between Pakanae Cemetery and the old Nuhaka Mission site – following round the base of Whiria. I haven't got the details for this yet as it depends on the speaker's availability, so it's a Watch This Space situation at present.

The same goes for our plan for **Easter Saturday (March 26th)** when we hope to climb to the top of Whiria. It's a steep climb and not too many have managed to sit at the foot of the monument there. But

it's definitely worthwhile. Fortunately there is time for us to be properly organised and fit before this happens. In the meantime, do bear it in mind for next Easter.

As I said at the beginning, the Museum has had a very quiet winter. Even being on the Ventnor Trail has not made a difference, although we realise that as a Trail it is still taking shape. In a way that has been a good thing because Donna our Curator has been having a hip operation and was out of circulation for some of the time. Three of our workers have dropped off with too busy schedules elsewhere; we'll miss in particular Jackie Wogan who was there every second Saturday and looked after the research-centre photo displays so well. Flu of course has hit others quite badly and some have been travelling, so all in all we've been pretty short on the ground and the museum has had a few unscheduled days closed for lack of personnel. (Power outages don't help either) We are starting to wonder whether it would be better in winter to reduce our days of opening and use the resources we have more fruitfully.

That sounds like a litany of woes but things are not all bad. We have a wonderful team working away and the visitors we do get are really interested and interesting. Our 150-hour community service worker, Wendy, is working away well, trying to get her hours completed before Christmas. She's a great help and good company as well, and those of us who work with her are quietly hoping that by the time she's finished she'll be so used to it that she'll stay on as a volunteer.

Further good news: Olive Harris has launched her new book of Hokianga stories, Both Sides of the River which we now have for sale (\$55.00) It's quite as big as Remember the Hokianga (there are still some copies for sale of that too) and even wider in scope, including extracts from the Gumboots Express of happy memory. It's a great collection and quite an heirloom in the number of Hokianga families included.

With Christmas in mind, it might be worthwhile mentioning some of our other books for sale, just in case you're in need of inspiration. There is quite a price-range:: for \$45, there's the 150 years history of Rawene School, Not for oneself, but for all. Then there's the updated edition of Eric Harrison's Kohukohu (\$35), Hokianga Health (Rawene Hospital's centennial history) at \$30; Tom Field's Journey through my life (\$29) and a number at \$25: John Webster's Maori Journal Peter Shadbolt's Voyages around a river – the Hokianga, Julie Ryan's Bee-keeping in Xanadu. Next comes the late Gordon McKenzie's Gentle Giants (\$18) and a number of little ones: like Bill Parkes' Northland legend: Dr Smith of Hokianga (\$10) The summer of the dolphin (\$5) and the 1993 Rawene Library's short story writing collection, Piece of the Pie (\$3).

There are two others which deserve special mention. One is Lloyd and Jackie Walker's invaluable collection of Hokianga Walks – 35 walks described and mapped on individual cards, all for \$18. The other is Ken Baker's Hokianga Remembers; his account of visiting the European War Cemeteries to photograph and lay a flax flower on each of the graves of Hokianga's fallen sons from WW1. The photographs are beautiful and the text very moving; it's a limited edition which we are selling at \$30.

We're very happy to provide more information on any of these, or to put any copies in the post for you. (always hopeful!).

In the last newsletter I mentioned Sister Anne's talk on St Isaac's Retreat and its beginnings, adding that I hoped to include the text in the next newsletter. It runs into several pages so I'm having second thoughts about that, but it's stored on the computer and I'll happily send it on to anyone who had noted the promise and were looking forward to it.

I think there's enough space to finish off with a summary of our programme plans:

November	21	Lunch Copthorne	12.30	\$25
December	29	Kohukohu boat trip	2.30 – 6 pm	limit 17 \$50
January	6	Evening Cruise lower harbour	6 pm	\$25.
January	30	Pakanae walk, Cemetery Rd. – Nuhaka		Koha.
March	26	Whiria climb	10 am	koha.

With luck and good weather we'll manage to pull them all off successfully!

And that is probably all for just now.

Ka kite ano and best wishes

Alexa Whaley.