



Hokianga Historical Society Inc.

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Incorporating  
Hokianga Museum

## **NEWSLETTER – September 2011**

Apologies - This newsletter should have appeared at the beginning of September rather than the end, and given you a better advance on Things to Come than you are getting now. One thing tends to lead to another! and the mental application required for a newsletter has sometimes seemed just too much to muster.

The most important event coming up quite fast is our annual dinner, which as promised in the previous newsletter will be on Friday, 28th October. The venue is the Copthorne Resort and Hotel, Omapere; the time, 6.30 p.m. for 7pm; the cost as last year, \$35.00. Our speaker this year will be Judge Andrew Spencer, of the Northland Maori Land Court. Tickets for the dinner are limited to 50, and are available (with payment) through the Secretary at the above address. We hope that with the Rugby hype starting to fade away by that date, many of our members might quite enjoy a change of pace.

There's more! Something else for the end of October! You might remember that over last Queens Birthday when we arranged a trip on Peter Clarke's boat Hokianga Express VIII, we talked of making it a bi-annual event – Easter and Labour Weekend. Well, Labour Weekend is approaching fast (22-24 October) So...

We have arranged with Captain Pete for a trip on the Sunday afternoon of Labour Weekend, the 23rd October, just an hour on the water from 4.30 – 5.30 (It's a 7pm tide that day) taking us up as far as Onoke and over to Matawhera, There will be some historical input. Yes, it's the same date as the final of the RWC, but that's not until the evening and this fills in the waiting-time quite nicely. Unfortunately we were too late to book the Opononi hall which has birthday parties going on all weekend, the hotel is preparing for the evening - so we meet at the wharf, bring your own refreshments to have on the boat instead, and no get-together afterwards. Our apologies for this but the alternative is to cancel it, and we really don't want that. There's a limit of 40 places on the boat so cost will have to be around \$20.00 each.

### ***Building***

Still no definite, final date! In the last newsletter we said, "We still hope to start occupying it by Labour Weekend. Somehow." Well, at the rate things move we won't quite make it by then, and perhaps it's just as well with all the other things going on. However, on Tuesday 25th October the installation of our new archival shelving is promised and all else – the painting, the flooring - has to be completed before that date. Then we can start moving things back in, and that's not something to be rushed crazily.

Planting the circumference has been going on quietly, with a lovely range of natives of various sizes. Here we have to thank so many of you who made donations towards the landscaping; it has made a big difference to be able to buy some good specimens with a clear conscience! It's a pity that some spaces have to stay unplanted until it's safe: for instance the retaining-wall isn't in yet, some post-hole-boring has to be carried out for it, so that fence-line has to be left clear until the machinery has done its work. Then there's the question of getting the container emptied – perhaps a clear access-way for vehicles would be sensible, so don't

plant up that line yet...at this rate we'll be hoping for plenty of summer rain, so we can finally fulfil our obligations to the FNDC.

Talk of planting brings us to the final major fund-raiser of the year, being carried out for us by the Opononi & Districts Lions Club – the GARDEN SAFARI! This will take place on the weekend of 12 – 13 November, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. both days. On present reports there will be upwards of 10 gardens on show, balanced between north and south, plus two workshops on specified topics. Our contribution will be the serving of refreshments throughout the day, at a point midway between north and south, and our redoubtable chairman Hiku Cherrington has manfully offered his house for this (I don't know whether he has told Venus yet) It is very good of them as it really is an eminently suitable site, but it's likely to be quite an invasion to wish on busy people. Watch this space for more information later – and there will be more publicity at our Dinner.

Time for a little retrospective information: nothing has been said yet about our AGM which was nearly a month ago (28th August) An extract from those Minutes (as yet unapproved of course) is probably the best summary, so here goes: [from half-way through, bypassing apologies, minutes, reports etc.]

*Election of Officers* Jean introduced this section by reminding the members that changes in the constitution had stipulated that all nominations were to be received a fortnight before the meeting, signed by both nominator and seconder, also by the nominee to show acceptance. It was clear that this will take some time to get used to, but sufficient nominations had eventually come in to make the election process much simpler.

The following nominations had been received for the Executive Committee, 2011-2012:

*President: Hiku Cherrington ((Owen /Joy Coulter)*

*Vice President: Barbara Coulter (Joy / Leonie McKenzie)*

*Secretary: Alexa Whaley (Olive Harris / Olwyn King)*

*Treasurer: Doug McKenzie (Heather Martin / Jan Dalton)*

*Curator Donna Washbrook (on condition that training is available) (Jan / Heather)*

*Executive Committee: To consist of the above officers and two others.*

*John Metcalfe (Joy / Leonie)*

*Grace Wilkinson (Sue / Betty Pennell)*

As these were the only nominations received for the positions, no election was necessary and the above persons were declared elected, to acclamation.

For the first time, members of the Museum Management Committee were required to be elected at the Annual General Meeting, with the same requirement for pre-meeting nomination.

Nominations had been received as follows:

*Jean Garriock (Joy / Leonie)*

*Lindsay Gray (Joy / Heather M. )*

*Marlene Mills ( Joy / Leonie)*

*Bryan Russell (Sue / Louis Toorenburg)*

*Sue Toorenburg (Louis / Heather M.)*

*Owen Whaley (Marlene / Sue),*

*with Donna Washbrook already provisionally elected as curator.*

As the requirement for nine members was not reached and the constitution had not specifically ruled out nominations from the floor, Jean asked Jackie Walker if she would be willing to stand; she agreed and these eight members were therefore declared elected.

*Patron: Mrs Ethel Pickering*

*Auditor: Teresa Lomas.*

Subscriptions for 2011 – 12: There was considerable discussion following the incoming treasurer's recommendation that an increase should be made. Once the museum is open the outgoings will be noticeably more than previously when the power, water and phone were paid by the I-Site. Insurance too was being increased all over. The general feeling was that there should be an increase, but not so great as to put people off becoming members; also, that the

museum should try to break even by itself and not be reliant on member subscriptions to subsidise it. Finally, it was moved by June Fell, seconded by Sue Tooreburg, that the individual membership should stay the same at \$15.00 and the family membership increase to \$25.00. This was carried.

### *General Business*

John Metcalfe warned that in six months' time the FNDC would expect to find the required native tree-planting in place, and with spring coming on it must all be done very soon. Alexa pointed out that there were many donations of money coming in for trees, but some of those on the recommended list needed more shelter from the wind than was available at present. Planting was ongoing, but only of the hardiest varieties.

There was no further business and the annual meeting was closed at 3.15 pm, being followed by three speakers of differing backgrounds, giving their memories of past schooldays – which very quickly involved all members. Afternoon tea eventually followed, finally there was a visit to the new building for those who still had time.

Well, that's all for now, except for a final reminder of the harbour trip (23 Oct.) the dinner (28 Oct), and the Garden Safari (12-13 Nov.)

Plus – Plans are afoot to hold a Christmas hamper raffle, as a quick end-of-year fundraiser. Contributions for this hamper may be left with Jean Garriock, house behind the Opononi Fire-station, from now on.



*Hokianga Express VIII - waiting*



*Gib-Stopping completed – Val Lowe in Action.*

I've been told I should sign my name to these newsletters, in case someone wants to complain or ask for more information or even contribute something of their own, and they'll know who to go to. Fair enough, though I much prefer anonymity myself. However, here I am!

*Alexa Whaley.*