



Hokianga Historical Society Inc.

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Incorporating  
Hokianga Museum

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## NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2016

Our AGM is over and I have written up the Minutes, we have a slightly changed Executive and all is GO for the coming year. (As you see I'm still Secretary, in fact the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Curator are all the same) It was a peaceful meeting on the whole, a disappointment that only twelve turned up - but after all, most members live elsewhere. Thank you to those who sent their apologies and / or greetings, it's nice to be remembered.

The Constitution requires an Executive comprising five members as well as the officers, and it is here where there were changes. John Askew, who has been struggling with ill-health recently, decided to stand down, and Jackie Walker although she has had years of service to HHS under her belt has spent much of last year away and missed the deadline for nominations. For both, the year had seen their major contribution to our road-side signage. Jackie was the one who planned, designed and got the signs made (with input from Lloyd), John organised the putting-up, supplying timber, nails and man-power (with input from Lorraine, John & Dawn Metcalfe & Garth Coulter where necessary) So when you're next driving along SH12 within about 5 km of the museum, look out for our new blue-and-white signs. We're not breaking the law: the fact that they are very subtly on territory belonging to Maureen Lander (south) and Len Field (north) is entirely due to those members' generosity. We are grateful to them, and thank you, Jackie, and thank you, John, for your mahi; it's proving very worthwhile and the number of visitors is showing it.

So now the Executive as a whole now comprises:

<b><u>President:</u></b>	Dawn Metcalfe
<b><u>Vice president:</u></b>	Barbara Coulter
<b><u>Secretary:</u></b>	Alexa Whaley
<b><u>Treasurer:</u></b>	Doug McKenzie
<b><u>Curator:</u></b>	Donna Washbrook
<b><u>Members (five):</u></b>	Diane Hunia
	Elizabeth Barber Martin
	Denis Ryan
	Claire White
	Grace Wilkinson

Heather Ayrton is still happy to remain as Patron, thank you, Heather! And as you've probably already discovered by hearing from Doug, our membership subs remain the same. Diane is the museum's roster organiser and over the winter has had quite a few headaches trying to keep it open with not-quite-enough volunteers to call on. She had hoped that the

AGM might be a good time to talk over the opening days and times, but with only twelve attending, a definite decision would not have been possible. Any changes would have to be made at this time of the year, ahead of the tourism publications. – so most likely the museum's opening times will remain the same, Monday to Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm. And we can only hope that the roster jig-saw puzzle doesn't drive Diane to an early death.

It's probably a little late now to be reminding you of the final "**Sunday afternoons in the museum**" session as it's this coming Sunday, the 18<sup>th</sup>. But I will anyway. **Robin Hoare** of Rawene started to wonder (many years ago) about a smallish wheeled object deteriorating by the side of the main road at Kohukohu. It is inconspicuous enough for many people to drive right past unaware, but from those who did notice it there have been many theories put forward about what it might have been. Not good enough for Robin: he started a scientific investigation which took him into many byways and false leads before being able to produce a full and complete story for it. He has turned this into a powerpoint presentation which he is airing for us on Sunday. We are hoping for a good crowd to end the series as Robin has been a member for many years and his research has been really thorough – and he's made such an interesting story of it!



Our previous 'Sunday' featured **Judy Reinken's** Hokianga-based film **Tumanaco – Hope**. It attracted a really good crowd (for us) and we were able to pass about \$80 to Judy to go towards her dream of having it shown on Maori TV. The cost of that is escalated enormously by the short insert of TVNZ content they have used, the public replay rights adding several thousand more. \$80 doesn't go very far towards that! But maybe it's true what they say that Every Little Helps. We've had a range of reactions come from it since. Everyone enjoyed recognising so many faces they knew – and sometimes learning a bit more about the people behind the faces. The concept of HOPE, often in a setting of adversity, was always evident in the interviews and that gave the film a further depth. We can only wish Judy and her co-film-makers the best of luck in developing further exposure.

Now for future plans. In a previous newsletter I'd hoped that on the Saturday of Labour weekend we could organise a walk along the harbour-side of Whiria. I have to say that is still under construction, as it were. High tide for that day is mid afternoon so it would have to be in the morning, maybe 10 am, with an early picnic lunch on the beach before returning the same way, in time to beat the tide. It's not entirely true that it always rains on Labour Weekend, but that is still the bugbear that lurks in the back of everyone's mind. Pencil it in, anyway, and we'll have another newsletter before then to clinch the deal. (Another newsletter? What am I saying?!)

Much more definite is our **Annual Lunch** in November. The date is **Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> November, time 12 noon for mix and mingle, 12.30 seated**. Place is **Opononi Hotel**, and cost is **\$25.00 p.p.** And the **speaker?** No less than **Colin Quincey, now** approaching the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his epic voyage rowing from Hokianga to the Australian coast. We have our Patron Heather Ayrton to thank for this contact. Since the Maritime Museum in Auckland uplifted his boat from our care – with his agreement it has to be said – we'd rather lost track of him and had no idea he was living in Paihia now. But she met him at a function earlier this year, rang us immediately after and said (more or less) Get him as a speaker! So we have.

We have a raffle going on as a fund-raiser at the present time; a large and very beautiful kauri bowl turned and polished by Neville McMullien. Tickets are \$5.00 and it will be drawn finally at the lunch. If you'd like a ticket or two they're not all quite gone yet and we'd be happy to add your name (on receipt of \$5.00 of course) It would make a wonderful Christmas present.

**Summer:** After last hot summer's cancelled events we have rather avoided trying to arrange too much for the January period, but no doubt someone will be putting the pressure on for at least a harbour cruise. Another reason for an October newsletter ....speaking for myself, I can bear a newsletter but I have put my foot down over organising any more harbour cruises. Someone else can do it!

We have a final plea – no: two pleas.

- The first is for a definite date of the construction of the **boat ramp at Omapere**. We have an ex-slide photograph taken of the construction, given to us by Maureen Brown, in which one of the workers has been identified as Aubrey Bracey. But it wasn't from a camera that dated the views for you.
- The second plea is for anyone recognising the surname ARAMA living around Waimamaku, in particular Tono Arama. These are both questions we've been asked and we'd love to be able to supply answers, even if only for our own satisfaction.

End of page – end of newsletter – I sign off.

Till next month – Alexa.