



Hokianga Historical Society Inc.

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Incorporating
Hokianga Museum

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NEWSLETTER - September 2017

Where has the time gone since the AGM? I had the best of intentions of reporting on it the very next day, but it's turned into a very long series of 'tomorrows'. We had a very peaceful meeting with only about 13 or 14 attending (we did have a quorum!) so it wasn't fraught with difficulty to report on. And it wouldn't be true to say we've had a very busy time since then, because tourist-wise it's been one of the slackest times of the year for everybody up here, not just us. (Although there were exceptions, as you'll read further on) Let's just say that other things got in the way, and it rained on and on.

The meeting didn't make many changes: you will have discovered by now that the membership sub. is still the same at \$25 double or \$15 single. **Heather Ayrton** kindly agreed to remain our patron even though she's shifted even further away, to Kerikeri, and it's quite a long drive to get to meetings. Some changes in the executive though; **Denis Ryan** and **Elizabeth Martin** retired; and **Heather Martin** fills one of the places, the other is still vacant for the time being. And **Claire White** has taken on the secretaryship. Thank you, Claire! That is the one of the hardest positions to fill.

The executive now comprises **Dawn Metcalfe (chair) Barbara Coulter (deputy chair) Claire White (secretary) Doug Mckenzie (treasurer) Donna Washbrook (curator); Diane Hunia, Heather Martin, Alexa Whaley, Grace Wilkinson**, one position so far unfilled. A promising start to the year has already been made - with everyone determined not to waffle on, we cut our first meeting time in half. Can we keep it up?

Our next major event will be our **annual Christmas lunch**. In previous newsletters I've been exhorting you to keep the 19th November free and I wish I hadn't, because we've needed to change that - a wedding got in first. Definitely now it will take place on - **25th November, at the Copthorne Hokianga in Omapere, at 12.00 for 'mix and mingle' on the deck, or bar area if wet; 12.30 luncheon.. Cost is \$27.00, preferably paid before the event.**

Bookings for this are definitely needed as the hotel needs to know the precise numbers in plenty of time. They don't take passengers! **Phonecalls please to Dawn Metcalfe, 09 4058890, or the Museum, 09 4058498 (between 10am and 2pm, Mon - Sat.)**

As speaker for the occasion we are very lucky to have Kevin Prime, of Ngati Hine, Ngati Whatua, Tainui and Welsh descent; he has had roles in many organisations to do with conservation, justice, Maori development forestry - you name it. He's currently a **Commissioner with the Environment Court.** We didn't specify his subject: left that for him to choose.

Altogether it should be a highlight for our year, and it's a date that's easy to remember - exactly a month to Christmas Day.

We have another more tentative date for you too. There's a proposed visit to **Motukaraka**, led by Paul White, on Saturday **2nd December**. Details of this still have to be worked out but there will be another newsletter closer to the time which will be much more specific (with luck!) I should mention that we have a fund-raising raffle on the go at present - the big one for the year at \$5.00 a ticket - three prizes. This isn't a hint, you are all subscription-paying members and we don't expect

you to cough up more than that – but if you enjoy the luck of the draw...there are still tickets available!

I said at the beginning that in general the museum's winter has been a quiet one, a pity as there are a number of new volunteers and it's the visitors that really make life interesting. As Sandy Clark discovered.....

MY FIRST DAY AS A VOLUNTEER AT THE MUSEUM

THE BUS TOUR GROUP

Shortly after 10am a bus tour of 26 arrived at the Museum. After a bit of Musical Chairs & Opo Video, they were ready to explore the many treasures we had to offer.

Mementos in the form of books, postcards, key chains etc were eagerly purchased.

MRS T BUTLER (originally from Sth. Africa)

Co-incidentally Mrs Butler was part of the tour group eagerly interested to find out more about the family history. She met her husband Tom - (I believe he was one of the sons of Laura & Frank Butler)--in France. At first she rebuffed his interest in her because she thought he was French, & she had no intention in marrying a Frenchman. However, on learning he was a Kiwi - budding romance soon led to marriage!

They returned to NZ & settled in Pukekohe, Sth. Auckland, where Tom worked in the market gardens.

On his death, Mrs Butler was determined to visit Hokianga & learn more of the Family History. She was delighted to discover the book " Both Sides of the River" & reminisced over photos & memories of the family. She will have many stories to tell when she returns home.

THE CAVES

Mr & Mrs Cave returned to source information on the family history, in Rawene. Mr Cave's Father was the first owner of the Rawene Garage. Through our Archives he learnt much family history & found School Photos of his Father.

Such a lovely couple.

WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?

Amid the excitement, looking at the displays & foraging through the Archives - soon it was nearly 2 o'clock! Never mind, I'm looking forward to the next time.

FOOTNOTE -

I was to meet members of the tour group on the Copthorne Beach (Omapere) & also at Kerikeri the next day. They came to say hello & say how much they enjoyed the visit to our Museum.

"Te Puna i te ao Marama"

12/9/2017

Sandy Clark.

(Note: That really was an exceptional day – a bus-load of 26!!)

Just to finish: our Chairperson's Report from the AGM, for those who missed it.

AGM – Chairperson Report

I would like to open by acknowledging and thanking all the volunteers who have given of their time and support to enable us to keep the museum open six days a week.

I would like to thank Donna Washbrook who has worked tirelessly in her position as Curator, and acknowledge the many hours she has given attending meetings outside the area relating to

her position and balancing family life as well. She has recently had a health scare - so take it easy, Donna.

A big thank you to Alexa and Owen, who have been a mainstay of the H.H.S. for many years. Alexa's knowledge and enthusiasm have been invaluable. We are fortunate that she is happy to continue writing our newsletters, but will relinquish her position as Secretary.

Diane has done an amazing job co-ordinating the Volunteers roster – a job no-one would relish.

Claire White is a very talented member of the Society. She has worked tirelessly setting up the HHS Facebook page and reorganising the HHS brochure. She deserves a big vote of thanks. Special thanks go to Barbara and Grace who have worked diligently on displays which have been a great source of information and talking points from visitors.

And last but not least, thanks to Doug who has prepared monthly financial reports and keeps us solvent!

Unfortunately we have lost the services of two stalwarts, Jackie and Lloyd Walker who have departed to Auckland. They will be missed but they have left a legacy "The Hokianga Walks" and our recent street signage.

You will have noticed that the car park has been upgraded. This was made possible with funding from the FNDC.

In November we as a group were invited to participate in a "Community Consultation" with our local school. We were hoping for a closer liaison as a result; however, this did not eventuate which is disappointing as the Museum is such a wonderful resource.

We have had two school visits from schools out of the area.

- In October 2016, **Te One School**, in the Chatham Islands, were visiting the Hokianga area for four days, so their Principal organised a morning visit to the museum and a quiz for the children to test their powers of observation! This certainly tested both Dale's and my local knowledge as we happened to be on duty that day!!
- Recently **Matawaia Kohanga Reo** called in after a visit to Tane Mahuta, to see the original Opo statue and to watch the Opo video which was enjoyed by the group.

During the summer months Koro Carman, of Explore Hokianga, has started bringing visitors from the Bay of Islands over to the Hokianga making the Museum a point of call. We have had lots of positive feedback from both Koro and his visitors. Hopefully this will continue next summer.

In November we held our Annual Christmas Luncheon at the Opononi Hotel. This was a great success owing to the very entertaining speakers Colin and son Shaun Quincey relating their adventures rowing across the Tasman. We had excellent feedback.

An informal afternoon tea was held at the Copthorne as a special thank you to all Volunteers and their partners.

In April a walk along Newtons Road was organised by Barbara and led by Lorraine Parlane with historical input, culminating in a welcome morning tea with the Parlanes. The morning was enjoyed by all who participated.

Apart from our raffle for the kauri bowl donated by Neville McMullien, we have had no other forms of fundraising. This however did net \$500.00.

Earlier this year we nearly had to close on the weekends as we were so short of volunteers, but thanks to a former volunteer, Heather Martin, we were able to remain open. We have been lucky over the last few weeks to enlist the help of people new to the area. Thank you.

In conclusion, I wish to announce that our end-of-year function will be on November 25 at the Copthorne. We have managed to keep the price at \$27.00 per person. Tickets will be available at the Museum.

Thank you!

DAWN METCALFE.

Alexa Whaley