



First and foremost...

Building Work

An application for \$25,000 to Foundation North for a grant to assist with the work on Champion Cottage has been approved. This will unfortunately only go some way towards the costs associated with rebuilding/painting part of the cottage and we will have to fundraise. The work on Champion Cottage will begin when weather settles.

Working Bee

Much of the material currently displayed in the cottage will have to be moved into storage. To that end, a working bee is planned for Tuesday 17 October at 10 am. However, that is not all that needs attention. We will need to weed the paths and spread a new layer of gravel.

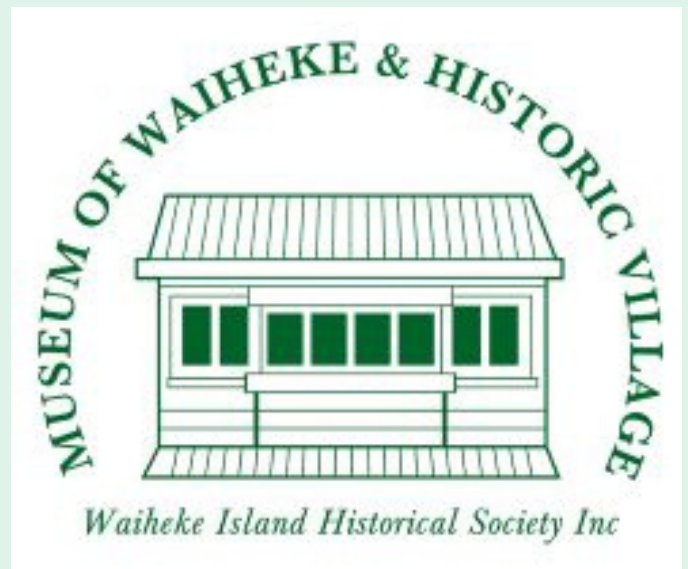
Storage

My mention of storage raises an issue we have had for some time. No museum can ever hope to collect/display everything. While our policy has been altered slightly over time, it is currently "to collect, document, preserve, store, research and provide access to objects, documents and photographs associated with Waiheke Island." (cont page 2)

Welcome...

to the first of what is planned to be a regular series of newsletters from the Waiheke Island Historical Society.

Visitor numbers to the Museum continue to grow, and we have now passed the total numbers for each peak Covid year of 2020 and 2021. Growing visitor numbers have also improved our revenue.



However, it is in implementing the policy that a problem arises. For what does “associated with Waiheke Island” actually mean? People sometimes leave items outside for us.

A person may arrive with items they wish to donate. The volunteer on the desk faces a “spur of the moment decision” on whether to accept the donation.

In the past, the common practice has been to accept the item. However, if an item doesn't fit in our collection or we already have sufficient examples of the item, we face the task, and often the cost, of disposing of it.

Consequently, the Committee proposes that when people offer to donate items to the Museum, they be asked to send us a photo of the items and explain their “Waiheke significance.”

We'd appreciate hearing what members think and especially any thoughts on streamlining the process.

Displays and Performances

If you have visited recently, you'll have noticed that courtesy of Tanya Batt, the life of a former president and patron of the Society, Kara (Kit) Nelson, is now featured. On Sunday, October 8th, as part of Auckland Heritage Week, Tanya will be building on this exhibition with a presentation at the Museum about Waiheke's Peace Movement. This will be accompanied by songs and a screening of Kit and Maynie - Tea, Scones and Nuclear Disarmament.

Beginning September 3rd and continuing on the first Sunday of each month, the Museum is organising a series of presentations/performances highlighting aspects of culture and heritage with an emphasis on participation. The first of these will be led by our member and volunteer, Kate Bryant, and will feature rug making.

The programme for subsequent months is:

- 1 October: NZ Folk Music with Alan Knight
- 5 November: Spinning/Weaving - Cheryl Lyall
- 3 December: Christmas Wreath Making

This year marks the 70th anniversary of electric power arriving on Waiheke, and we will be marking this with a series of displays.

In 1953 an electricity supply cable was brought ashore, and the first power poles were erected at Rocky Bay. In July, power was switched on. Over the following year, power lines were pushed through to Onetangi, and the power was turned on there in July 1954. Over the next two years, the electricity network was extended to other areas on the island's western end, finally reaching Oneroa in 1956.

The Museum has an extensive collection of photos and other material illustrating the arrival of electricity on the island and the events surrounding it. The project was even featured in international engineering publications. We'll be mounting a series of rotating displays illustrating the arrival of electricity to Waiheke.

We'll also mount a display of the lamps, cookers and other appliances that once made kerosene part of everyday life on Waiheke and which the arrival of electricity made redundant.

If you have ideas re exhibits or displays or would be willing to organise something, please let someone on the committee know.

Logan Moss

Our Comittee

Logan Moss - President
 Mark James - VP and Treasurer
 Alison Hunt - Secretary
 Juliet Hay, Dot Malan, Don Baillie