



Champion Cottage on its original Oneroa site

Visitor Update

Museum visitor numbers have continued to improve, and should comfortably exceed 3500 for the first time since 2019. Hopefully, an advertising campaign on local buses, starting this month, will help increase visitor numbers further.

Donations from visitors to the Museum are also increasing but not at the same rate as visitor numbers. However, we hope that our recent acquisition of an EFTPOS machine will help to rectify this.

Faced with increasing numbers of people not carrying cash, we have been offering visitors the option of donating by online banking.

Therefore, the Committee decided on a three-month trial of EFTPOS (December - February). While visitors can still make cash donations, they will now also have the option of using EFTPOS.

Champion Cottage Update

The big news is that the renovation of Champion Cottage is nearing completion. The grant the Society received from Foundation North has allowed us to replace and repair the weatherboards on the cottage and completely repaint its exterior. The work should be completed later this month. -->



Then we'll need to restore the displays in the cottage and tidy up the garden around it.

To this end, we have scheduled a working bee for **Tuesday, December 12, beginning at 10:00 am or, if the weather is uncooperative, on the following Tuesday, December 19, at the same time.**

The anticipated completion date for Champion seems appropriate, for it coincides with the 40th anniversary of the original Museum opening to the public on its original Ostend site on December 12, 1983. It was subsequently "officially opened" by the then Governor General, Sir David Beattie, on February 27, 1984.

The date is also approximately the 30th anniversary of the removal of Champion Cottage from its original site in Wattle Road, Oneroa.

Exhibitions



Moving Champion to the Museum site

With Champion returned to its former "glory", we will be able to turn our attention to refurbishing and updating displays in other parts of the Museum. First up will be the exhibition "Power comes to Waiheke/Life before electricity," marking the 70th anniversary of the reticulation of electricity on Waiheke in 1953 and 1954.

Heritage Sunday Events

Our Heritage Sunday events have continued with a folk music concert by The Wellerman in October, a demonstration of spinning last month and for this month, **December 10**, Christmas wreath making led by Kate Bryant. January's event, a demonstration of butter making and another utilising our antique woodworking tools, will highlight several significant parts of the Museum's collections.

The Wellermen will return in February, and we hope to combine their performance with a family picnic day on the museum grounds. Keep an eye out for this.

While attendance at our Heritage Sunday events has not been what we hoped we will be continuing with them in 2024 and putting more emphasis on advertising the events.

Any suggestions for future events will be gratefully received, especially if you can offer to organise the event.

"Kai for Community Waiheke Food Festival"

Another event to mark on your calendar on **April 7**. While not strictly an Historical Society event, it is being organised by one of our members, Tanya Batt, hosted at the Museum.

The Society will also be assisting by providing volunteers on the day as required. It will take the place of our Heritage Sunday event for April

The Festival will offer a variety of activities including food-related demonstrations, opportunities to sample and buy locally grown or produced food and displays of home-grown produce. -->

It will also include a digital storytelling element, providing information about the food history of Waiheke, which will become a permanent fixture.

Heritage Garden

The Committee is also hopeful that the Festival might provide an impetus for a long-planned but much-postponed project to develop a heritage garden on the Museum's grounds. Members are invited to share their views on whether this would be a worthwhile project for the Society to undertake.

Wharf to Wharf Run

We have been asked once again to take on staffing a "water stop" outside the Museum for the Wharf to Wharf run on **Sunday, January 21**.

The Society would receive payment for this, with an additional amount for dressing up and a further cash prize if we are judged the "best dressed." The committee will be combing through the Museum's collection looking for any costumes that might be suitable.

Margaret Milligan has offered to take responsibility for the organisation, so if you'd be willing to assist, please contact her directly either by phone, 09 372 2102 or 027 471 3178. Her email address is: cwmilligan@xtra.co.nz. The stand needs to be staffed from around 9:00 am till noon.

Request for Interviewing Help

Would you, or anyone you know, be interested in interviewing senior residents who have lived their lives on Waiheke? We have transcripts taken in the 80s, but now we need to update with some present day memories.

We have the ability to transcribe these interviews into the written word. We just need a new interviewer.

Please contact Alison Hunt either by email, alisongrahamhunt@gmail.com, or by phone, 021 426 872.

Logan Moss



Sir David and Lady Beattie with the president of the Waiheke Historical Society, Mr Des Jenkinson (centre), and the society's patron, Mr Brendon Wheelan (at left) during the opening ceremony.

Your Committee

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