



Champion Cottage dining room

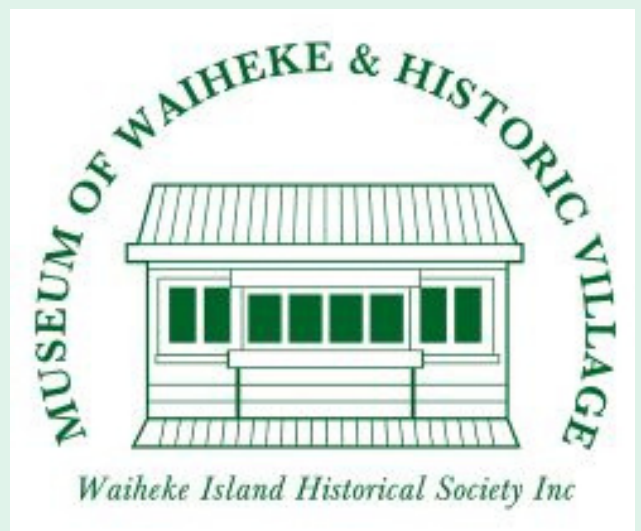
Visitor Update

Growth in visitor numbers has continued, with more than 1500 people visiting the Museum over summer. Income from visitor donations has also improved, and takings are almost back to pre-Covid levels. But, given increasing costs and the maintenance work we face over the next few years, we still need to work on increasing this income.

As you'll recall from the December newsletter, as an experiment, the committee decided to rent an EFTPOS machine for the summer. The result has been a small increase in income, and we ended up slightly better off than we might otherwise have been. However, with the lower visitor numbers over the middle of the year, this was unlikely to continue so the machine has been returned. The committee will consider repeating the "experiment" next summer.

Champion Cottage Update

The refurbishment of Champion Cottage is complete and the cottage is again open. Special thanks to Juliet Hay for organising a grant from Foundation North and for overseeing various phases of the work -- Also, to Alison Hunt who, with Juliet, restored displays and replaced curtains. Visitor responses have been positive and some have commented on how the rooms evoked memories from their past. -->



While it is great to see the cottage once again looking resplendent it also serves to remind us that we face an ongoing challenge maintaining our cottages. Both Keane and Goodwin will require similar refurbishment in the next few years.

The work on Champion has cost over \$30,000 and we will be facing similar, if not greater amounts for the other two cottages. The two water tanks are in need of immediate replacement which is unlikely to leave much change from \$10,000.

Heritage Sunday Events

Since the last newsletter, we have had several events. December's Christmas Wreath making workshop led by Kate Bryant was a great success and attracted a request for a repeat the following weekend at the Heart of Christmas festival at Artworks. As a prior commitment meant that Kate was unable to do this, Alison Hunt, our secretary, stepped in and ran a very successful session. Not only was it enjoyed by all who attended, the Society also received a considerable donation.

In January, another committee member, Don Baillie, attracted a number of interested participants for a demonstration of the old tools in our collection.

February, saw a very successful repeat of October's concert by The Wellermen (Alan Knight and Tom French). Over the two hours of their performance, they attracted an audience of well over sixty people and the donations for the day were among the best ever.

Unfortunately, we had no offers for this month and consequently I appeal to members for suggestions, or preferably, offers of demonstrations or performances suitable for future Heritage Sunday events.

Collecting Waiheke Oral Histories

Beginning in the 1980s, members of the Society were active in interviewing a number of Waiheke identities about their experiences of living on the island. These interviews were transcribed and are available for researchers to consult.

Unfortunately, this was not continued and the last interviews date from the mid-1990s. Last year the committee resolved that, if possible, we should attempt to resurrect this endeavour and the December newsletter contained an appeal for member(s) interested in conducting interviews. Janet November stepped up and offered to take on the task and she will soon begin her first interviews. Janet has a list of potential interviewees, largely long-standing island residents, but if you have any suggestions for people who should be interviewed, please pass them onto the committee.

Refreshing and Refurbishing our displays and exhibitions

While visitor responses to our Museum are overwhelmingly positive, there is always room for us to improve. The committee has therefore decided to look at our current displays with a view to refreshing, refurbishing and perhaps, in some cases, replacing them. We've had suggestions, as well as offers, from members for new displays, including ones featuring the contributions of prominent past Waiheke residents and we are working through how, when and where these might be mounted.

Currently, we also have substantial displays featuring forestry, farming, and shipping all once central to Waiheke's economic life, and the latter still so. We certainly wouldn't want to eliminate these, but we also need to give recognition to what characterises the island today. -->

For instance, it has often been suggested that we should have an exhibition featuring wine production on the island. So the question is how we might add new exhibits which, rather than replace existing ones, complement them.

So, if you have suggestions for new exhibits, or better still, would be prepared to work with the committee on creating a new exhibit, or refurbishing an existing one, we'd love to hear from you.

“Kai for Community Waiheke Food Festival”

A reminder about an upcoming event announced in our last newsletter which will be held at the Museum on **April 7**. Organised by one of our members, Tanya Batt, the Festival offers a variety of activities, including food-related demonstrations and opportunities to sample and buy locally grown or produced food, along with displays of home-grown produce.

The Festival also includes a digital storytelling element, providing information about the food history of Waiheke. Tanya intends that this will become a permanent fixture for the Museum.

Annual General Meeting

Finally, please ensure that you have the Society's AGM, **Sunday April 14 at 2.00 pm**, marked on your calendar. Full details of the meeting, including the Agenda, the President's and Treasurer's reports, proposed amendments to the Society's constitution, and nomination forms for the committee will be sent out shortly.

Logan Moss

Your Committee

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



Champion Cottage Kitchen