



Keeping in Touch

Newsletter for New Zealand History Federation Inc
Te Kotahitanga o nga Hitori o Aotearoa
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July 2025

New Zealand History Federation Inc Conference and AGM 17 to 18 May 2025



Full praise to the teams from Albertland Museum and the Te Hana Cultural Centre, Te Ao Marama for hosting this year's AGM and conference. I have heard from many of our members who attended that they thoroughly enjoyed the programme, and the opportunity to both network with each other and learn about the Albertland experience. This images courtesy Christine Madsen.



NZ History Federation Annual General Meeting

17 May 2025

Presidents Report

Past year

At least one of the challenges I referred to in my report from last year appears to be well on the way toward resolution for most of our members who are still incorporated societies; that is the effect of constitutional changes being brought about by the new Incorporated Societies Act. At the time of putting together the February issue of *Keeping in Touch*, 12 organisations had successfully reincorporated under the new Act, with others on their way toward doing so. Which leaves the Federation itself – something which we will have to proceed with this year, in order to comply and remain incorporated.

The Federation committee remains small. Health issues haven't helped, affecting myself, Kenneth Stringer, and David Wong. All of the existing committee have expressed interest in serving another year – and we have had a new volunteer keen to join us, which is greatly appreciated and most welcome. But we could still do with your help.

Membership

We have 41 full paid-up members, down from 59 at the last report, and 5 associates. There are 19 members who have yet to re-subscribe for this year as at the time of writing this report (6 May 2025), although some have said they intend to do so

Website

Over the last 12 months (the month of December missing from the stats), the Federation's website has been visited 814 times by internet users in New Zealand (up from 564), 45 from Australia (up from 25), at least 12 from Africa, 5 from the USA, 2 from the UK, and 1 from Japan. The site is still discovered mainly by users looking for historical societies in specific places, one particular stand-out query is "Hamilton Historical Society," while another that crops up a lot is "Otahuhu Historical Society". The Our Members page is popular.

The new "contact us" email form continues to be a great tool, but still mainly it attracts spammers and those offering to build a better website for a substantial fee.

I work on keeping the site updated as I can. There are issue of *Keeping in Touch* to put on there, for one thing – but that is also another popular section of the site.

Keeping in Touch

Due to my health issues, after the May 2024 issue, there was a long gap to the February 2025. I received emails from libraries asking what was going on – so at least I know it was missed. My apologies to you members. The positive feedback received about its content is still very much appreciated.

Facebook

Fairly static, I put content on the page by sharing posts from members' pages.

Once again, I heartily thank the Federation executive committee of 2024-2025 for all their hard work and help over the past year under very trying conditions: our Vice President and Secretary Kenneth Stringer, our Treasurer Alan Bray, and committee members Kathryn Parsons and David Wong.

Lisa J Truttman, President



New Committee Members

Introducing NiaVal Tali, Vice President of the NZ History Federation

I am humbled to serve as Vice President of the New Zealand Historical Federation. My love for history began in the heart of my home — at the side of my industrious grandmother. She was a woman of great strength, faith, and wisdom who lived her values with quiet leadership. Through her, I inherited not only a deep work ethic and a generous spirit, but also the living threads of our family heritage. She taught us Bible stories alongside family stories, weaving whakapapa, scripture, and service into daily life. Through her hands and actions, she passed on family archives, documents, taonga, and heirlooms—many of which I still hold and continue to share with the next generations.

This personal foundation shaped my lifelong journey as a native storyteller, cultural educator, visual artist, and family historian.

I've exhibited and coordinated, curated major cultural exhibitions — including a large-scale WWI exhibition in Devonport in 2015, which later toured to Rarotonga, London, and Paris. I worked with Te Papa Museum in 2007 on a centennial project that transformed community archives and artefacts into expressions of living culture. I've also led youth arts projects at Corbans Estate Arts Centre, connecting over 350 Auckland youth with hip hop graphic artists from New York.

In 2015, I was honoured to represent Australasia as the international woman artist at the United Nations World Exhibition, in Paris where I presented a large glass-blown taro sculpture — rooted in the earth — symbolising cultural resilience and identity.



I was born in Ponsonby and raised in West Auckland, where I spent my childhood exploring the creeks and green spaces that became my old stomping ground. I was later married at Corbans Estate — a tribute to the rich heritage of the area and the deep connection I have to the land and its stories. As a proud Westie, my roots in that community have shaped my values, creativity, and lifelong love for local history.

Māngere where my family home is, is where I am now residing. I'm an active member of the Māngere Historical Society, where I continue to celebrate the unique stories and cultural richness of South Auckland. Recently, I remain deeply passionate about connecting people through stories—uncovering who's who, honouring where we come from, and helping our communities see themselves in the living history all around us.

Introducing Lynley Stone, Executive Committee Member of the NZ History Federation

It is a great pleasure to be part of the NZHF Executive Committee, and I look forward to the opportunity to work with and learn from people from other historical groups around the country.

I started my career with eleven years working as an academic librarian and library manager at the University of Auckland Library (General Library, Fine Arts and Tamaki Campus), then two years as a senior manager at The University of Waikato Library. In 2001 I started my own business, The Information Workshop, as a consultant, trainer, facilitator and researcher working mostly with public, tertiary and non-profit libraries, and alongside that I tutored and lectured in library and information studies for Victoria University and The Open Polytechnic. My specialist areas were research, management, customer service and information literacy.



Along the way I picked up a lot of technology skills, and contacts throughout the wider GLAM sector. In 2019 I made a major life change: closed my business, did a four year painting course at Browne School in Grey Lynn, and began volunteering at Mt Albert Historical Society: I have been President of that Society for three years.

I've always been a passionate family historian (I'm a 6th generation Aucklander), and I have fallen in love with local history. It will be great to be able to work at the national level.



NZHF Subscription Rates reduced by 50% for the 2026 year

It was agreed at the 2025 AGM that membership subscription rates across the board are to be reduced by 50% for next year. Since 2021, we have done very well in terms of recovering from our depleted bank balance, and those attending agreed with the Avondale-Waterview delegate that with no projects requiring major funding at the moment, it was time to reduce the subscription rates.

Our new rates will be as follows:

Full Members

Level A	Organisations with 1 - 20 Members	\$ 12.50
Level B	Organisations with 21 plus Members	\$ 25.00
Level C	Museums and other institutions	\$ 25.00

Associate Members: \$12.50



Special General Meeting 6 September 2025

A Special General Meeting will be held from 10am to 2 pm, upstairs rooms, Club Onehunga, 57 Princes Street, Onehunga, Auckland.

The sole item on the agenda will be the presentation and approval of the new Constitution for the NZ History Federation, Inc. You will find a copy online here:

<https://nzhistoryfederation.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Draft-constitution-2024.pdf>

If you have issues accessing this, let me know, and I'll send it to you via email.

There is no registration fee for this SGM, and the executive committee has agreed to supply lunch free for a voting delegate from each member organisation, plus one observer for each member organisation. Additional observers are welcome to attend, but will need to pay \$23 per head for the lunch in advance.

Please register attendance by contacting Lisa Truttman at nzhistoryfederation@gmail.com no later than 29 August 2025.

Parking spaces are available at the free Park and Ride at Onehunga Railway Station, just across the road from the venue.



Reports from the NZHF Member Societies, 17 May 2025

Cambridge Historical Society and Museum Report to the Historical Society Federation – May 2025

Kia ora koutou,

I'm Elizabeth Harvey, manager at Cambridge Museum, a small but spirited museum proudly run by Cambridge Historical Society. It's a pleasure to be here among friends and fellow guardians of our heritage, and I would like to say thank you to Lisa and the Federation committee, and our hosts Albertland Heritage Museum and Te Hana Te Ao Marama Maori Cultural Centre for such an excellent programme this weekend.

For us, it's been a year of momentum and meaningful mahi.

We've welcomed close to 7,000 visitors through our doors — a record for our little museum — and we're proud to say we have nearly 220 members in our Historical Society. For a town our size, that number speaks of a strong community commitment to heritage.

We've hosted a lively series of walks and talks, connecting our members with the landscapes and legacies that shape our identity. These range from small bespoke tours of heritage homes in our area to much larger mini lectures in partnership with U3A Cambridge that often attract audiences of 80-100 people.

Behind the scenes, we've continued our digitisation programme, preserving fragile records and photographs, ensuring that what we hold in our care today will remain accessible for future generations. And we've started an exciting oral histories project about Dutch immigrants to the Cambridge area in the 1940s and 50s, as part of our "Voices of Cambridge" project.

Currently, we are preparing our submission to Council as part of their public consultation on the Long-Term Plan, and their Heritage Activity Management Plan is a sombre read.

As everyone here today knows, in the heritage sector funding is tight, volunteer numbers are stretched, buildings are ageing and costs are rising. And still, despite these headwinds, we all keep showing up. Why? Because we know what's at stake if we don't.

History doesn't speak for itself — it needs people like us, like all of you here today, to be its voice, its advocates, and its protectors.

Let's keep reminding our councils, funders, and communities that what we do matters. Let's stand up for the value of historical societies as vital, living parts

of communities. We're not dusty relics of the past. We are active, necessary stewards of cultural identity, lifelong learning, and collective memories.

My call to action is this:

- * Advocate for your place in the community.
- * Collaborate where you can — share resources, experiences and successes.
- * And keep talking about the value we provide.

Thank you again for the work you do, often unseen and unfunded, but always important. We're proud to be part of this collective effort to keep history alive. I look forward to hearing what everyone else has been up to.

Ngā mihi nui.

Report from Māngere Historical Society, 2025

We have a membership of 15, with around a dozen turning up to most meetings. Four new members enrolled in the past year. Over the past year several of our senior members stopped attending meetings because of ill health, or have passed away. The latter includes Janet Presland, our previous long-serving president.

We decided at our last AGM to reduce meetings to six times a year, rather than 10. So far this plan is working well. Instead of attending a meeting this month, several members visited Papatoetoe Historical Society's interesting museum and ANZAC display. Papatoetoe is experiencing the same ongoing operational issue as us: Auckland Council, the owner of the two buildings that house our respective archival collections, appears to be reluctant to replace our leaky roofs.

We were successful in applying for a grant in 2024 from the Māngere - Ōtāhuhu local board, to cover the rental of our research and archive room, and its insurance.

We continue to find excellent speakers. Our last was geologist Bruce Hayward, who talked about Austrian geologist Ferdinand Von Hochstetter's journey along the coast of the Manukau harbour to Whatipu, then over to Captain Haultain's farm in Māngere in 1859. In the winter months we move our meetings from the St James Anglican Church hall to the much warmer Māngere Bridge Library. Also, by holding some of our meetings here, we hope to attract interest amongst the users of the library.

We are planning to visit Te Toi Uku Crown Lynn and Clayworks museum in New Lynn in August.

Julie Benjamin, President.

Mt Albert Historical Society Report to NZHF, 17 May 2025

MAHS is in a good position. We are telling Mt Albert's stories, collecting and organizing access to information about our district, actively researching and supporting other researchers, and enriching our members through approx eight events a year and our quarterly Newsletter.

COLLECTION

- * Small physical collection – a few cubic metres: filing cabinets, books, catering supplies, a few objects.
- * Most information is digitised or at least indexed to aid retrieval and keep safe.
- * Use Google Drive, and backup on Dropbox and external drives.
- * Not publishing too much on website due to fear of AI scraping.

MEMBERSHIP:

- * 71 financial & honorary members – stable, steady trickle of new members. Most are retired people who live, or once lived, in central Mt Albert. Their fees fund us so we can do things.
- * Average attendance at events is 35-40: 50% of members are actively engaged.
- * Most current members don't use our website or undertake research; the questions and requests for help that come in online are generally from younger people who do not join the Society.
- * Events have important to our members for social and community contact – to encourage active participation we use name stickers, have good afternoon teas, have fun, and have events where members participate.
- * Our members prefer hard copy to digital. We have just decided to return to distributing our Newsletter to Members in hard copy (as well as email). Also thinking about producing books.

EVENTS & MARKETING

- * Each year we offer an historic walk, guest speakers, picnics, and member show and tell events (where members share stories on a theme). Visits to historic houses and Christmas theme.
- * Memoir Writing Workshop planned for July – new initiative
- * Retirement Village Strategy – being planned.
- * Marketing strategy – being developed. Being careful not to rush into active marketing – need to ensure we have clear products and services in place first.
- * Annual stall in Mt Albert Library to sell copies of our book – always popular

PROJECTS:

- * Constitution review! Going to our AGM in September.
- * Oral Histories: collecting stories via formal oral histories and informal conversations – meeting people at the level they are willing to engage
- * Archives: gathering copies, indexing/transcribing (ArchivesNZ Auckland and Wellington, Auckland Council Archives) – making sure we have access to all relevant datasets about our area
- * School Records: transcriptions. Currently talking with NZSG about sharing our data

- * Photos: creating finding aids for photos of our region from all sources
- * Aerial photos: mapping which streets are covered
- * Wises Post Office Directories: transcribing who lived where
- * Maps, land and subdivisions: collating all relevant information
- * Houses: collecting and taking photos of houses in our rapidly changing area
- * House names: before street numbers
- * Maternity homes, midwives and doctors: ongoing research
- * Networking: a gradual process of getting to know other societies and organisations
- * Starting work exploring GIS Mapping as a way of organizing, analysing and presenting our information.

Lynley Stone, President

NorWest Heritage Society Inc. for NZ History Federation - AGM 2025

Where: Te Hana Te Ao Marama, Nr Wellsford

Re: Report - verbally given on 17 May 2025

By: Bunty Condon - Secretary

Bunty reported on current situation and recent past activities with NorWest Heritage Society. The "NorWest" area of Auckland includes Kumeu, Huapai, Waimauku, Riverhead and Taupaki. Membership: 93.

This has been and still is a region of extreme growth and development, enabling a large number of new residents. All the more reason for a local heritage society to exist, preserve and record the history of the area.

Events 2024 & 2025 (from April to June)

1. Kumeu Show. We always display historic photographs at the annual 2-day Show in March (Agriculture & Horticulture.) People are very interested in viewing these. Plus selling copies of the recently published book, "Goodbye Country Road." (Details below.)

2. Kumeu Classic Car & Hot Rod Festival. Annual 3-day show. We display historic photographs of NZ Motor Racing Cup and other Muriwai beach racing events through the 1920s and 1930s.

People are extremely interested in seeing these photos and learning the history. We also featured the vintage Austin Club with a few of their cars on display.

3. Easter Monday was allocated for the Classic Tractors Team with a big day of ploughing and reseeding the grass (for future hay.) This was notified to all members and locally advertised. A large number of people and families came to enjoy the day watching the tractors at work and socialising over the BBQ.

4. Our AGM will be on 18th June at the Country Club Retirement Village in Huapai with Guest Speaker, Chris Smellie. A local ex-orchardist himself, he will be presenting his

extensive work behind publishing his book, “Where Have All The Apples Gone?” (Details below.)

Books:

a) NWH Chairman is Peter Biggs of Resource Books – Publisher. NWH published the book, “Goodbye County Road” by Graeme Robb. Mr. Robb has recorded his memories of decades earlier, living in Muriwai and Waimauku; the people, their families and ways of life. This book has been very successful in the area and sales have paid for itself in about 4 months. For more information and to order: <https://www.norwestheritage.org.nz/>

b) “Where Have All The Apples Gone?” by Chris Smellie (Author and Publisher.) A history of orchardists and fruit growing in Huapai and Kumeu. A superb publication with many photographs.

Fundraising: We cut and bale meadow hay from a large field in our region. NWH is associated with Classic Tractors and Farm Machinery. They use their tractors and balers. We have normally enjoyed the hay baling as a social event in recent years with shade tents, BBQ and cold drinks. A lovely summer scene and fun to watch. But not so in 2025. The rain was too unpredictable. However, the sales of bales of meadow hay was, again, a welcome fundraiser after expenses to tractor & machinery owners.

Our committee members meet monthly at the Kumeu Cricket Club Rooms. This is possible because of the generous support from the owner, Stephen Nobilo, whose family has a big history in the area with their well-known wine as well as running the Kumeu Cricket Club.

**Report of the Point Chevalier Historical Society
To The New Zealand History Federation Inc.
Conference and AGM 17 May 2025
Te Hana Cultural Centre, Te Ao Marama**

The Point Chevalier Historical Society Inc. began as a history group in 2008, the result of a project started by local librarian Padmini Raj. A book of local history and recollections called *Point Chevalier Memories* was compiled and published. This continues to be a valuable resource to those who have a connection with the district, especially when writing their family histories. In 2010 the group became an incorporated society and at a meeting on 9 October 2024, a new constitution was adopted to comply with the rules for Incorporated Societies..

The *Point Chevalier Times* is published six times a year and is edited by Lisa J Truttman who is the main contributor to this publication. Her well researched stories are about people and events in the district with members contributing their recollections where published records are silent. Members also write articles of their recollections.

Last month we celebrated the publishing of the 100th Issue of the Point Chevalier Times.

Lisa had written a story entitled *“From farms to retirement apartments: a history of the Selwyn Village site.”* Selwyn Village was begun in 1953 initially with a view to provide a village for 70 retirees. Some residents occupied rooms in the “Kerridge” block named after Sir Robert Kerridge, a significant benefactor of the Village. Other residents were accommodated in duplex cottages for both single and married person. The Chapel of Christ the King was consecrated in the late 1960’s and Lichfield Towers was constructed in 1963. My family had close connections with the Village as 3 of my grandparents and my mother all lived in the Village in their final years. All of the original buildings have been replaced and the complex now includes rest home, hospital and dementia care and independent living apartments for 560 older people. This includes a Theatre, an indoor swimming pool, a gymnasium and a restaurant.



1951 aerial of the future Selwyn Village site, via Retrolens

by Lisa J Truttman

The Selwyn Village complex today, at the end of Target Street, is situated on part of Allotment 21 of the Parish of Titirangi. Two divisions of this allotment making up the site were split away in the mid 19th century, only to come together again in the 1960s.

Allotment 21 was a 77.5 acre piece of the peninsula that would in time come to known as Point Chevalier. In the 1840s, an early map of this part of the survey parish area noted that the Allotment and an adjoining one across what would later be called Pt Chevalier Road was “an excellent site for a Township as between two most

Calendar

Meetings for 2025:

23 April — Alison Turner on Waikumete Cemetery and other points of interest

25 June, 27 August, 22 October, 26 November.

Our group meets six times a year and we usually have a guest speaker. In the last year we have heard the third and final part of the story of trams in Auckland, presented by James Duncan from nearby MOTAT at Western Springs.

At the moment we have around 60 members, many still residing in the Point, Selwyn Village or nearby suburbs. We meet in the comfortable clubrooms of the NZ Deerstalkers Club in Target Street, Point Chevalier. During 2024 two long standing members passed away, Joe Cleal and Neil Fox, now at peace.

The other significant activity organised is the Point Chevalier old boys’ and girls’ reunion. This is open to everyone and is an enjoyable social afternoon in the Clubrooms of the Point Chevalier Rugby League Club, home of the Point Chevalier “Pirates.” The results of the latest club league results is always top of the agenda at the meetings.

Ross Rattray
Club Member, Conference Delegate
15 May 2025

(Editor’s note — as I’m also a PCHS member and Vice President, I can add here that Ross, on the retirement in June of our previous Treasurer Alison Turner, has now ascended to that position in the historical society.)

Taumarunui & Districts Historical Society Inc

Report to NZ History Federation AGM Te Hana 17 May 2025

Greetings from Taumarunui.

When you visited us for the AGM last year some of you took a look at our archive containing Ron Cooke's collections plus other historic material.

We were sent into a bit of a spin later in the year when our landlord, NZ Post, decided we needed to shift out. They were quite rightly concerned about how our geriatric members would get out the window and down the rickety fire escape in case of fire. Fair enough but a major task loomed.

Fortunately Ruapehu District Council came through and allowed us to shift into space upstairs in the Taumarunui Railway Station. A space that had been set up as part of a planned museum, shelving and all!

Lots of physical work helped along by many volunteers from our generous community saw the job done over a period of four months.

We are now more secure and organized but have lots of work to do to get the contents of the archive more readily available to researchers and others.

Ron Cooke has been assigned the job of finishing a partly completed manuscript on the history of Ohura township and surrounding district with the help of volunteer researchers. A book begun some years ago by the Ohura community but unfinished due to lack of funds. The advantage of being an Incorporated Society has allowed us to secure grant money to complete the project.

Don Tidswell continues to research and record the business premises and occupants of Taumarunui town centre from its beginning in early 1900s. This will be a useful source of information for families trying to trace their history.

Our books continue to sell, providing income on a drip feed basis for new projects and reprints.

We are looking forward to a more settled year.

Thames Museum Society Inc

Te Whare Taonga o te Kauaeranga

Museum report 2024-2025

In August 2024 the museum celebrated its 50th birthday. It opened in the old Methodist Church in Thames in 1974 and moved to purpose-built premises 10 years later. The church was relocated to Gail of Tamahere's events venue when the museum vacated it.

The museum was established and thrived thanks to a huge volunteer effort and this continues to be the case today: we have no paid staff and very little district council funding, but we continue to flourish thanks to our dedicated, multi-talented, hard-working volunteers. Without them we could not be the only 100% volunteer-run heritage attraction in Thames which welcomes visitors 6 days a week, all year round. Like everyone else however, we need more volunteers. We continue with our aims of keeping the museum appealing to visitors; engaged with its community and aligned with modern museum practices while also enhancing the visitor and volunteer experience during opening hours and actively attracting tour groups and school visits.

Devastating weather events in January 2023 closed SH25A which links Thames to the eastern side of the Coromandel Peninsula. Until then, Thames had been dubbed “the Gateway to the Coromandel Peninsula”. With the road closure, people heading to the eastern side of the peninsula no longer stopped off in Thames to stretch their legs and take a break. In fact, they by-passed Thames to take the alternative route through Paeroa and Waihi. Suddenly Thames had to reinvent itself as a destination in its own right, not just a gateway to elsewhere. Our district council and business association campaign has been very successful, and the museum has benefited from the increased number of visitors who choose to stay a few nights in Thames rather than hurry on to other destinations.

In early 2024 we began holding monthly *Evenings at the Museum*. This made the museum and its volunteers accessible in an informal setting: an informative talk and refreshments. As a result of the Evenings, our membership rose last year to over 100, an all-time high in recent years. Timing these events was flexible. In fact, April 24th’s *Morning at the Museum* commemorated the 100th anniversary of the inauguration of the WWI memorial archway at the entrance to the museum grounds.

Improved outdoor signage, improvements to our website, the installation of our own Lilliput Library book swap, ‘pop up’ raffles and involvement with Twilight in Grahamstown are other ways we are engaging with our community. Our facebook is very active and we now have our museum guide translated into Mandarin, Hindi and Italian.

During 2024, thanks to grants from Pub Charity Ltd, We Care Community Trust, The Lion Foundation and TCDC Social Development, we have installed air-con/heat pumps and a ventilation system in our galleries. This makes the museum a more comfortable temperature year-round and keeps the air circulating. Importantly, it means items in our displays are less exposed to humidity and temperature fluctuations which can be damaging to them. Along with many other small-town museums around the country, we participated in Museums Aotearoa’s *Keep the Lights On* campaign to raise awareness of how we are having cope with a constant bombardment of rising operational costs, from TCDC rates, insurance, phone and electricity costs to the cost of the specialist materials that we use to safeguard the treasures and taonga that have been entrusted to our care.

In October 2024 we were thrilled to reach the finals of the Thames Hauraki Business Awards in the tourism sector. We were the only volunteer-run organisation to gain this recognition and it gave us good community exposure.

**Waikato Historical Society
Presentation to New Zealand History Federation
Annual General Meeting and Conference
Albertland Museum, Wellsford, 17th May 2025**

Hi, I am Neil Curgenven, President of Waikato Historical Society

The Two-Headed Monster, as the name implies, is an example of bicephaly.

In Western traditions, a two-headed monster can represent chaos and the struggle between conflicting forces, such as order and disorder. This imagery may also symbolize the dual nature of humanity, embodying both constructive and destructive tendencies. The mythology of two-headed monsters can be found in various cultures and often symbolizes duality, power, and complexity.

Waikato Historical Society fits into these descriptions.

We are two groups in one, a Historical Society that's involved in the traditional historical society activities and events, meetings of members with guest speakers and going out and about on day trips to visit and witness the history of our area.

Our guest speakers over the past year have been:

April, Dr Phillip Hart, an former university professor who spoke on mining in Te Aroha area and the changes Europeans brought.

June, we heard all about the Regional Theatre that is rising on Victoria Street.

August was our AGM.

October was very interesting, Helen Dutton who had written to us about a bedspread and night gown her mother had 'donated/loaned' to us requesting if the family could get them back, spoke on her mother and the significance of these items to the family. Yes, we did deaccession them to her.

December for our Christmas present we had the chief planning officer from Hamilton City Council tell us about his take on where heritage fitted into today's planning.

February was our Special General Meeting to decide on renewing the lease for Hockin House on Graham Park with the HCC. A little more about that shortly.

Our gallivanting around has seen us visit:

May, Kawhia and the little museum which is well worth the drive to see.

July was a wander around Hamilton East looking at sites and the development of Kainga Ora and their varying subdivisions over some years.

September we popped down to Otorohanga, Kiwiana town and included their museum, an important stop when you are in the area.

November we headed north through Waikato District, saw action on Hampton Downs motor park when stopping for coffee, churches and redoubts through Miranda and concluded at a recently established Military Museum.

March, we headed south to Te Kuiti, included in our travels were the Kings Memorial, the

site of where two surveyors were goaled while doing their work for the main trunk line and Te Kuiti Museum which is a must stop for anyone travelling through this town. And yes the cemetery to sight Colin Meads grave. And my Aunt and Uncle.

We have a great organiser in Past President Cliff Thomas who coincidentally works in planning at HCC and has regular contact with the changing face of Hamilton.

Our trips have become so popular with members that we have gone from a 14-seater minivan to a 22 seated bus.

Our other head.

Throughout the year, as I pointed out last year and for several years before that, we have the millstone around our neck - Hockin House, totally underutilised with our members meeting there as indicated previously 6 times a year to hear a guest speaker, the committee meet on alternative months it is open to the public. Our lease with Hamilton City Council comes up for renewal in March 2026 and when I started the Community Occupancy Application Form (12 months ahead as required) it became obvious we wouldn't get across that line. The application required a usage matrix – ours was nearly blank.

With many other community groups in Hamilton requiring a permanent facility, meeting or function venue we were on a path to nowhere.

On 8th February we held a Special General Meeting and had a fantastic turnout of members who on hearing both of sides to the situation – sign the lease, keep and make better use of the place or don't sign the lease and release – resoundingly, on a voice vote, told the committee not to proceed with the application accepting that as the house was located on a Reserve the premises would revert to the Council.

On advising the Council of the Special General Meeting decision we were informed we would need to return the house as a Vacant Facility.

This is where you all come in, we need to go through the process of deaccessioning our artifacts and archives, yes we are working with the Waikato Museum and Hamilton City Council but not everything fits into their acquisition policy and we will be identifying 'loaned' objects with the intention of returning them to their original owners, however this leaves us with a lot of 'stuff' members have contributed and committees have bought during the 46 years Hockin House has been the home of the Waikato Historical Society. If your society or museum may require anything along these lines PLEASE get in touch, you are most welcome to contact me and arrange a visit. There is also a large collection of books and where they relate to areas we will endeavour to place them appropriately, there are general history, history of Māori in Waikato and New Zealand. If you need this type of resource or know of groups or schools who may need these PLEASE get in touch, a full list is available on request.