



Keeping in Touch

Newsletter of the New Zealand History Federation Inc Te Kotahitanga o nga Hitori o Aotearoa Patron: Robin Astridge QSM <http://www.nzhistoricalsocieties.org.nz/>

Volume 13, Number 2, 2019.

From the Federation's Annual General Meeting at Hawera.



The Annual General Meeting on Saturday 11th May 2019 was held at the Church Hall, Tairoa Lodge in Hawera (see above).

Presidential Report.

Welcome all to the 48th Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Heritage Federation.

Your committee over the past year addressed the issues of financial responsibility which were raised at the previous Annual General Meeting. Savings have been made, especially with the flagship publication for the Federation, New Zealand Legacy, reduced from three issues to two. This had helped stop the deterioration of our reserves. We have in 2018 at least administered and financed the Society within its means. Hopefully, the reforms brought in last year with regard to a simplified subscription structure will help with the other side of that financial responsibility equation, an enduring increase in income which will allow us to plan a way forward with accountability to both you as our members and to organisations from whom we seek funding for special projects. We aim toward a revival of our reserves balance, and improved services to you, our members.

The committee's structure is also under review. For too long, the situation has been allowed to continue where a single member of the committee held two vital administrative positions at the same time - - that of Treasurer and Secretary. We can see now that this has been part of the reason why there have been increasing errors in the functions of both positions. Fortunately, we had an increase in committee membership from August last year, where we welcomed back Robin Astridge (in the unusual positions of now being both our Patron and a returned committee member, thank you Robin). But we also welcomed onto the team David and Susan Verran. Kenneth Stringer, our Vice-President and organiser of committee meetings and group networking trips, offered to be Minute Secretary and has quite capably performed in that capacity, helping us address and correct recording issues.

We have, thankfully, received expressions of interest for the positions of both Treasurer and Secretary of the Society. The Federation in my opinion should never combine these two positions, nor do so from this point forward ever again.

Your committee will be looking at ways to improve the provision of timely organisation, funding/subsidising/sponsorship and promotion of our annual conferences. My hearty thanks to Patea Historical Society for stepping forward to assist when the plans for holding the conference on the South Island fell through. But this has highlighted the urgent need of considerable forward planning in this regard.

We will also undertake a project to revise the Society's constitution, putting in place clear definitions of powers and responsibilities of committee members and/or office holders. As well we will consider the inclusion in the constitution of sections covering disputes, code of conduct and disciplinary actions. We will aim to bring these suggested revisions to the next Annual General Meeting for formal adoption as alteration to the constitution.

My sincere thanks to all the members of the 2018-2019 committee for their service during a year of change, their helpful and constructive suggestions as to improvements in our performance always very welcome and heartening.

The bottom line is - - we need to fulfil core functions and services for the membership, we need to do it well, we need to do it ethically and with accountability, and we need to do it knowledgeably.

In my opinion, though, I believe we are on the right track to achieving that.

Thank you,
Lisa Truttman.

Report from the elections at the 2019 Annual General Meeting.

Lisa Truttman was re-elected as President, Robin Astridge remains as Patron and a committee member, while Kenneth Stringer was re-elected as Vice-President and is also the new Secretary of the Federation.

Susan Verran was elected Treasurer and Kathryn Parsons, Neil Curgenvan and David Verran also remain on the committee. Both Wynne HaySmith and Jim Baker have stood down.

David Verran.



The Mayoress of South Taranaki District Council, Jan Dunlop, Noeline Shaw and Rod Smith at the Hawera meeting.

Waikato/Bay of Plenty Regional Meeting.

The Raglan & District Museum Society will host the Waikato Regional Day on Saturday 8th of June. The venue is the Raglan Old School Arts Centre, the cost is \$20 per person and the programme runs from 10am to 3.30pm – including local speakers and a visit to the Raglan Museum. There are accommodation options in Raglan. Please contact info@raglanmuseum.co.nz by 27 May 2019.

Auckland Regional Meeting – hosted by the North Shore Historical Society.

This will be on 31 August 2019 and held at the HR4 Studio of the Lake House, Fred Thomas Drive, Takapuna (see below). Registration will start from 10am and the meeting closes around 3.30pm. There will be a welcome, introductions, brief reports from Federation member societies, a talk on archaeology and an update from the Federation executive. \$25 per person, and the contact is wjb2ellis@gmail.com by 17 August 2019.



New Zealand Private Maternity Homes: a website.

For some years now, Lisa Truttman has been gathering names, addresses and other available information on proprietors of private maternity homes all around the country, using birth notices, ads and notices from newspapers on Papers Past, postal directories and electoral rolls, amongst other sources. She always welcomes further information from local heritage societies and organisations, including corrections! The website can be found at sites.google.com/site/nzprivatematernityhomes/ if you would like to check what's included so far for your district. Lisa's email address is waitemata@gmail.com.

New book?

Recently the Epsom and Eden Historical Society published their 'The history of Mount Eden' available from Time Out Bookstore, and I am sure there are other historical societies and museums out there which have recently published books and similar. Please let me know what you have recently published, a little piece about it and from where people can purchase it, and how much. 'New Zealand Legacy' lacks the space to feature all your publications and 'Keeping In Touch' is more suitable for letting fellow societies and museums know what you have been working on.

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Keep 'Keeping In Touch' circulating!

A major advantage in being a digital-only magazine is that it can be readily sent on to your committee members, and generally to all those of your members who are online. Please pass this on!

David Verran.