



Saving History

Digitising access to our heritage

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A project supported by the New Zealand History Federation, Te Kotahitanga o nga Hitori o Aotearoa

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There was a good response to the article in the last newsletter on “Children in Museums”. Thank you for those who forwarded suggestions and activities which I have added to the library. Available to anyone struggling with how to get the little and not so little ones participating or even showing greater interest in your museum and what you are displaying.

I have been distracted over the last three months with a contract to help the piggy bank but that has not stopped me completely.

Health and Safety has been one of the prominent activities and with the announcement from Worksafe effective from the 1st July this activity seems to be falling into place as a service to members quite well.

Worksafe have introduced the “Safety Star Rating Scheme” which they will be implementing minimum standards for sites and all sites will need a system in place to meet these needs. You will need to include human resources (yes working with volunteers from our Administration seminar) , quality assurance, Risk Management (included in the H&S Guidelines available from the beginning of the year), Job Task Analysis records and participants confirmation of understanding (in the H&S Guidelines).

I have had the pleasure of conducting Seminars at Avondale with 18 participants and in Hamilton with another dozen, It is pleasing to see the individual museums (not backed by your local authority) availing themselves to what the Federation has seen to be necessary and addressed it. These seminars cover the Health and Safety at work Act 2015, the key changes, the responsibilities across the whole organisation, with an over view and some information of practical steps to take. The definitions and what precisely they mean to your Society or Museum, Understanding PCBU, Risk Management, Job Task Analysis, the 10 most important steps, an outline of requirements in your on site handbook, incidents and the handling of same as well as handling contractors on your site. Toolbox meetings (industry speak) having coffee with your staff and volunteers to cover issues on health and safety, Site Safety Setup,

Health and Safety Guidelines for Small Museums (and adaptable for Incorporated Societies) has been developed with consultation and contributions from National Services Te Paerangi, Worksafe NZ, ACC, an a company I did some work for and with putting the private enterprise twist on the legalese and gobbly gook from the corporates and Community Waikato.

The contents include: 10 steps for workers to understand, reception handbook (made site specific), Site Specific Safety Plan with introduction, job task analysis, risk management and handling incidents and ‘How-to’ conducting an onsite (Toolbox) Health and Safety meeting including agenda.

For all and any further information on what the Federation can assist you with please contact me direct. Neil

What else has been happening?

Following the successful weekend at Tairua for the Waikato Regional gathering, but taking in the host of activities this local group put on, I now feel we have had our eyes closed to bringing in others especially how very successfully Tairua combine with the local amdrum for the evening shows. Have you thought of putting a bit of dramatics to a local history event to help get the message over? Using a little bit of artistic licence you will be amazed at the impressions you can give to a simple thing like a death of a sailor 175 years ago, life at the time of this accident, and the loading of spars onto a convict ship for transportation back to the mother land.

STORY has been taken over by Mytours and I am yet to meet up with Glen Barnes to establish a new working relationship, capturing what we have already started with QR coding and how to move it forward to the satisfaction of all parties.

Again, as mentioned above, I have been a little distracted and nothing has been worked on to follow up on the presentation (yes last year) at the Auckland Regional gathering with DiscoverNZ, and my calendar has this years on August 19th in Papatoetoe, So I will endeavour to have further information especially for those four museums who put themselves out to assist us, and DiscoverNZ get this project up and running.

Heritage Trails, I am still compiling an index of where these already are, and still trying to get to the bottom of who put them in and whether they or anyone associated with them is still in existence and working on them. Local enquiries have drawn a blank or “WE” did this and the person is not here any longer.

Replicas, AncoPrint the Wellington based firm I have been dealing with on this subject, have shown me some of their work, impressive as is the 3D printer, which I have been wrapped with from day one, AGAIN it seems cost is the issue and my thoughts, that I am working on, are to see if they can be funded for regional use as whilst they would be ‘goo-to-have’ the use might dictate the expenditure.

LIBRARIES, yes those collection of books you have on the shelf or in those cupboards Waikato Historical Society are looking at using...

What is LibraryThing?

LibraryThing is a cataloging and social networking site for book lovers.

LibraryThing helps you create a library-quality catalog of books: books you own, books you've read, books you'd like to read, books you've lent out ... whatever grouping you'd like.

Does anyone else out there know of this and had any experience??? Or know an alternative

Digitalisation, I have heard of MANY approaches from the great array of operators out there, who present the best thing “since slice bread in restaurants” to our type of organisations for use at this that and the other thing. The group around Thames have one in their sights. If someone has approached you with a very worthwhile system please share it with you fellow members through these pages. The Federation feel it is important to spread the word, when it is good enough, to one and all this helps you and it also helps weed out the fly by nighters, and I have come across a few of those in the passed 18 months. We have been around for many a long year, preserving history for the future, we see the benefits of moving with the times, but most of us are too long in the tooth to be taken in by the first quick talker to walk through the door.

Local history stories, it is great to see a book review of Bull Museum in Legacy. I am working with individuals in Waikato and with the Polhen Hospital in Matamata to recall a couple. I would be VERY keen to hear of your activities in this area.

Interesting Question, I was asked, the other week when waffling on about our small museums and what they were and could be doing, WHY ARE YOU DOING IT?, a quick response was that I see the value in what each local museum has to offer and is doing. If they can do it well in their neck of the woods the ever increasing number of free and independent travellers will really appreciate the call into the local museum to be put in the picture about what the particular area they are in has to offer, and they will realise they should be hanging around for a week not stopping for five minutes. We are a network within the tourism industry (yes ignored by the powers to be) for this group and I welcome this opportunity to work with you all.

Talking of hearing from you, apart from the responses to the “Children in Museums” I accept you are receiving this and accepting it for what it is. A review of what is happening and could be happening in your area, in advance so one of the Federation people can be there would be great.

See ‘Keeping in touch’ for the calendar and please pass on your contribution.