



Saving History

Digitising access to our heritage

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Since its inception as the New Zealand Federation of Historical Societies Inc, the Federation has endeavoured to offer help and assistance to historical societies, many of whom have developed museums and in some cases maintain heritage buildings. To this end and in response to the need to widen our appeal, in 2015 we changed our name to New Zealand History Federation Inc. We align ourselves to the NZ History Association, NZ Society of Genealogists, Te Papa National Services Te Paerangi, Heritage New Zealand and Museums Aotearoa. Whilst several of the other organisations have a specific field of service we offer a broad range of both professional and practical services and advice generally based on transferring what others are doing successfully. These include, but are not restricted to :

Administration for historical societies programme aims both to help you develop your society and to increase membership through as range of activities as already utilised by other societies. Features include assisting you to be able to offer a range of activities and services based around history, assistance with setting up a committee and how to keep the incorporated society running. Your committee officers should now include a Health and Safety person. What to do with your society's members to keep them engaged. I talk of a wide range of activities and projects for communities in small and rural areas. My thoughts are that your historical society should be one of the recognised organisations in your community (It was great to see the Waikato Historical society recognised in the top 24 in Hamilton to receive a grant from the defunct Hamilton Club), would yours????

Communication through *Keeping in Touch*. Your contributions [just send your own newsletter to Lisa] are most welcome and our flagship *NZ Legacy* (again contributions welcome) **Do you** have a newsletter? How regular is it? Does it just inform members of society activities or take the opportunity to 'sell' history. If you need help – just ask.

DiscoverNZ, helping visitors find you. The four initial projects have come to an abrupt halt but I can assure you things will start moving again in 2018 then you can look forward to what Puhoi, West Auckland, Silverdale and Helensville do and what you need to do to become part of the ever increasing digital age.

Stqry, the QR coding project - opening your door when your door is closed. Our door is not CLOSED it was just shut for a while but now both their organisation and ours (mine) are getting into gear.

Mytours, guiding visitors area your area. Have taken over Stqry and therefore the combining has caused a delay we did not need but have had to tolerate. Like stqry above things are about to get moving again. On a similar vein but not by the same organisation it was great to read about the developments at Howick isn't it good when the local authority recognises the benefits history can combine with offering Tourism (I've been [preaching this for over three years) and it will be good to experience this latest venture. (www.stuff.co.nz/auckland/local-news/eastern-courier/98080913/mobile-app-delivers-howicks-rich-history-to-devices)

Heritage Trails, putting new life into these old features. Trying to find the life of this old feature has been a major issues NO ONE seems to know how these appeared, yet local councils acknowledge responsibility for maintaining. I would like to help with marketing for your local trail and your local benefit but tracking down the past has drawn blanks – any offers of help with contacts??

Rail Trail, putting a little history along the way. These are here or coming, My thoughts are they should take the opportunity to tell a little history along the way and I'm working on it. When I get to your area I will contact for help in making should the history is told correctly.

Replicas, not quite the real thing but looking just like them. Some museums are using this, I saw some great examples at MOTAT, do you have a call for this type of thing ???

Health and Safety, you are a PCBU, and we now have the material to support you. It is a responsibility you cannot hide from and therefore I (with help from ACC, Worksafe and others) have developed guidelines your society can adopt for Site Specific application.

Funding figures, getting the right figures for your funding. If you are having problems getting funding and knowing how many pass through your doors is one of the issues letting you down, this could help.

Activities, keeping you and your people in the minds of visitors once they have left. Do you have any form of activities book, page of things to look for (I know Helensville did a sheet for birds in one of their displays that sent the participants dizzy) or any other form of activity to remind people they have visited. I would like to hear from you.

Oral & Local History, recording the recollections of our people and keeping them. As a member of NOHANZ we support and actively recommend you have a dedicated (trained) person/persons to take recording from your locals. Also I have come across several who have themes for local history recording, retail is a prominent one and when taken to its fullest with the street, the shops on the street, the changes to the shops on the street, the proprietors and the changes and a photo display of through the decades it becomes a real focal point, then a history trail along the street could be linked to your website with QR codes.

Libraries. Many have collections of books you may not call a library but in any form do you have it catalogued? One method that Cambridge Museum Manager Kathryn brought to our attention is "LibraryThings." Have you any experience with this or another option? There are many occasions when myself and other would like to know where a particular book is and it might be in your collection. This also 'creates' another position for someone to contribute to your society.

Museum, the ideal situation, as I progress towards my endeavour of getting more funding for this bewildering group of organisations, "your value is going totally underrated." I am developing a [REAL WORLD] museum environment not particularly on type of building but I observe from several new building museums I have visited they all have the similar style and layout. Also that TV programme appeared to have a 'format' in their presentation of museums. My work is on person power and a funding profile. Do you have one or any suggestions?

Health and Safety

You are not immune. With the upgrade of the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015, the umbrella has been opened to cover us all. As a P.C.B.U. Part 1 section 17 has you roped in. I have done a lot of work to make this as easy and simple to understand for our members and small museums as possible. 0272441348 historyfederation@gmail.com

Buildings : maintenance, insurance, insulation and earthquake protection all raise large bills but in a lot of cases can be dealt with in alternative ways. We have worked with other authorities to compile a selection of information that may help you with your problems and issues in these areas.

We support **Regional Meetings** and Heritage Forums. The Waikato Regional Council are having a meeting on 22nd November in Hamilton to 'finalise' two years of work and much consultation for their Council Plan. It has been good working with them to ensure small museums and historical societies are included. We would like to work with you, if necessary to get these on board in your region. LOOK OUT Taranaki I'm coming your way. I have met with Heritage Taranaki and a couple of other who see the possibilities, Do you ? Would you like to work with me on it? During the weekend of our Annual General Meeting held at a different area each year, we offer learning opportunities and meetings for you to participate in and gather new information. 2018 will be held in Thames who is celebrating 150 years since gold was discovered in the area and you will experience how that has been preserved and promoted.

We/I need your help if you have a particular interest in any of the above I would like to hear from you as we develop separate 'committees' to control these topics in the interest of our members.

Go to our web site for more information : www.nzhistoricalsocieties.org.nz