

Kororareka/Russell Community Wharf Kaitiaki Trust

Chairman's Report March 2022

To the Russell community and surrounds,

It's been another difficult year of restrictions and interruptions to our daily lives and there are very few who would have expected just how difficult things would be especially when planning ahead whether it be your personal life, business or projects and the Russell Wharf Trust was not immune. The cancelation of our second scheduled public meeting was again due entirely to Covid restrictions on gatherings and the trust felt this was in the best interests of the community as a whole.

The good news and our main focus this last year was the completion of the Whaharoa & Wero (Taki) Project at the Russell Wharf which if it were not for Covid would have been completed in all probability a year earlier.

I'm very happy to report the feedback and the enthusiasm of the community has been overwhelming in some respects, this on top of the widespread support at the outset.

There were a great many people who from the beginning supported this project and it has to be said many more came on board as we gained traction, without this support the project may well have been delayed further due to the increase in the overall scope, delays with materials and inevitable increase in costs, however once we did gain traction and with a coordinated approach there was renewed determination to see it through to completion.

Our thanks go out to the people and/or organisations listed below for their help, support and can-do attitude.

Looking ahead, now that the wharf is fit for purpose, we are looking at additional new signage for casual berthing, protocol and fees and will be consulting with local stakeholders on issues they face when using the Wharf, working with the information centre who monitor and collect the fees and working on updating the wharf rules making it easier and friendly for visitors when using the wharf, these changes are mainly organisational, contact names, contact numbers, addresses etc

The Trustees have recently developed a vision/strategy statement which will soon be posted on our website, this document (which will be reviewed and amended from time to time) we hope will be a vehicle for community engagement and support the website development. We will be posting information on the Waharoa & Taki, the significance and meanings behind the carvings plus other cultural and helpful information for tourists and locals alike.

We'll also be looking at events/dates to ensure everyone wanting to use the wharf don't clash i.e.; fishing tournaments, Russell Birdman or school swimming events, liaising with local businesses to see how the trust can work with them in a collaborative way.

We will also revisit the proposal to repair the seaward end of the boat ramp to make this more user friendly and safer, all dependant on raising sufficient funding once the concept and scope of work is agreed upon.

Work that had started on the Trust's website will be finalised and populated with updated information including and as noted above any other relevant information associated with the Russell waterfront and surrounds.

New Trustees:

The Trust has lost one trustee and one volunteer since start-up back in November 2018

A separate notice will soon be posted inviting nominations for potential new candidates and for people to self-nominate as per the rules set out in the Trust Deed.

We will be considering people with a mix of skills and experience and will be particularly interested in two candidates to fill the role of Treasurer and that of Secretary.

There are currently three potential positions vacant.

For information, the term of office as a trustee will be three years but eligible for re-election for a further three years, with a maximum three terms in office.

Skillset, the Trust will be looking for people:

- (a) with a mix of skills and experience (including, but not limited to, in relation to governance, finance and operations) which the Trustees consider suitable for meeting the purposes of the Trust;
- (b) who the Trustees consider are able to understand and address the needs and interests of the residents of the Community and their manuhiri in relation to the Russell Wharf; and
- (c) who the Trustees are satisfied are willing and able to contribute different perspectives, and to work collaboratively with people who have different perspectives.

For further information email: Barry Heath at pikorua@mailasail.com

Waharoa & Wero Project:

One of the big questions in town from some residents was 'cost' and where did the money come from? You may all remember the concept was talked about over three years ago and prior to the Russell wharf transfer to FNHL. We (the new trust) agreed to run with the project that had been supported by the previous trust and FNHL. A collaborative effort by the Marae, the Russell Wharf Trust and Far North Holdings Ltd has raised and spent a sum to date of \$159,000.00 (there are still some minor works to be completed)

The Trusts contribution to date has been \$50,000.00 made up of proceeds from two main sources, (a) The BIG prize raffle \$25,000 and (b) a generous grant from the Pelorus Trust which was a further \$25,700. No ratepayer money has been spent on the project.

From the Trusts perspective our thanks go to the following people/organisations/businesses who donated prizes, generous discounts for their services or gave time without reward in no particular order:

Organisations:

The Pelorus Trust (grant)

Prizes:

Donkey Bay Inn
The Duke of Marlborough Hotel
Omata Estate
The Landing
Marsden Estate

Companies:

Perry Baker (Digger Hire)
Gill & Gundry (foundation steel) Simon Gundry
Simon Taylor (transport)
Sparky Pants Electrical (lighting) Joel
Far North Holdings Ltd (consents/licences etc barge/pile installation)
N.T. Engineering (Boring specialists)

Individuals:

Riki & Anton @ the Duke
Kelvin Mosses
Earle Williams (RWT)
Ross Blackman
Jenny & Burton Shipley
Terry Storey and all those who bought raffle tickets.

Finally, I'd like to thank John Bell (retired Trustee) and Phillipa Buchanan (volunteer secretary) for their work and commitment during their time in office.

Barry Heath

