

Heritage Matters

occasional newsletter of Historic Places Tairawhiti Incorporated



Many projects developing across district

In case you haven't caught up with the news, Historic Places Tairawhiti Inc is the new voice for heritage in the region.

It replaces the Tairawhiti branch of the NZ Historic Places Trust which this month took on its new name, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, following changes to the Historic Places Act.

Historic Places Tairawhiti Inc is an incorporated society and continues to seek new members. Committee chair James Blackburne expects the new organisation to be more visible than its predecessor.



"We plan to do more for members with educational talks, regular meetings, and walking and bus tours.

"As part of that, we have reinstigated this occasional newsletter to update people about heritage matters in the district, because heritage does matter. Our heritage gives us our unique identity.

"We want to engender a passion for heritage, so that it will be cherished and protected, to the benefit of today's and future residents and visitors. And we encourage more people with an interest in heritage to join our society. "A major project in the planning is the restoration of the Plunket Building in Palmerston Road, owned by Tairawhiti Heritage Trust. Once we begin to receive funding, we will be able to get on to restoring this building as the society's physical base."

If you would like to be involved in any future working bees as part of the restoration, we would love to hear from you. Please ring a committee member.

Our committee

The HPT Inc committee comprises:

James Blackburne (chair)
james@a44.co.nz, ph 863 1111

Roger Bell (deputy chair)
ph 867 7867

Chelle Gandell (secretary/treasurer)
ph 868 5571

Marie Burgess ph 862 7505

Sheridan Gundry ph 868 5805

Joe Martin ph 868 9238

Te Aturangi Nepia-Clamp

Noel Raihanian

Nan Trueman

Carolyn McAlley (Heritage NZ rep)

Kurt Ridling (District Council rep)

Input wanted for future heritage tours

Historic Places Tairawhiti Inc deputy chair Marie Burgess is poring through old branch committee minutes to see what has been offered in the way of local heritage tours in the past.

Her aim is to develop possible tours for the coming year that might include historic houses and architecture, commercial and

industrial buildings, battle sites and the like. She would love to hear ideas from others in the community as to what they would like to see offered. Please email her with any ideas meb@clear.net.nz or phone 862 7505.

Last December, Joe Martin and Richard Brooking presented a successful October 1769 Meeting of Two Peoples tour focused on

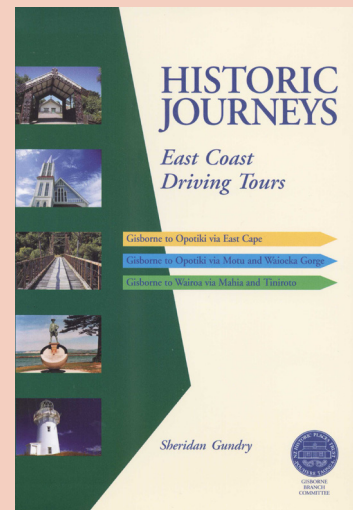
the mouth of the Turanganui River.

Until some more tours are developed, the committee suggests following the tours in its publication Historic Journeys – East Coast Driving Tours. Any other ideas would be welcomed.

If you don't have a copy or two of this book – one to keep, one to give to visitors, one to give to the family – it's time you did.



Joe Martin talks about historic events from a European perspective during the October 1769 Meeting of Two Peoples tour last December. Photo: Anelia Evans



Name change for national trust

The New Zealand Historic Places Trust became known as Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga in mid-April.

Heritage New Zealand will continue to provide advice to central and local government, and property owners on the conservation of New

Zealand's most significant heritage sites. And it will continue to maintain the national register of historic places; manage 48 nationally significant heritage properties; regulate the modification of archaeological sites; and manage the National Heritage Preservation Incentive Fund.

Promoting Gisborne as start of sestercentennial commemorations

The 250th anniversary of Lieutenant James Cook's arrival in this region is just five years away and already the focus of much behind-the-scenes discussion and planning.

The hope is that Gisborne will be the starting point for sestercentennial commemorations of first contact between explorer Lieutenant James Cook and Maori in 1769.

To that end, the Governor-General Sir Jerry Mateparae has been invited to launch Te Ha in mid-June. Former Tairāwhiti Museum director David Butts, who now works for the Ministry of Culture and Heritage in Wellington, is writing a paper to be presented to Parliament promoting Gisborne as the starting point for commemorations across the country.

HPT Inc chair James Blackburne and committee members Joe Martin and Te Aturangi Nepia-Clamp are also trustees of Te

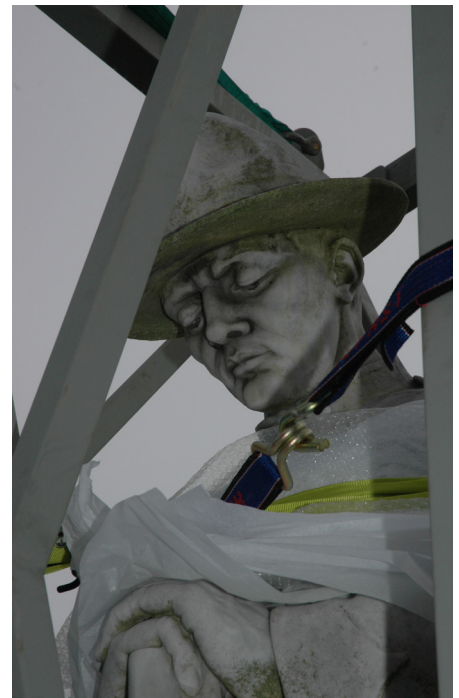
Ha 1769 Sestercentennial Trust together with Jenni Harre-Hindmarsh, Richard Brooking (chair), Dame Anne Salmond, Wayne Ngata, Bronwen Holdsworth and Mayor Meng Foon. Penny Shaw is the trust's secretary.

Te Ha means "the breath".

"The sestercentennial could be a defining event for this community," James said. "It has the potential to create a legacy for future generations.

"At the bicentenary of Cook's landing in 1969, we gained the Cook Plaza, a few coins, two statues – the Cook on Kaiti Hill and Young Nick – a totem pole, model boats in the main street and a park renamed Endeavour Park from its original of Heipipi.

"We hope that the lasting legacy from the sestercentennial in 2019 is better than that. We hope it allows Gisborne to stand on the world stage as a heritage tourism destination."



Work to resume after Anzac Day

Although it's fairly quiet on the Cenotaph front down at the riverbank, the word is that after Anzac Day it will be all go again.

The \$725,000 physical works contract was awarded to Currie Construction in January.

HPT Inc chair James Blackburne reports that the restoration is going well and that concrete within the Cenotaph is better than first thought.

While the soldier has been attracting plenty of attention during his stay in Marina Park, the lions are being restored from within a building next to the Olympic Pool.

"After Anzac Day, the surrounds will be dug up and there will be excavations down the sides. The plan is to make piles, prepare the core, make the internal steel support structure, excavate and install the new piles and foundations, reinstate the grounds, install the steel core and shift the top of the shaft back into position."

The aim is to have the restored Cenotaph returned as the focus for Anzac Day ceremonies in 2015. The monument, which has a Category 1 rating from the NZ Historic Places Trust, was damaged in the December 2007 earthquake.

The total restoration project, expected to cost about \$1 million, is funded through the Lottery Grants Board and an insurance claim made by Gisborne District Council. The project team also includes Architects 44; Currie Construction; structural engineer Spencer Holmes; conservation engineer, Salmond Reed Architects; and geotechnical engineer, McManus Consulting; NZ Historic Places Trust heritage adviser, Robin Byron.



They're running weekly raffles at Tokomaru Bay these days to raise money for the restoration of the Tokomaru Bay Wharf. Clive Bibby, the major driving force of the Tolaga Bay Wharf restoration, has now turned his attention to the Tokomaru Bay Heritage Project which aims to restore the wharf, create a base within the former NZ Shipping Company building and boost tourism in the area. He's now pulling together historical and other information as part of a feasibility study. In the meantime, buy a raffle ticket.

Project to map important voyaging sites

HPT Inc is working with NZ Historic Places Trust (now Heritage New Zealand) to develop a Heritage Project to identify sites of importance associated with voyaging.

The project is seen as a vital part of seeking World Heritage Status for the precinct around the Turanganui River that could include an area from Kaiti Beach to Young Nick's Head.

Iwi will be asked what sites are of significance from the perspective of voyaging and also the meeting of two cultures.

HPT Inc chair James Blackburne says:

"We expect to employ Wairoa Museum director Michael Spedding to undertake this project. He will look to identify the sites important to the community and ask whether iwi want them protected and recognised. He will also look at how these sites might be linked together physically by stories."

The project will be important in the years leading up to the sestercentennial of Cook's arrival in the district and New Zealand.