

Heritage Matters

occasional newsletter of Historic Places Tairawhiti Incorporated



ECT's \$5M grant great news for heritage

It's great to see our heritage receiving a \$5 million grant from Eastland Community Trust – the largest single donation in the trust's history.

The trust in July made the grant to kick-start the \$12.55 million Council-led Tairawhiti Navigations Project and inner harbour redevelopment.

HPT Inc chairman James Blackburne says the project will be a tremendous opportunity to celebrate Gisborne's unique heritage in a meaningful, authentic and bicultural way.

This will see a 600-metre walkway built as part of a cultural heritage trail through Gisborne's inner harbour, Titirangi Reserve and other key sites. A walkway will be built on top of the training wall and a pedestrian bridge across the Turanganui River,

connecting the slipway to the mainland and providing a circular walking route.

Mayor Meng Foon says the rail yard area could be enhanced with the return of Te Hau

ki Turanga, the oldest whare in New Zealand, and a walkway from Lowe Street to the railway yard and paths leading to Tairawhiti Museum.

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Learn about Te Ha at our AGM

Have you heard about the 2019 Te Ha commemorations being planned for the 250th anniversary of the first formal meeting between Maori and Europeans in 1769?

If you would like to be updated on progress, Historic Places Tairawhiti Inc's 2014 Annual General Meeting will provide the perfect opportunity.

Te Ha trustee and HPT Inc committee member Te Aturangi Nepia-Clamp will explain what's planned for October 2019, talk about the work going on

behind the scenes and discuss the legacy the trust hopes to leave for the future.

The AGM will be held in the Poverty Bay Club library on Tuesday, 12 August 2014.

Complimentary nibbles will be provided from 5.15pm with drinks at participants' own expense.

The AGM starts at 6pm, followed by Te Aturangi Nepia-Clamp on Te Ha. Meanwhile, HPT Inc chairman James Blackburne reports Governor General Sir Jerry Mateparae has agreed to be Te Ha's patron.

Hidden and significant sites a bus tour drawcard

Have you ever wondered about the early contact between Christians and Maori in Turanganui a Kiwa? Who did what and where?

In late September, a bus tour organised by Historic Places Tairawhiti Inc (HPT Inc) will go a long way towards answering your questions... and more.

Hidden and Significant Sites of Christian Contact in Turanganui a Kiwa is HPT Inc's first bus tour of the season. It will be led by the Rev Stephen Donald – the personable Tolaga Bay historian, minister and cycling enthusiast – on 27 September. The Rev Donald is also regional dean in Eastland for the Anglican Diocese of Waiapu.

Tour organiser Marie Burgess says the bus tour will leave from the Information Centre in Grey Street at 10am and start in the Kaiti area.

"We will take in sites around Te Poho o Rawiri, the Hirini Street cemetery, William Leonard Williams' Waikahua Cottage site at the foot of Titirangi/Kaiti Hill and the port.

"Williams built the cottage in 1865 when the inland mission station at Waerenga a Hika was badly damaged in a battle. The site enabled a quick getaway by ship if required."

From there, the bus will travel into the city and look at the sites made available to the four denominations – Catholic, Anglican, Presbyterian and Methodist – in the 1870s.

The Matawhero Church hall will provide a grand stopping place for a well-deserved cup of tea and toilet stop. Please bring your own lunch.

"At Matawhero, we will have the finds from an archaeological dig which shows the site was used as a school. Among the finds were slate pencils and broken pieces of slate – the early version of the tablet perhaps – as well as money, broken crockery and pipes."

The afternoon will take in a visit to Waerenga a Hika and St Luke's Church, opposite the site of the inland mission station and battle in 1865, Waituhi Valley including All Saint's Church.

"All Saint's, built in 1906, was the chapel associated with Te Rau College in town."

The visit to Manutuke will include a visit to the monument marking the first Anglican mission station at Kaupapa, on the Brown's Beach Road, and a look at the exterior of Toko Toru Tapu church, currently being renovated.

The tour will end back in town at 4pm.

The itinerary is still being developed and may change.

The cost is \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members and \$15 each from the same household. However, it is possible to join on the day to become a paid member and receive a discount for any future tours.

Marie Burgess advises those interested to book early as seats will be limited.

"As an incentive, we suggest booking by 17 September and you will go into a draw for a bottle of Gisborne wine or a copy of either of HPT Inc's history books – Historic Journeys or Small City Big Heart."

Phone Marie on 862 7505 or email meb@clear.net.nz



Matawhero Church



Busy times at the NZ Shipping Company building, Tokomaru Bay.

Seeking sponsors for \$7M Tokomaru Bay Heritage Project

Armed with multiple copies of a 170-page feasibility study, Clive Bibby – the major driving force of the Tolaga Bay Wharf restoration – is busy around the region and New Zealand seeking sponsors for the \$7M Tokomaru Bay Heritage Project.

The plan is to restore the wharf, restore and create a base within the former NZ Shipping Company building and construct a walkway around the freezing works ruins – all of which is expected to boost tourism and provide income for the people of the area. The feasibility study includes a history of the area, the project's social impact and tourism synergies, various engineers' reports and a valuable foreword from UK's leading authority on industrial heritage Sir Neil Cossons, OBE. Sir Neil, who has visited Tokomaru Bay and seen the wharf, buildings and other sites, comments:

"These are imaginative ideas that go much further than simply preservation of the historic fabric, important as that is. Through oral history, photographs and records, a picture can be built up of an illustrious past to hand down to succeeding generations. But the greater ambition is to use this extraordinary place and the drama of its history as a springboard, to move forward with an amalgam of new uses for the buildings.

"The development of an indigenous tourism economy forms part of this plan from which in due course more developed programmes for economic regeneration can emerge to reinforce the growing prosperity of the East Coast."

Heritage New Zealand's Northern Region general manager Sherry Reynolds has also written a letter of support for the project.



Tokomaru Bay freezing works under construction.

Navigations project expected to bring enhanced sense of place

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ECT chairman Richard Brooking said the trust was impressed with the scale and vision of the project and believed it would be a hugely significant asset for the community.

"The economic benefits, heritage aspects

and enhanced sense of place that will occur as a result of the project will be significant."

Eastland Group will contribute \$1.6 million to the project with further works to include the river training wall walkway scheduled for completion in 2015, and the inner harbour



Pultron Mateenbar in situ at the Cenotaph.

Pultron bars to steady Cenotaph

Gisborne's Pultron Composites is a heavyweight when it comes to donations. Not only has it donated more than \$30,000 worth of its strong, durable Mateenbar product to reinforce the Cenotaph, it also donated the Mateenbar that already strengthens St Luke's Church as Waerenga a Hika and Toko Toru Tapu, Manutuke.

This will put all of these structures on a firm foundation for the next century.

Most of the old steel has been removed from the Cenotaph foundations and a start has been made on replacing it with Mateenbar, a heavy-duty product impervious to corrosion. This makes it ideal for environments such as the salt-laden banks of the Turanganui River. Mateen is an Arabic word that means strong and durable.

Two manufacturing processes were used to produce straight and coiled Mateenbar for the Cenotaph's foundations.

Meanwhile, 12 new piles have been installed under the Cenotaph and secured down to 22 metres. A landscape plan is being developed for the area.

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and Turanganui bridge in 2017.

The council is providing about \$4 million towards the project.

Gisborne Mayor Meng Foon said the project was transformative and would showcase the region as a key tourist destination.