



# *Aroha News*

***November 2018***

## Centre display



One of our desires is to refresh the centre itself, returning the focus to the kiwi and to the other flora and fauna of Aroha. We'd like to become a fun and modern centre which the local children can enjoy learning from. To that end, we have re-arranged the inside somewhat, making the kiwi the focal point

by moving their information posters to the more prominent main wall. The island history, which was previously there, is being collated into a book. We have opened up the space, and with the help of some friends early in 2019, we hope to add some more touches.

## AGM

On the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 we held our AGM at the centre. A good number turned out for it.

### Chairperson's report

Yvonne Sharp welcomed everyone to the meeting and read chairperson's report in which she:

- Expressed her thanks and appreciation to Simon and Wendy for their significant contribution to the management of Aroha and wished them well for the future.
- Introduced the new Managers Kiyo and Simon Barton and expressed how pleased the Trustees were to have them working at Aroha.
- Introduced the Manager of Finance and Business Services at QEII, Deidre Parag and expressed her gratitude to the QEII Trust. She outlined the new lease arrangements and new arrangements for capital works. The new lease with the QEII Trust is about to be signed by the Trustees with the QEII Trust as landlord, and the Aroha Island Trustees as tenants.
- Outlined the developments for Aroha in the coming year.
- Invited Deidre Parag to say a few words.

### QEII National Trust address from Deirdre Parag

Deidre addressed the members and thanked the Trustees for their time and management of Aroha. She noted:

- QEII own a total of 27 properties.

- Aroha Island is a most beautiful spot, and is unique in that it operates as a campground.
- QEII identified the need to change the relationship with Aroha and will support the Island.
- QEII has a new Property Advisor (Jess) who will liaise with the Trustees on property matters.
- QEII will complete a Property Maintenance Plan (including such things as gates and signage) and also complete a Habitant Plan.

### Treasurer's report

Howard Smith presented Treasurer's report on the annual accounts for the year ended 30 June 2018. Howard noted:

- A strong balance sheet with good liquidity.
- The transfer of accounting process to Xero has resulted in greater accuracy and better comparison with past performance.
- An increased turnover from the previous year with camping being the main contributor to this positive result.
- The need to increase accommodation and subsequently there has been an upgrade to the lodge's bathroom facilities. There is also a proposal to make Tui Cottage more attractive.
- A move to digital booking and marketing systems.
- A fall in net profit due to increased expenses with the largest expense being wages. This is as a result of moving to a business model with more structured staffing.
- An improvement in creditors over the previous year.

## Election of Trustees

Current Trustees are Yvonne Sharp (Chair), Terry Quinlan (Deputy Chair), Howard Smith (Treasurer), Kathryn Panckhurst, Doug Turner (Rangitane Residents' Association Representative), Tiwai Rawiri (Cultural Representative), Claire Paget-Hay (Minutes), Adrian Walker (Dept of Conservation Representative).

## Guest speaker

Dean Wright from Kerikeri Peninsular Pest Control gave an interesting presentation on its activities on the Kerikeri Peninsular from AkeAke Reserve in the East to Rangitane environs in the West.

## Membership news

There are now 36 life & Hon members and 73 annual members.

### Membership fees

From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 all subscriptions will fall due on that date. We ask that members either set up an annual automatic payment for your membership fee (\$22 for an individual, \$33 for a family), or pay \$220 or \$330 to become an individual or family lifetime member. Encourage your friends, colleagues, neighbours and other family members to join as well, or invite your employer to take out a corporate membership (\$200 per year or \$2000 for life) to demonstrate their support for local community and environmental projects.

## Kiwi update

In the months between June and August, the height of the mating season, both Hayden and Henrietta were seen together often, on the odd occasion in coitus interruptus. Visitors' reports of sightings and statements of fascination are laden on the pages of our kiwi sighting book.

It was also noticed that Henrietta may have been 'in heat'. Several commented on her "mushroom-like odour", and during these months it was quite pungent. With Hayden completing the excavation of a 'nesting burrow' near Cunningham Garden, we were hopeful but by the end of August the new burrow seemed to be untouched and abandoned and Henrietta was not 'with egg'.

Through the late winter, their calls could be heard in the early mornings as well as nights between 8pm and 11pm near the bush behind the centre.

With Aroha being quiet with less visitors for 'Guided Walks' there was evidence to suggest that Hayden & Henrietta use the walking tracks for navigation and scouring further afield for some kai (food). Their feeding holes are habitually on the borders of these tracks followed from the northern most point of the island down on the western side near the tractor signs that they were relaxed over the winter when the visitor numbers are down and the kiwi are freer to roam where they choose.

With the recent change in temperature and the increase in guest numbers in October, sightings have picked up. A German family with two boys aged 6 and 8

managed to spend around ten minutes observing them. Quite unusual, as Henrietta is not well known for tolerating the company of small children.

As we warm up, the kiwi (who still mostly sleep together) are spending more time away from their winter burrow, and it won't be long before they take up residence at their summer bach.

### Lodge bathroom refurbishment

During the off season this winter, we have taken the opportunity to have get some work done around the place. For three weeks in July, the lodge was closed to guests whilst we had the bathroom refurbished. Warren Fraser and the team had a tricky job to do.



*New shower in the Kiwi lodge bathroom*

First off, the rotten joists and ply in the floor needed replacing and the existing shower unit removing. Plumbing for a new toilet was finished and a fancy new shower was installed on the opposite wall. The wall where the old shower was needed the plaster board replacing and re-plastering –

this was the next step. Once the plaster was dry, the vinyl layer came and put in a new water-tight floor for us. The plumber then returned and installed a shiny, new water closet for our delectation.



*New toilet in the Kiwi lodge bathroom*

Finally, the last thing to do was the painting, with John (our relief staff) taking on the role. With great attention to detail he applied a lovely finish and we now have a beautiful new bathroom. Guests have been really positive about it, and the extra toilet is a real boon.

### Metal surface in campground

Another project completed before spring was the laying of metal onto three of our powered sites. The thinking behind this is to be able to provide hard surfaces for motor homes to “winter over”. Previously we have had to turn people away over winter due to the boggy ground, but now we will be able to get that much needed income over the quieter winter months.

We chose our friends at Siteworx to provide us with the Gap40 metal, and it was laid with the help of some eager campers (paid in Heinekens!) and the tractor.

The metal has settled in nicely, and the lawn has started to grow back through, lessening the visual impact. It was decided to do only three of the sites to keep the impact to a minimum, and already the sites have paid for themselves!

The fourth and final load, arrived recently and has helped fill in the pot holes on the road down to the lower camp.



Powered site ⑤, ⑦, ⑨

### General bits and bobs

We'd like to thank Anne and Jeremy Gibb, for their help over the last few months. Anne has single-handedly trimmed and tidied up the flaxes along the coastal edge of the island, making it look wonderful.



The variety of flaxes/korari donated to Aroha by the weavers of Roma Marae, Ahipara

Jeremy has come down with his trusty pruning saw to open up areas of light corridors for some of our more recently planted native trees. The puriri are very grateful!

We'd also like to thank Tiwai Rawiri for taking the time to come down and show our young people some weaving practices, and for sharing her insight and knowledge of the island.



Spring brings with it the movement of possums, and we have eradicated a dozen since the beginning of August. Thanks to Dean Wright and the folks involved with KPPC for the support and the rat traps.

Aroha Island is a 12ha sanctuary in the Kerikeri Inlet. It is a natural haven with a wide diversity of New Zealand plants and birds, including the rare North Island brown kiwi. The island offers camping, accommodation, kiwi walks, an Eco Centre, picnic space and bush walks. The island is managed by the Aroha Island Charitable Trust and has been lovingly restored by volunteers. If you would like to contribute to its ongoing development, please contact Simon and Kiyō at [manager@arohaisland.co.nz](mailto:manager@arohaisland.co.nz)

## Profile: Claire Paget-Hay



Claire Paget-Hay grew up in Kerikeri at the end of Darwin Road with the surname Paget. There were 8 children in her family and life was cramped in their army hut. There was only one street light in Kerikeri then, a Four Square, a garage and very few other shops. Her parents had an organic tamarillo orchard which was pretty unusual in the 50's and 60's. Her dad was also a builder and most of the work available to him was in Kaikohe. He rode a bike to town to pick up the truck that took him to work. The roll at Kerikeri High School was 180 and there were 16 in her class in Form 6 – there was no Form 7. Needless to say, when she reached 18, she couldn't wait to get away .... One streetlight was not enough for a teenager!

In Auckland she went to Secondary Teachers' College, met and married her husband, and taught at Auckland Technical Institute (now AUT). They brought their two girls back to Rangitane for a few years while they were growing up. She helped set up the Northland Polytechnic campus here and taught there for a while before setting up a

Private Training Establishment with two others. There were more streetlights by this time, but their girls became teenagers too and a few more streetlights didn't make a city. So, they went to Wellington where there was a University and more options for the girls to study music. They thought they would go for three years and stayed for 20! While in Wellington, Claire worked in a variety of administration and management roles and her last role was as Chief Executive of the Pharmacy Council. Her real interest has always been in people, what motivates them to work, how teams work together, managing change, and doing her best to understand human behaviour and she completed a Diploma in HR Management while working in Wellington. Though Wellington was a fantastic city to live in and provided lots of opportunity for all of their family, it was not home, and eventually Claire and her husband Des came back home to Rangitane and here they are!



After much travelling, their daughters seem to have settled for now and live in San Francisco and Waiheke Island respectively. Claire and Des now have a new grandson too, which is awesome.

Her parents taught her the value of looking after the land – the importance of respecting it, not poisoning the soil, keeping it healthy for their food and the food of future generations, not removing the trees, that if you have the privilege of owning it, your role is as a caretaker - you will pass by, but the land must sustain those who come after you. She tries to hold on to this value and this is one reason why she loves Rangitane and Aroha Island. The native

trees, the kiwi, the people who have come before, and the people who will come after.

Her other main life lesson has come from her family and her work. “Positive relationships with people are critical to our physical and emotional health. I believe it is important to listen to those around us – everyone has a life story, everyone has a past and it influences who they are now. Everyone deserves to be understood.” She says.

She also says “It is an honour to be a Trustee of Aroha and if my experience can help as one of the caretakers, then it is a pleasure to be part of this team.”

**“Me mahi tahi tatou mo te oranga o te katoa”**

*We should work for the wellbeing of every one*

*Poroporoaki katoa*



*This great picture was taken by camper Matt Whitham*

### Update your contact details

Please advise the office if your contact details change.

[manager@arohaisland.co.nz](mailto:manager@arohaisland.co.nz)

### Newsletter editor needed

If you would like to take on the role, please contact Trust chairperson Yvonne Sharp at

[y.s@xtra.co.nz](mailto:y.s@xtra.co.nz)



**AROHA ISLAND MEMBERS  
CHRISTMAS BBQ**

**FRIDAY 30TH NOVEMBER @ 5.30 PM.**  
**PLEASE BRING A SALAD TO SHARE AND \$4 FOR ICE CREAM. JUICE AND MEAT FOR THE BBQ WILL BE PROVIDED.**  
**BYO ALCOHOL.**  
**PLEASE RSVP BY FRI 23RD NOV.**  
**EMAIL [manager@arohaisland.co.nz](mailto:manager@arohaisland.co.nz)**  
**PH 09 407 5243**