



NEWSLETTER UPDATE APRIL 2009

So many things have been happening since the February 2008 Newsletter, we thought it was time we updated you.

- AGM and Election of Officers
- Lease of the Kawerau Site
- Concept & Development Plans
- Orientation Trip
- Website

The AGM:

In November 2008, we held our AGM and were delighted with the number who came and heard of the activities of the Trust and who offered their services to the Trust. Later in the newsletter we feature a brief biography of each of the Trustees. John Galbraith was subsequently elected as our new Chairman. Owen Rivers continues as Vice-Chairman, and Helen Stewart as Secretary.

Lease of the Land in Kawerau:

The land transfer has finally been completed and the reserve land has been formally 'vested in trust' in the Kawerau District Council (KDC). We still require the Minister of Conservation's Consent before we can finalise the Lease agreement with KDC.



The Site, on Spencer Av, Kawerau.

Gareth Moore-Jones, community consultant, is preparing a reserve management plan (RMP) for the site. The plan will describe the history and attributes of the site, the planned uses, and the management requirements and responsibilities. Gareth has been consulting with community groups and public on the draft RMP.

Concept & Development Plans:

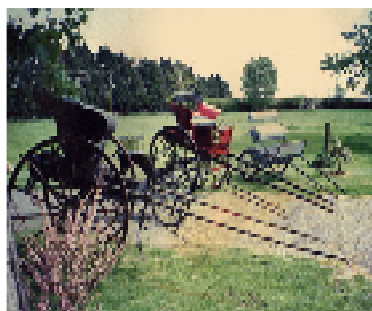
A Trust working group has been working on plans for the site and exploring building design, site layout, uses of the site and attractions. A full scale Waterwheel will be the centre piece of the Park and this is being built as we go to print.

Brett Taylor of EarthArt Landscapes, Whakatane, is donating professional guidance on landscaping and site plans for the Trust.

The next newsletter will outline the proposed stages of development over the next 2 to 3 years.

Website:

This is being developed by Kevin Brown and we expect to be live in April 2009. The web address will be www.waterwheel.org.nz. We will have a number of photos and look forward to receiving feedback from you in regard to the site.



Working Scale Model



Stan Fretwell and John Dixon have built a 1/4 size, working replica of the waterwheel based on a trailer for display and promotional purposes. Lee Barton and a team from Salvation Army Employment Plus in Whakatane and helpers completed the artwork and mill backdrop.

The model will be a feature at upcoming market days and community events, as a focus for promotion, membership and funding.

Why Heritage?

The Trust agreed on this wording because the Definition of Heritage describes what the Trust is about:

"The collective stories of the people and events that have shaped our community. This is manifest in many different ways through key taonga including landmarks, significant places, buildings such as Museums, public art, monuments, planting or landscaping"

Training & Development:

Several of the Trustees and others have been on Te Papa Museum training courses covering topics such as Collection management, Photography. Our Chairman will be attending the Museums Aotearoa Conference in Gisborne in April.

WATERWHEEL HERITAGE PARK

WATERWHEEL HISTORIC TRUST



Trust members



Trustees: From L: Phil Leaming, John Galbraith, Owen Rivers, Lee Barton, Helen Stewart, Stan Fretwell, John Dixon

John Galbraith From a King Country farming family near Piopio, John is a mechanical and forest engineer with career experience in the forest industry. Previously Manager of Whakatane Board Mills and Chief Executive CHH Tasman Mill at Kawerau, he now works as a business consultant and mentor.

Stan Fretwell, who we all know, started dairy farming as a teenager, covering for his father who was away in the war.



He went into trade as a joiner/carpenter, then diversified into a wide range of engineering related trades. He came to Whakatane in 1960, following in the steps of his father, who was born in Whakatane in 1892 and worked as a wheelwright and farrier before becoming a farmer. Stan wanted to be a farmer and worked as a "Teamster" in the

beginning and moved on to building "mechanical horses" to pull equipment instead of having tractors. He joined AM Bisley, a large Agricultural Engineering Company, and then formed his own company - Stronghold Engineers.

He began the Waterwheel concept in 1989 with a number of others including Bob Bennett. All were practical people with Stan having the necessary business experience. Stan maintains diaries of the work of the organisation carried out over many years and totalling more than 70,000 volunteer hours. He has had experience with Waterwheel training and developing 100 young people and getting them into further study, trades, and work. Stan has been wonderfully supported all these years by his wife, Phyllis.

Owen Rivers: Born in Palmerston North and brought up in Fielding on a farm, then ran a farm and repaired old machines. He moved to Whakatane and continued to restore equipment. Now living near Kawerau and works for SCA. He loves meeting the people donating heritage items and hearing the old stories that accompany the items.

Phil Leaming: Another farmer who loves machinery, he also spent 16 years as a Ford tradesman. Broke in a sheep farm and over time has gone into kiwifruit, goats, deer, sheep, and cattle. A vintage car enthusiast, he bought his wife a Standard "Flying 14" Vintage Car. He has been working with Stan and Owen from its early Waterwheel beginnings.

Neil Emmerson: Gisborne boy who started as a builder's labourer. Telecommunications, hands-on mechanic, building and collecting skills got him involved with Waterwheel in the early days. Sadly he recently

resigned as Trustee due to ill health.

Lee Barton: Has been in Whakatane for 8 years. Ex Worcestershire, England, he now lives in Edgcombe. Employed by the Salvation Army Employment Plus as a "Youth Worker" providing work and community based opportunities, aimed at building skills and self esteem in our local youth, he has good networks and contacts across a range of local and national governmental departments. Lee has a passion for the theatre and live music having played a Yorkshire man in "Brassed off" recently and performs in a Celtic traditional folk band.

John Dixon: A Yorkshireman who came to NZ in 1974, he began training as a joiner and learnt other trades including bodging, coopering etc. Starting in NZ in Oamaru, he travelled to Twizel and eventually to the Kawerau Mill. Involved more recently with Woodskills and Waterwheel. Currently a Tutor at the Tertiary Education Centre of the Kawerau College based in Liverpool Street working with youth at the non mainstream end of education. Enjoys passing on old skills and learning about them.

Support People:

Helen Stewart (Secretary and Treasurer): Chief Executive of the Kawerau Enterprise Agency Inc, Helen has a wide range of networks and community involvement and provides invaluable support for the Waterwheel Trust.

Phil Baldey (Consultant): Phil is known as a visionary and strategist with broad industry knowledge and lots of life experience. He is the driving force behind the company strategicpulse.com.

WATERWHEEL HERITAGE PARK

WATERWHEEL HISTORIC TRUST



Sender: Waterwheel Heritage Park,
C/- Kawerau Enterprise Agency,
60 Onslow Street,
Kawerau

.....please fill in, tear off, and send in to the Waterwheel address above.....

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Annual Membership is: \$25 per family

Name:

Address:

Tel: Mob: Email:.....

Do you want to receive a Newsletter?

You can also help by: -

Please tick

• Making a cash donation \$

• Offering your time to carry out restoration or site development

• Donating items

Charitable Status: The Waterwheel Historic Trust has secured Charitable status and will provide receipts for donations for tax deduction purposes.