



## NEWSLETTER UPDATE JUNE 2009

In the short time since Waterwheel's April 2009 Newsletter, much progress has been made:

- The Waterwheel replica is taking shape
- Several items have been transferred to secure storage
- The Concept & Development Plans progress
- Site development continues
- A business plan is developed
- More training for Trustees
- Membership renewals roll in

### The Waterwheel takes shape:

Stan Fretwell continues to painstakingly construct the full-scale replica Waterwheel – a task of mammoth proportions. Proposed centrepiece to the Waterwheel Heritage Park, the wheel's 6metre diameter rim is complete and 54 buckets have been crafted to precise measurements.



Part of the original kauri rim above, Stan's replica version under construction below.

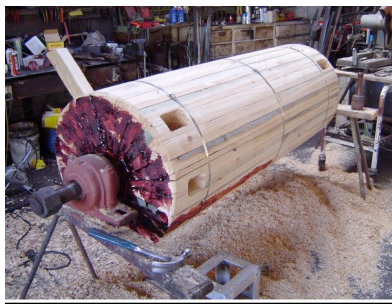


The hub is made, spokes for the hub are close to completion. As

you can imagine, with each part of the waterwheel becoming a reality, construction space is at a premium. Each section is deconstructed, parts numbered and made ready for transport and assembly in Kawerau.



Part of the old puriri hub above; Stan's replica hub below.



### Transfer of items to secure storage:

Waterwheel trustees and volunteers spent a productive day near the end of May selecting and moving items to be specially stored in the KEA building in Kawerau. Waterwheel Historic Park is appreciative of KEA's support to lease this building. The working bee was well attended and became an opportunity to commence collection management tasks, photographing and recording items as they were relocated. Thanks are conveyed to all who took part and provided refreshments.



### Concept & Development Plans:

At the June meeting, Trustees viewed initial concept plans for the site's main collection building and discussed various attributes of different design, construction and landscaping options with the guidance of Brett Taylor of EarthArt Landscapes, Whakatane.

This is part of the Stage 1 development planned for completion by mid 2010.



Above: a possible entrance style for the Waterwheel Heritage Park  
Below: the park from a northwest perspective



# WATERWHEEL HERITAGE PARK

WATERWHEEL HISTORIC TRUST



## **Site development:**

In May, a team of people mulched, mowed and removed unwanted vegetation to assist with site investigations and testing that will help determine possible building sites.

## **Business plan**

Chairman John Galbraith has developed a 3-stage 3-year business plan that outlines how the Waterwheel dream becomes reality:

1. Stage One provides for a 1,000m<sup>2</sup> building to house the existing collection and reconstruction of the original waterwheel as a centrepiece of the park. Limited public access to the collections and a passive park facility will be available. A database of the existing collection will be developed.
  - 1.1. Cost of completing Stage One is estimated at \$300,000 and funded by local fundraising.
  - 1.2. Ongoing maintenance of Stage One facilities would be met by Trust membership subscriptions, ongoing fundraising and limited visitor income.It is anticipated that Stage 1 will be complete by mid-2010.
2. Stage Two evolves the Stage One facilities to full public access and visitor attraction standard:
  - 2.1. Upgrade the Collections building to museum and public access standard
  - 2.2. Fully landscape the Park, with paving, planting and outdoor attractions
  - 2.3. Add heritage and theme buildings
  - 2.4. Incorporate local craft industry
3. Stage 3 Training workshops  
The project has an important objective to

provide pre-trade training in related trades such as auto mechanical, building and carpentry etc. At Stage One, limited facilities can be used within the Collections building workshop for work experience and trade introduction for a small number of local youth. Completion of a purpose-built workshops and training facility will depend on funding, demand and tutoring and management resources and can proceed independently of Stages One and Two above.

The plan provides direction to the Trustees, it also provides a document that underpins future funding applications.



1871 Stanhope buggy

## **Museums Aotearoa Conference – Gisborne April 2009.**

John Galbraith attended the final day of the annual Museums Aotearoa Conference held in Gisborne 15 to 17 April. The first two days were a mixture of workshops and marae-based presentations. The third day featured presentations on:

- A case study of the Museum of the American Indian
- Re-focussing the Hawkes Bay Art Gallery & Museum
- Information technology
- A small local hapu experience in building a digital collection of their taonga, including items held in national and international museums.

In addition to the programme content, the event was valuable in making contacts with people involved in other heritage parks, equipment collections such as

NZ Army Museum and services available from the likes of Te Papa.

What impressed a novice to the museum scene was the unexpected breadth and depth of the sector in NZ and the different methods employed for creating distinctive focus and theme. The byline for the conference theme was “making collections accessible to more people in new ways.” While museums have an inherently educational purpose, there are significant entertainment opportunities too.

## **Collections Documentation Workshop – REAP, Whakatane, April 2009.**

Carol Spanhake and John Galbraith were among the 18 participants at this workshop run by National Services Te Paerangi, Te Papa. Again a great opportunity to mix with local people in the museums sector, with representatives from Te Amorangi Rotorua, Tauranga, Te Puke and Opotiki, as well as museum and library staff from Whakatane and Kawerau.

The workshop outlined the principles and recommended procedures for properly documenting collections. Waterwheel is just about to start on this journey and it was very useful to learn from the experience of others. We have a daunting task ahead and it was of some small comfort that even a well established museum like Whanganui has yet to catalogue over half of the 140,000 items in their collection!

Fortunately Museums NZ offer a free online cataloguing system for smaller regional museums like ourselves, which also has the benefit that participant collections can be seen online.



## **Introducing...**

The April newsletter saw the introduction of Waterwheel Trustees. Here we introduce one of our volunteers:

**Phil Johnson:** Phil and his wife Stephanie recently emigrated to Whakatane from the UK. Phil's technical background is network engineering, but he has also had a range of corporate marketing & promotion experience. He expressed a keenness to be involved in worthwhile community projects and agreed to take on organising the relocation project as his first task. He is then interested in getting involved in the fundraising and building projects.

Welcome Phil – great to have you on board!

If YOU are interested in becoming involved in Waterwheel activities, WE would love to hear from you. Please contact John Galbraith 07 3124112 or 0274458839.

## **Orientation trip**

In the April newsletter, we partly reported on a Trustees' fact finding trip to the Whanganui area. In this issue, John Galbraith continues his story...

The Foxton Flour Mill is a modern reproduction of a 17<sup>th</sup> century Dutch mill. It is a working museum where flour is milled on site and sold. The site is visible from the main road, with good views from the mill itself. Documentation is good with explanation of links to other NZ mills and the features of Dutch mills in particular.

Open 7 days, more information is available from <http://www.demolenfoxton.org.nz/> also on Foxton website <http://www.foxton.org.nz/attraction-windmill.html>.

A flax mill/stripper is located next to the Flour Mill. Narrative covers the history of flax growing and processing in the Foxton area.

MAVTEC is the Museum of Movie and Audio Visual Technology in Foxton. It is not as developed as some of the other facilities we saw. However, it did feature items in beautiful showcases with special optical (non-reflective) glass for good photography. See <http://www.foxton.org.nz/attraction-mavtech-01.html>

The Coach House in Feilding is a high quality attraction with purpose-built display house for items from the horse drawn era. It had good displays, well planned and presented, good branding and beautifully restored items. It featured a 'farming room' distinct from the main collection room. Trustees are looking at complementary businesses to remain viable. <http://www.coachhousemuseum.org/>

The Feilding and Manawatu district has many heritage collections and sites. There are 12 different museums within a 50km radius of Feilding. This reflects the strong history and heritage of the district, but it also provides a lot of visitor choice and competition for the tourist dollar.

Overall, the trip was memorable for many things. I referred to the many contacts we made last issue, it also highlighted some of the practical features required to attract regular volunteer contributions and visitors – guides, visual displays, moving images, sounds, smells, quiet picnic areas, good toilets, café and shops, restoration, hands-on items and a professional approach.

## **Secure workshop space required**

The Waterwheel Trust is looking for secure workshop space in the Kawerau area to use as a space to restore equipment.

A double-garage or larger size is desirable – with a big enough entrance to bring larger farming implements inside.

Please contact John Galbraith 07 3124112 or 0274458839.

## **Membership renewals**

Donations and annual membership renewals have been rolling in. If you have not yet renewed your membership, it is time to do so. It is \$25 per family, new membership and renewal forms are on the back of this newsletter and available via the Waterwheel website [www.waterwheel.org.nz](http://www.waterwheel.org.nz).

## **Waterwheel Heritage Park Website**

A reminder to go to [www.waterwheel.org.nz](http://www.waterwheel.org.nz) for information about Waterwheel's history, Trustees, photos, activities, copies of previous newsletters and contact details.

*Below, from the Waterwheel website, an image of the first film projector in Whakatane*



# 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.