

# WHAKATANE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.



## PRESIDENT ANNUAL REPORT 2021

This year is a shorter year as we held our AGM in July instead of March 2020 due to the lockdown. Nevertheless it has been another busy year for your Council. We have again managed to hold a few field trips:

In November a number of members travelled to Tauranga to visit an archaeological exhibition in the Tauranga City Library. It was a display of artefacts recovered from excavations undertaken by Brigid Gallagher at 107 Wharf Street in Tauranga. The excavation related to pre-1900 history of Tauranga, including the military occupation of the 1860s.



We first visited Monmouth Redoubt, before heading to the Library. After the Library we had lunch at the Historic Village before visiting the Gate Pa Memorial Reserve.



Our Christmas garden party get together was again a success.

In January Morley West and Ian Dawson led a walking tour of historic buildings in Whakatane's CBD which was well attended.

In February Robert Bruère led a trip to Matata. We were welcomed onto Rangitihi Marae before visiting the Urupa to view graves of those who died in the 1918 flu epidemic. We proceeded to the Catholic Church to view Sister Lorenzo's grave. Then on to Manawahe Cemetery to view the graves of 1918 flu epidemic victims.

Monograph No 3 on the history of Maketu was finally published.

Anne and Mei established our dedicated FaceBook page.

With the introduction of local history in the school curriculum, the Society decided to initiate a history essay prize competition for students in years 11-13 at local high schools. The prize is \$500, a certificate, and the winning essay will be published in our journal *Historical Review*. Last year's winning entry was entitled *The Story (so far) of the creation of the Rangitaiki Plains*, written by Emily McClure of Edgcumbe College.

I make my usual plea for articles for the Journal *Historical Review*. Jade Baker has resigned as Editor as she has moved from the area. Glen and I are co-editing the journal.

Glen has continued to do a magnificent job as Treasurer, and has also managed the membership database.

Morley has continued to look after the numerous requests for journal articles, or issues of the journal or copies of Monographs.

Glen and Morley do an enormous amount of work for the Society and I thank them very much.

Robert has continued to be minute secretary, which has made my task easier.

Wayne Marriott is standing down this year. I thank him very much for his work for the Society. Wayne did an enormous amount of work for the Society as Vice-President. He was instrumental in obtaining funding for us to get all our publications and journals digitised.

I gratefully acknowledge Sue Wilson at the Whakatane Museum for her assistance with research requests which come to the Society, and with photographs for journal articles.

I would like to thank the Council for supporting me during the year, and Society members for their support.

Tiena Jordan  
President