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# WAIPA HERITAGE COUNCIL

## MINUTES 17 MAY 2007

*Minutes of a meeting of the Waipa Heritage Council held in Committee Room 2, Waipa District Council offices, 101 Bank Street, Te Awamutu on 17 May 2007 commencing at 10.00am.*

### **1 PRESENT**

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Waipa District Councillor, Barbara Taranaki (Chairperson)

Eris Parker – Cambridge Museum/Cambridge Historical Society

Bev Dean – Cambridge Museum/Cambridge Historical Society

Gail Henry – NZ Historic Places Trust

Heather Garrett – Te Pahu District

Alan Hall – Pirongia Historic Visitor Centre

Max Quirk – Kihikihi District

Annie Fullerton – Ohaupo District

Neville Ritchie – Department of Conservation

Stephanie Lambert – Te Awamutu Museum (from item 5.1)

#### **In Attendance**

Project Manager Heritage Development & Reserves Planning (T Roxburgh), Secretary (C Plowright)

Public – Nil

### **2 APOLOGIES**

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#### **RESOLVED**

*That apologies for absence be received from Mayor Livingston, Mary Hurst, Sabina Owen and Jennie Gainsford.*

S Owen/H Garrett

### **3 LATE ITEMS**

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A late item was requested on a scoping study for the Waikato dairy industry.

### **4 CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF MEETING**

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File: 65-11-02

#### **RESOLVED**

*That the order of the meeting be confirmed.*

H Garrett/N Ritchie

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### 5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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File: 65-11-02

**Minutes of Meeting held on 15 March 2007 were included in the agenda.**

#### **RESOLVED**

*That the minutes of the meeting of the Waipa Heritage Council held on 15 March 2007, having been circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record.*

E Parker/B Dean

#### **Matters Arising –**

##### **5.1 Waipa Heritage Council Submission to Draft Waipa District Council Annual Plan 2007/08**

Chairperson Taranaki said Alan Hall had done an excellent job in presenting the Heritage Council's two Annual Plan submissions at the Policy Committee meeting on 14 May. Alan said Policy Committee members had asked how much co-ordination and resource sharing takes place between the Museums. He said he had pointed out that the Museums are different, and the Heritage Council's submission was not an attempt to make them the same, which was why it has offered support in principle to Cambridge Museum establishing a relationship with Council similar to the one with the Te Awamutu Museum.

Bev Dean said she has received a Memorandum of Understanding from the Deputy Chief Executive with an indication that things are definitely progressing with respect to the Cambridge Museum.

##### **5.2 Biodiversity Council**

Alan Hall gave a brief verbal report on the first formal meeting of the Waipa Biodiversity Council, held on 19 April 2007. Project Manager Heritage Development and Reserves Planning, Tony Roxburgh, said an information sheet is being prepared on the Biodiversity Council which provides members' profiles, the purpose of the Biodiversity Council and contact details. He asked if the Heritage Council would be interested in having its own information sheet and there was general agreement that it was a good idea. Members were asked to provide the secretary with a brief profile and telephone numbers / email addresses.

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### 5.3 Heritage Newsletter and Website

A draft newsletter was tabled and will be emailed to WHC members for comment. Mr Roxburgh said the intention of the newsletter is to raise the profile of heritage generally in the District. He said there is more of a focus on biodiversity in the first newsletter but the intention is to match that with heritage issues in subsequent newsletters.

The newsletter will be four to eight pages in length and sent out quarterly to rural box holders and a number of urban outlets. Gail Henry said NZHPT would be happy to provide material for the newsletter.

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## 6 MEMBERS REPORTS

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### 6.1 Waipa District Council (Councillor Barbara Taranaki)

Chairperson Taranaki reported on a very busy time for Councillors with the Annual Plan process. She said this year's considerations had been thought provoking and Councillors had been required to make lots of decisions. She said good results had been achieved by the end of the process.

### 6.2 Te Awamutu Museum (Stephanie Lambert)

David Hogg has joined the Museum as the new Educator and a second recruitment process is currently being undertaken for an Archivist. Stephanie Lambert said the exhibitions programme is currently on hold because of other priorities at the Museum. She said Neville Ritchie is working with the Museum on a project dealing with the material taken during the excavation at the Pirongia East Redoubt. The material is being held in the Museum's off-site facility, which is taking up storage space, and it is hoped the project will be moved along within a reasonable timeframe. Neville said this is a significant archaeological collection and the largest from any redoubt site in New Zealand.

### 6.3 Te Awamutu Historical Society

Stephanie Lambert said a mechanism has been identified for dealing with the funds that are available for the re-print of "Footprints" and this is now being advanced. She said it is hoped to have the matter resolved within the next month. No progress to report regarding the historical essay competition.

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### 6.4 Cambridge Museum/Cambridge Historical Society (Eris Parker, Bev Dean)

Eris Parker reported on another busy month of activities at the Museum, including workshop attendance, facilitating tour groups and speaking to Country Women's Institute and a Genealogy Group. She has also made a submission to the 2007/08 Annual Plan. The next celebration on the list for the 2007 Committee is the Cambridge Town Band, which celebrates 130 years this year, and the Victoria Bridge Committee is looking at how the Bridge's centenary can be celebrated in December 2007.

Chairperson Taranaki said Jennie Gainsford has suggested the Heritage Council think about submissions it wants to make during the District Plan review. It was explained that there is plenty of time to do this as the process starts at the end of the year.

Another issue raised via email from Jennie was regarding the sub-committee formed to look at the protection of suburbs/streetscapes and who will facilitate this process now that Andrew McFarlane has left Council. Following discussion it was agreed to write to Council's Chief Executive, expressing the Heritage Council's concern that there is no heritage person on Council's staff. Gail Henry stressed the importance of training the person taking on this role in heritage issues to ensure the District's heritage is preserved in the right way.

#### **RESOLVED**

*That a letter be sent to the Chief Executive, on behalf of the Waipa Heritage Council, expressing its concern that there is no heritage person employed by Council and that when a person is identified to take on this role they should be given appropriate training if they do not have a heritage background.*

G Henry/N Ritchie

#### **RESOLVED**

*That a letter be sent to Andrew McFarlane, on behalf of the Waipa Heritage Council, thanking him for an outstanding job and congratulating him on what he has achieved for Waipa's heritage.*

H Garrett/N Ritchie

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### 6.5 NZ Historic Places Trust (Gail Henry)

Gail Henry said NZHPT has been providing heritage and archaeological advice to the Little Theatre in Te Awamutu. She said Unit 5 in the Calvert Chambers in Cambridge will be receiving a grant from the NZHPT incentive fund. NZHPT is also providing ongoing input into the development adjacent to the National Hotel in Cambridge. As part of the District Plan review it is hoped that the heritage precinct of Cambridge will be extended to protect this iconic area of the town.

The trip to Tokanui for those on the WHC interested was tentatively arranged for September 2007.

### 6.6 Department of Conservation (Neville Ritchie)

Neville Ritchie provided an update on the New Zealand Archaeological Association's national project to upgrade all archaeological site records to the standard required for modern resource management. The consultant archaeologist contracted to do the work will shortly be starting this process in Waipa.

### 6.7 Pirongia Historic Visitor Centre (Alan Hall)

Alan Hall said visitor numbers have increased by another 500 since this time last year. He tabled a booklet recently produced in conjunction with Te Awamutu Museum about historic sites in Pirongia. He said a complete list of indexes for both the Te Awamutu Historical Society Journal and Footprints has been completed and can be purchased from the Visitor Centre for \$10.00. Two large historical photographs (1m x 1.5m in size) have been hung up in the Centre and have generated a lot of interest.

Alan said there has been concern expressed locally that a number of historical sites have disappeared from the list of protected sites on the NZHPT website. This includes the Pirongia Armed Constabulary Redoubt, Matakita Pa, Pirongia East Redoubt, the Pirongia Library and a number of others. Gail Henry said this is due to an audit NZHPT has carried out on its register, with some sites being temporarily removed until they have been properly registered. She said she would report back to the next meeting on progress.

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### 6.8 Te Pahu District (Heather Garrett)

Heather Garrett said she feels Council should have tighter timeframes for renovating re-sited properties because some of them are taking too long and are spoiling the character of the District. Major Jackson's house and the former Presbyterian Church at Ohaupo, whilst not second-hand, are also old buildings that are taking a long time to be renovated and are looking unsightly.

#### **RESOLVED**

*That Council be asked to provide the Waipa Heritage Council with its policy on relocatable houses and old houses under renovation, the timeframes and conditions stipulated by Council in its Bonds and how these are enforced.*

H Garrett/M Quirk

### 6.9 Kihikihi District (Max Quirk)

Max Quirk asked whether the Heritage Council would be interested in protecting a grove of trees that were planted on the corner of Grey and Oliver Streets to commemorate the coronation of King George VI. He said two of the trees have died and were cut down last week. It was suggested that Max organise for an article in the Te Awamutu Courier on this subject to see if any older residents can provide some background information on the trees. Research into old school records and newspapers was also suggested. Council's Parks Department will be asked how to go about protecting the trees when more information on them has been obtained.

There was discussion about the old Police House at Kihikihi and plans for it to be used for a police museum. It was mentioned that the previous tenants had damaged one of the walls in the house which will need to be restored. Gail Henry said that when Council owns a heritage building and leases it out there should be strict guidelines in place about what tenants can and cannot do with the building.

#### **RESOLVED**

*That Council be asked what its policy and guidelines are for tenants that lease Council property.*

G Henry/M Quirk

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Max said at the January WHC meeting members were advised that Council staff have written to the owner of Major Jackson's house reminding him of his obligation to restore the veranda within a prescribed timeframe. He said Mr McFarlane was to have followed up on this matter with Council's planning staff but the veranda has still not been re-attached to the house. Mr Roxburgh undertook to follow the matter up.

### **6.10 Ohaupo District (Annie Fullerton)**

No Report.

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## **7 CORRESPONDENCE**

### **7.1 Inwards Correspondence**

Nil.

### **7.2 Outwards Correspondence**

Notice of decision on Proposed Plan Change No 28 (DC Firth) was included in the agenda.

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## **8 ANNUAL WORKS PROGRAMME**

Mr Roxburgh suggested that the Heritage Council give some thought to the development of a list of heritage work/projects to cover the next two to four years. He said it would be useful for Council staff to have a readily available list of projects that it can give consideration to as and when funding becomes available. Some suggestions made at the meeting were –

- Upkeep of Heritage Trail signs
- Installation of Motorised Heritage Trail Signs/Shields
- Marking out of Ohaupo Redoubt site.

WHC members were asked to bring any other ideas back to the next meeting for discussion and prioritisation.

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## **9 ORAKAU**

Further discussions have been held with the property owners (Chris and Sue Kay) who are interested in giving some land to Council for site development and interpretive signage at Orakau. Mr Roxburgh said staff are continuing to work with the Kays on various options for development of the site and this will involve consultation with Iwi.

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Stephanie Lambert said the site would be used for education purposes by the Wananga, Museums and local schools so it is vital to have adequate provision for buses to park.

### 10 MATAKITAKI PA

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Mr Roxburgh said Council has been successful in gaining a Lotteries Board grant to assist with the preparation of a Conservation Plan for Matakitaiki Pa and it is currently underway. An aerial photograph showing the reserve boundaries, riparian margin and other land in the area currently being grazed was tabled at the meeting. He said staff are looking at the possibilities for the wider Matakitaiki Pa reserve area and that information, together with the Conservation Plan, will provide a more complete picture on the potential for this area. The Conservation Plan is due for completion by the end of the current financial year and will then be presented to the Waipa Heritage Council.

### 11 HERITAGE TRAIL

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Mr Roxburgh tabled some Heritage Trail marker post designs which Sonia Frimmel has been working on. The following issues were mentioned during discussion about the designs –

- Numbers on the signs need to be interchangeable because the order in which the signs are listed in the brochure may be changed in future.
- Questioned whether marker posts or shields attached to existing posts should be used.
- The design for the marker posts/shields need to be consistent with other heritage work across the District.
- Shields on the road front could be less intrusive for private landowners and less susceptible to vandalism and graffiti.

#### **RESOLVED**

*That a sub-committee of the Waipa Heritage Council, comprising Eris Parker and Stephanie Lambert, work with Council staff to complete the heritage trail marker posts/shields project.*

G Henry/N Ritchie

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### **12 LATE ITEM – SCOPING STUDY FOR THE WAIKATO DAIRY INDUSTRY**

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Gail Henry advised that a scoping study is being undertaken on the Waikato Dairy Industry. This will be a major long-term project for NZHPT and WHC members were asked to pass on any information/ideas to Gail that might be useful. This includes archive material and information on identities associated with the Dairy Industry known to members.

### **13 ITEMS FOR NEXT WAIPA HERITAGE COUNCIL MEETING**

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Items for the next meeting to be provided to the secretary 14 days before each meeting. This can be done by writing to Waipa District Council (attention Cathy Plowright) or phoning her on 07 872 0030 extension 7511 or emailing her on [cplo@waipadc.govt.nz](mailto:cplo@waipadc.govt.nz)

### **14 NEXT MEETING**

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The next meeting of the Waipa Heritage Council will be held on Thursday 19 July 2007 the Committee Room, Cambridge Service Centre, 23 Wilson Street, Cambridge commencing at 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 12.20pm.