



# PADDLEWHEELS

Journal for The Whanganui Riverboat Restoration & Navigation Trust Inc. April 2007 - May 2007

The days have begun to noticeably shorten as we sailed through the months of April and May. The end of April saw our change from Summer Timetable to Winter Timetable and sailings are now Saturdays, Sundays, Public Holidays and School Holidays at 1pm. There will be no sailings during August, as P/S Waimarie will undergo her annual boiler survey.

It is intended to operate M.V. Wairua on the Weekends during August to keep a service going for visitors while P/S Waimarie is on survey. This is a new idea for our services and should give those interested an opportunity to enjoy a short scheduled river cruise aboard M.V. Wairua, a cruise not always available as Wairua is mainly occupied with longer trips to Hipango Park. The Easter holiday period was busy with P/S Waimarie being popular throughout the holiday period. This year we put on an extra scheduled cruise on the morning of Easter Sunday, which was also well supported.

We have hosted on site and aboard P/S Waimarie Paul Munnings a writer from Australia, who is the Editor of the Travel & Sports sections of Sunshine Coast Newspapers. He was impressed by P/S Waimarie and we look forward to forth coming articles on Wanganui in Sunshine Coast Newspapers.

Jenny Patrick the author of the prize winning book "The Denniston Rose", a book about the life in a coal mining town on the South islands West Coast, took a trip with us aboard P/S Waimarie in April and also had a tour through

M.V. Wairua. Jenny is planning a possible novel based around life upriver

during the period when the riverboats were running. It is to be hoped that she will proceed with this project, as it will promote the history of our region.

Dick Schneider an engineer who works on the historic Tug Lyttleton visited the Riverboat Centre in May. He was here during the week when P/S Waimarie was not running daily, but we were able to show him over the vessel. He was impressed with the high standard of our restoration particularly in the engine room.

Liz Tennent from New Zealand Trade and Industry attended a recent Trustees meeting to give us an update on the Major Regional Initiative Branding & Marketing project and how this can bring more visitors to Wanganui and P/S Waimarie.

A big thank you to Staff, Volunteers, Sponsors, Members and Trustees who have helped out over the April, May period. Special thanks to Graeme O'Sullivan for relieving staff.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General meeting of the Whanganui Riverboat Restoration & Navigation Trust will be held at the Whanganui Riverboat Centre 1A Taupo Quay on Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm.

All welcome.

Elections will be held for two members trustees. Nomination forms are available from the Riverboat Centre and must be returned by 5pm 17<sup>th</sup> July.

## Wharf at Upokongaro

The Wharf at Upokongaro has now been completed and we are waiting for the track down from the road to be metaled and the whole area to be landscaped. There is also a snag just upriver from the wharf to be removed. These works will be carried out over the coming months. We are confident that the works will be carried out by Labour Weekend and we have been planning to include a stopover at Upokongaro at weekends & Public Holidays from Labour Weekend onwards.



## Riverboat Centre Museum

Geoff Lawson has begun work on the cover walls around the paddle display in the Museum. This will make the paddle wheel safe for visitors to view once we make it operational.

John Gray is away overseas and has been visiting the UK and Morocco. We wish him a pleasant holiday.

Barbara Bullock has donated Photos of her Grandfather Captain Mark Mickleson who was a Skipper with Hatrick & Co. His photo will shortly be added to our people of the Riverboats Display. Captain Mickleson who began work on the river during the First World War and had a reputation for some very fast voyages. He captained the Waimarie on its first voyage to the south beach in 1930.

## Volunteers

A big thank you once again to all those who have helped out over the last two months. Now we are operating on our Winter Timetable our annual spruce up work has begun. Those who are able to help out with varnishing, painting and scraping etc please contact Skipper Laurie Scott or Murray Greathead.

## Incinerators

Incinerators are available from the Riverboat Centre.

### Prices:

Incinerators	\$20.00
Tree Protectors	\$10.00

## Merchandise

Books Available at The Riverboat Centre.

Paddwheels	\$30.00
In The Wake of the Riverboats	\$29.50
Wanganui Pictorial	\$12.90
Now and Then	\$10.00
Mystery on the Whanganui	\$10.00
Wanganui Turbulent Beginnings	\$66.00
Along the River Road with James K Baxter	\$15.00
Memories Books	\$12.00

Also all the usual merchandise in stock

## M.V. Wairua

While P/S Waimarie is on survey and not sailing during August, M.V. Wairua will be sailing on Saturdays and Sundays at 1pm to Upokongaro and return.

Prices will be the same as the Scheduled cruise on P/S Waimarie.

All cruises will be 2 hours long.

