



PADDEWHEELS

Journal for The Whanganui Riverboat Restoration & Navigation Trust Inc. June – July – August 2007

We start this newsletter on a sad note in recording the passing of our Chairman Chas Poynter. Chas has been ill for some time suffering with fibroses of the lungs. He conducted a valiant fight against his illness and finally passed away on the 20th of August 2007. Chas was a great supporter of the project right from the very beginning. Back in 1990 he chaired the public meeting where we formed the Riverboat Trust and he agreed to becoming a founder trustee. Throughout the restoration project he did a tremendous amount of work, largely behind the scenes, to help the trust move forward and he made a huge contribution when we had the difficult task of restructuring the operation in 2002. He continued to take an active role in the trusts affairs and was our chairman at the time of his death. We shall miss him greatly especially his great sense of humour. It was wonderful to see the number of people involved with this organisation who took time out to pay their last respects at his funeral. We offer our sincere condolences to Chas's family and we thank them for sharing Chas with us.

We apologise for the lateness of this newsletter but everyone has been busy on site getting P/S Waimarie through her annual boiler survey and overhaul so we added in August's news to get everyone up to date.

The months of June and July with our reduced winter timetable are traditionally quiet as far as passengers go. This year however July sailings were quite well supported compared to previous years.

Pre survey work was begun during these months after staff members had taken some well-earned holidays. After this break the regular task of painting and scraping of woodwork was begun. During August while P/S Waimarie was out of service the M.V. Wairua was operated on the Waimarie's weekend schedule. This was an interesting and entertaining change for those involved. As Wairua cruises at a slightly higher speed we were able to travel past our normal turn round spot at Upokongaro and on up into the reach known as Webs Mile. In fact on two occasions we actually turned at Oherere Gardens and still returned to Wanganui by 3pm. The availability of a short cruise on Wairua attracted some of our members and supporters who had not had the opportunity to travel on Wairua. Shane Jones owner of M.V. Waireka took a cruise with us as did David Wilson who was of huge help to the Waimarie project in its early development stages. He took many photos during the trip and is planning to write a story about our riverboats for the magazine heritage matters. It was also a good opportunity for staff training, as staff need to get sea time on smaller vessels.

The AGM was held on the 18th of July at the Riverboat Centre. It was good to see the long-term members who braved a cold night to attend the meeting. Martin Emerson and Moc Gardner were re elected as member's trustees.

During August a new official Wanganui Visitor Guide was launched. These had been out of print for some time and the new edition will now go out to the 90 visitor centres throughout the country. The new guide will help bring visitors to Wanganui and to P/S Waimarie.

A big thank you to Staff, Volunteers, Sponsors, Members and Trustees who have worked hard over the winter months to keep everything operating.

Wharf at Upokongaro

The newly completed wharf at Upokongaro will be officially opened on Friday the 28th September by Mayor Michael Laws.

P/S Waimarie will begin Weekend and Public Holiday stopovers from Labour Weekend.

There is still landscaping work to be done at the site and as the weather improves this will be undertaken by Horizons Regional Council.

Riverboat Centre Museum

There is good news for the continued improvement of our building. We have received a \$5000 donation from the Lion Foundation and a \$500 donation from the Unison Trust towards the replacement of the upper story roof. This work will begin shortly and will mean that all our roofing is up to a good standard.

John Gray has returned from his holiday and after a bout of flu is back working steadily away at putting together new displays in the museum. Geoff Lawson has made great progress on the paddle display project and the cover walls are now taking shape. You can certainly now get an idea of how the finished display will look. When completed this will be our first ever working exhibit.

Slip Way

Some time ago the Riverboat Trust applied for a resource consent to build our own slipway on the old Hatrick & Co slip site at Sedgebrooke. This was finally heard in June and a decision was made by commissioners in favour of the Trust. However one of the original objectors has appealed to the

Environment Court. The Trust has requested that the matter go to mediation and we await the courts decision on this. Until this matter is resolved we can move no further forward with this project.

P/S Waimarie Annual Survey

Work began on this at the beginning of August. The boiler was dismantled for inspection. The funnel was removed and repainted, valves overhauled and fire bars replaced. Steering gear at the rudder was overhauled and numerous pieces of equipment were inspected and overhauled ready for the coming season. Painting, scraping and varnishing has been continually undertaken throughout the vessel and everything was back together and running for our first scheduled trip on Saturday the 1st of September.

A big thank you to all who have helped out and to those local companies who have got our jobs done in the time frame. There is still more cosmetic work to do and this will take place in the coming weeks.

Stop Press

As this newsletter goes to print we received the sad news that Ian McMurray a P/S Waimarie salvage team member and staff member during the Waimarie hull restoration has passed away. Ian was also an owner and restorer of the M.V. Wairua. He had been suffering with a serious illness, which he fought bravely, for some time.

Our condolences to his family.

Incinerators

Incinerators are available from the Riverboat Centre.

Prices:

Incinerators \$20.00

Tree protectors \$10.00

Merchandise

All Usual Merchandise in stock