

TE PUNA MEMORIAL HALL – CHAIRMANS REPORT FOR THE 2024 AGM

The hall has had another very successful year, thanks in a major way to our very committed and stable hall committee. Financially we are in a sound position and the hall is in good shape. We have started to see the effects of usage as the hall enters its fifth year of use with maintenance becoming more of an issue. We have taken some steps to ensure the ongoing smooth running of our facility and the future is looking good with lots of opportunities to explore.

Sadly, this year the wonderfully committed and community minded Jo Gravitt passed away. Jo made an enormous contribution both to our hall and to the local Te Puna area. Her husband Peter died within a fortnight of her, and they were both remembered and farewelled with events at the hall. In a wonderful and lasting gesture, the Gravitt family have donated funds for artwork to be housed in the halls entrance way. A sub-committee was set up and with considerable help of creative Tauranga and Arohana Mathews two artists works have been selected and will be installed in the early New Year.

The halls archive room is now progressing well with the considerable assistance of Beth Bowden. The room has been environmentally monitored and we are aware of what we need to do to ensure the long-term survival of these important local documents and photographs. We will be working on this in the coming year. Beth completed a further course in archive management and has started the process of cataloguing and categorising our current collection. Shelving donated from the Te Puna School and other sources has been really useful in getting things moving.

The Harvest Festival held in May exceeded our expectations and was again an outstanding event. We were blessed with a stunningly fine day and with the sale of books from the old Te Puna library, the provided entertainment, the food carts and the pumpkin growing competition; the locals were treated to a great day. This event was not intended to be self-funding but rather our contribution to the community but because of the huge uptake by stall holders the cost of the entertainment was almost covered. We are planning to repeat this festival again in 2025 and hopefully will be on-going into the future.

This year we held a competition for a local tee-shirt design. With help from the entrants and our committee members we came up with a design which we had available at the harvest festival and which we are keen to continue with going forward.

The solar panels installed on the hall roof last year have proved very successful and have made a very major contribution to reducing the halls electricity bill. Fulton Hogan have been users of the hall this year and have contributed back to the community by providing an electronic projector which is available to all users of the hall. The committee also purchased a sound

system and speakers and is again available to hall users. The original radiant heaters which were replaced by the installed heat pumps have all been on sold.

Maintenance as I mentioned earlier is becoming more of an issue. The paint work, the floor and some of the doors have required attention and we are working on a programme going forward to ensure that the hall is well maintained and looked after. The increased costs for the insurance of the building is a little frightening but we are hoping to work with the WBOPDC to manage this increase. Now that the Te Puna Community Centre (Maramatunga Park) has been demolished and replaced with a smaller and newer building we will be able to receive a greater proportion of the rate take from the council.

One of the very major steps we have taken this year is to provide funding for the person in charge of the bookings and the day to day running of the hall. This I believe is a great advance as it provides some recompense for the many hours involved in organising and overseeing operations. Sue Allen does a wonderful job and we are all so grateful for the work she does. We continue to use the online booking system "Spacetoco" which is a real asset. Merry Cooney now runs the Te Puna Silvers group which is a community activity the hall sponsors.

In this coming year we are hoping to arrange some community activities around Matariki, install some ovens in the kitchen and security cameras on the outside of the building along with usual running and day to day activities of the hall. We have a wonderful team currently but we are always keen to welcome new people on the committee to help with what is a great community facility.

Thanks as always goes to our team of voluntary committee members and our wonderful cleaners and everyone else who helps with the smooth running of the Te Puna Memorial Hall.

Ian Duncalf (Chairman)