



President's Report

Friends of Te Papa AGM 2022

Report to the Charities Commission.

As last year, you will have received the full report. It is in the public domain and shows in some detail what the Friends have been up to over the past financial year. It contains all the facts and figures members might be interested in and I commend it to you. Many thanks to our treasurer, Tim Steel, for his contribution to the preparation of this report.

This year I want to bring to your attention some of the highlights of the year and some of the changes that have taken place.

The functions of the Executive Committee

The functions of your Executive Committee which were set in motion last year have now been bedded in and much of the work of the Executive Committee is now undertaken by portfolio holders and subcommittees. The Executive dual role provides a strategic direction and oversight of the Friends' activities to ensure that the Friends constitutional obligations are met. Members of your committee have therefore taken on big workloads wonderfully supported by the Friends' administrator, Aloema Ioane, and Sharon Taylor-Offord, its communications administrator.

Again, the committee can be very proud of what has been achieved this year in difficult times.

Could the committee members please stand so you can see these wonderful people.

As well as maintaining an exciting programme, the Executive Committee has begun a process of liaising with other museum and gallery Friends organizations to create mutually useful channels for information flows and cooperation.

And then there are the many other volunteers who work to support the office and the committee, I am grateful for all that they do to keep the office and the programme running.

Programme

At the outset I want to acknowledge that the Friends' in-house programme is completely dependent on the goodwill of Te Papa staff and management. That goodwill has been manifest and I want personally and on behalf of the committee and all the Friends' members to say a big thank you to Courtney Johnston, Arapata Hakiwai and all of the Te Papa staff with whom we have contact for continuing to support our outreach to our members.

Given the incursions which various levels of Covid traffic light settings and the disruptions to the Friends programme, the programme has been most successful. Many events have been over-subscribed. A second tour to Gisborne allowed those who missed the first tour to come to Gisborne. That tour was followed by a geology focused tour to Golden Bay. Con Flinkenberg played a major role in organizing these tours. The art tours around Wellington have continued, the in-house programme has been systematized so that members have regular back-of-house tours, floor talks and previews when possible. Longer-term planning has been on-going.

Website

Continuing problems with the Friends website has resulted in the decision to complete a total rebuild of the site. The aim is to have a more robust site which offers the same look, feel and functionality of the current site. We are grateful to Tony Offord for his help in scoping this replacement process for us. A rebuild is not cheap and the committee is looking at how to raise the funds to undertake this without putting a serious dent in the surplus which we have again generated this year.

Research support

The Friends constitution requires the Friends to support Te Papa. This year we have recommenced this process after some years of not generating a surplus. We have initiated two small research support grants this year to projects in the natural sciences. In future we intend to continue awarding such grants to each division of Te Papa in turn.

Membership

The committee is undertaking a strategic plan to increase and widen membership of the Friends. The membership has been falling over the last years and that fall needs to be arrested by attracting new and younger members and aligning the events programme so as to attract such members.

Last, a big thank you to all our many members for their continued support. You are the Friends of Te Papa and your continued support is vital to the ongoing success of what we all do. Thank you.