

## **I have pleasure in presenting the President's report to the 2023 AGM of the Friends of Te Papa Tongarewa**

### *Report to the Charities Commission*

This report has been circulated and is a formal account of the activities of the Friends of Te Papa. Many thanks to our treasurer, Tim Steel, and our administrator, Holly Erwin, for their contribution to the preparation of this report.

### *The functions of the Executive Committee*

The members of the Executive Committee perform a dual role: providing strategic direction and oversight of the Friends' activities to ensure that the Friends constitutional obligations are met and an operational role in facilitating various operational goals such as event planning. Members of your committee have therefore taken on big workloads supported by the Friends administrators, Aloema Ioani, Sharon Taylor-Offord and Holly Erwin.

We are delighted that many of the committee are continuing. We farewell Bridget Hodgkinson who has completed a three-year term as an ordinary member of the committee and thank her for her considerable contribution to the Friends.

We also farewell Marion Crawshaw who has been an invaluable Vice President for the last two years. Marion has provided great support for me and the committee. Thank you.

This year we have a number of new members joining the committee. In addition to the four office bearers, the number of ordinary members will expand to eight from six, lightening the load on committee members.

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. The committee has also been working this year with Rebecca Galloway of the Te Papa Foundation to see how we can develop mutually beneficial relationships. The Friends have hosted a visit from the Friends of the Christchurch Art Gallery and have been hosted at Pātaka by the Friends of Pātaka. Ann Walker has done a great deal of this work.

With the resignation of Sharon Taylor-Offord, Marion Crawshaw took over as editor of the fortnightly newsletter. She has also taken responsibility for Friends of Te Papa Tours. These are now making use of private providers, given that the Friends committee is not able to accept liability for tours.

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.

### *The Friends office administrator*

At the beginning of this year the committee received resignations from Sharon Taylor-Offord who held a part-time position with responsibility for Communications, and Aloema Ioane. Aloema had been in the Friends office for 18 years and so it was the end of an era. The committee hosted a farewell dinner for her and we wished her well in her new position at the Children's Hospital. Replacing Aloema was a two-stage process. The committee was able to appoint Sarah Monaghan who overlapped with Aloema for two weeks to understand the operations of the office and then was able to appoint Holly Erwin to a continuing position,

again with two weeks overlap with Sarah. We are grateful to both Sarah and Holly for the creative way they have picked up the Friends many and various office processes.

### *Programme*

As I did last year, 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 the museum's outreach to our members.

Given the incursions of Covid and the consequent past disruptions to the Friends programme, the programme has been most successful although it has taken some time for the numbers of attendees to return to pre-Covid levels. 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. Longer-term planning has been on-going.

### *Website*

Continuing problems with the Friends web site have resulted in the decision to complete a rebuild of the site. The aim was to have a more robust site which offers the same look, feel and functionality of the previous site. We are grateful to Tony Offord for his help in scoping this replacement process for us. The rebuild is almost complete bar a few remaining issues. This process has resulted in one of the proposed changes to the constitution namely, to change the renewal date for membership to the anniversary date of the membership rather than a set date and to provide members with the facility of automatic renewal. This has become possible with the new web site. It should make the renewal process easier for both the members and the office.

### *Research support*

The Friends constitution requires the Friends to support Te Papa. This year we awarded a support grant to NZ Histories & Pacific Cultures for a project entitled *Interconnected Spaces and Materiality: Exploring German Pacific Trans-Tasman Relations*.

### *Membership*

The committee hopes to move soon 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. We are grateful for any assistance you can give in telling others about the programme and the benefits of membership.

### *Presidency*

I have completed a three-year term as President and am not standing for another term on the basis that renewal is important for voluntary organisations. I have been singularly blessed with the two vice presidents who have provided support for the President's role, Jillian Wellings and Marion Crawshaw. They have been unfailingly helpful colleagues.

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. Koenraad Kuiper.