

# Tairua Heritage Society



Newsletter

January 2026

## To all our 'Friends of Heritage'

A Happy New Year to you all. 2026 could be a very important year for the Society

### AGM

Thanks to all of those who attended the AGM. We now have a new Constitution, some new Committee members and we are pleased to have Jenny Chalmers and Diane Bruce as Life Members and Peter Jackson, Trevor Ladd and Norm Hammond as Honorary Members,



### The Centre

Well, we haven't bought it yet, but we do have a lease until the end of November 2026. The landlord will not extend it further at this stage so we are looking to raise money to buy this building, or something similar. We are approaching possible donors at the moment and at the same time are looking for sponsors and grants from funders. Meanwhile the work goes on.

## New Panels

Members will be pleased to know that very soon we will be erecting a Ngati Maru panel that the iwi have prepared for us. This will be outside the Centre and we will now be able to have the Ngati Hei panel on display inside the Centre. These, accompanied by a booklet prepared by Jenny Chalmers about Maori on the Eastern Coromandel, will be important additions to our information on Tangata Whenua.

## The History Trail

Welcome to a new type of History Trail!

Thanks to Liam Brown you can now access our History Trail using QR codes. Liam is using us as a guinea pig for a new technology that he is developing. So far we have added an extra picture to each site as well as some extra info. This will be expanded as he develops his program – and he is not charging us for this experiment.



*The Sir George Grey in the 1940s, in between permanent buildings.*

## Restoring Photos

One of our 'Friends', Gary Healey has some great software that can restore old photos. He has already done some work on some of our photos. Below are the 3 stages – original, restored black and white and then colour:-



*Te Karo. Tairua 1913. Phillip Hutchinson, Len Laycock, Baker, Martin Hutchinson. Jacking Kauri logs*

We are beginning to investigate the printing of larger sizes of old photos. We have also had 2 very successful months having a stall in the monthly market – great for spreading the word about us!

## Events

- Thanks to everyone who supported us at the Show. We managed to bank \$6000 into our building fund for this.
- The Christmas Raffle also netted \$2000, so our building fund is now at \$66,000
- We hope to have an event at Anniversary Weekend – more about that soon.
- There will be another Show later in the year, if Auriol can get her act into gear.

## Booklets

Earlier Jenny's booklet on Maori was mentioned. There is already one on Street Names of Tairua. We would like have more of this kind of publication. There is one in the pipeline about Hikuai by a long term resident. We would also like to publish one on memories of the 60s. Is there anyone out there who would be willing to research and produce this sort of booklet. It would be great to have more members involved in this way.

## Menz Shed

More thanks to the Menz Shed for making us a newer, bigger, donation box and finding a way to make a new, very attractive mannequin that we acquired, to stand on its own two feet!

**Cheers for now. Your Committee – Auriol, David, Jan, Anne, Bruce, Jean, Megan, Nola and Peter**