



CHAIR'S REPORT 2013-2014

This report covers the period 1 July 2013 – 30 June 2014. It has been another extraordinary year.

Summary

Under the He Tangata cluster, TOTI's commitment to the Moore-Jones project and commissioning Capt Matt Gauldie's statue concept 'Line of Fire' was the priority for the period, with Hamilton City Council sign-off following the October 2013 council elections. Artist concepts were sought for the Dame Hilda Ross project, and evaluation began for the Whakaotirangi project. The inaugural Waikato History Digital Book Collection was initiated as a collaborative community project with Hamilton Library. The 150th anniversary of the onset of the Waikato War was acknowledged with a TOTI 'gig' on 12 July 2013.

Our thanks go to our collaborating partners, sponsors, funders, and supporters. It has been a great year for project development, community engagement, and fund-raising.

TOTI Background

TOTI's full name is *Theatre of the Impossible Charitable Trust*. We work on creative projects with sustainable community benefits, involving 21st century technology & community engagement - adding value to the future.

Board members are Bill McArthur (chair), Margaret Evans, Mavora Hamilton, and Penny Pollard. Chris Wright is Trust Manager. Advisors to the trust include Hamish Keith (arts), Richard Stowers (history), Tom Roa and Ngapare Hopa (Mana Whenua). The trust auditor is Graham Haines.

Financial accounts have been prepared and audited. Administrative requirements: DIA Charities registration (No CC43673), Certificate of Incorporation (No 2355780), IRD Number 104-233-058, GST registration No 104233058, with recognition as a donor organisation exempt from income tax.

Current Projects

He Tangata – 'Telling the Stories' of people important to the crafting of New Zealand, Waikato, and Hamilton. Taken from the NZ proverb/whakatauki that 'people are the most important thing in the world': *He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tangata. He tangata. He tangata.*

- **Sapper Horace Moore Jones**
- **Dame Hilda Ross**
- **Whakaotirangi**

Waikato History Digital Collection Project – developing a community collaboration project for an inaugural Waikato History Book Digital Collection...

Des Tatana Kahotea & Te Tū Hanga Whare o Whetu (the rebuilding of Te Whetū o Te Rangi) – publication completed.

Mangaonua – From Stream to Screen, working with Ngati Haua Mahi Trust to monitor and restore the Mangaonua Gully, Silverdale, Hamilton. There is continued involvement with this project supporting trust members other work and new projects developed.

Journal – Conversations & Views on TOTI's website www.toti.co.nz

OUTCOMES.

1. 'A Day to Remember' - 12 July 2013, the 150th Anniversary of the Invasion of Waikato, a breakfast event held at SKYCITY Hamilton:

The Waikato War of 1863-64 and land confiscations concluded the five century Tainui era and introduced today's contemporary society with the military settlement of Hamilton:

Waikato-Tainui's Tom Roa acknowledged the Hamilton event as a companion event to their coinciding dawn event at Mangatawhiri marking the onset of the war on 12 July 1863. In addition to the history recall, TOTI's 'gig' featured war-time music with Bryan Bevage and Waikato Diocesan's MOCHA barbershop quartet, and a crowd singalong to Dame Hilda Ross' Port Waikato children's health camp song-book. Dame Hilda was Dio's first music teacher and led Hamilton's women's auxiliary during WW2. Her grandson Colin with four generations of the family were among our guests. On display were the two finalists' models for the Moore-Jones sculpture plus concept sketches for the Dame Hilda project. Event sponsored by SKYCITY, piano by Shearers MusicWorks, display photographs from Port Waikato Children's Camp Trust.

"At daybreak yesterday morning, I crossed the Mangatawhiri with the Head Quarters of the 2nd Battalion 14th, and a detachment of the 12th Regiment, amounting together to 380 men. It was necessary to descend the stream for about half a mile from the termination of the new road; and the left bank, where we crossed was so steep that the troops had great difficulty in ascending it. They are now camped on the Koheroa, about 500 yards from the river; and a redoubt will be constructed immediately which will command the navigation of the river, and secure the communication between the Queen's Redoubt and the Stockade on the Waikato."

– Despatch by Lt-General Duncan Cameron to Governor Sir George Grey 13 July 13, 1863.



Colin & four generations of the Ross family



Waikato Diocesan's MOCHA

2. He Tangata Projects

2.1 Moore-Jones statue - Two significant steps forward with the city council tick and a unique and special collaboration fostered with Turkey's ambassador to New Zealand Damla Yesim Say. Almost \$250,000 has been raised in cash and kind, with target installation late March 2015, next year.

Hamilton hero Sapper Horace Moore-Jones (1868-1922): Soldier, artist & teacher whose WWI Gallipoli Campaign painting 'Man with the Donkey' is the enduring Anzac image, acclaimed as one of the most important pieces of Australasian war art. He is also recognised for his Gallipoli battlefield map-making and his 1917 illustrated lecture tour bringing his first-hand experience of the disastrous Anzac experience to people at home. <http://www.toti.co.nz/he-tangata-project/sapper-horace-moore-jones>



TOTI chair Bill McArthur with artist Matt Gauldie at work on his Moore-Jones statue

On 28 November 2013, HCC resolved to accept TOTI's proposal for Captain Matt Gauldie's Moore-Jones' statue 'Line of Fire' and confirmed the CBD site. 'Line of Fire' will be sited in Victoria Street overlooking the heritage place where Horace Moore-Jones gave his life rescuing others in the Hamilton Hotel fire of 1922.

<http://www.hamilton.co.nz/AgendasAndMinutes/ORDINARY%20COUNCIL%20MEETING%20AGENDA%2028%20NOVEMBER%202013%20PART%203%20OF%204.pdf> (part 3 of 4)

<http://www.hamilton.co.nz/our-council/news/Pages/Bronze-Sapper-Moore-Jones-statue-gifted-to-the-City.aspx>

TOTI's Moore-Jones project also has the support of Turkish Ambassador Damla Yeşim Say and NZ's former Ambassador to Turkey Taha Macpherson – with more to come on this....

The Moore-Jones statue project follows on from initial discussions in February 2012, and Council's agreement 27 September 2012 to TOTI's application to rename the bordering cul-de-sac to Sapper Moore-Jones Place, the new name publicly launched by Governor-General Sir Jerry Mateparae on 30 November 2012 – [Gallipoli hero honoured in Hamilton 90 years after his death ...](#)

2.2 Dame Hilda Ross project – on hold:

Dame Hilda Ross (1883-1959): piano-playing community leader, social activist and pioneering politician who tackled the hard issues with gusto, focusing particularly on mothers & children, for the future. She left her mark locally and nationally on most aspects of NZ society and culture. A lifetime of life-changing community service. Hamilton's 1st woman councillor and Deputy Mayor, MP and Cabinet Minister in the 1st National government. <http://www.toti.co.nz/he-tangata-project/dame-hilda-ross>

Although TOTI decided to put the Dame Hilda Ross project on hold while focussing on completing the Moore-Jones project, research and the gathering of archival material and information on Dame Hilda continues. There is also evaluation underway on an associated concept....more to come.

As previously reported, a visit to Port Waikato and meeting with Camp Trust chair John Willis resulted in trustees agreeing to loan their unique albums of photographs etc to Hamilton Library's Heritage Team (Marc Caunter & co) for conservation and digitising. The photographs include many portraying Dame Hilda with a host of visiting VIPs and celebrities important to NZ, Waikato and Hamilton history.



Hands-on activist Hilda Ross..... With William Paul (left) and Sir William Alexander (Hamilton MP & Minister of Health) at Port Waikato. (Hilda's son and daughter-in-law are also in this photograph...)



At Port Waikato Children's Camp - piano-playing Hilda leading the children in song...and her camp song book is now held in Hamilton Library's archive.

2.3 Whakaotirangi - This legendary leader of the Tainui Waka's 14th century migration across the Pacific and settlement of the Waikato is set to be reclaimed from history's mists with the call to restore her to prominence.

In collaboration with oral history scholar Di Gordon-Burns and local kaumatua, we have hosted a number of hui to generate discussion and engagement with Whakaotirangi's history and influence for the future. Plans include a sculpture concept for a high profile riverside site, and promoting Whakaotirangi as a positive 'Mother Founder model' through contemporary mechanisms – original and illustrated publications - particularly for children and teens. More to come.....



Pakarikari – Waikato west coast site of Whakaotirangi's gardens

3. Des Kahotea's book launch – one of TOTI's first projects has been completed, with the publication of Des Tatana Kahotea's 'Te Tū Hanga Whare o Whetu (the rebuilding of Te Whetū o Te Rangi)' – the restored Tauranga wharenuī, destroyed by fire in 2006.

4. Waikato History Digital Collection – the first books on their way....

From another TOTI initiative, a set of five history books by Waikato authors are set to be digitised as the inaugural Waikato History Digital Collection. Introducing 21st century technology to mark Hamilton and Waikato's 150th anniversary, the books are Peter Gibbons' 'Astride the River' (history of Hamilton), 'Connections' (Chamber of Commerce centennial publication), HCM Norris's 'Armed Settlers' and 'Settlers in Conflict', and Leslie Kelly's 'Tainui'. The digitised books will be available free at Hamilton & Waikato Libraries to library card holders. This project's collaborating partners are Hamilton Library, Waikato Chamber of Commerce, Waikato Sunrise Rotary, Leslie Kelly Family Trust, Norris family trustees, and Norris Ward McKinnon.

5. Mangaonua Gully Restoration - Ngati Haua Mahi Trust

TOTI continues to be involved. Support for the trust and its work is provided when required.

6. Gratefully Received:

Our thanks go to the hundreds of people who have engaged with us and our gigs; to the families of our He Tangata history-makers; to the researchers and advisors, the people we have consulted, our collaborators; and to all those who have gifted us their time, intelligence, and efforts, and funding – to help make it happen.

In particular:

Matt Gauldie, Moore-Jones family, Turkish Embassy & Ambassador Desma Yeşim Say, NZ Ambassador Taha MacPherson, Hamish Keith, SKYCITY Hamilton, WEL Energy Trust, Trust Waikato, Lion Foundation, Lotteries WW100, Glenice & John Gallagher, Simon Upton, Lynden Earl, Brian Linehan, David Bailey, Noel Vickridge, R Ansell, N Northover, Officers' Club Hamilton, Philip Harkness, Mark Gutry, Don MacDonald, Mark Mitchell, Tom Roa, Ngapare Hopa, Tonga Kelly, Tame Pokaia, Tuahu Watene, Pakira Watene, Beau Haereroa, Pokaia Nepia, Lyall Green, John Cook, and Don Scarlet.

Colin Ross, Campbell Ross, Jennifer Ross Andrews, & their families, Port Waikato School Camp Trust (John Willis & Co), Hamilton Library Heritage Team, Waikato Sunrise Rotary, Waikato Chamber of Commerce, Leslie Kelly Family Trust, Norris family trustees, Norris Ward McKinnon.

7. Financial Status

The past year has been a successful one in terms of fund raising for our major project, the Sapper Moore-Jones sculpture. With the final boost from the WW1 Lottery Funding Board and donations in kind for installation, the erection of the sculpture is on track for end of March 2015. The majority of spending in the 2014 year has been on the sculpture itself.

W.McArthur.

Chair