

Chairman’s Report on Activities – 2017/18

Highlights

Key activities during the year since our AGM in August 2017 have been:

- Completion of a lease agreement with Life Konnect and relocation of our main collections and workshop to the former Intermediate School at 371 River Rd, Kawerau in November/December 2017.
- the running of a second successful major field day “Farming like Grandad” held 28 January 2018

Life Konnect provides Waterwheel with the opportunity to share premises with like-minded people and organisations and to support their vision of a vibrant community-based centre, and we held an official opening of the new site on 7 July.

Rental commitments in the new premises require significant fundraising in addition to our normal fund-raising activities, by way of applications to philanthropic and community support organisations. While fund-raising in the year to March 2018 was down on the previous year – partly due to timing - we have seen a number of successful applications come through in the months since and we will exceed our target of \$20,000 in the current financial year. This will put us in a better position to utilise returns from Farming Like Grandad and other activities, for investment in collections restoration and display – which after all is our primary purpose.

Events and Major Activities:

WoodFest, 30 September, 1 Oct 2017: Our collection items, guest tractors and a live shearing display, working stationary engines and the waterwheel model attracting a lot of interest. Again provided lunches for volunteers, which was a good fundraiser.

Relocation to Life Konnect: The main relocation of collection items and the workshop took place in November/Dec 2017 and we have continued to relocate items from storage in the Kea unit alongside Farrell Bearings. The new premises at Life Konnect in particular provide attractive display areas with plenty of natural light for the smaller household, school and small industrial items that Waterwheel has collected over the years.

We have had great support from existing and new members to achieve regular weekly working groups on Wednesdays (preparing and displaying collection items) and Friday (workshop and restoration tasks) as well as scheduled working bees. In addition, members have been available to open and host visitors on other days and at weekends as required.

Farming Like Grandad, 28 January, 2018. Waterwheel Historic Trust, in association with landowner Mike van Beek, held a second very successful “FARMING LIKE GRANDAD” event on SH30 (opposite Military Rd.), Kawerau.

The theme of the day was to demonstrate working farm equipment and activities typical of the first half of the 20th century. In addition to exhibiting Waterwheel collection items, the event attracted Clydesdale horse ploughing and hay making teams and vintage cars, tractors and equipment from Waikato and Bay of Plenty, local demonstrations of milking, shearing, fibre crafts, farrier and petting animals. Two local bands entertained the crowds.

Young Achievers Awards Lunches and Silver Fern Farm Awards lunches – successful fundraising, thanks to Stephanie’s organisation.

Financial

Year to March 2018: Revenue reduced to \$13,500 (previous year \$21,094), primarily due to timing of grant awards, as noted above.

Grants (\$5,543), donations (\$4,757) and fund-raising activities (\$3,093) were the major sources of revenue.

Lease/rent charges (\$3,733 being essentially just 3 months, following the relocation), event expenses (\$4,292), insurance (\$1,498) were the major cost items, but we spent over \$4,000 on facilities, collections and promotion (\$685 the previous year) reflecting the increased focus on core activities.

The Trust recorded an operating deficit of \$1,482 for the year. Allowing for depreciation and write-downs on the approx. \$30,000 worth of workshop and site maintenance equipment of \$4,751 gave an overall (non-cash) deficit for the year of \$6,233.

Current subscription members number 44.

Frances Galbraith has done a valuable job as Treasurer and we are fortunate to have Murray Hansen reviewing our annual accounts.

Trustees and Supporters

I record my sincere appreciation to all of the Trustees and members for their work and guidance for the Waterwheel activities through another year.

I would like to make special mention of the innovation and leadership of Co-Chair Stephanie, who again was a key mover for the Farming Like Grandad and other promotional and fund-raising events and activities.

Waterwheel would also like to express its appreciation for the opportunity to join the Life Konnect community at 371 River Rd and for the positive support and involvement of Manager Janice Sutton.

John Galbraith,
Co-Chair, Waterwheel Historic Trust