



Newsletter

May June 2024

Roast Dinner Raffle



Tickets still available for purchase. It will be drawn at the end of Market Day on the 6th July and will be ready for pick up on the 10th July

Thanks to Mootown Meats and New World for donating this raffle

What's on

Matariki Day	June 28th
Market Day Raffle	July 6th
Morrinsville Historical Society AGM	July 16th

What's been happening at the museum



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This past year has been one of significant accomplishments and continued growth for our organisation. I'm proud to present the highlights of our achievements and some of the challenges we're working to address.

SUCSESSES

Community Engagement:

Schools Visiting Programme: Our engaging programmes welcomed numerous schools, sparking curiosity about local history. Having a Ngāti Hauā Kaumatua to present stories to the children has proved a real strength. We have continued to send out a newsletter for schools each term to encourage further use of our resources. Visits by groups and individual staff groups from schools has helped us understand what they need for the implementation of the Aotearoa Histories Curriculum

Families engaged: The blessing and opening for the "Our People" exhibition was a great success. We continue to engage with the Tumuaki and his whanau as well as other Kaumatua and Kuia from Ngāti Hauā, Ngāti Wairere and Ngāti Paoa. Invitations to significant events from Ngāti Hauā have been received and attended.

Waitangi Day Commemorations: Funding enabled us to successfully host a free day at the pools, a very positive Marae Experience, and a History Chat, fostering a deeper understanding of our local history and connection with our iwi.

New Walkway History Panels: The new walkway's history panels provide a valuable educational resource for residents and visitors alike. Several school groups have been seen using this resource. A Guided Tour on offer provides more background to the panels.

Service Club Presentations: Sharing our work and local history with service clubs strengthens community connections.

Collaboration with Morrinsville Art Gallery: Joining each other's events including an invitation for our volunteers to join with the Gallery volunteers for a sponsored lunch

Morrinsville Heritage Week: A new annual celebration of the history of the town coincides with the coming of the railway on October 1st 1884

Market Day Activities: Participation in Market Day events keeps our organisation visible and interactive. A new Garage Sale fundraiser has successfully raised valuable funds along with the raffles.

Newsletters: Bi-monthly newsletters keep our members in touch with what we are doing

Connecting with the Museum Community: We continue to attend the Three Museums Network with Matamata and Te Aroha. We also hosted a Te Papa-led Role of Māori in Museums workshop.

Financial Expertise: We are working on the funding for our new exhibition, ensuring a vibrant and engaging experience for all. We are seeking advice from advisors with expertise to ensure we manage this funding well.

President's report continued

Volunteers: Our group of volunteers continues to support our operations. Once trained they can work independently making them a real asset to the museum.

Matariki Day: One of our volunteers has set up a Matariki Challenge in the museum for children. The story of the stars and what they mean are blended with a treasure hunt.

CHALLENGES:

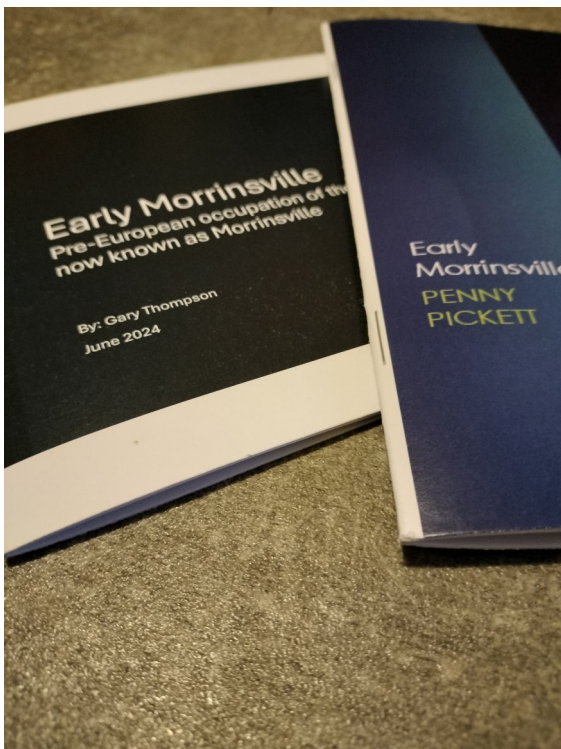
Volunteers: Like many organisations, we are constantly seeking dedicated volunteers to support our ongoing efforts. Lack of space and availability of computers are an issue.

Committee Members: We encourage anyone passionate about local history to consider joining our committee and contributing their skills and ideas.

Maintaining a professional organisation: The funding for our refit of the exhibition hall will challenge us to step up our efforts to be a vibrant, professional, well organised, business-like enterprise.

FUTURE PLANS:

This past year demonstrates the dedication and collaborative spirit of our committee members and volunteers. We are well-positioned for continued growth and impact within the community. Our concentrated efforts for the rest of this year will be for the exhibition on the left hand side of the exhibition hall.



EARLY MORRINSVILLE WORKSHOPS:

We had nearly 60 people attend our recent Sunday Talk Early Morrinsville. The History Chat with Gary Thompson and Penny Pickett in the Morrinsville Rotary Community Centre enlightened people about early Morrinsville with snippets of the history of the area.

Gary outlined several maps including the movement of people to this area in 1200 AD and the land blocks pre 1860.

Penny shared many photographs of early development of the town of Morrinsville.

In practically all evaluations of the workshop people who attended rated it either 4/5 or 5/5.

Some comments made at the end of the workshop: Just a really interesting afternoon. Well done to you all. An opportunity to learn. Builds a sense of community. Very informative, especially the pre European occupation of the lands. What a loss for Māori. Excellent booklets which I will share with my whanau. A bit too much information to take in. A profound explanation concerning our beautiful town. A lot of work has gone into this lengthy presentation. Most interesting especially Early Morrinsville research. Māori part was most informative. Informative and entertaining. Would have appreciated a break in the middle to move around. Well balanced, insightful and respectful talks about people and places in Morrinsville. Lots of connections.

Mrs Te Ao Marama Maaka Queen's Service medal recipient.

Members of the Morrinsville Historical Society joined a large crowd of well-wishers from local schools and Ngāti Hauā in a celebratory dinner for this wonderful recognition of someone who is a strong supporter and cultural advisor of the Morrinsville Museum.

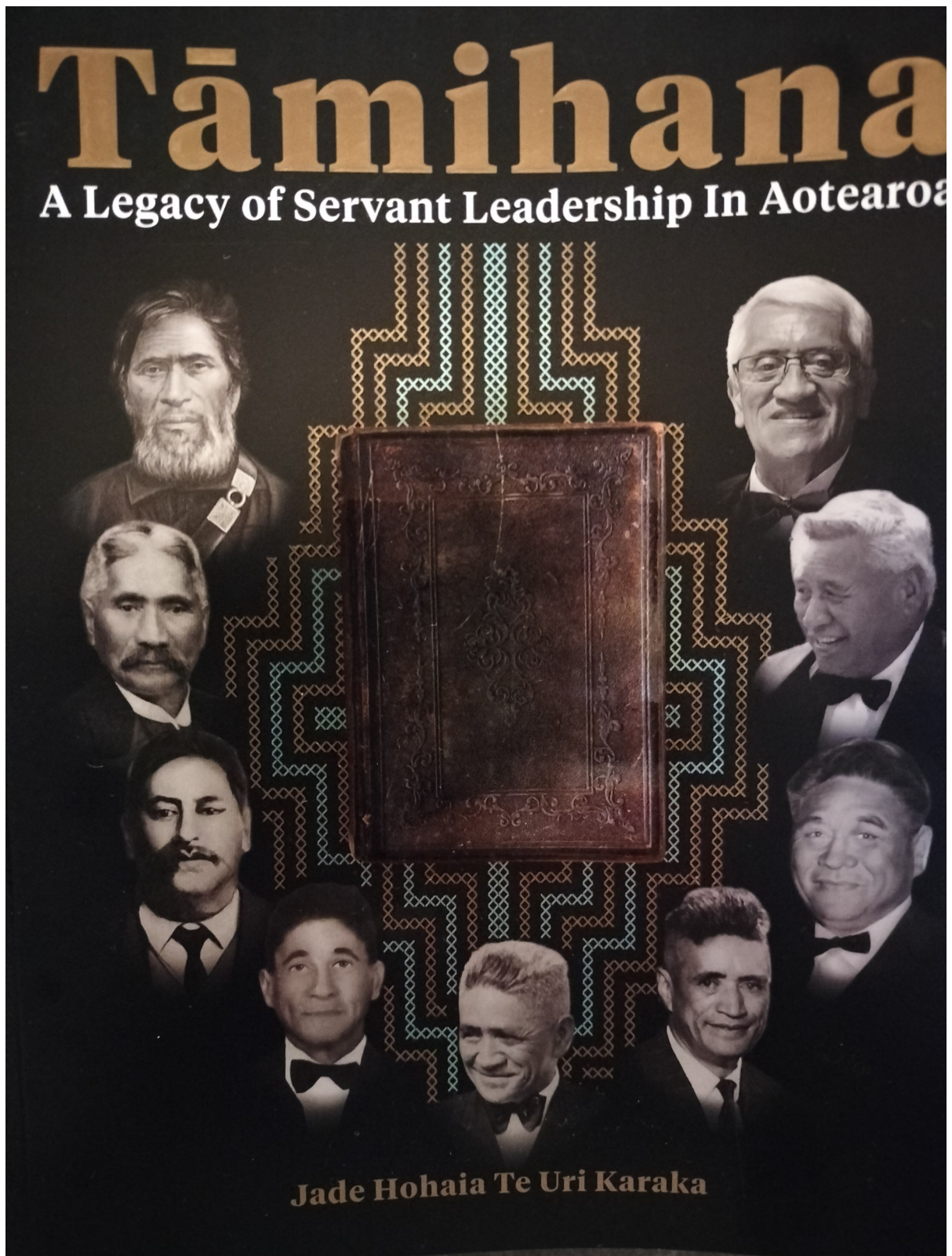
From the honours list we read: Mrs Te Ao Marama Maaka's (Ngāti Hauā, Ngāti Wairere a Ngāi te Rangī) service with Morrinsville College has spanned 35 years.

Mrs Maaka was elected to the Morrinsville College Board of Governors (now Board of Trustees) from 1987 until 2001. She served as the Chair of the Whānau Support Committee for 25 years and was a Board representative on the Morrinsville District Schools' Trustees Association from 1990 until its disestablishment. She was involved in the planning and organisation of Te Ao Whaanui Classroom to Ohope School in 1998 and was coordinator of the College Māori Culture Group tour to Rarotonga in 1993. She has been a member of the Tainui Education Iwi Committee since 1990 and assisted the Ministry of Education to help Māori Boards and schools with self-governance between 1999 and 2001. She has provided Morrinsville College and other schools with guidance and leadership on Māori culture and has provided a link for students to their marae and their local communities. She has been Cultural Advisor for the Morrinsville Kāhui Ako since 2018. She is a senior Kuia of Ngāti Hāua and as Ngāti Hauā Cultural Advisor she provides support to councils, organisations and schools on working with iwi. Mrs Maaka has been President of Morrinsville Māori Women's Welfare League since 2005 and Vice President of the Tainui branch since 2019.



Te Ao Marama Maaka receives her Queen's Service Medal from the Governor-General Dame Cindy Kiro in Government House before flying back to attend the Celebratory Dinner at Kai-a-te-Mata Marae with a large group of whanau, Ngāti Hauā and representatives from the community.





Two members of our committee attended the launching of this new book, one which will be a wonderful addition to our library. It is the result of time the author spent with the late Tumuaki o te Kingitanga, Anaru Thompson before his passing in June 2022.

The book gives us valuable insights that can be shared when we tell the story of the Kingmakers and Tumuaki to our visitors to the Mana Whenua o Piako exhibition. It interweaves historical understandings of the times with words from Anaru as he spent five years and seventeen interviews with the author.

Quote of the month

It had long come to my attention that people of accomplishment rarely sat back and let things happen to them. They went out and happened to things.

Leonardo da Vinci

From Our Cabinet of Curiosities



See answer below

Snippets from history for your next quiz night

December 21 in 1867 Sparrows were imported by the Auckland Acclimatisation Society and sold at auction for an average of ten shillings each.

1877 Mercer to Ngaruawahia railway completed

August 11th 1884 Horse trams started running from Queen Street to Ponsonby

May 21 1886 Census population of Auckland was 61,0566



From our Cabinet of Curiosities—A Pot scrubber