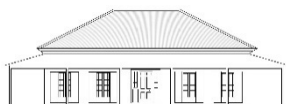


# THE HENRY AND WILLIAM WILLIAMS MEMORIAL MUSEUM TRUST



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New Zealand

## NEWSLETTER #9 SEPTEMBER 2018

Dear Family and Friends

### ***The Past Year***

A milestone has been reached in our maintenance programme as the house is now at last weather-tight after many years, indeed decades, of water damage. The second stage of repairing or replacing all external doors and windows was completed, thanks to another generous grant from the Frimley Foundation. We had enough residual money from previous grants (Lotteries and JN Williams/Turanga Trusts) to address the most urgent interior damage from leaks as well as some electrical repairs.

In the garden pavilion –where Henry’s original gravestone has been placed - we have mounted three badly weathered plaques from the Henry Williams memorial at St Paul’s Church, Paihia – see attached photos. They have been replaced on the memorial by new plaques, carved like the originals from sandstone. The memorial was subscribed to and raised by North Island Maori in 1876, and is of great significance. The replacement plaques were funded by the Henry and William Williams Descendants Commemoration Trust, which has particular responsibility for the maintenance and repair of the Paihia Williams Church and grounds. Although neither of these family trusts has direct responsibility for Holy Trinity Church at Pakaraka, members of both trusts agreed that the dedicatory marble plaque in the Pakaraka church (placed there by family members) should be replaced as the original inscription contained misleading errors. This has now been done.

Work has continued on the grounds, thanks to our wonderful tenants, with priority being given to tackling the invasive ginger. Acquisitions continue to trickle in. Two cabinets were sent to a furniture restorer and the costs will be met by a donation from a family member.

In addition to our annual Open Day, the Friends of Te Papa visited - a large and enthusiastic group, led by Elizabeth Ridder and accompanied by Dame Claudia Orange.

### ***Open Day***

An Open Day will be held at the Retreat, Pakaraka, on Sunday 4 November, between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm. It is an opportunity to see the exterior of the house and its extensive garden – a lovely venue for a picnic. Trust members will be in attendance to explain the house and garden history. Also you can visit the Holy Trinity Church opposite and the family graves. A small charge of \$5 will be made to cover costs (children free).

### ***The Trust Board***

Late in 2017 we regretfully accepted Charlotte Williams’ resignation from the Board. Charlotte, as some of you know, has been subject to ill-health, and our best wishes went with her, and to David. She served with distinction on the Board, steering it through the initial acquisition of the Retreat, and chaired the Board for several years. At its March meeting the Board elected Heather Stanley as a replacement. Heather and her husband Scotty own Ngaheia –a house near Pakaraka built by Joseph Williams (son of Henry and Marianne)

which they have expertly restored along with its unique garden. Heather is well qualified in areas close to our interests, and we expect she will make a valuable contribution to the work of our Board.

### ***Current Project***

We are embarking on what should be the last of our major projects - the restoration of the house interior. It last received comprehensive attention in the 1950s and more than 60 years of wear and tear have left their mark. We have received a quote, no small sum, and have applied to the Lotteries Environment and Heritage Fund and Foundation North for financial support. We are grateful to the Frimley Foundation for a grant of \$10,000 to help us on the way. We will know in November if our applications are successful and work will start early in the New Year, all going well. If these are not successful, the way ahead is very unclear as the Trust has no funds except from rent and that just covers the basic running costs of rates, insurance and minor maintenance.

Once the interior work is completed we will have only a few more modest projects (including an exterior repaint) to finish before preparing ourselves for our role in the 2023 bicentennial. We have had substantial support from Williams trusts and foundations - but we still rely on individual donations –remember these are tax deductible.

### ***The Collections***

Memorabilia and artifacts constitute an important part of what we do, and when the house is restored, these will be on display. If any family members have items they would like to lend or donate to our collections then please get in touch. We hope that by the time of the 2023 Bicentennial we will be able to welcome visitors to the house and collections. Some of our board members, in conjunction with members of the 2023 Committee, are exploring the possibility of a temporary Williams exhibition in the Waitangi Museum. For this we hope to borrow material from other museum collections and from private family collections.

### ***Website***

Our museum website ([www.williamsmuseum.org](http://www.williamsmuseum.org)) continues to attract attention, with regular visits to the site each week, for which we collect data. Research for additional material for the website is ongoing and new material is being added, including pages on Williams houses and churches, Williams and land, and Williams and the Treaty,.

### ***Keep in touch***

Please remember to send us your emails (and changes of email) to keep our list up to date. Contact us on [williamsdescendants@gmail.com](mailto:williamsdescendants@gmail.com) or [williamsmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:williamsmuseum@gmail.com) If you have not already subscribed to the 2023 Reunion newsletter please go to the website: [www.williams2023.co.nz](http://www.williams2023.co.nz).

With kind regards

*John Andrews (Chairman), Priscilla Williams, Dan Williams, Gerry Williams,  
Camilla Hope-Simcock, Kirsty McGill, Eila Searles, Tina Angelova and  
Heather Stanley*

Trustees for the Henry and William Williams Memorial Museum Trust



Elizabeth Ridder, a family member, talking to the Friends of Te Papa. In the background are two trustees and our tenant, Geoff Pickles. Note the smart new roof.

The pavilion in its garden setting with the tombstone



The tombstone and three memorial plaques