



THE HENRY AND WILLIAM WILLIAMS MEMORIAL MUSEUM TRUST

11.11.2021

NEWSLETTER

This has been a year of unwanted interruptions, which included the calendar at The Retreat, most notably with the cancellation of our Open Day. In spite of this we were able to get some things done, in the garden and also with the house.

First, however, we wish to note the resignation from the Trust Board of Eila Searles who leaves us after many years of service, in which she shouldered the burden shared by all our Northland trustees, who are often in the line of fire when there is work to be done at the Retreat. She leaves with our grateful thanks.

Eila, with Heather Stanley and Kirsty McGill had been engaged with the development of a 'stumpery' at the Retreat using the fallen trunks of poplars as a basis. This is a useful way of dealing with the poplars that periodically become detached from our boundary during storms.

A major work on the house has been the replacement of the verandah and repairs to a section of the verandah roof beam. The contract has been let and preparatory work commenced. Although it was expected to be completed before Christmas, supply chain difficulties may hold things up a little. We have been greatly assisted in all this by a very generous donation from Rosemary and Brian Hedge, for which our grateful thanks.

Preparations for the 2023 bicentennial of the Williams family arrival are well advanced. We are arranging for the Retreat property to be open so that every family member who wishes to will have an opportunity to visit over the time of the Reunion. Visits are also being arranged to nearby Pouerua (built by Henry Williams Jn) and Ngaheia (the house of Joseph Williams), both sons of Henry and Marianne.

It is possible that we will be able to mount an exhibition of Williams family memorabilia at the Waitangi Museum – where we have been offered exhibition space. Items would come from our collection, from family members, as well as museums throughout New Zealand. Presently we are seeking grant money to help meet the exhibition costs. We would be interested to hear of any family items you would be prepared to lend for the exhibition.

All of us on the Trust wish you the compliments of the forthcoming season and hope that 2022 will be a less demanding year.

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

Trustees for the Henry and William Williams Memorial Museum Trust