



WAIMARIE: HAMILTON EAST COMMUNITY HOUSE

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Garden going strong with addition of hens

Jane Landman
Waimarie manager

Kia ora

2015 was an interesting and productive year for us, along with some sorrows and disappointments.

We finally became the proud owners of Waimarie at the end of July after a long and protracted legal battle. We now have security of tenure and can be mistresses of our own fate.

Many thanks to O'Sheas for their unstinting encouragement and support. Yes, we paid them but they delivered above and beyond with confidence and competence.

We have already painted the decking area and we are doing some alterations to reconfigure our reception area to accommodate the shop. Anne and I will move into the middle office and the old shop will become a badly-needed extra meeting and teaching space.

We welcomed Anne in January as our funder/administrator extraordinaire and Ange (former volunteer) as kuia/volunteer coordinator and unofficial chicken, shop stock and garden manager.

It was with terrible sadness that I attended the funeral of our former administrator and close friend Jackie in June.

Joel will be our new garden coordinator in the New Year as



Marie is leaving us for artistic training.

Our chair, Lois, has been struggling stoically with illness for several years but continues to serve on several community boards and to keep on giving.

We have dispensed tonnes of fresh vegetables, bread, pies and the odd cake to many people over the year with the support of Kaivololution and the Sunshine Bakery in Knighton Rd.

There is a magic box at the front door with free clothes, toys and bric-a-brac for those who want or need it and free books and information in a stand outside as well. The Bible and other religious texts are our most popular free books along with children's books.

I suspect we have as many

after-hours visitors as those during the day but these 'statistics' are invisible as are many of our struggling clients.

We have made many cups of tea and shared stories of tragedy, pathos and horror as well as those on a lighter note — tears and laughter, the stuff of life.

Barry has seen many budgeting clients struggling to make ends meet.

NiamondPeeblesHoult have given free legal advice to many clients over the year and Craig has helped many people with resolving their benefit and other issues.

Our classes have continued with ukulele for children and adults proving wildly popular. They have given us several delightful ukulele concerts at various gatherings.

A handful of volunteers have come faithfully every week to help with tasks around the place such as shredding paper, cleaning, sorting, gardening and helping in the shop.

Waimarie Community Garden is still going strong with the addition of three new, wonderful red shaver hens that lay nearly every day and love to forage behind our chicken fence. Pop in and buy some free range eggs for \$3.50 for half a dozen or maybe a delicious relish made by our pickle/relish queen, Heather!

We have had a book fair, Neighbour's Day sausage sizzle and concert, a volunteer's lunch and a garage sale.



There are plans afoot for new projects to help us towards financial sustainability. There has been a gradual increase over the years towards this. We generated 29 per cent of our own income in the year ended June 2015 and hope to increase this with our ideal, like everyone, being to generate 100 per cent of our own income and be totally financially sustainable.

This is a huge goal and there is always a tension in the sector today between profit and service. It is a bit of a balancing and juggling act — to be financially secure requires huge inputs of resource, energy and time. Without it, we are vulnerable to having to stop or reduce services and make staff redundant. Achieving sustainability means we can concentrate on improving and extending services — a chicken and egg dilemma, but one we must grapple with on a daily basis.

We are a small team but I think we punch well above our weight

and know how to stretch the dollars and cents. Upcycling, recycling and reusing are our catch phrases with our wonderful Peter (a long-time committee member) refurbishing our couch, chairs and other furniture as well as collecting and delivering various items such as wood, compost and furniture on his ute or moke with a willing heart and capable hands.

He refuses to slide into old age gracefully and is an apt example of living life to the full and demonstrating the benefits of physical and mental activity!

The New Year will see us (with a little more funding) installing solar panels to help us save on electricity and be part of our continuing journey towards sustainability. We are well along the road with our own water tank and irrigation system, recycling shredded paper for chicken nests and tiger worms. Little is wasted, much is reused or transformed into something more useful or given away.

REGULAR SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

- Free budgeting service. Tuesdays from 9am (one-hour appointment). Phone 858-3453 for an appointment.
- Free advocacy service. Please phone for an appointment.
- Free legal advice. Thursdays from 9am (15-minute appointment). Phone 858-3453 for an appointment.
- Vegetable and fruit boxes. \$11 pre-paid by Wednesday, 1pm. Pick up Thursday after 10.30am. Online payment option.
- Bread run Monday 10am-2pm

and Wednesday 1pm-3pm.

- Photocopying: A4 13 cents per copy, A4 10 cents per copy 11+, A4 colour \$1 per copy, A3 25 cents per copy, A3 20 cents per copy 11+, A3 colour \$2 per copy.
- Friday morning community gardening and organic gardening courses. Phone 858-3453 for more information.
- Opportunity Shop and curtain bank. Open every day 9.30am-3.30pm.
- Room hire and community courses. Phone Anne on 858-3453 for more information.

Celebrate Chinese New Year with delectable dumplings



Fun and educational with gastronomic satisfaction!

Friday, February 5 at 2pm at Waimarie Hamilton East Community House, 53 Wellington Street, Hamilton East.

Chinese New Year starts on February 8, so come and celebrate by learning how to make Chinese dumplings.

Inspired by the richness of traditional Chinese culture, demonstrated by the Shen Yun Performing Art, Cherry Fong will teach participants how to make dumplings, while Sik-Wai Tsoi talks about traditional Chinese culture.

A gold coin donation is requested.

Twenty people maximum. Register at Hamilton East Community House email admin@waimarie.org or phone 858-3453.

APPRECIATION

A big thank you to our funders and supporters for 2015/2016

Funders

- COGS
- Community Post
- DV Bryant
- Hamilton City Council
- Karamu Trust
- Len Reynolds Trust
- Lion Foundation
- Lotteries
- Page Trust
- SkyCity
- Tindall Foundation
- Trust Waikato
- WEL Energy Trust

Supporters

- Community Probation Service
- Hamilton Budget Advisory

Service (support)

- Hamilton East Lion's (building chicken fences)
- iRs (Joint social enterprise, JustWork)
- Neighbours and friends (items for the shop and the garden)
- Niemand Peebles Hoult (legal advice support)
- Pukete Neighbourhood House (advocacy support)
- Sunshine Bakery (bread, pies)
- Waikato Environment Centre and Kaivololution (food)

Also a big thank you to all those neighbours and volunteers who have given their time and energy to Waimarie.