



FRIENDS OF TE HORO HALL

Te Horo Hall, 56 School Road, Te Horo ♦ tehoro.hall@gmail.com

Newsletter No 1, August 2023

Greetings, and welcome to the *Friends of Te Horo Hall* newsletter from the Te Horo Community Hall Society Incorporated.

A great response to our community survey

Thanks to you all for participating in our recent community survey on the future of the Hall.

Just over 93% of respondents want us to earthquake strengthen the Hall to ensure we can keep the only community facility in Te Horo well into the future. Many of you shared fond memories of times spent in the Hall and were shocked to learn that we may lose it. The Hall Committee (locals just like you) took great heart from this support and at its 18 July meeting, agreed to set up the Earthquake Strengthening Project. This work will be quite an undertaking. However, the Committee is committed to making it happen. It also builds on all the work done by previous committees to keep the Hall open.

A small minority of respondents did not support earthquake strengthening, though their reasons were quite mixed. A few questioned the role of such a hall in modern society and suggesting it be replaced with a more contemporary building. While wanting to retain the Hall for its intrinsic values, the Hall Committee recognises that aspects could be improved to make both the building and the grounds more usable. So, without losing the essence of the Hall, the Committee will also look at ways to improve the effectiveness of the whole facility.

Lots of other excellent ideas

By far the richest parts of the survey responses were the many ideas and suggestions on the sorts of events and activities people want to see at the Hall. There is a lot of information for the Committee to consider with the following clear themes emerging:

- Live music events and dances (both general suggestions and specific offers to assist).
- Social community events, ranging from quiz nights to more regular local gatherings.
- Markets remain a popular suggestion along with other retail and fund-raising opportunities. The Committee really liked the idea of a “Made in Te Horo Expo”.
- Movie screenings.
- More sports events and access for club activities.

The Committee plans to consider these suggestions in greater detail and will reach out to the *Friends of Te Horo Hall* for more input. In the short-term our next steps are:

- Improving the promotion of the Hall as a venue.
- Running two or three fund-raising events each year.
- A social Christmas event for the community different to what has gone before.
- To invite *Friends of Te Horo Hall* to a social and “brainstorming” function to build on all the great ideas we have received.

Recent funding boosts most welcome

As part of awareness raising on the issues facing Te Horo Hall, the Committee recently presented twice to the Waikanae Community Board (one of those meetings was held in the Hall) and has received very immediate and tangible support from them:

- \$5,378 as an operations grant which will be used to replace the Hall curtains, support the Earthquake Strengthening Project and for equipment and promotion of the recent Community Emergency Response Exercise.
- \$10,000 as a capital grant to improve heating in the Hall. Two large heat pumps have now been installed by Brent O'Hagan Electricians and are already making a huge difference to the Hall's useability.

The Hall Committee is enormously grateful for the support and encouragement it has received from the Waikanae Community Board and particularly from our local member, Michael Moore. The support of local businesses in getting this work done is also greatly appreciated.

Parking and improving access to the Hall and grounds

As many of you will know, and particularly those living close by, events at the Hall can often attract large numbers for which there is currently minimal off-street parking. This can create mayhem and potential public safety risks on School Road.

For events like last year's Christmas Market, the paddock running directly alongside the Hall provided parking for up to 70 cars, although the ground is undulating and can sometimes be boggy. The Hall Society unsuccessfully tried to buy this land when it first became available in the early 1980's but the Council came to the rescue and purchased it for the community. We have written to KCDC asking to work with them on ways to permanently improve this area for parking and better access to the Hall and its grounds and to enhanced public safety.

Successful Te Horo Community Emergency Response Exercise

Working in collaboration with WREMO in Paraparaumu, the Hall is the local Community Emergency Hub. It also shares common infrastructure with the neighbouring volunteer fire station including a backup generator connected to the Hall.

On Sunday, 30 July, the Hall hosted a Community Hub exercise – the first for several years. Volunteers prepared for this over several weeks with great support from WREMO's Renee Corlett and our Hub Co-ordinator Peter Wood. The exercise used an earthquake and tsunami scenario specifically designed to involve both Te Horo beach and inland Te Horo residents. The scenario included blackouts of telecommunications and mains power.

Over 40 people attended through the morning, and everyone had a go at the various Hub roles as well as being actors for the exercise. Radio communications were successful between the Hall, the Upper Gorge, Kaitawa, and the Kapiti Emergency Operations Centre in Paraparaumu. The Hall's mains power was switched off for the exercise and replaced by that from the backup generator.

There were lots of ideas to take away and improvements to make. A follow up community resilience meeting will be held at the Hall on *Thursday 10th of August 7pm – 9pm* where there will be more of a debrief and we will look at next steps.