



# FRIENDS OF TE HORO HALL

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## Newsletter No 4 - December 2023

Season's greetings everyone; here is the latest *Friends of Te Horo Hall* newsletter brought to you from the Te Horo Community Hall Society Incorporated.

### Twilight Christmas Event a Great Success

The 1 December Twilight event was so good! At its peak we counted over 170 attendees. The weather gods smiled on us too despite an otherwise dodgy week.

Everyone entered into the spirit of things with a well laden table of superb nibbles to share and plenty of festive cheer. The sausage sizzle added a tantalising smell, as did the *Super Donut Hero* stand. Special thanks to *New World Otaki* for the generous donation of sausages and bread.

It was great to see families enjoying the evening and many Te Horo Hall "drinks and nibbles" regulars brought friends along. *Mr Whippy* was a highlight for young and old. And of course, who could forget our very own Santa distributing slices of a very tasty Christmas cake!

Live music added to the vibe with three bands playing an excellent selection. Many thanks to the talented *Pretty Boys* for opening the show, members of the *Kapiti Brass Band* for Christmas carols, and *The Brooklyn's* who played well into the evening. Proceeds from the sausage sizzle went to the musos as a small token of our appreciation.

A number of games were set up and the tennis courts certainly had a work out. Pickle Ball next time?

At one point it looked like we ran out of chairs, so maybe more picnic blankets and comfy cushions are needed!

The Committee is planning more community events for 2024; all ideas welcome along with any feedback on the Twilight event as this is the first time we've run something like this.



## Selecting Our Building Partner

Three local building firms have provided competitive tenders to quake strengthen the Hall, which was great to see. A Hall Committee interview panel has just completed its initial assessments and recommendations will go to the full Committee early in the New Year.

We are also most grateful for advice and guidance from *Peter Sanford* whose extensive construction experience has been a great help with the selection process.

One thing that has become clear through this exercise is that while the Committee is keen to involve volunteers wherever possible, care will be needed not to interfere with an efficient construction process; not to mention health and safety and other regulatory considerations.

However, there is definitely a place for volunteers wishing to help, mainly in the finishing aspects of the build. This will be very important to us as this can often be an expensive and time consuming part of a major refurbishment like ours.

We also want to approach building materials suppliers to see if they will donate to the Hall. All of the tenderers were supportive of this, as well as including volunteers to help finish the work and to bring the Hall back to the community as soon as possible.

The quake strengthening work cannot start until funding is secured and while it might be ambitious, the Committee would like to see the work commencing around mid-2024.

## 2024 is Fund Raising

Despite the need for significant fund raising before work can begin, it was important to have updated building cost estimates so we know exactly what the Hall Committee is up for. We still believe the Committee can meet around a third of the cost of quake strengthening the Hall from reserves and past fund raising. The rest will have to be raised privately.

The Committee is finalising its fund raising plans and some useful initial enquiries have already been made with potential donors. This work will ramp up after the Christmas break.

## A Wrap for 2023

So that is it from us for 2023. It's been a busy year with the Hall used over 200 times. This is the only Community facility in Te Horo and the Hall Committee will continue to work hard to keep the "old tin shed" for all of us. This year the Committee has really appreciated the community's support and encouragement (including from the Waikanae Community Board and KCDC). That's the only reason we are here.

Setting up the *Friends of Te Horo Hall* has been a particular highlight and it's a pleasure to bring you these progress updates. Feel free to distribute the newsletter widely and new members are always welcome.

Nga mihi nui.

