

**Wellington Region Heritage Promotion Council Inc
Chairman's Annual Report to the Annual General Meeting on 15th October 2014.**

Kia Ora everyone.

We held a successful Heritage Month promotion in September 2013 with a great range of events across the region. Hutt City Mayor Ray Wallace, kindly hosted the opening launch at the Dowse Gallery, which had over 50 attendees, and was a great start to Heritage Month 2013.

In June 2013 we produced our first issue of Heritage Today e-news. It has been very favourably received. I would like to particularly mention Anne Taylor the Editor who has been responsible for collation and production of the Heritage Today and who has created a warm relationship with members to provide details of their events and news for inclusion.

The concern I am trying to address currently is that of funding for WRHPC. As we have discussed at previous meetings the funding scene in the region is very tight and we no longer have some of the excellent relationships that Phillip Vallance had built up. Don & I have been busy with applications and are hopeful that some of these may come to fruition so in the meantime there will be no further issues of Heritage Today.

The Heritage scene is uneven across the region and we have seen at least one Historical Society cease to function and others struggle for lack of members. Those areas that are thriving do so due to peoples involvement and enthusiasm however this is getting harder as people have less time, an aging membership and Heritage not being seen as exciting! I believe it is worth considering whether WRHPC has a future given these constraints.

Individual member organisations are responsible for their own destiny and those who are lucky enough to have key people involved will no doubt continue.

Overall there is still much to celebrate around Heritage in the Wellington Region and many events at our recent Heritage Month were well attended and with WW100 another exciting year in 2015 is forthcoming.

Phil Parnell
Chair