

His great love for the awa was a life-long affair.

Man of river Norm Hubbard leaves lasting legacy

By David Scoullar

It was once said of a great man – “if you wish to see his legacy, look around you.” That can truly be said of Norman Frederick (Norm) Hubbard who died at Wanganui Hospital on February 9, 2011, aged 84.

We can look around and see the restored Kawana Mill at Matahiwi and Cameron Blockhouse at Marangai, just two examples of Norm’s handiwork. There are many more as he had roles in renovating the Colonial House at Pipiriki, rebuilding Poutama wharepuni (sleeping house) at Koriniti and restoring Te Rangihēkeiho whareniui (meeting house) at Atene. He also built the information kiosk at the junction of State Highway 4 and the Whanganui River Rd.

Then there were the smaller Hubbard touches, such as the sign he carved and gifted to the Pipiriki School. Norm always had a project going and it often involved the river.

As a young carpenter working for the Wanganui Education Board, he helped build the school at Whakahoro which still stands, though now a DoC facility.

Norm did have disappointments. One was the restoration he began at Te Poti marae over the river from Pipiriki. After two working bees were held at the Kōangaorehua whareniui local opposition saw the initiative die.

Born beside the Whanganui River in 1926, Norm’s love for the awa was a life-long affair. In an article in the 1993 Annual, he recalled his Wanganui East childhood: “Probably around the age

of six or seven the river started to draw me like a magnet. The days were never long enough when you have a river, particularly during the summer.”

Norm’s adventures included catching and cooking fish on the riverbank and swimming across to the Duchess Theatre and back, which

he admitted was a bit tricky sometimes on a fast tide. There was a close call when he tipped out of a canoe in rough water by Calver’s Corner and eventually crawled out on the Wanganui East side of the Dublin St bridge.

When the Wanganui River Scenic Board was established in 1957, Norm was appointed honorary ranger for the bottom end of the river. As a keen outdoorsman and hunter, it was a job he hugely enjoyed. In that capacity he was responsible for building Te Puha Hut below Pipiriki in 1974. (The hut was dismantled and taken to Kaiwhaiki in 1990).

Norm was deeply interested in the river’s history. An article he wrote on traditional Maori fishing appeared in the 2006 Annual. He had a wonderful slide collection and gave many public talks on the river.

In 2010 he gifted the Friends’ executive more than 20 scrap-



Norm Hubbard explains his part in restoring Te Rangihēkeiho whareniui at Atene during a Friends’ trip along the Whanganui Rd in 2004.

books he had collected of newspaper cuttings about the river and its history. These are the source of a number of articles in this Annual and will continue to be a gold mine for many years to come.

Norm chaired or was on the committee of the local branch of the Historic Places Trust for some 25 years. He also served on the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board. The award of the MBE for his community services was well-received in Whanganui.

For many years he was the commentator on bus trips up the Whanganui River Rd as part of the DoC Summer Nature Programme, something he had to regretfully forgo in the last few years because of increasing frailty.

Norm’s home in Rees St overlooked the river. He said in the 2007 Annual: “I planned out how I could see most of the river. We can watch river activity at breakfast.”

Top run provided some adventures including fire.

Waireka – a little riverboat that could – and did!

BY DAVID SCOULLAR

The arrival of the new riverboat Adventurer 11 on the Whanganui River, its epic journey Taumarunui and subsequent move to Whakahoro draws attention to upper river forays in the 1980s by the Waireka.

When the craft was owned by Winston Oliver, he raised eyebrows when he took it to Matahiwi in 1980 for the opening of the rebuilt Kawana Mill. This was believed to be the first time the Waireka had travelled so far upstream since it was involved in oil-drilling operations 20 years earlier.

The *Wanganui Chronicle* reported the river was running 3m above normal and this enabled the Waireka to safely negotiate the many underwater obstructions which would normally make such a trip impossible.

With the river running strongly, the Waireka could only make two knots against the current but reached Matahiwi without mishap. The same current worked to the vessel's advantage on the return trip to Whanganui which was reached in only three and a half hours after taking all day to reach Matahiwi Landing.

Mr Oliver said with the river running so high there was nothing to have stopped them going all the way to Pipiriki, had they had wanted to do so.

Pipiriki was indeed Waireka's destination in 1988 for then owner, Vance Crozier. He operated the craft from there for a few months. The *Wanganui Chronicle* was aboard to record a trip the Waireka made from Pipiriki to Parinui to collect about 20 weaner steers for sale in Raetihi.

The exercise, which was expected to take four and a half hours, took the best part of two days. Mr Crozier had never used the Waireka to ferry stock and Parinui farmer Tommy Treanor had only ever barged beasts down the river. Floodwaters from heavy rainfalls meant the craft made such slow progress that an overnight stop at Parinui was needed.

The Waireka is now based on the Waikato River. Both Mr Crozier and current owner, Shane Jones, were among passengers on Adventurer 11 when it made its trip to Taumarunui in June of 2010, said to be the first by a riverboat there in 82 years.



Maria Thomas, of Jerusalem, waves from the deck of the Waireka during its surprise visit to Matahiwi in 1980.

Launched in 1909, the Waireka was initially used on the Taumarunui-Houseboat run. According to Rapids and Riverboats on the Wanganui River, she was a fairly basic passenger launch, 62ft long. Everything on board was designed for lightness and absolute minimum draughts as she was to be employed on the most difficult section of the river at the peak of the summer tourist season and at a time when river levels were at their lowest.

The top run provided some adventures including a fire which gutted the Waireka at Towhenua, about 6km below Taumarunui, in 1916. The engineer accidentally set the oil bilges alight, and in the ensuing panic the crew had to forcibly restrain a woman passenger from stepping overboard –

into 6m of water. The Waireka was out of service for some months after that.

The craft passed to Wanganui River Services in 1928 and later through various ownerships before reaching Mr Crozier in 1986. These include Tangahoe station owner Howard Davey, W H Bain (leased), Bruce Williamson, Wanganui River Jet Tours, Winston Oliver, and a partnership of Raewyn and Ken Howorth and Dawn and Kerry Bramley.



Waireka skipper Vance Crozier (left) and farmer Trevor Soler struggle to load a steer during Waireka's time at Pipiriki in 1988. Mr Crozier owned the craft from 1986 to 1990.

EDITORIAL . . . BY DAVID SCULLAR

Another year, another Annual and more exciting stories emerge. Each year I wonder if the bottom of the barrel is close as far as Whanganui River yarns are concerned. No way!

The year 2010 marked 70 years since the big flood of 1940. Neville Dalton has a particularly exciting remembrance, a wild and potentially fatal battle with flood waters after diving overboard from the barge he'd been trying to rescue threatened to sink.

Less hair-raising but another interesting snapshot from the past is an article in which Margaret Walford shares childhood memories of living on the riverbank at Gonville and flounder-fishing at Corliss Island.

On riverboats, it was a roller coaster year for the Waimarie; we journey nearly all the way from Whanganui to Taumarunui on new riverboat Adventurer 11; recall the Waireka and its latter day upriver forays; and document a new twist in the interesting career of the Otunui.

We chart the demise of the Wanganui Settlers' River Steamship Co when it went head to head with Alexander Hatrick and the struggle the great entrepreneur had with others who tried to carve out a business on the river.

The fabled Mangapurua Valley provides its usual fund of yarns including a focus on early settlers Alf and Sarah Tester, a tribute to a pioneer mother and visits to the Bridge to Nowhere by two plucky people.

Darrell Grace shares more of his experiences of 32 years of cruising the river. Jim Gordon canoed the river as a youngster and then almost 60 years later had another crack. The contrasting journeys make interesting reading. Wife Barbara Gordon's impressions of her maiden trip are also recorded.

MP Tariana Turia points out the

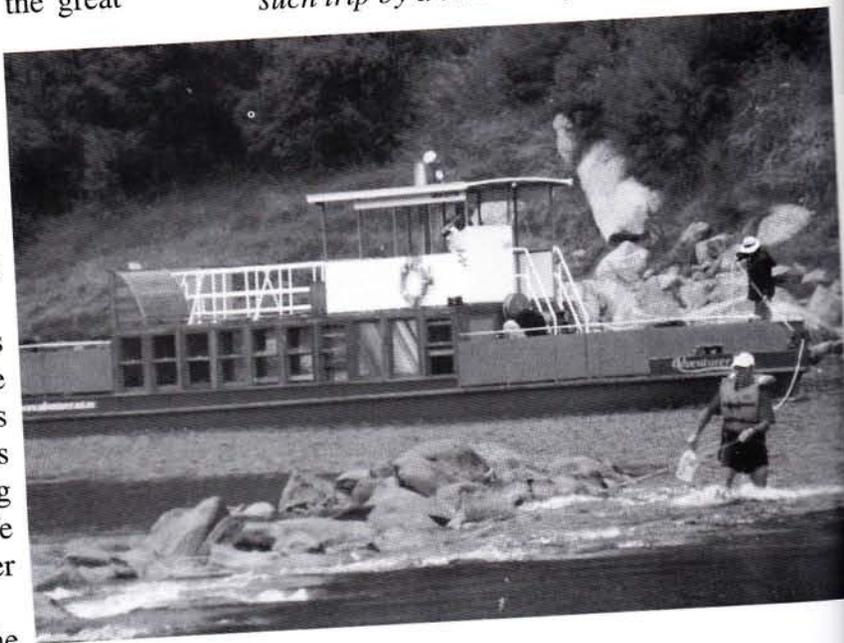
significance of the Tira Hoe Waka, the annual river pilgrimage of Whanganui Maori, former MP Jill Pettis talks about what the river means to her and a tribute is paid to the late Sir Archie Taiaroa.

Jim Parnell recalls a court case of 1903 involving the alleged illegal sale of liquor on the Manuwai. Another regular writer, Maurice Cole, provides insights into pioneer days with articles about an old water wheel and stream diversion at Kahura and the remains of a sheep dip in the Mangapurua Valley area.

Then there is the salutary tale of the men who lost their double kayaks in the middle reaches and attempted to walk out.

Contributors continue to appear and to them I say, thanks, but don't stop there, this is your Annual. As always, thanks to typist Dawn Bramley, proof readers Judith Crawley and Juliet Kojis and to Kelvin Adam at H & A Design and Print.

When Adventurer 11 sailed from Whanganui to Taumarunui in June, 2010, it was the first such trip by a riverboat for 82 years.



Friends' 2010 Executive

- Chairperson:** Pauline Walton, 49 Putiki Drive, Whanganui
Vice Chairperson: Murray Ware, 16 Jellicoe Street, Whanganui
Secretary: Dawn Bramley, 14 Ward Steet, Whanganui
Treasurer: Judith Crawley, 37a Brassey Road, Whanganui
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Committee: Gloria Barr, Alan Donald, Pam Kitson, Murray Laing, Ridgway Lythgoe, Bob McIntyre, Robert Wills

Friends' Trips in 2010

Retaruke visit: Singing, eating, drinking, stories and poems

BY PAM KITSON

Friends of the Whanganui River left the Riverboat Centre at 8am on Saturday 10 April, 2010, with Ridgway Lythgoe in charge of our coach. It is an interesting journey up the Parapara these days taking note of all the massive road works, new bridges and shortcuts.

The usual brief stop at Raetihi and then on to our morning tea sojourn under the Makatote Viaduct, where we enjoyed the beautifully cloudless sky and warm sun. Several motorists stopped to query the whereabouts of National Park and after Ridgy's advice made off back the way they had come.

We arrived at Possum Lodge with time before lunch for those inclined to spend an hour or so walking in the bush opposite along what is known as Doris' tracks. This unique building is owned by the Wanganui Tramping Club and is a couple of kilometres from Raurimu down the Kaitieke Road. Lunch on the verandah in the company of robins and tomtits was a privilege.

After arrival at Rachel and Richard Steele's Retaruke Station, where Ridgy distinguished himself once again by driving the bus over the bridge, we sorted out the sleeping arrangements to suit everyone. For the next couple of hours folk went for walks, sat on the huge new deck at the homestead and drank tea and admired the fabulous river views and the alterations to the century old Lacy home.

To everyone's amazement, Friend George Henry arrived in a snazzy little sports car with the hood down, all the way from Auckland, announcing his coming 90th birthday! What a character. We were all pleased to see him again.

Ridgy cooked his usual great meal and we all ate together with the Steele family, followed by an evening of music, singing, drinking, poetry and wonderful stories. These nights are always memorable and unforgettable.

Sunday morning brought another beautiful day. Ridgy made the porridge, of course, and Richard offered a range of activities, including a jetboat ride and trips down the Kaiwhakauka Valley to the old Depot, all of which were taken up with enthusiasm.

After our farewell and much appreciation, we crept over the bridge again and drove back to Possum Lodge for lunch. We helped Doris do a bit of a tidy up there and left for home, having an ice cream stop at Raetihi.

The 21 Friends, plus George, who stayed at Steele's all agreed that we had a marvellous weekend, a very happy time with great company.

A visit to the old Depot in the Kaiwhakauka Valley was one of the activities enjoyed by Friends on their Retaruke weekend. Photo by Pauline Walton.



Quiet AGM but bigger turn out

BY DAVID SCOULLAR

The Friends of the Whanganui River's annual general meeting at DoC in Whanganui on 30 May, 2010, was a quiet affair, as usual, but we were heartened at double the attendance of 12 of the previous year.

The highlight was an illustrated address by Hannah Rainforth, a locally-based DoC community relations ranger with a passion for Whanganui River water issues and freshwater species. Hannah said she spent a lot of time in mud as a child. As an adult, "I

went from playing in the mud to playing in the mud."

Hannah enjoys coming down the Whanganui River with the annual hikoi and her enthusiasm for the waterway and her work with DoC was obvious.

Back from a year in Australia, Pauline Walton resumed the chair from Ridgway Lythgoe, who remains on the committee. The only other change was the addition of Gloria Barr to the executive. Members were invited to offer suggestions for trips the group can run.

Summer day on River Rd – what could be better?

BY PAM KITSON

On Sunday, 21 November, 2010, a total of 27 of us left from the Riverboat Centre at 8.30am on a real summer's day for a journey through the Whanganui River country. From the top of Gentle Annie we had a superb long-distance view of the valley ahead and as the road is now sealed as far as Ranana and considerably wider, it's former tight corners and lack of passing-places are in the past.

We took in the usual interesting features, such as the oyster-shell cliffs and the new Mayor's residence, The Flying Fox, just south of Koriniti and then went on to the Kawana flour mill for morning tea. Coming back out on the riverbank north of Ranana, we looked down on Moutoa Island and across at the Tawhitinui pa site above which many of the dead from the battle are buried in the aspen grove.

Further on, the old Flower home is still visible amongst the gorse and folk were interested in a few memories of my childhood there. Arriving at Jerusalem, we went off to wander around, some going to look at Hemi's (James K Baxter) grave up the little bush walk and the church interior which people found delightful. Sister Sue greeted most of us on her way to cook lunch for a group of nuns having a retreat there. We all found shady picnic places around the grounds and enjoyed the peaceful environment while we lunched.

Then to Pipiriki where most folk wandered down to the wharf and the boat ramp. The river was low and a glorious green and coupled with the spring foliage

on the huge willows, it was easy to think back to the days when several of Hatrick's fleet would have been moored there. A couple of canoeists came paddling in to add to the interest.

Continuing to Raetihi on a much-improved highway, the obligatory icecreams were found and on an also much-improved highway returned home on the Parapara.

Many thanks to Ridgway for the driving skills and information. Thanks also to the group for allowing two South African friends from Johannesburg to take part as far as Jerusalem. They were rapt with their unexpected experience.

Friends enjoy morning tea at the Kawana flour mill at Matahiwi. Photo by Pauline Walton.



Taking stock with DoC

Alarms sound over fish deaths

Alarms sounded with the Department of Conservation and the Whanganui River Maori Trust Board in December, 2010, when high water temperatures and low flows were suspected to be killing fish life in the Whanganui River.

Hannah Rainforth of DoC expressed fears that eel, trout and many other fish species were being negatively affected by several consequences of the high temperatures. Water levels were particularly low, especially in adjoining tributaries, which meant that the inhabitable water had receded from the banks.

A trust board spokesman, Ben Potaka, said 15 longfin eels had been found dead in the water between Koriniti and Pungarehu. He said they were extremely hardy creatures but the discovery suggested some drastic changes may be occurring in the river's ecosystem.

He said a similar occurrence 20 years ago went unexplained due to the lack of scientific knowledge about eels' living habits.

MANGAPURUA CYCLE TRAIL PROMOTED

DoC is billing the new Mangapurua Valley cycle trail as an exciting experience. The valley is described as the adventurous section of the Ruapehu/Whanganui Trails – Nga Ara Tuhono.

Although rugged in places, the 36km Ruatiti Rd – Mangapurua leg exists as a multi-day or a 4-6 hour mountain bike ride – experienced riders will do it quicker – through to the Whanganui River, crossing the Bridge to Nowhere on the way.

Upgrading from Ruatiti Rd to the river for cyclists in 2010 cost \$400,000. Cyclists will eventually be able to also enjoy the Kaiwhakauka section from Whakahoro to the Mangapurua trig. About \$300,000 is being spent upgrading this track in the summer of 2010-11.

WHANGANUI BOUNDARIES CHANGE

Three of the North Island's four national parks, including Whanganui National Park, are contained in DoC's new Whanganui conservancy. The boundaries of the lower North Island conservancies have been altered to best fit communities of interest, according to Whanganui conservator Damian Coutts.

Hawke's Bay and Wellington conservancies were recently combined, and the Whanganui-Taranaki conservancy is now combined with the Taupo-Tongariro conservancy to create a new Tongariro-Whanganui-Taranaki conservancy. Its new boundaries took effect on December 1, 2010.

Mr Coutts has been appointed conservator of the Tongariro-Whanganui-Taranaki conservancy, effective from July, 2011.

NEW SIGNS ON RIVER

DoC has been aware for some time that signage along the Whanganui River is no longer adequate or up to scratch. In a response, it plans to place a series of new signs at significant and historic places on the river and in the Mangapurua Valley. These are scheduled to be placed from 2011.

The Friends of the Whanganui River is sponsoring one of these signs – at the Bridge to Nowhere. A note on the sign says: "These panels were funded partly by the Friends of the Whanganui River from the estate of the late Arthur P Bates, a prominent local historian and author."

The Friends' executive decided some years ago to give \$5000 from the legacy left to our group by Arthur towards such signage. It suggested to DoC that the Bridge to Nowhere would be a good place for our contribution since it was Arthur's research that played a big part in leading to its current prominence.

NEW HUT TRAMPER DRAWCARD

DoC is optimistic that use of the Matemateaonga Track, which runs from eastern Taranaki to the Whanganui River, will increase following the opening in 2010 of a new hut, planning for which began six years earlier.

Built by Taranaki-based contractors over two months at a cost of \$160,000 on the site of an existing shelter, the 10-bed Ngapurua hut is fully-insulated and double-glazed.

As it is three-and-a-half hours' walk from the river and halfway between the Pouri and Puketotara huts, it meets DoC policy of maintaining a network with huts no longer than four hours' walk apart.

The new Ngapurua hut on Whanganui National Park's Matemateaonga Track will probably be the only new hut in the Whanganui area for a long time.



Bikes on the Bridge to Nowhere are likely to be a common sight from now on with the upgrade of the Ruatiti Rd – Mangapurua track to the river.



Whanganui Riverboat Centre news

Waimarie hits snag but sails on

BY DAVID SCOULLAR

PS Waimarie sailed into 2010 and the 10th anniversary of its return to service on a wave of euphoria. In February came another landmark, the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Whanganui Riverboat Restoration and Navigation Trust formed to salvage and restore Waimarie and to establish the Whanganui Riverboat Centre Museum.

But storm clouds were gathering on the horizon. In March, behind closed doors, the two trusts which run the vessel appealed to the Wanganui District Council for financial help. The bombshell came in June when the public learned that Waimarie's coffers were empty, it had stopped sailing and could be lost to the community unless it received a serious monetary input.

It emerged that the vessel had been operating at a loss for years and neither of the trusts had any money left. As well, passenger numbers had declined since 2006, dropping 40 percent between 2006 and 2010. For the past two years they had remained steady at about 9000 visitors a year.

The bottom line was that about \$70,000 was needed for the following four months to ensure continued operation in the upcoming summer season. While Waimarie has operated since 2000 with no council funding except for a small amount for marketing, councillors responded by agreeing to a \$70,000 grant, but with conditions.

These included drawing up a business and marketing plan and setting up a new transitional trust tasked to see Waimarie is effectively marketed and returned to financially viable operation. Added financial help came from Powerco Wanganui Trust and the Whanganui Community Trust.

In August the

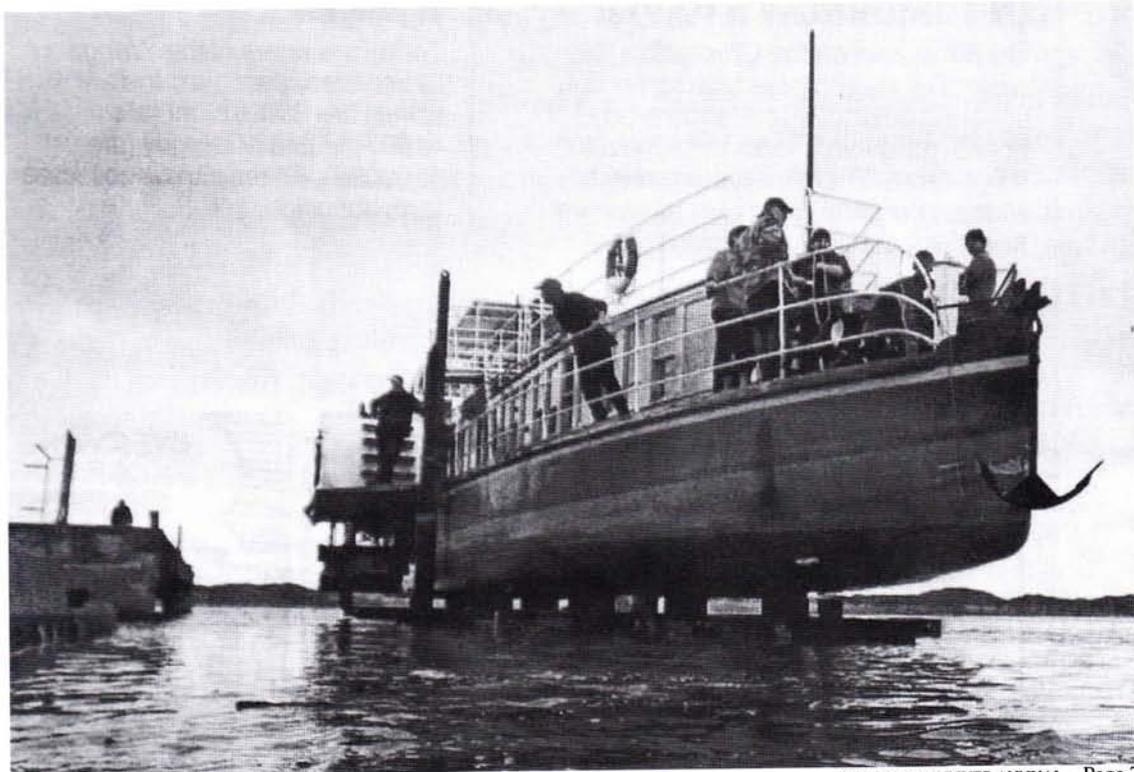
vessel went on the Q-West slipway for its 10-year survey which was estimated to cost \$193,000, but came in under budget. The following month, having passed with flying colours, Waimarie was back to home berth and running trips again.

Fares have been lowered and Waimarie no longer stops at Upokongaro because of a perceived lack of attractions there. However, locals have banded together to come up with more so they can get the stopover to resume.

Other issues are that the boat only makes money for six months of the year. And more fundamentally, the big question is: Will it ever be financially self-sufficient? Meanwhile, Whanganui people have been warned that they must use the boat if they want to keep it, and everyone, including the Friends of the Whanganui River who have offered their support throughout, hopes for a happier year in 2011.

On a more upbeat note, in February a DVD titled *Return to the River – the Story of PS Waimarie*, a tribute to cameraman the late Mac Brechmanis, was presented to the Riverboat Centre. It shows the salvage of Waimarie from the river in 1993 and is said to show some remarkable footage.

Waimarie is winched up the slipway for its 10-year survey in August. Wanganui Chronicle photo.



PEOPLE AND PLACES - NEWS BRIEFS



Activity at park

For 11 years, apart from the stormy February of 2004, the Rotary Club of Wanganui Daybreak has spent a weekend undertaking maintenance or new construction projects at Hipango Park. In 2010, while installing a 48sq m concrete floor at the park's hut, Rotarians were delighted to see for the first time in over 30 years two commercial river vessels tied up at the park.

Left: MV Wairua and Adventurer 11 share the wharf at Hipango Park.

Dangerous river mouth

The Whanganui River mouth area is one of the most dangerous coastal areas in the country, according to Whanganui-based coastal hazards expert, Dr Roger Shand, who says he's appalled by the complete lack of warning signs in the area. He commented in January, 2010, following the rescue of a young boy caught in a rip near the North Mole.

Minister tours river sites

The Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations, Chris Finlayson, travelled down the Whanganui River in January, 2010, to see places related to the Whanganui iwi claims. He took the river trip from Taumarunui to Pipiriki by jetboat, accompanied by Whanganui iwi leader Sir Archie Tairaro and chief Crown negotiator on the river claim, John Wood.

Bridge swim centennial

Sixty swimmers took part in the centennial Bridge to Bridge race in perfect conditions in Whanganui in February, 2010, with the oldest aged 70. Winner of the 3km event in 36m 15s was Casey Glover, 23, of Wellington, who is keen to break the English Channel record. The race ran downstream from the Collegiate rowing shed to the Union Boat Club.

Right: Old swimming mates reflect on their Bridge to Bridge performances.



River calendar released

Horizons Regional Council released a new calendar to help river users co-ordinate their events. The calendar is a direct response to suggestions made by the public as part of the council's river safety management review and allows river users to post the time, date and location of their events and check when other events are happening.

Rescue follows lost hat

A Palmerston North man's attempt to retrieve his hat from the bank of the river near Jerusalem ended in his rescue by emergency services on Good Friday, 2010. John Scurr, 57, fell over the side of the bank next to the Mangaporau Trust bridge and broke a rib. Fire Service and St John Ambulance personnel and a helicopter were involved in his rescue.

River foam of no concern

Yellowish foam blown up the river from its mouth in April, 2010, was probably the natural result of silt-laden river mingling with the sea, a Horizons spokesperson said. The mingling of salt and fresh water, under certain weather conditions, could see the ochre-coloured foam blown upriver as far as the Whanganui Bridge, but was not a cause for concern.

Local history uncovered

A midden found on the river bank at Putiki during roadworks was declared in April, 2010, to be one of the most significant archaeological finds to be made in Whanganui, with items up to 600 years old found in the bottom layer. Items ranged from fish hooks made of moa bone from the 15th century to early road fill from the mid-19th century.

River bond outlined

Members of the Whanganui iwi spoke about their special relationship and concerns around their treaty with a visiting UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous People in July, 2010. Prof James Anaya visited Putiki Marae, where he heard about the claim, the longest-running Waitangi Tribunal claim.

More of road sealed

With two seasons left to complete the project to seal the entire Whanganui River Road, it is expected

most of the link between Pipiriki and Jerusalem will be completed in the 2010-11 season and the remainder in the following season. By July, 2010, the road had been sealed to Ranana and the special targeted section of Morikau Rd had also been sealed.

Public toilets scrutinised

Five possible sites have been suggested for public toilets on the Whanganui River Rd to provide for tourists, especially cyclists when the national cycleway links to Pipiriki, the TamaUpoko Link meeting was told in July, 2010. A number of groups and funders will need to be involved. It was noted that water supplies will also need to be considered.

Patience for cure

The river's main problem is muddy run-off from its erodible soils, according to Horizons Regional Council which says it can be nursed back to full health, though it will take at least 10 years of patience and persistence. The river also has ultraviolet-treated sewage added at Taumarunui. The treatment kills bacteria but doesn't prevent the addition of extra nutrients.

Old building, new use

The Whanganui River Institute has leased the original Hatrick and Co office and wants to fill it with a coalition of river users. Until 1958 the riverside building, built in the 1890s, housed Alexander Hatrick's riverboat business, including crew sleeping quarters and a storage shed. Latterly, it has been the base for TS Calliope, the city's sea cadet unit.

Documentary on photos

A record of how photos by William Partington of Whanganui River people were discovered, put up for auction but eventually secured by the local iwi was the subject of a documentary, *I Am the River*, on Maori TV in September, 2010. Partington lived and worked in Whanganui from 1892 - 1908. His photos were displayed at Whanganui Regional Museum in 2008-9.

Awa sculpture staying



A sculpture depicting *From the Mountains to the Sea* missed selection in a public vote among four sculptures in Whanganui in September, 2010, but will stay in Whanganui. It represents the awa, the source of the awa and the significance of water-borne travel for the two cultures. Overall it represents the many generations of people that lived on or near the river.

Left: *From the Mountains to the Sea* sculpture by Mikel Durel Browne, Kerry McDonnell and Max Cody.

Conservation Field Day

Whakahoro's Blue Duck Station hosted its annual Conservation Field Day in October, 2010. Farmers, business people, tourism operators and others interested in conservation attended to re-acquaint themselves with nature, hear from guest speakers and swap ideas on how tourism, farming and conservation can work together.

Encounter at roundabout

A revamp at the Putiki roundabout, Whanganui's southern entrance, featured a sculpture, called *Encounter*. It represents a meeting between the first people (tangata whenua) and visitors (manuhiri). One of the figures carries the "Takarangi spiral" in perforated metal, representing Putiki Maori. Other landscaping incorporates poles reflecting the three river hapu.

Waka Ama races

Waka Ama racing took place on the river from October to December, 2010. The twilight tournament was the brainchild of the Te Ringa Miti Tai Heke Waka Ama Club to raise funds to enable it to compete in the national championships at Lake Karapiro and to prepare crews for participation in the 2011 Masters Games in Whanganui.



Above: A Waka Ama team in action on the Whanganui River.



River woman gets top job

A Whanganui River woman, Annette Main, who runs the Flying Fox at Koriniti, made history in October, 2010, when she was elected as the first female mayor of Whanganui. Annette, who initiated the popular Whanganui River Traders Market, comes to the mayoralty following several terms on the Horizons Regional Council.

Left: Annette Main of Koriniti is Whanganui's first female mayor.

Obituaries

Sir Archie: Tireless fighter, sentinel, statesman

Tributes paid to his empathy, honesty, dignity, humour.

BY DAVID SCOULLAR

Born on the banks of the Whanganui River at Tawata, just upstream from Whakahoro, Sir Archie Tairaroa has returned home. He died on September 21, 2010, aged 73.

A leading figure in Maoridom, Sir Archie was the long-serving chairman of the Whanganui River Maori Trust Board. He lived in Taumarunui and was widely-known for his work on iwi claims over the river and for advancing the growth and development of the river's tribes.

A co-convenor of the Maori Congress and a trusted adviser of Dame Te Atairangikahu, the late Maori Queen, he was an internationally recognised figure for his work protecting indigenous people's rights and with the World Council of Whalers. Sir Archie had served on the board of the Treaty of Waitangi Fisheries Commission, Te Ohu Kaimoana, since 1993.

In the past decade he undertook the role of negotiator and peacemaker between the Crown and wider Maoridom on issues affecting all New Zealand. Recogni-



During his lengthy public service, Sir Archie Tairaroa tackled complex challenges.

tion of many contributions led to being knighted in 2009.

The many tributes to Sir Archie spoke of his empathy for all people, his honesty, dignity and humour. Prime Minister John Key said his leadership was inspirational and Maori Party co-leader Pita Sharples said he tackled complex Maori challenges including fisheries struggles and broadcasting litigation.

The Whanganui River lost its oldest woman, Te Manawanui Pauro, in September, 2010. She was 103. Also known as Nanny Nui and Auntie Lucy, she died peacefully at home in Kaiwhaiki and was buried at Kaiwhaiki's urupa.

Mrs Pauro's stories of early life on the river were recorded in a documentary by Kiritahi Takiari, and she was one of those who signed the Pakaitore/Moutoa Gardens agreement with the Crown and the Whanganui District Council.

Still spry in her 100th year, she was among the kuia dancing on stage at the close of the Whanganui iwi's Te Awa Tupua exhibition at Te Papa in 2006.

Conservation Department Whanganui area manager Nic Peat said Sir Archie worked with the department many times on a wide variety of projects and brought about considerable change in the management of the Whanganui National Park to better reflect its importance to Whanganui iwi, its cultural values and its links to the awa.

The Whanganui River Maori Trust Board's statement following the death said: "The waters of Whanganui churn with anguish at the passing of its sentinel and elder statesman ... your tireless fight for the river was not in vain, your people will carry on your passing and determination for Te Awanui-a-Rua."

At the invitation of King Tuheitia, Sir Archie lay in state at Turangawaewae Marae at Ngaruawahia, moving later to Ngapuwaiwaha Marae at Taumarunui where his three tribes, Ngati Tuwharetoa, Ngati Maniapoto and Whanganui, lamented his passing. He was buried in the Poumaanu Urupa at Tawata.

Kaiwhaiki kuia river's oldest woman