



# DESPATCHES

*Newsletter of the Queen's Redoubt Trust*

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## CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

It has taken longer and cost more than we anticipated but our new visitor centre building looks great and is nearly ready for fitting out. The painting & other finishing chores we had to do (before the building could be signed off by the Council and we can admit the public) have been completed and the carpet will be laid shortly. But now we have an empty shell which we have to 'fit-out'. There are two parts to this exercise- designing and creating innovative displays and interpretation, and fitting out our work & research room, which will also incorporate a toilet accessible to the public from the display area.

### Queen's Redoubt website upgraded

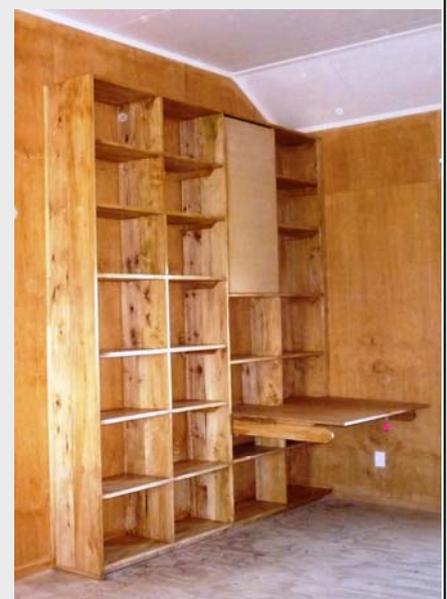
Have you looked at our website recently? If not then perhaps you should. It will be updated every 6 months or so. New sections have been added and include newsletters, which will be posted 6 months after publication and a section on the activities of the Friends of Queen's Redoubt. Old sections which have been updated include the draft time table and some photographs have been added. The next update will probably be later this month.

From the outset our intention has been to tell the whole story of the NZ Wars, the reasons behind the many different confrontations between Maori and colonial forces between 1842 and 1872 and their ongoing ramifications. We want to do this in an engaging and educational way and have sought advice from the Te Papa Museum Advisory Service (Sally August) and also contracted a company which specialises in interpretation- Snapper Graphics- about an overall display concept. Once we agree on the concept and displays we will seek a grant(s) to undertake the necessary construction work, which may be staged, depending on the success of funding bids. The work room will, as the name suggests, be our 'work space' and meeting room, but most significantly will house our small but growing research library and be used for artefact curation and storage. To this end we have been fitting it out with a sink unit, cupboards and shelving and intend to purchase a computer and printer soon.

The Trust is hopeful the visitor centre will help to 'advertise the site' and the stories behind it and encourage school groups and

other visitors, as well as more local residents to become involved. The latter are particularly important because we will need a roster to ensure the building is open during designated periods as well as virtually open on demand for school groups etc. While all this has been going on we have steadily been accumulating 'information about Queen's Redoubt' which we will use as the basis of a published "History of Queen's Redoubt". So we have an exciting period to look forward to as our display concept is developed and implemented. Once we have some displays in place there will be 'something to see' and we will organise a grand opening.

Neville Ritchie



**Library and study area in corner of workroom**

STAGES IN CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDING

(From left –TOP TO BOTTOM then right -TOP TO BOTTOM)

At 15 August 2014

At 24 August

At 19 September

At 26 September  
Road

View from Great South

At 7 October Interior of display room

At 30 October First Trust meeting in new building (From left Les Vuletich, Paul Bolton, Rae Ross, Hugh Ross, Neville Ritchie) [Ian Barton photographer]

At 2 June 2015 Interior of display room, yet to be carpeted.



# Friends of Queen's Redoubt

Early in 2013 the Trust resolved to formally set up a group to be known as the "Friends of Queen's Redoubt". A membership database is being set up and anyone with an interest in the work of the Trust is invited to join.

Current membership fees are \$20 for individuals and \$30 for families. We are currently reviewing membership grades for organizations and when these are known it will be announced in the newsletter. At present it is suggested that any organizations that wish to join, register at the same rate (\$30) as Family members.

Please post a completed application form with a cheque for the appropriate amount to:

**I Barton, 40 Isabella Drive, Pukekohe 2120**

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

**Given Name:**

**Surname:**

**Address:**

**Telephone:**

**Email address:**

**Membership Category:**

<b>Individual</b> \$20	<b>Family</b> \$30	<b>Organization</b> \$30
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## COMING EVENT

The Official opening of the Visitor Centre may be delayed until at least some of the displays are in place. The soonest it is likely to be is the end of 2015

## DETAILS OF THE BUILDING PROCESS

As someone once said, "Good things take time"; that has been true of the Trust's plan to erect an interim Visitor Centre and work room at the redoubt!

The saga began when we discovered in November 2012, that money could be available from a local Trust which was being liquidated and decided to apply for some of this. Since we did not have sufficient funds of our own to complete the job, we also applied to several other funding organizations. From November 2012 it took 17 months to secure all the funding required.

Commencing in February 2013 and concurrent with the funding search, was the design of the building and the procurement of a building consent. Design of the building, based on a typical barracks buildings of the time, was undertaken by Dave Pearson's (one of our Trustees) architectural firm, Dave Pearson Architects Ltd, who specialize in heritage architecture.

In September we signed a contract with Harrison Lane to erect the building but just after this the Waikato District Council indicated that they would also require a Resource Consent. Because the local Iwi, Ngati Tamaoho had some concerns with this we put the process on hold until these could be resolved. Several meetings with the Ngati Tamaoho Trust followed and we were able to meet their concerns. One of the chief of these was the use of the term 'barracks' to describe the building; perhaps a minor point to us but provocative to people whose lands had been invaded 150 years ago. So the building is now referred to as a Visitor Centre, which is of course to be its prime use.

In July 2014 the consent process was re-activated and on 8 August the building consent was issued. Fortunately Harrison Lane were able to begin work almost at once and the rapid progress can be seen in a series of photographs on page 2. Building was complete by the end of October, allowing the Trust to have it's first meeting in the new workroom on 30 October 2014. From then until now painting and the installation of furniture has kept the Trust busy; the last major job to be the fitting of floor covering at the end of this month. The final major job will

be the installation of a toilet in the building which will be connected to the new Pokeno sewerage scheme as soon as the Council gets it operational.

We have already consulted with the firm Snapper Graphics and asked them to propose the layout and contents of the part of the building that will be open to visitors; the objective being to use the costings they give us to apply for funding to do the work. For several years we have been collecting books and documents relating to the Redoubt. It is proposed to lodge these on the shelves and cupboards built for the purpose in a corner of the workroom. (see photo pg 1) Once in place these will be available for use by anyone interested in research on this period of New Zealand's history.

### Funding

We gratefully acknowledge the following grants:

ASB Trust	\$60,000.00
Primary focus Trust	\$14, 714. 53
Southern Trust	\$10, 000.00
Transpower Community Care Fund	\$11, 326. 00
<b>Total grants</b>	<b>\$96, 041.53</b>
Queen's Redoubt Trust funds	<u>\$46, 713. 75</u>
	<b>\$142,755.28 (Excl. GST)</b>

### Costs to June 2015:

WDC Consents	\$5,578. 77
Architects charges	\$5,763. 23
Geotech Reports (stormwater)	\$3,306. 35
Fire report	\$1,380. 00
Wall excavation	\$1,300. 00
Harrison Lane (includes subcontractors)	\$136, 618. 21
Paint	\$2,465. 22
Timber /fittings for shelving	\$ 848. 49
Electricity connection etc	\$5, 284.10
<u>Fire protection equipment</u>	<u>\$1, 627.25</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$164,168.62 (Incl. GST)</b>

**The Trust always needs more active members, so please contact Ian Barton:- 09 239 2049, if you have an interest in the project.**

**CONTACT DETAILS**

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**PURPOSE OF THE TRUST**

The Queen's Redoubt Trust was established in February 1999 with the intention of acquiring this nationally significant historic place and ensuring its protection; with the long term vision to restore and develop the site into a nationally recognised visitor attraction and education centre. In February 2001 the Trust completed the first major phase of the project, raising the funds to acquire the property in Pokeno which contains much of the site of the Queen's Redoubt.

**OBJECTIVES of the TRUST**

1. To acquire the Queen's Redoubt site at Pokeno to preserve it for future generations.
2. To make Queen's Redoubt accessible to the public by development and interpretation of the site as appropriate.
3. To restore the massive earthwork 'ditch and bank' walls of the fort (they were leveled after the war) as a key interpretive feature.
4. To promote education about the Queen's Redoubt and all the New Zealand Wars between Maori and European.
5. To establish a premier visitor and educational facility on the Queen's Redoubt site. This will be carried out in conjunction with an archaeological excavation programme to maximise knowledge of the site for future exhibition and interpretation purposes, and to promote public participation in the project. At the same time, historical research will continue into Queen's Redoubt itself, the Pokeno District, the Waikato Campaign of 1863-64 and the New Zealand Wars as a whole.

**VISITOR CENTRE and NEW FENCE (2 June 2015)**