



Meeting 27 May 2019

Annie McKenzie – Tylee Cottage Artist in Residence (Off site meeting)

Host: Shirley McDouall

Thanks: Tom Carter

Top Table: Dick Mitchell

Sergeant: *Bob Smith*

Meeting 3 June 2019

Queen’s Birthday

No Meeting today

Meeting 10 June 2019

Helen Craig – Whanganui Heritage Buildings and Whanganui Heritage Trust

Host: Louise Follett

Thanks: John Wilson

Top Table: Henry Ngapo

Sergeant:..*Dennis Brown*

Apologies:

To Peter Smith please:

smith.farm@actrix.co.nz

Phone: 342 5812

Attendance at Last Meeting:

(20 May 2019)

Present -24

Apologies: - 3

Silent : -14

41

Men’s Care Bags

Donations for Men’s Care Bags to Henry Ngapo. Items may be left at the meeting.

DONALD TROTT OPERA SCHOOL, 25TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Donald Trott, ONZM, loves Whanganui. It is his home, despite a few forays to Wellington, Auckland and further afield, for work. His interests, when younger, included cricket, singing, choral work. He has taken an active role in AmDram, Birth Right, Boys Brigade among others.

While working in Auckland in the finance industry, he was able to sing with the Auckland Opera Co. He felt that Auckland needed a professional Opera Company for the Aotea Centre, and its first opera was performed in 1990. He later becoming its chairman, stepping down in 1994 to establish the New Zealand Opera School. He returned to Whanganui to live in 2016.

Donald is passionate about giving budding singers exposure to international professional coaches. Many of the school alumni are now well known and perform in opera companies around the world. He had a presentation of *Opera and Aroha on the River*. Along with introducing the returning and new singers, he gave us an in-depth breakdown of what was involved in staging the performance. Dedication and perseverance is not only on the part of the singers!! Donald felt that Whanganui was the right place to set up the school as it could provide the venue, Whanganui Collegiate School, a performance venue, the Royal Opera House as well as having the support of the community. Whanganui Opera Week (WOW) is full on for the singers – tiring, but rewarding: it also involves a dedicated group of volunteers, which helps to keep the cost affordable for the students.

One of the first alumni, Simon O’Neil, will be performing in the Royal Opera House, Whanganui on Friday, 12 July.

The New Zealand Opera School belongs to Whanganui – let’s keep it that way! Heartfelt thanks, Donald.

Off site meeting Tylee Cottage Monday 27 May

The meeting will be held at the Tylee Cottage in Bell Street and after lunch and a short address by Annie members will be able to see Annie at work at her loom and inspect the weaving. It will also give everyone a chance to inspect the Cottage and the garden. Lunch will be at the usual time, finger food with tea and coffee, and the meeting cost will be the normal \$16.00 payable to John Henderson at the meeting.

Changeover

Monday 24 June, 6 pm at the Grand Hotel
Cost and more details later.

Potential New Member

Faith McLachlan

Remember to Apologise if you are unable to attend lunch

Youth Service Month