

The Building of the Clubhouse

Bay of Islands Yacht Club- part 3



**The first
Clubhouse was
donated by the
Burgess family
and was located
in the area where
our Slipway shed
now sits.**

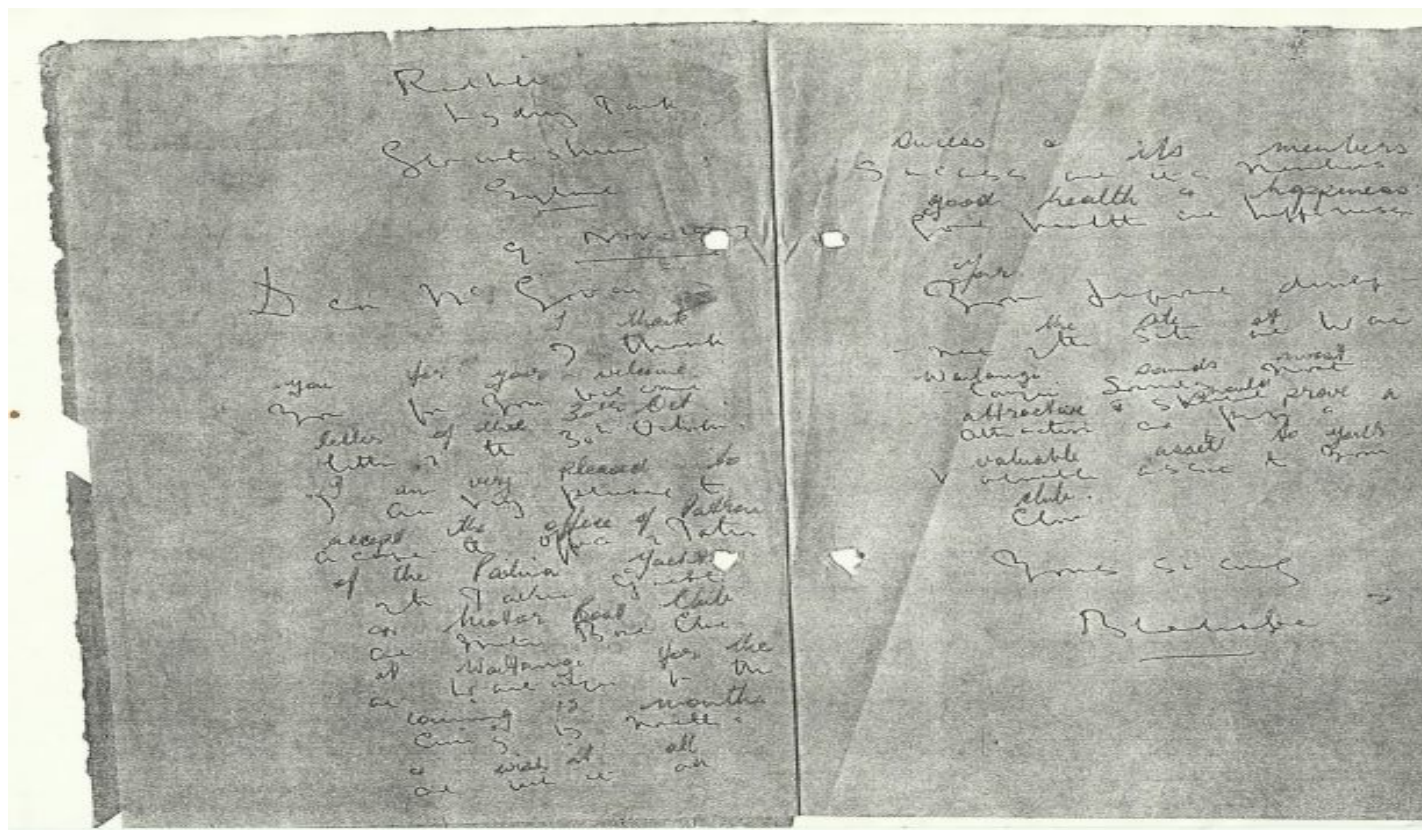
September 1952 Graeme Dixon- donated Pine for building purposes.

1953 Electricity was installed at Waitangi and the District architect unofficially disapproved of plans of building, but the Club decided to go ahead.

1954 the proposed building plans for the Clubhouse were a plain building 60 ft X 30 ft with a 10 ft stud on rib wall with gable roof, sliding doors one end and large sliding doors in the middle.

February 1956 the Club has permission to take over the area at Waitangi pending the signing of the lease.

Copy of the original letter from Lord Bledisloe



Letter from Lord Bledisloe our Patron

9 November 1957

Dear Mr McGowan,

I thank you for your welcome letter of the 30th October. I am very pleased to accept the office of Patron of the Paihia Yacht & Motor Boat Club at Waitangi for the coming 12 months and wish it all success and its members good health and happiness.

Your proposed development of the site at Waitangi sounds most attractive and should provide a valuable asset to your Club.

Yours sincerely,

Bledisloe

October 1958 the Club House plans were drawn up to present to the Trust. Discussions were held on raising funds for this.

Mr Burgess donated twenty pounds towards the starting box and flag.

Then the next entry was-

Club House plans delayed.

November 1958 Mr Burgess informs the Club of the old “Kaikohe Library” being for sale and at a reasonable rate. The building was checked over by builder, Mr Burgess, and was found to be in sound condition. It was estimated that with voluntary labour, the reconstruction would cost less than One hundred pounds.

February 1959 plans were approved by the trust and power was to be installed on our site.

May 1959 the Club house was set to go ahead.

Memories from Harry Hudson

I was doing my building apprenticeship with Snow Burgess in Kaikohe.

He got a contract to build a two storey house for a doctor in Kaikohe. The section he bought had the first Kaikohe library building on it, which Snow has to shift, so it was offered to the Yacht Club to purchase.

The roof was removed and replaced with a flat roof that was the beginnings of the Clubhouse.

The Kaikohe Library was purchased and brought over to Waitangi and situated near the back fence. Builder Snow Burgess, Captain Dillmer, Dick McIlvride, Harry Hudson and other locals, gave voluntary time to finishing this building , and even today the original part of the club can be seen in the size of the floor boards in the area near the bar.



October 1959 “The terrace having been poured by about 20 keen club members in the pouring rain a few weekends ago has offset our Clubhouse nicely, and when the outside has been painted and the interior finished it should look a real picture.”



February 1960- “The Clubhouse, erected over the winter months, is completely closed in with the front almost entirely in glass. Before Christmas our final working bee was held to finish the kitchen off and paint the exterior.

March 1960- The Clubhouse is noted to have indeed proved to be a great asset for the social life of the club.

“The opening of the Clubhouse was an outstanding success and thoroughly enjoyed by all members and friends alike”

“Ted Homewood reckons we should have another one-I think this is because he doesn’t remember what the last one was like. I have been meaning to ask him if this is the case, but I can’t remember if he was there.....

Brian Bluck

The Winter of 1962 saw great progress on the interior of the Clubhouse.

- Ted Homewood and Dick McIlvride working at night on the Clubhouse, putting in seats etc.**
- Bamboo Dado almost completed. Jim White remembers going to Kerikeri to split bamboo for this purpose.**
- Dick McIlvride finished off Kitchen unit.**

Right: Past Commodores at the Bay of Islands Yacht Club's recent 50th Jubilee, from left: Graeme Dixon, Harry Hudson, John Sharp, Ted Homewood, Blue Burgess, Ron Hope-Lewis, Chris Lambert, Graham Valder (current at the time) and David Hope-Lewis.



1963 the interior of the Club having been lined with blonded veneer and Bamboo. It attracted favourable comments from all quarters.



1965 The question was posed-“If you were asked about us building a bigger and better Clubhouse with toilets, showers, starting box, and floor space out on the seaward edge of our property, your reply would probably be that it would be nice to have, but do we really need it, and can we afford it?

With the toilets at the club being shamefully primitive and inadequate, it was proposed that new ones be designed in concrete-block, with septic tanks and showers. The next question being where should they be sited? The obvious answer is beside the Clubhouse, but it was noted that the Clubhouse itself was in the wrong site.

It was agreed that the Clubhouse needed to be moved to the more prominent position, but that position would also require something more elaborate to pass The Trust's architect- so something more elaborate was produced. Some clever planning envisaged the present building out on the new site with a bit more added, toilets and showers built in.

The estimate cost to do the project was 2000 pounds.

To do this, funds were raised through two types of debenture. The “A” type was for Five pounds for 5 years, and were non interest bearing. The “B” type was for Fifty Pounds and was to bear interest of 5%. We still hold some of the original debentures, and it makes for interesting reading to see who actually donated. It was also noted that many people who took debentures, donated the funds back to the Club, which was very helpful.

Other changes noted...

“the advent of the Hotel has robbed us of a comfortable remoteness. By landscaping up to our boundaries, increasing traffic to the jetty, and attracting public to Waitangi, it has thrown the spotlight on our relative untidiness....”



Under the expert guidance of our Building -trade members, much has been done to the building on the new site. Special thanks must be given to Colin Harrison and his gang for seeing us over the most difficult hurdle the setting up of the roof. Also to Dave Mitchell for his work as a bricky. Future plans involve the building of a terrace along the front of the Clubhouse.



Due to the minute books covering December 1959- to December 1971 being missing, there are gaps in our story. The next section jumps ahead to 1975 and....

The Clubhouse becoming licensed as a public building.

1977 plans for the Clubhouse extension where draw up and the roof was to be replaced.

1980 metering of the Water supply to the club was started.

In 1982 it was decided to extend the Club with a major upgrade. On the 1st of July 1982 a Term Loan was obtained from BNSW for eight thousand dollars over 3 years with the interest at 17%.

August 1982 it was decided to protect the Club, and curtail indiscriminate non-members Sunday drinking. A guest book was installed, and Mr Mosby organised a pulpit, which we still have today and it works perfectly for a laptop.

1988- Golden Dolphin Production (The Rainbow Warrior) donated \$200 to the club for the use of the grounds and Clubhouse.

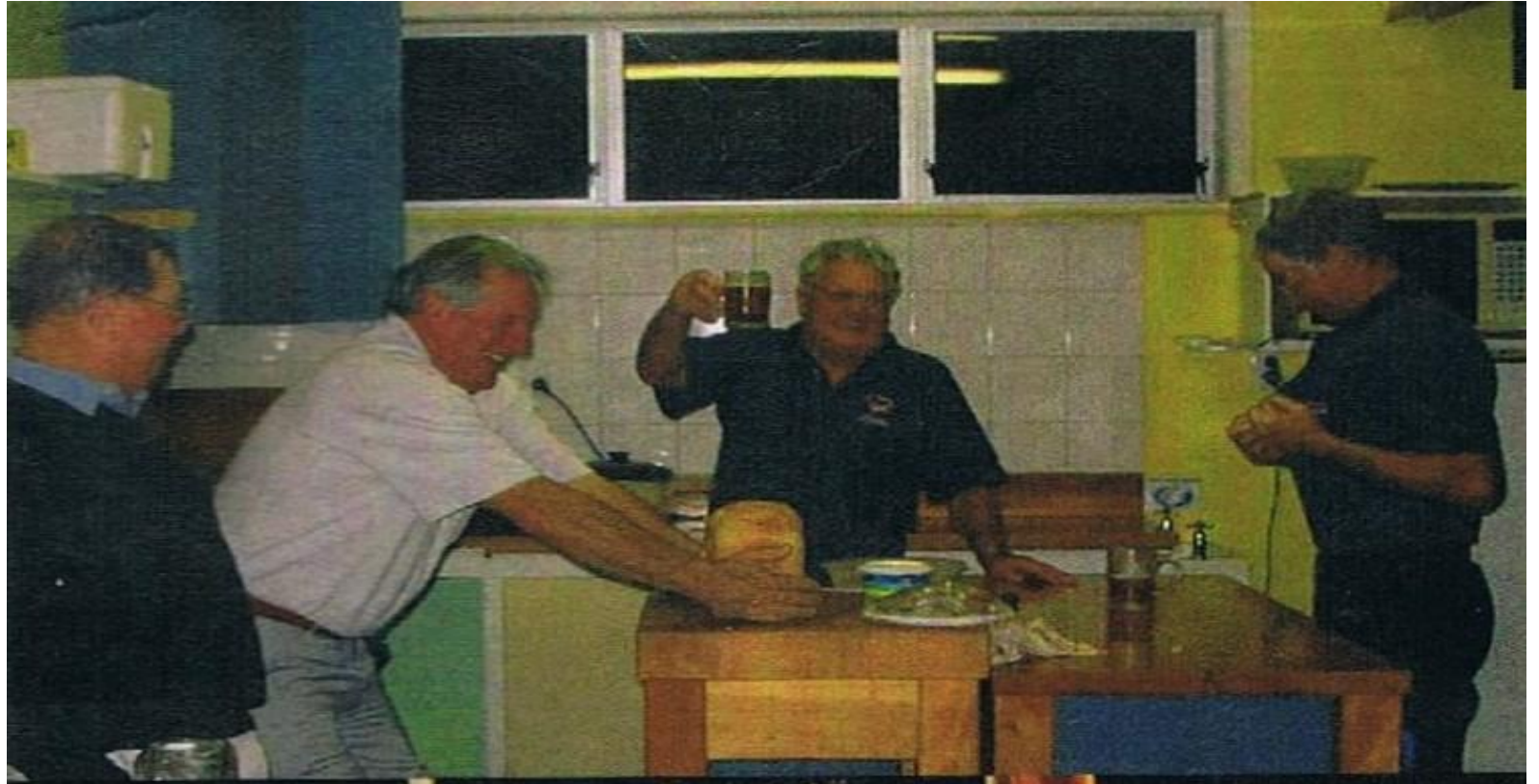
1989- the Clubhouse had undergone internal improvements, with the varnishing of the floor, the laying of carpet and the recovering of the chairs.

This same year (1989)- the Club was valued at \$205,000 and the winch shed at \$21,500- for your interest in 2021 the Club is now valued at \$965,000 and the Winch shed \$115,000.

In the year 2000, major alterations were taken with the kitchen being done by Dundee Lumber, under the supervision of Murray and Pauline Ferris. This kitchen still operates today, with a few minor updates of benches and painting to keep it up to date.



The men cook for Mother's Day



22 April 2001- Working bee was organized to paint the outside of the Clubhouse. Water Blasting at 9am on Sunday and painting afterwards. Lunch will be provided- Bar and BBQ on completion.

At the AGM 2004 the Commodore reported on the need for repairs to the ablution block and an estimate of \$90,000 was received. With the re-organising of the ablution block and it being changed to a more modest design within the footprint of the building, an estimate of \$55,000 was received. Roof repairs were also looked into at an estimate of \$20,000.

Also in 2004 there was interest from the BOI Coastguard and the possibility of them building either over the renovated toilet block, or over by the current winch shed.



May 2005 temporary repairs were being done on the leaking roof but it was acknowledged that a major restoration was required.

2005 the ablution block was completed, and the showers and kitchen were now running on gas.

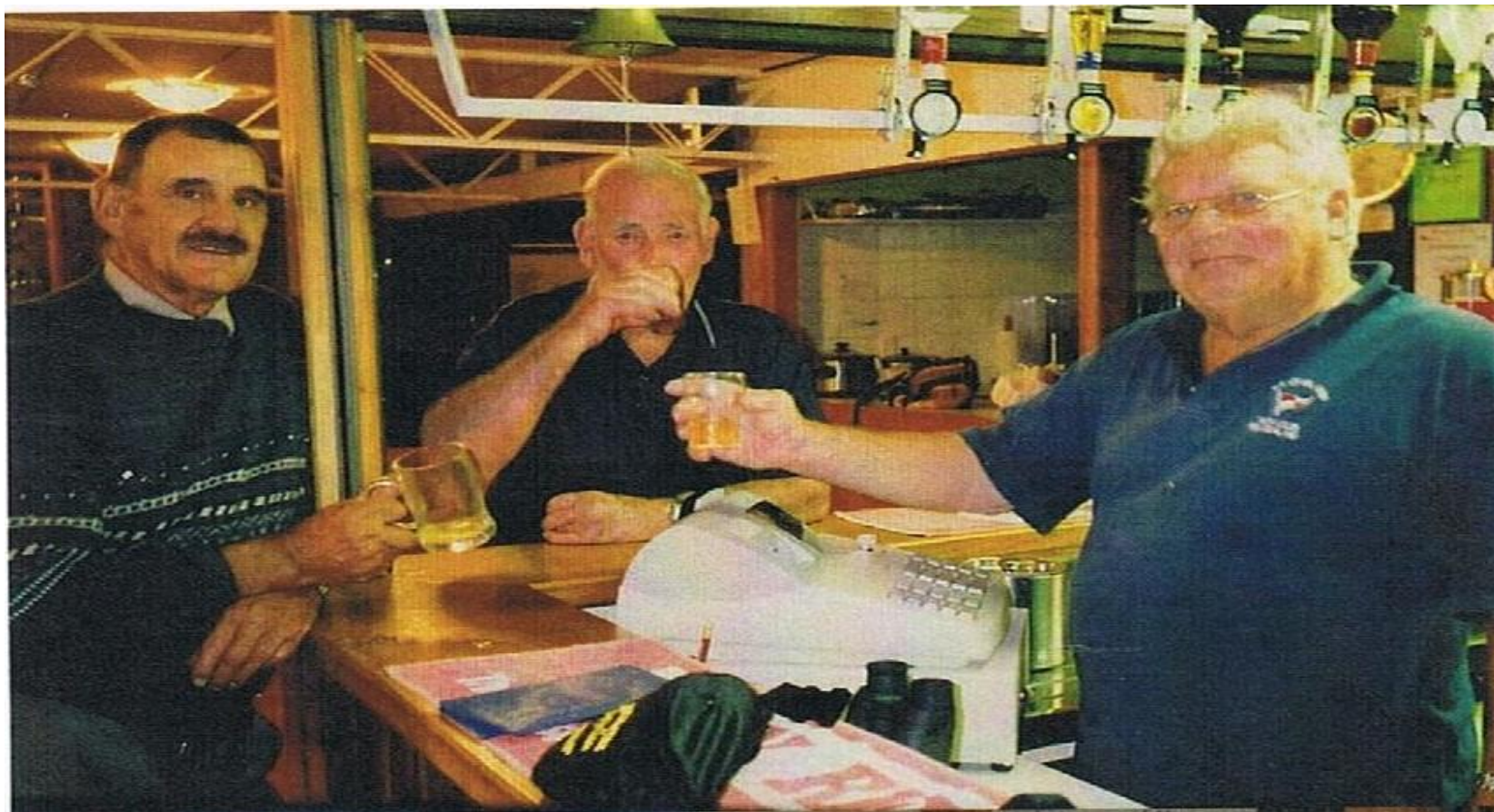
In 2006 the toilets were now being used by the Cruise Ships.

Thanks is noted to Klaus, John and David for the modernizing in the Club, they have removed some of the Bamboo and fitted new panelling. We have new lighting over the dance floor area thanks to Maurice.

Also noted is that

The Bar has played a prominent part in the social and financial side of the Club.

From the first Bar services offered by Jim White in 1961 in the form of bringing beer from Munn Wilson at Ohaeawai Hotel, to our newly renovated bar, this asset continues to be well supported by members.



David Smith, Keith Edwards, Graham Valder

David Hope-Lewis, Gavin Shuker, Harry Hudson, Dick McIlvride



2007 a Website was set up for the Club.

**Furniture was purchased in the way of the 4,
2-seater sofas which are still present here today.**

**2008/2009 the Club roof needs urgent
replacement at a cost of \$50,000**

**2009 John Candy and John Roberts painted the
inside and outside of the Club.**

Margot Roberts was now raising the money for the Roof with the Lemon Honey and other goodies. As well as with all the other amazing ideas and events she and John organized -Raffles, Medieval Dinners, games afternoons, cake stalls, Halloween Nights, Cruise ship cafes

August 2010 new carpet was installed, and a kitchen upgrade was started with a donated stainless steel bench.



August 2011 had John Candy as the project manager for the Roof replacement. Another suggested idea at this time was the adding of “Royal” to our name, and this was investigated.

**November 2011 new range hood was fitted in the kitchen
Fundraising still ongoing to benefit the roof replacement fund.**

May 2013 the leaking roof still a concern but fundraising efforts for jams and marmalade, raffles, Coin trails, games afternoons, and proceeds from the Kitchen Department for the Bridge tournament are still coming in.

2013 AGM it is noted the through fundraising, grants, and the club, it has been able to re-roof the Clubhouse with the most up to date materials and lights. A new carpet is being laid in time for the next AGM August 2014

It took us a while but we got there in the end...



**I would like to leave you with some fun
memories from a Fundraising event to raise
money for the roof**















Margot and John Roberts



Thank
you