

HAPPY 40TH BIRTHDAY, KARIAOTAH

Several days ago, I was asked if I would do a write up on the reunion. It sounded like a reasonable request until I attempted to actually put the words onto paper.

I had always thought that writing was a little bit like making a sandwich: a beginning (the bottom slice of bread,) the middle (the filling), and the end (the top slice of bread).

My dilemma was how much filling to use. I had enough to feed an army – or in this case, every past, present and future guard in our club!!!

I hope that there will have been at least one highlight for every person attending the function on Saturday night; but as I am unable to contact each guest to ask for their input, I would like to share some of my own experiences.

The first has to be the impact of walking into the hall and seeing the amazingly decorated tables, the fairy lights twinkling around the walls and the clusters of balloon creations proudly showing off our club colours, along with the some of the old (some of you may prefer the I use the word ‘obsolete?!) and current life saving equipment at the front of the hall.

I know that earlier in the day we had all came away feeling very pleased with our setting-up efforts, but to return later and see it with fresh eyes, made me feel very proud of everyone and of what we had achieved.



Another highlight for me was to be able to watch old friends recognise and greet each other.



Many hadn't had the opportunity to see each other for years, as their lives had obviously moved in different directions, metaphorically and literally. We had guests from as nearby as 'up the road' to some traveling from as far as Mackay and even Perth to share this special anniversary.



Tara and a good friend from her Kapa Haka group started the formalities with a beautiful Maori welcome that left us feeling in awe of them

Jim had created a wonderful power-point presentation showing the history of the club; from it's conception to present day; including the various dwellings (and speaking purely from a female's perspective the term 'dwelling' pre1970 is being used very loosely!), the different patrols (including the orange/brown club colours), our surf sport competitors and many others who have been associated with Kariaotahi spanning the last forty years.



There were several speeches made.

Many making us laugh.

I must say the 'old guard' could teach our young ones a thing or two about getting into trouble. I have decided the secret is *not* to get caught, or learn *very* quickly how to talk your way out of it...

Some speeches were more thought-provoking than others.

Regardless of their varied content, they all had one common thread: Friendship, Loyalty and Club Spirit – these three things have proven to be an outstanding recipe in the success of our club. As long as we continue using the same or similar ingredients, we will be guaranteeing the club's future and ensuring we will be there to serve the community for many years to come.



(For continuity, procreation seems to have its advantages too...!)

We had a delicious catered dinner that would have made it impossible for anyone to have been left hungry. So much so, that there was plenty left over for the lunchtime barbeque the following day.

Sunday was an opportunity for people to celebrate who were unable to attend the night before and for others to come and reacquaint themselves with the clubhouse, share more stories and have more laughs.

Later, on Sunday afternoon, after all the guests had left, Jim and Judith were telling me that the weekend had been two years in the planning.

I am aware of only some of the things that the Coe's did behind the scenes in preparation for the reunion and I know the overall task was enormous.

So on behalf of the Kariaotahi members, Past and Present, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the amazing effort and immense amount of time you have spent in making it such a memorable occasion.

And on behalf of the Kariaotahi Board Members, thank you to everyone who was able to attend and celebrate 40 years of Surf Life Saving, Kariaotahi.

Kariaotahi
«Where the Sunsets and Life Begins»



1968 - 2008

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