

# Kaunihera | Council

## Ngā Tāpiritanga – Mēneti | Attachments – Minutes

Attachments – Minutes of a meeting of an ordinary meeting of Matamata-Piako District Council held in the Council Chambers, 35 Kenrick Street, TE AROHA on 19 Jul 2023 at 9.00am.

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**Note:** The attachments contained within this document are for consideration and should not be construed as Council policy unless and until adopted. Should Councillors require further information relating to any reports, please contact the relevant manager, Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson.



St Mark's Restoration Group has planned an event in the Te Aroha Domain for Saturday 28th October from 10am to 4pm. This is to celebrate the 97th anniversary of St Mark's church building being dedicated as a Peace Memorial on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1926. Although it is primarily to raise funds for strengthening and restoring the church building, this will be A DAY TO REMEMBER those from this area who were lost in WWI and other conflicts.

This is set to be a huge event with visitors and performers coming from out of town. The programme is designed to be entertaining for all age groups and will be a fun filled day. There will be stalls, games, music, and continuous entertainment, including a War/Peace re-enactment from the Army. There will also be a Masquerade Ball at the Te Aroha RSA in the evening. This a community event and groups from any and every organisation are being asked to participate in one way or another.

We are a small (older) group and will require help from the community. We hope the council will support us by allowing free use of the Domain. We would also like an assurance that the site of the old skating rink building will be cleaned up so as to be less unsightly and the area next to the Art Centre made usable. Following the removal of the windbreak trees, there is now damage to the grassy area by the Art Centre building and an ugly view of the back of Future Te Aroha and the back yard of the motel.

We would also like to see the berm outside St Mark's church tidied up after the tree fall several weeks ago. It is not a good look at the moment. There will be dignitaries visiting the area, so it is important for the town to have a good image.

As a tourist attraction the Domain needs to be seen at its very best on the day, and as a future tourist attraction, so does the church building. We would also be very grateful for any man (or woman) power that could volunteer to help with setting up and dismantling on the day. People will also be needed for security and safety.

For 97 years, the people of St Mark's Parish, have borne the responsibility of the upkeep of the building as a PEACE MEMORIAL, with its dedicated stained glass windows, and memorial plaques. This aspect has long been overlooked. As well as a venue for Christian Worship, the building is the home of the 300-year-old Queen Anne commissioned organ, which is itself a priceless artefact and will be a drawcard for tourists. It is time for the community to take responsibility and to share in the upkeep of this historical icon.

As a Peace Memorial, it should be utilised with the War Memorials and included in Anzac Day services and thus it would be a trio of memorials that would be unique. Perhaps if that block was re-named "Memorial Lane" for instance, it would discourage the nefarious activities that take place there at the moment.

As a Peace Memorial it commemorates the lives of those who were lost in overseas conflicts. For the survivors, it was an acknowledgement of peace being reached. Peace is the one thing that the whole world wants. Let's be the leaders, not the lookers on and celebrate this anniversary.

We have a chance to put Te Aroha further on the map as a destination. The Gone movie has gone, but there is much to see and enjoy in our town if the community lets it happen.

Support, participation and contributions towards the grandeur of the day is being requested. from by the community. Bookings for stalls will need to be made early.

If you know people who have lived in the town, or have any connection via family, these need to be contacted. Old photos to be displayed in our BUZZ corner which is aimed at people sharing memories.