

Trust's progress

We are very disappointed with your recent decision to publish articles regarding resignations from our board of two trustees without seeking either confirmation or comment from the trust board.

The tone of these articles was very negative, in particular the one on the front page of May 29. Not only was this information as supplied by a former trustee (who had been on the board nine months) factually incorrect, it was poorly researched.

We fail to understand how it could be front page news when Mr Procter had resigned more than a month before this article was published. This headline gives a perception that the Waimarie Operating Trust Board is in disarray, which is far from the truth.

Wanganui residents and business houses contribute generously to maintain our iconic vessel and this style of reporting is not appreciated by our dedicated, hardworking crew, many volunteers, and trustees.

Earlier this year we introduced a new robust financial management structure, incorporating full transparency and participation from our crew and volunteers and this strategy has produced a very happy working environment for all.

We extended our sailing season by several months and the generated cash flow has been sufficient to enable us to plan ahead with confidence for the coming year.

In June 2016, we have to undertake our 15-year refit (the first full refit) and major out-of-water marine survey.

We have to rely on outside funding and donations to help with the expected \$150,000 cost for this, therefore we do not appreciate this style of one-sided journalism.

Christine Jones
Chair, P S Waimarie
Operating Trust

Trustees: Leigh Grant, Richard Sheppard, Dion Ngatai, Ann Petherick, Allan MacGibbon.

Administration officer: Marion Johnson; Volunteer: Kerry Girdwood; Trust accountant: Stephen Lace.