



Update No. 5 from **Suffrage 125 Franklin**

It is envisaged that this celebration be diverse and inclusive with Maori, Chinese, Indian, European and all other ethnicities, rich/poor, religious/non-religious, able/disabled, old/young, women and men be involved. To engage as many people as possible I have approached schools and asked people to speak about it in any groups to which they belong.

From the ideas flowing in at the moment there seem to be 2 main activity streams forming – the first is a series of events connected to the theme of the celebration running throughout the year up to the planned main event, which is a street parade/party culminating in a “High Tea” to be held at the Town Hall on 15th September.

Various ideas are coming in and one way to include the young is to run competitions in schools and I have approached the senior schools in the area. We are open to any type of competition, Art, colouring in, debate à la 1890s, speech, drama, photography. However, I have had no responses from the schools to date and will follow up on these. If any of you have contact with teachers or school boards etc. please will you put this idea in front of them and follow it up and let me know. We will need judges and prizes for these competitions so if you have businesses or contacts with same, please will you help in procuring these. Sue Gould has offered to set up a short story competition and she will find the judges and organise the prizes.

The Historical and Heritage and Genealogy Societies are all putting forward ideas, with one group looking for existing local families who had great grandmothers who voted in the first election after winning the right to vote.

Exhibitions

I have met up with Tracy Dyett, Pukekohe Library Manager and Nansi Thompson, the Gallery Co-ordinator of Franklin The Centre. And they will be having related themed exhibitions at the same time.

If there is enough interest from the many organisations that have shown interest to date, we will hire the upstairs of The Centre and allocate a specified space (probably 3m x 3m) for each group/organisation to promote themselves and to celebrate their past leaders, or display their old types of uniforms. No selling will be allowed and there will only be a nominal charge for the space.

By having this exhibition in The Centre at the same time as the street parade it will give the parade participants who are not going on to the High Tea, something to go on to see /do.

The Parade

It has been decided that we will not have floats and so to reduce the parade time and potential safety issues, instead have people walking with banners (there will be a maximum size for the banner) to promote their interest & support. There will be space for Golf carts/ wheelchairs for less able people.

I have seen Wayne Paxton of the Road Policing team and we have altered the parade route slightly to make the job of the Police easier. A rolling block will be organised. Parade participants will initially congregate in Seddon Park (top end of King St by Professional House) turn left into King Street; -right at Town Square through to Roulston Lane; -right into Massey Ave; -finish left into Pukekohe Town Hall. (Where there is a largish space between the Library and Town Hall for people to congregate).

It would be nice to have dance groups in the parade and I have approached Counties Dance for Ceroc and the Franklin Rockers. If anyone has contacts with other dance groups (Scottish dance

group, line dancing, others?) please put the ideas to them and give me the contact details and we will write to them.

We will ask if there are Singing groups, Fitness centres, choirs or bands which can be stationed at strategic points of the parade unless they want to travel with the walkers.

At the Pukekohe Town Hall we aim to have a speaker to address the gathering. To date we have not confirmed the speaker/s so if you have any ideas of suitable speakers please let me know.

High Tea – as we are making this event diverse it has been suggested that have different parts of the Town Hall set up to provide ethnic foods (Maori/ Indian/ Chinese) and ethnic type congregating areas i.e. cushions for seating and low tables. Please let me know of any other variations of which I need to be aware. We will negotiate with any groups which desire to cater for the High Tea. Servers will be required to for the tea and any organisation who wish to do this should approach one of the committee

Funding

We have asked that organisations donate \$100 (or whatever they can afford) to BPW Franklin Inc. and with this in mind, a separate bank account at the BNZ **account Number: 02-0404-0100956-001** has been set up. There is a proviso that if the event does not go ahead, or if we get full funding and there is excess money in the account after all expenses are paid, then the donations will be refund in full or part to the organisations which donated.

Internet banking is preferred, the account is Business and Professional Women Franklin, BNZ account Number : 02-0404-0100956-001. Please code 125 with the name of the organisation or individual being the reference. If paying by cheque it should be made out to Business and Professional Women Franklin and posted to P. O. B Box 549 Pukekohe.

The Committee

I have invited Maree Dillon, who now lives in Ararimu and was involved with the original centenary celebrations in Malvern, Canterbury to come on the committee and she has agreed.

Hansa Naran, Mona Patel, Raewyn Gregory and Maree Dillon and myself met with Coral Timmins and Natia of Auckland Council to discuss how the Auckland Council could support our initiatives.

Hansa is looking at other funding opportunities such as Lotteries, Sky City Community Trust, ASB.

Communication

Would anyone be willing to design an A4 flyer so we can distribute it to the businesses, sports groups, social groups, to get them on board. I have the white Camellia image. Please let me know if you are keen.

Facebook closed group 'Kiwi Women Leading the world – Suffrage 125 (Franklin)' has been created -many people are already joined into the group. If your members are Facebook users, please ask them to request to join the group. Once in the group, please join other women (or men) to the group. Web page – see www.bpwfranklin.org.nz

There will be a short editorial in The Post next week. Please talk with your friends and colleagues about the event, everybody is enthusiastic and generous with ideas – it is super, but it would be amazing if there were more engagement from across our community.

Next Meeting

The Committee will be meeting again on April 12th at the Franklin Club at 6.30pm if anyone wishes to join us.

Issued on behalf of the Suffrage 125- Franklin Committee

By Virginia Warren 17/3/18

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