



Update No. 7 from **Suffrage 125 Franklin**

**May 2018**

It is inspiring to hear and see the enthusiasm with which this event is greeted. Everybody expresses awe at the hard work and sacrifices these women made, and are excited about honouring them. The committee has continued to speak to businesses and individuals about the parade and Expo, and all readers are asked to shout it from the roof tops. It is rewarding to hear “Yes, I have heard about it” when speaking to others in the community.

Unfortunately, despite our best efforts we have been unable to secure agreement to have flags flying along the street parade route for the week before the street parade. There was a significant amount of bureaucracy with the Auckland Council which we have been unable to navigate in the required time frame. However, we are continuing to pursue other options.

### **Event News**

In the mean time, many other aspects of the events are progressing –

- Pukekohe High School Art Dept has contacted artists throughout NZ and is collating a print from 125 artists to celebrate Suffrage 125; they are collecting 125 youth art works to make a boxed set of multi- generational voices/ expressions.
- The idea of the petition hanging down over the Stairs at Franklin The Centre is still alive and well.
- There are suggestions for putting cosies on the top of the bollards down King Street, i(t has been done before) - if anyone can remember which organisation did this or how we would go about please let Virginia know. Camellias on top of the bollards would look quite fetching!
- The Franklin Branch of the NZ Genealogists is looking for assistance to compile short biographies of local women who were on the 1893 Electoral Roll and who may have voted in the 1893 election. If any readers had female relatives in the Franklin Area who may have voted in 1893, please will you write a short story of her history and send it to sherynhull@gmail.com. If you aren't able to write something, please contact her for assistance . Some of these histories will be enlarged and displayed in libraries over the Suffrage period.

### **Sponsorship**

We are very grateful to Angie and Priyank Patel of Ray White who are very kindly sponsoring the white doves which will be released on the day. We do need more sponsorship so please ask your friends and neighbours if they know of any businesses which might like to sponsor parts of the event.

### **Communications**

The Ministry for Women, Te Minitatanga mō ngā Wāhine is coordinating the Suffrage activities and events around NZ which will mark this significant milestone, Readers can go to the web page <http://women.govt.nz/about/new-zealand-women/history/suffrage-125/symbol-suffrage-125> to see what else is happening around NZ.

Over the last few weeks businesses in Pukekohe have been visited and left flyers—it is quite hard to explain about Suffrage to business owners who have English as a second language and as a result the flyers have been translated by Google Translation into Maori, Mandarin, Punjabi, Gujarati, Thai and Korean. Luckily there have been people to check the translation is correct as Google can come up with some weird ideas! Not all have been double checked, so apologies in advance for any errors- but please let us know about them. When confronted by businesses full of young men who might not know much about the history of women and voting in NZ, creativity was required - what better than telling them about the sacrifices their great grandmothers made for them to be celebrated with a party on Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>. This will be a good opportunity to honour their ancestors by joining the parade and bringing photos of them !

Specifically worded notices are being distributed to primary schools to promote interest in the event - and while our teachers have many demands on their time , it is hoped that they will be able to bind in some activities related to the Suffrage celebrations into their programmes.

We would like to be able to make sure that all parts of the community have the opportunity to be involved in this event; our next groups to talk with are sports and community groups – if you have any contacts that will allow us to get in touch with sports & community groups please send any Email addresses and the names of contact people to Virginia (vwarren@ps.gen.nz)

### **Next Meeting**

May 24th 6.30pm at the Franklin Club, Station Rd, Pukekohe. All interested people are welcome.

*Issued on behalf of the Suffrage 125- Franklin Committee by Virginia Warren*  
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