

RIMUTAKA LICENSING TRUST

40 years of community commitment 1970 - 2010

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1970 - 2010

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A REMARKABLE RECORD - TOM JONES, PRESIDENT



he Rimutaka Licensing Trusts' role in the community is largely unknown and unheralded. We have no issue with that in the context it is surely better to be doing good than seeking praise. But, just as surely, we have a responsibility to history to record the efforts of our wise forebears that worked hard to make our community a better place, so that at least what has been achieved is not lightly lost.

That then, has been the motivation to record these aspirations and achievements on the 40th anniversary of our establishment: not to self praise but to applaud the early efforts, and set a new determination for the future.

Much has been achieved. The Trust premises have been a memorable social centre for the community. The support the Trust has provided to the community has been extensive and far reaching. But we have challenges to freshly overcome. New premises must be built so that we are well set for the next 40 years. To be relevant, we must design these now for a much larger and much different community than that of 1970. We are committed to that. It is a time too, to say thanks to all who have been involved over the years. The successes do not belong to any one person, or indeed only a few. While we have recorded the key players herein, there are many more who have contributed. Please take a quiet pleasure in these achievements and accept the community's thanks.

We are well set for the future, to achieve more to make our community an even better place to live and grow.

We, the elected Trustees, look forward to working with you to achieve that.

Tom Jones PRESIDENT

THE START - DEDICATED AND DETERMINED

The resources and skills necessary to establish the Trust, find a site, negotiate and contract for it, design a Tavern, achieve the necessary resource consents, build a financial model supporting its feasibility, find the finance, persuade the multitude of officials that the Trust will be viable, and notably receive/generate the support of the voters from the community, are almost always underestimated.

The Rimutaka Licensing Trust dates its official birth on 12 January 1970 when, pursuant to the Local Licensing Trusts Regulations 1966/139, the Trust was constituted. But that it achieved this official status and exists today, owes much to the dedicated and resourceful efforts of a number of individuals, and the consistent support of the Upper Hutt Borough Council (to become the Upper Hutt City Council) and the Hutt County Council beginning at least 7 years before.

In September 1963, the Borough Council applied to the Wellington Licensing Committee 'to be given the first right of refusal of any licence for a further tavern or hotel in the Upper Valley'. Over the next 7 years the unremitting efforts and support of the surrounding local authorities was to mean the difference between the Trust and the Tavern being established, and not.

The resources and skills necessary to establish the Trust, find a site, negotiate and contract for it, design a Tavern, achieve the necessary resource consents, build a financial model supporting its feasibility, find the finance, persuade the multitude of officials that the Trust will be viable, and notably receive/generate the support of the voters from the community, are almost always underestimated. It is very difficult to see how, with the hindsight of 40 years and the many problems the Trust had yet to overcome, the Trust would be in existence today if the political will of the elected Councillors and the professionalism of Council officers had not been available.

That is very evident today from the archived files at the Upper Hutt City Council.

For example, in September 1969 the then Town Clerk of the Upper Hutt City Council, Charles Cross, in submissions in support of the Hutt County Council's application to the Licensing Control Commission for the new Tavern premises licence in the Rimutaka Riding:

- Highlighted the Council's support over the previous 6 years;
- Recorded the desire of the Council to see a local Trust established to own and operate the proposed Tavern;
- Indicated its preparedness to advance moneys or guarantee repayments of moneys borrowed.

The Hutt County Council in whose area the Rimutaka riding was located, went further. It formed the Rimutaka Trust Tavern Committee, staffed it with the County Treasurer and Deputy County Clerk, Brian Pohlen acting as its secretary, and met the travelling expenses of the Committee's Chairman, Tom Croft.

THE START - DEDICATED AND DETERMINED

Tom Croft acted as Chairman for the Committee from its inception until the Trust was formed. Undoubtedly he was a key driving force but the Committee was well served with capable and influential people:

- I.K. Andrews farmer and the Rimutaka Riding Councillor for the Hutt County Council. He was to be elected the first Chairman of the Rimutaka Licensing Trust.
- M.J.Gilloch chartered accountant and a former Upper Hutt City Councillor, to be elected as an inaugural Trustee of the Trust.
- J.D.Pope solicitor and a member of the Upper Hutt Chamber of Commerce, again elected to the first Trust Board.
- W.FG.Downes farmer, businessman and a former Upper Hutt City Councillor.
- H.J.Brennan caterer and also a former Upper Hutt City Councillor.
- K.Stuart civil servant and on the executive of the Rimutaka Riding Ratepayers' Association.
- O.K. van der Velde builder, joined the Committee in July 1969. He was to become the second Chairman of the Trust.

Tom Croft, who resided at 356 Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt, brought to his role as Chairman all his experience as a successful businessman (Governing Director of Tom Croft Motors Limited) but he was to suffer one of life's ironies when he learnt in 1969 that he could not be a Trustee of the Rimutaka Licensing Trust because he lacked the residential qualifications. (He advised the Tavern Committee of this on 12 March 1969 but continued on as Chairman until the Trust was established.)



om Croft

Published in the LEADER February 25, 1970



THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY

F or a Licensing Trust to be established, the community in the Rimutaka area had to be polled. That occurred on the 30 November 1968. The electors were overwhelmingly supportive and the Returning Officer declared:

I hereby declare the result of the Poll taken on the 30th day of November 1968, to ascertain whether, if a Tavern Premises is granted in the Hutt County area (as more particularly defined in the Licensing Control Commission's decision of September 22, 1967) the electors residing within the area desire that the licence be issued to a Local Trust.

FOR THE PROPOSAL 3.	28	
AGAINST THE PROPOSAL	23	
3.	51	
I therefore declare the proposal	to	be
carried.		
Dated at Wellington this 3rd day	of	
December, 1968.		
B.J.Pohlen		
RETURNING OFFICE	TR	
	_	

Notably, the poll turn out was very low, only 19.7% of voters. While the one off nature of the poll would have been a factor, and perhaps the community was complacently sure of its support, it was nonetheless a low mandate.

The support of the community now officially received, the next key decision was that of the Licensing Control Commission's on the licence. Here competition from private enterprise in the form of a nationwide brewery company could be expected. So it was essential that the case to the Commission, presented on behalf of the proposed community Trust by the Hutt County Council, be compelling. But first a site needed to be chosen.

> ublished in the LEADER May 6, 1970

First Trust Tavern In Valley ? The newly-elected Rimutaka Licensing Trust has gained the permission of the Hutt County to site a tavern immediately north of the Maoribank Tea Rooms. Covering an area of seven acres, the proposed site commands a superb view of the Hutt River and a grandstand view of the Valley. The project will be developed in such a way as to resemble a country Club. Chairman of the Trust, Mr Ian Andrews, told The Leader: "I am sure that objections raised by local residents could and will be met by the Trust. "We will do all we can to minimise any suggested inconveniences to neighbouring property." With the site now secure, the Trust is now negotiating finance. Plans are well advanced towards establishing the first Trust premises in the Valley.

THE TAVERN SITE

U nder the Sale of Liquor Act 1962, the legislation provided for the Licensing Control Commission to identify where a tavern premises may be established. In February 1969 it invited applications for a tavern to be 'located in Hutt County within eight chains of either side of State Highway No. 2 between a point ...eighteen chains on the western side of the junction of the eastern leg of Montgomery Cres and the said State Highway, and the junction of Akatarawa Rd and the said State Highway.' In effect the area was along Fergusson Drive from just south of intersection with Montgomery Crescent to the Brown Owl corner.'

The particular physical location of the Tavern and the surrounding facilities, the juxtaposition of some of the most beautiful reserve land, playing fields, the view over the river...

<u>fhe tavern site</u>

The archival papers affirm that a great deal of thought and time was given to the selection of a site. Eventually, 'an ideal site was found'. J.M.Wiltshire in submissions for a specified departure to the Hutt County described the land as a 'plateau level with the State Highway, falling away quite steeply to a further level elevated some 10 feet above the river level and which will be contiguous with playing fields, an esplanade reserve and the adjoining Harcourt Park. ...the Tavern when eventually built will form part of a large continuous area of land and facilities designed to serve not only the inhabitants of the immediate district, but the inhabitants of the whole locality in the most pleasant surroundings imaginable. The particular physical location of the Tavern and the surrounding facilities, the juxtaposition of some of the most beautiful reserve land, playing fields, the view over the river... are ...quite unique and of incalculable value to the district."

Because the land chosen was in part designated as a site for a sewerage treatment plant, and in part for a proposed private (catholic) primary school and had an underlying residential zoning, a specified departure was necessary. That was duly pursued and approved after a Hutt County Council hearing that gave objectors the opportunity to express their concerns. Tom Croft had no doubt that the site 'was the finest in the area' for the tavern. 'It overlooks the Hutt River from an elevated position, commands a magnificent view of a wide section of the Valley and encompasses an area of land adjacent to the Hutt County Reserves.'

Negotiations with the owners the St. Joseph's Orphanage Trust Board took some time due to the complexities of zoning and other interested parties, but in June 1968 the solicitors for the Trust Board indicated their preparedness to sell for \$70,000. Given the uncertainty on the award of the licence, an option for 2 years was necessary at a consideration of \$200. 14acres was the area, part of it unusable on the cliff face and river flats. Of the 14 acres, 4 acres would be dedicated for reserve and 2 acres for river protection.

Financing became an issue as time passed by and the hearing before the Licensing Control Commission became imminent on 4 September 1969. Strong representations were made to the Hutt County Council by the Tavern Committee with the Chairman, Tom Croft, warning in a personal letter dated 1 September 1969, that without the support of the Council all their efforts to overcome the *'unnumerable problems'* would be in vain if a financing package could not be approved. It was a strong letter at times chastising the Council, thus suggesting that the Promotion Committee had received some indications that support was available. In any event, although it may have been contested and contentious, the Council 'after a very full expression of views', and with Tom Croft present and clearly advocating, at a meeting prior to the normal meeting time on 4 September the Council resolved:

'That the Hutt County Council will assist the Rimutaka Tavern Trustees to acquire the land required by taking action under the appropriate Acts to raise a special loan of \$70,000, repayment of which is to be secured over the Rimutaka Riding, for purposes of advancing moneys to the Trust for purposes of acquisition of the land.'

Maoribank Bridge



LICENSING CONTROL COMMISSION HEARING

C ertainty now achieved that the preferred site for the Tavern could be financed, the other key components of an application must be completed. Site plans and their estimated cost, evidence that the Tavern was commercially feasible, and the full financing package, would be required to be placed before the Commission.

Civil and Civic, the design build construction company, were engaged to prepare the design plans and at a meeting of the Promotional Committee on 10 August 1969, they were authorised to draw up detailed plans and specifications and to present a guaranteed maximum price for the project. A month later, the Project Engineer reflected the pressure under which these plans had been drawn *'in a very* short time' asking, that once the licence had been awarded, 'we would like the opportunity to discuss the future Trust's requirements in more detail and to put further study into the operational requirements ...'. They noted too that the architectural treatment needed further consideration. Tom Croft, perhaps more driven by a desire to sell the project, recorded in his submissions to the Licensing Control Commission, that the design presented 'a very attractive Tavern'. It would be truer to say that the final building was more pragmatic than attractive.

The financial feasibility was given to 'a firm of accountants expert in the field of hotel management accounting, Hogg, Young, Cathie and Co.' George Domett, a partner, was to act as secretary and accountant to the Trust until 1987 when Trust House and the Masterton Licensing Trust took over the management but it was two other partners, B.G.Cathie and Ross Brown who prepared the feasibility survey with the former giving evidence before the Commission that the Trust Tavern could be financed and operated profitably.

It was nonetheless a considerable risk. As Tom Croft noted in his evidence before the Commission, they needed to borrow \$260,000 to establish the Tavern. From a projected turnover of \$175,000, the projected net trading profit would be \$5330. From this they would be required to provide for repayment of the loans. The financial projections suggested it could be done but the margin for error, and thereby failure, was small.

The hearing on 3 September 1969 was to decide between two applicants: *The Corporation of the County of Hutt acting on behalf of a Trust to be formed* and New Zealand Breweries Limited who proposed premises to be situated at Main Road, Upper Hutt. The Evening Post of 6 December 1969 recorded that 'the local Trust is entitled to the new tavern *licence at Upper Hutt.'* The Licensing Control Commission in their decision gualified that approval by noting that while the statutory procedures to establish a Trust, hold elections, and become operative (which included the very difficult task of starting from scratch without any capital) were well defined and must be followed, there were likely to be delays, as other communities had found. The Commission had been encouraged during the hearings to be tolerant of those delays but the Commission took the view that the public interest was best

served by the reasonable timely establishment of the Tavern. They left open therefore a reassessment of the circumstances should the Trust not reasonably timely become operative.

The licence now secured, it was time to hold the first elections.

Rimutaka Trust Tavern Plans Advance

Tavara of Maoribask ware favors at Maoribask ware farther advanced take ware when the Trust Committee formally notified the Licensing Centrel Commission that it approves the alle selected by the Proceedings Commission

This is the area of riv plateau just much of it describank Tearsonne.

A new and must attractive design for the building was submitted.

The chairman, Mr L Androws, hold The Lender that as soon as approval of the new building plans is received fromthe Licensing Centrol Commission detailed plans and appectications will be comtraining of out and the plans cent be paid out for tender al the urtisation possible date.

THE FIRST TRUST ELECTION

B rian Pohlen, the Returning Officer, set the polling day for 7 March 1970. 16 candidates offered themselves for election, reflecting the high interest and support for the Trust concept. Ian Andrews polled highest:

VOTES

I.A.Andrews	261
A.J.Ryan	238
O.J.Van der Velde	224
I.M.Davidson	217
J.M.Pope	197
M.J.Gilloch	155
G.A.T.Marshall	14.0
F.W.Cook	114
K.J.Burley	98
W.J.Aitken	81
I.B.Rose	68
J.D.Turrall	65
M.J.Anderson	62
Robert Bratton	53
K.A.McMurtrie	47
E.A.Hastings	3.0

436 people voted with 2 spoilt votes.

Rimutaka Trust

The Inaugural Meeting of the Trust Committee was held on Monday, 14th April 1970 for the purpose of acquainting members with the progress made by the Trust Promotion Committee for the establishment of Tavern premises in the Maoribank area, and to elect the first officers. Mr B. Pohlen of the Hutt County Council, Returning Officer for the Trust District advised that the legal formalities in connection with the election of members had been complied with. The elected members, all residents within the Licensing Trust District, are Messes, I. K. Andrews, I. M. Davidson, M. J. Gilloch, J. D. Pope, A. J. Ryan and O.K. Van der Velde. The following appointments were made:--Chairman, Mr Andrews; Deputy Chairman, Mr Ryan; Hon. Secretary, Mr Gilloch. Members reviewed the proposals for financing and building, as initiated by the Trust Promotion Committee; the outcome of an application for specified departure to allow the establishment of Trust Tavern premises on the proposed site to the North-east of the Maoribank Store was now awaited. The hearing of this zoning application was set down for hearing before the Hutt County Council on April 14.

THE FIRST MEETING

The first meeting of Trustees was called by the Minister of Justice for 13 April 1970 at 5pm with the venue being the Board Room of the Upper Hutt Club. Brian Pohlen, as required, took the Chair for the opening of the inaugural meeting and tabled the gazette extract of the notice constituting the Trust, a certified copy of the election results, the Minister of Justice's notice calling this first meeting, and a map showing the Trust area where Trustees 'may expend or distribute its profits.' 1

The remuneration for the Chairman was resolved to be the maximum under the act at \$700. I.K.Andrews was then elected unopposed as Chairman. Trustee M.J.Gilloch undertook the secretary's role.

The meeting was busy, concluding at 7.30pm and with Partners B.G.Cathie and Ross Brown of Hogg, Cathie and Co., and A.A.Todd and Stewart of Civil and Civic in attendance, there was in depth discussion of *'the statement of position and achievement to date'*.

Appreciation was expressed and recorded to Tom Croft for the 'considerable work undertaken...in advancing the cause of the Trust and ensuring the granting of the Licence'. Thanks were also expressed to Brian Pohlen.

Thus began the meetings of the Board that continue to this day.

¹ The full minutes are displayed on page 22.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TAVERN

The new Board now had to deliver a Tavern for the community and their early meetings evidence just how difficult that was going to be. It would require much hard work and perseverance, almost entirely on a volunteer basis by the Trustees.

At the 29 June 1970 meeting, Civil and Civic representatives presented improved concepts; in July they had advanced these plans to a building of approximately 4100 square feet at an estimated cost of \$89,000; in September model 3/70 was revealed and Dominion Breweries Ltd. design staff were involved in the *'economic functioning of the proposed layout';* on 2nd November 1970 Civil and Civic submitted a guaranteed maximum price of \$98,500.

11 days before Christmas progress had been sufficiently advanced to request that subcontractors from the Upper Hutt district be invited to tender, and profiles be prepared to publicise the Tavern. It was resolved that finance be arranged with the ANZ Savings Bank and the contractors, in accordance with the previously discussed arrangements, and that the full details be submitted to the Licensing Control Commission for approval. 11 days before Christmas progress had been sufficiently advanced to request that subcontractors from the Upper Hutt district be invited to tender, and profiles be prepared to publicise the Tavern. So ended a busy year where good progress had been achieved.

But further delays occurred. The subdivisional plan took time to go through the Hutt County Council approval process, and the Minister of Finance was not supportive of the terms of the finance, insisting that the term of the loans was too short and the interest rate too high. The Monarch Insurance Company of New Zealand's offer of first mortgage finance of \$125,000 for 10 years at 8.5% interest would eventually satisfy the Minister.

Thus construction could begin and it did so in June 1971. Good progress was achieved throughout the contract, and in November 1971, Civil and Civic advised 'that the building would be available for the Trust to commence business as from 1st December.'



Published in the DOMINION December 22, 1973



BAR

Manager with vide experience

manager of the Elevaluite Tayors, Mr. infas, has had side and carled etcloses in the logoer trade before taking up his



THE FIRST MANAGER

T n July 1971 advertisements for a Manager were inserted **I** in the 'main morning papers in the four main centres' and over 20 applications were received. The Trust's Accountant, George Domett, prepared a summary of duties which the Board discussed, made changes and adopted. It was included as part of the minutes and remains there today as part of the minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, 7th September 1971. From a shortlist of two applicants, Ernie Quinlan was appointed with effect from the 1st November on a salary of \$4500 with a hospitality allowance of \$520. He was offered the rental of the adjacent house at \$10 per week. As part of his duties he was required to attend Board meetings for which he would be reimbursed at \$5 per meeting.

The appointment of Ernie Quinlan was wise and from the beginning his quiet and canny skills benefitted the Trust. An old time style manager, little escaped his attention and very few, if any, could 'put one over him'. Things quietly fell into place around Ernie. The Trust prospered while he was there, and he had the respect of all. He was to maintain that stability through to his retirement in 1983.

Champerse & Members of the Ocepheni of parts or study one Rok a me 101-

A NEW ERA

rnie's departure brought new management \mathbb{L} and operational difficulties. The industry too had changed a good deal and taverns were a good deal harder to run profitably. Profits had always been small at Rimutaka and while they had been regularly achieved under the previous management, equity through retained earnings had climbed slowly to reach \$340,900 in March 1984. In addition, assets had been revalued by \$191,300. It was a fragile base going into the 1990s with a radical new sale of liquor act allowing easy access to licences, and much more competition. The days when tavern licences were a 'licence to print money' (more perceived than real) were to become the opposite. Professional management dedicated to licensing trusts was now essential. The margins of profit were now much finer and the previous model that had served the Trust well was now in question.

It was a fragile base going into the 1990s with a radical new sale of liquor act allowing easy access to licences, and much more competition. The replacement management for Ernie Quinlan quickly ran into operational problems with large losses placing the Trust at risk. In the 1987/88 year the Trust reported a loss of \$164,125 and with current liabilities at only \$134,400 compared to current liabilities of \$460,100, the Trust was close to being technically insolvent.

The then President, Bill Baillie recognised that change was necessary. He made the decision to approach his sister Trust in Masterton. The Masterton Licensing Trust was well established, soundly based and importantly, had a senior management team with a range of skills that could provide an integrated management of Rimutaka. The previous model had worked well with the sound operational skills of Ernie Quinlan combining well with the after the fact reporting of the Accounting firm. But there was little room for error and if the market was misread, as arguably it was when a new restaurant was included in the tavern, or expenses get out of control, then almost immediate reaction was necessary. The Board, whose final responsibility it was to achieve acceptable financial results, was more remote, had limited specialist hospitality skills, and akin to volunteer status. Its role, in an ideal world, was governance, not management.



Caption reads: Mr. Ernie Quinlan Manager of the new Rimutaka Tavern pointing out one of the carriage number plates from the old "Fell" train to Mr. Errol Ballin Manager of Strouds Wine and Spirits Ltd., Upper Hutt.Published in the DOMINION December 22, 1971

Bill Baillie had been elected onto the Rimutaka Board in 1983 and became Chairman in 1986 when Okko Van der Velde did not seek re-election. In a recent interview Bill said he became aware of financial difficulties where on one occasion the Breweries refused to deliver because the account with them was overdue. To secure delivery he offered his credit card. But more far reaching solutions were clearly necessary and after hearing of the work Masterton had done in rescuing the Flaxmere Licensing Trust in the Hawkes Bay, and then stablising them, he approached the Chief Executive, Bernard Teahan, in 1987.

<u>a new era</u>

In retrospect it is most probably the key reason why the Rimutaka Trust exists today. Notably four other Licensing Trusts in Wellington that were in a much better financial position then no longer exist today. It is easy now to look back and conclude that it was a logical decision to seek a management association with the long established Masterton Trust but at the time it was notably wise and courageous. Organisations - and Licensing Trusts are notably so - tend to jealously guard their authority and autonomy, and there is also a matter of pride. To have to go to another Trust and asked for help is not the easiest of tasks. But wisdom won out and Bill Baillie and the Board of 1987 can take some quiet satisfaction from what the Trust achieves today in the Rimutaka community.

So began in 1987 an association that continues to this day. The elected Rimutaka Board have a management contract with Trust House Limited to provide wide ranging services. The Rimutaka Trustees still have the final responsibility for performance but they can rest a little easier knowing that there is a management team of dedicated licensing trust specialists, and a Trust House Board responsible for operational governance.

From left: Trustees lan Andrews, Mitch Blake, Paddy Scrivens, Tony Ryan and Okko Van der Velde.

TRUSTEES AND CHAIRMEN OVER THE YEARS

riginally titled Chairman, now Presidents under the Sale of Liquor Act 1989, the incumbents over the years have been:

I.K. Andrews 1970 – 1973 **O.J. Van der Velde** 1973 – 1986

Asked by lan Andrews if he was interested to become involved in the Trust, he was a founding Trustee and actively committed for 17 years, 13 of those as Chairman. Okko came to New Zealand in 1951 with his brother, and brought their fiancées out from Holland to marry in a 'double dutch' (newspaper heading at the time) wedding. A builder by trade, he brought a soundness, dedication and conservatism to the Board that ensured profits and good practices.

In a recent interview he recorded that he was very honoured at the start to be involved. It meant, in his eyes, that he had been accepted in his new country when in many others he would not have been. In the first few years of his chairmanship, he had to deal with decisions being made on a political basis (independent versus labour) and he did not enjoy that. He spent a good deal of time carrying out his duties; for example, if a staff



TRUSTEES AND CHAIRMEN OVER THE YEARS

member had been hit during a fracas at the Tavern he would call and see him at their home. He would 'shout' the customers out of the little honorarium he received.

One of the annual, pleasant duties the Board of Trustees and their wives took responsibility for was cooking and serving an annual Christmas dinner for the staff.

His commitment, honesty and genuine goodness served the Rimutaka community very well.

W.H. Baillie 1986 - 1992 and 1993 - 1995

A 'likeable rogue' but astute businessman Bill got involved in the Trust at first to a reaction to being banned from the pub by Ernie Quinlan, the Manager. He told Ernie he would get himself elected as a Trustee. But once involved, his true character won out and he became dedicated to ensuring the survival of the Trust.

To him can be given the very significant credit to seeing that the Rimutaka Trust would always struggle to survive without a strong and capable management team. Asking the Masterton Trust for a management association took a good deal of courage and foresight.

How close the Trust itself came to demise is revealed in a recent interview with Bill. After Ernie Quinlan left, losses and bad decisions worsened the cash position to a point on one occasion the Brewery refused delivery unless there was COD. Bill offered his credit card. It was not necessary but clearly change was.

B.H. Lummis 1992 – 1993 **T.E. Jones** 1995 – current

Now the longest serving Chairman, Tom was first elected a Trustee in 1981 in a by-election. He served the 18 months of that term but missed out by a few votes in the elections of 1983 (at that time, the term of the Trustees was 6 years. Three Trustees came up for election every three years). In 1986, he was re-elected and has maintained that status since then, a total of over 26 years at date of writing in 2010.

Tom also served for a number of years on the New Zealand Licensing Trust's Association and was national President.

An active participant in the Trust House Group and a long



term Trustee of the Trust House Charitable Trust, Tom has overseen a period where the Rimutaka Trust's status and reputation as an organisation doing much good in the community, has grown immeasurably. A reflection of this is the annual grants evening where many community organisations come together, along with the Mayor, Councillors, and MPs in attendance, to receive their grants. But the substance of the strong community connections and reputation relates back to the grants given to many organisations across the wide spread of Rimutaka activities. 'It is', Tom recently said, 'something that I am proud of. We give to all sectors of the community. We can, if needed to address an emergency, make a decision guickly, within hours.' While he believes the major grants to projects like the Harcourt Park sound shell and stage, are the more memorable, just as important are the regular donations to the Foodbank, the Spring Festival and to sporting clubs like Rimutaka Rugby and Tararua Football.

NATIONAL PRESIDENCY

Only one Rimutaka Trustee has achieved the honour of positions on the National executive of the New Licensing Trusts Association (NZLTA). Tom Jones became Junior Vice President, then senior, and was elected the National President at the Queenstown conference in 2003, and remained so until 2005.

Undoubtedly one of the more major issues for Licensing Trusts to solve occurred during those years when eventually the Government passed amending gaming legislation to correct the ridiculous situation of elected Trustees being caught by the 'key persons' personal influence clauses. Much lobbying was necessary to place the Trust case and it was the Prime Minister of the day that ultimately overrode official ineptitude.

Bruce Bold 1986 -

Never a Chairman, Bruce's contribution to the success of the Trust over his better than 24 years as a Trustee, has been unique. Always committed and concerned, he is the first to help if something needs doing at the Tavern, and always ready to attend an event to represent the Trust.

He has organised events in the bar, even to the extent of badly injuring himself once in a blackboard surfing champs. The Thursday night raffle that raises funds

for community organisations has been his commitment for just on a quarter of century! When asked what has given him the most satisfaction over all these years of involvement, he simply said: *'the contact with the people'*. The comradeship of the bar where characters sit at the same table, week in, year out creates 'his local' and the satisfaction that brings best examples an elected trustee representing his community.

Many Rimutaka and Upper Hutt organisations benefit from the Bruce Bold willingness to help and there are few in the community that are as liked and respected as he.

'I WAS THERE ON OPENING DAY'

Bruce Bold can tell you many stories of Tavern life.

A discerner of good ales, he was there among the shoulder to shoulder people on opening day in December 1971. He has not been far away since.

He tells the story of a memorable first day at the Tavern. He and his mate enjoyed the socialising and left to go home. In reversing, somehow the Vauxhall kept going right into the deep ditch on the other side of the road. Recognising a divine message was being delivered, they left the vehicle where it was and rejoined the celebrations in the tavern.



TRUSTEES AND CHAIRMEN OVER THE YEARS

The full roll call of Trustees over the years:

Rimutaka Licensing Trus	t 1970 - 2007
IK Andrews	1970 - 1973
IM Davidson	1970 - 1976
MJ Gilloch	1970
JD Pope	1970
AJ Ryan	1970 - 1971
OJ Van der Velde	1970 - 1986
Dr DB Blake	1971 - 1976
WP Scrivens	1971 - 1976
A Arnold	1973 - 1976
BFRabbitt	1974 - 1986
ML Routledge (Mrs)	1974 - 1976
WJ Aitken	1974 - 1981
M Bowman (Mrs)	1977 - 1989
D Ingram	1977 - 1983
P Moore (Mrs)	1977 - 1979
B Lummis	1980 - 1994
TE Jones	1981 -
A J Bell	1982 - 2002

WH Ballie
3E Bold
HF Meads (Mrs)
P McKenzie
- McLoughlin
R Hayes
SK Nearey
Sherwin
WG Shindler
3 Collins
H Newell (Mrs)

1983 - 2004
1986 -
1989 - 2004
1995 - 2004
1998 - 2004
2004 - 2007
2004 -
2004 -
2004 - 2010
2007 -
2010 -

Chairman / President

K Andrews	1970 - 1973
DJ Van der Velde	1973 - 1986
VH Baillie	1986 - 1992 & 1993 - 1995
3N Lummis	1992 - 1993
⁻ E Jones	1995 - current

Deputy Chairman/President

A J Ryan	1970 - 1972
IM Davidson	1973 - 1976
WJ Aitken	1977 - 1980
B Rabbitt	1980 - 1986
AJ Bell	1986 - 1992 & 1995 - 1998
HF Meads (Mrs)	1992 - 1994
TE Jones	1994 - 1995
WH Baillie	1998 - 2004
No deputy has been appoint	ed since 2004

THE TAVERN PREMISES

O ver the 40 years the Tavern has seen much change to accommodate the changing needs of the community and customers.

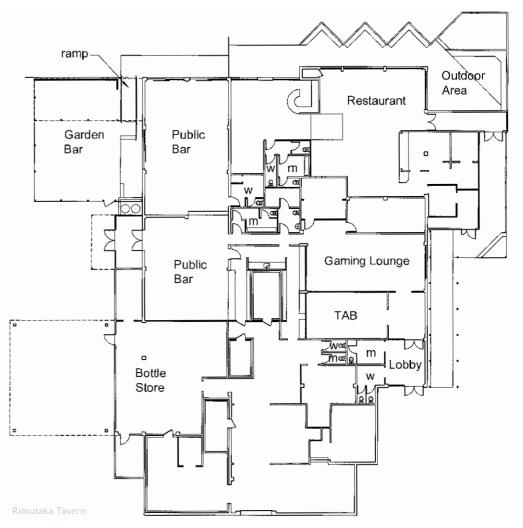
The original buildings are now near the end of their days and plans are underway for a new tavern but as for the first trust board, there are financing hurdles to overcome first. In many ways the challenges are similar to when the Trust began.

A restaurant was added in the mid 1980s but while it continues to operate today as a leased operation, it has been of limited success, and at the beginning was a drain on Trust funds.

A new bottestore replaced the old in 2003 and in recent years has been branded as a Liquorland. Major alterations in 1996/97 presented a new gaming lounge and upgraded the TAB. A garden bar was added in 2005, soon after the smoke free legislated was enacted.

The plan shown gives an outline of the building as it is today. But what they do not show is its generally poor state, much in need of replacement.





COMMUNITY DONATIONS AND SUPPORT - A MAJOR SUCCESS

P erhaps the activity that has most significantly changed the status and enhanced the reputation of the Trust has been its major role over the last decade, of supporting a wide range of community activities.

The nature of this community support role reflects the unique role of the Trust: *to enhance the wellbeing of the Rimutaka community by operating successful businesses that benefit from community ownership; and distributing profits in support of community organisations and events.*

Licensing Trusts were born out of the prohibition era, partly as a reaction to the excesses of New Zealand's pioneering times, but also as a major social experiment. The uniqueness of Trusts revolves around:

- A primary responsibility to enhance the wellbeing of their defined community;
- The distribution of (surplus) profits back to their communities;
- The provision of 'good' model facilities;
- Accountability back to the communities who own them.

In addition, there is an inherent responsibility to efficiently operate commercial businesses profitably. Licensing Trusts belong to the family of community enterprises that are a part of the third sector, and a hybrid form of organisation that crosses over sectors², a mixture of market orientation and solidarity (community support). They may be defined as businesses whose primary goals are to support the well-being of their defined community principally through reinvesting profits generated from their trading activities either in the business and/or in support of community activities, rather than being driven to maximise profits.

Thus the support of the Rimutaka community and seeking ways to enhance its quality of life is a fundamental role for the Trust. It can do this best when it generates good profits.

The first mention of donations in annual reports and accounts was in the 1976 year when the then Chairman, Okko Van der Velde, recorded:

Our Trust has again been able to assist our local schools financially and other charitable organisations have received donations. But the accounts record a total of \$100 only and so, unless the expense was absorbed under another category, it was a small start.

By 1978, as the Trust became sounder financially, the activity in the community had stepped up. That year, the Chairman recorded:

I reported last year that \$2000 was to be set aside for community projects. From this provision the Trust has assisted the local Soccer Club with the floodlighting of their fields. Also a grant was made for the purchase of the filtration plant for the new swimming pool at the local school. An increased sum of \$2500 will be set aside for future community projects this year. The incoming Committee has decided that future donations should be restricted to causes within the Rimutaka Licensing Trust district.

² The market economy, non-market economy where the principle of redistribution is governed by the welfare state, and the civil and solidarity-based economy are generally recognised as the three sectors.

COMMUNITY DONATIONS AND SUPPORT - A MAJOR SUCCESS

A full summary of donations made over the years is:

	RIMUTAKA	LICENSING	TRUST	- DONATIONS	MADE OV	ER THE	YEARS
YEAR	AMOUNT	\$	YEAR	AMOUNT \$:	YEAR	AMOUNT \$
1976	1	0.0	1988	2,170		20.00	81,891
1977	3	80	1989	13,886		2001	199,795
1978	1,0	44	1990	18,300		2002	670,740
1979	5,0	14	1991	24,840		2003	357,940
1980	2,6	84	1992	12,860		2004	347,843
1981	2,9	84	1993	14,496		2005	535,020
1982	6,9	50	1994	13,456		2006	579,151
1983	8,6	50	1995	29,975		2007	457,061
1984	7,3	0.0	1996	35,505		2008	611,284
1985	6,6	55	1997	62,043		2009	425,397
1986	n	il	1998	41,496		2010	463,652
1987	10,7	70	1999	52,487	*	TOTAL	\$5,103,819



Sound shell stage Harcourt Park.

The last 10 years, when gaming operations have become an integrated part of trading on the site, have seen greatly increased community activities and much additional trustee responsibility to decide what is best for the community. There have been some truly memorable projects:

- Perhaps the most ambitious project was taking responsibility for the building of a sound shell stage at the nearby (to the Rimutaka Tavern) Harcourt Park. The original idea came from Trustee Frank McLoughlin and it was he who dynamically drove the project, but with the enthusiastic support of the Board. The \$281,250 stage was gifted to the City and the people of Upper Hutt in 2002. Tom Jones, the President, recorded in his annual report that year: *We have been delighted to see the use that has been made of this stunning new facility, and look forward to even greater things to come.*
- Supporting education in the Rimutaka schools has been constant over the years with the biggest grants occurring in 2007 and 2009 with grants totalling \$268,800 for electronic white boards.

• Just as important as the more one off major projects have been the recurring grants to a wide range of Rimutaka organisations:

Organisation	Total Grants paid over years
Upper Hutt City Council	340,000
Upper Hutt Women's Centre Inc	240,000
Tararua Sports Club Inc (Upper Hutt City Soccer)	200,000
Rotary Club of Upper Hutt	161,000
Rimutaka Rugby Football Club Inc	150,000
Trentham United Harriers & Walkers Club Inc	144,000
Te Waipuna Trust Inc	130,000
Rimutaka Incline Railway Heritage Trust	115,000
Te Marua Golf Club Inc	113,000
Timberlea Residents' Association (2000)	105,000
Upper Hutt 41 Club	95,000
Upper Hutt Community Rescue	52,000 50,000
Birchville Kindergarten	50,000
Riding for the Disabled Assn – Hutt Valley Group Inc Royal NZ Plunket Society – Upper Hutt Branch Inc	50,000
Hutt Valley Stopping Violence Services Inc	48,000
Upper Hutt Foodbank Inc	45,000
Totara Park Kindergarten	40,000
Brown Owl Kindergarten	38,000
Hutt Valley Gun Club	38,000
Rimutaka Gymnastics Club	32,000
Rimutaka Kindergarten Assn Inc – Doris Nicholson Branch	,
Rimutaka Inline Hockey Club Inc	31,000
Rimutaka Steppers Leisure Marchers	27,500
Upper Valley Equestrian Day Committee	20,000
Te Marua Pony Club	16,500
Upper Hutt Highlanders Incorporated	15,000
Totara Park Playcentre	7,500
SeniorNet Upper Hutt Inc	6,000
The Hutt Wrecks	5,800

'IT WAS HARD. IT WASN'T EASY.'

One of the rewarding sources for this publication was Brian Pohlen, in the 1960/70s the Hutt County Treasurer and Deputy County Clerk, Returning Officer for the Trust Poll and the first Trust election, and Secretary to the Rimutaka Trust Tavern Committee that established the Trust. It was he who suggested the Upper Hutt City Council may have archival files that could source the early records, and in interviews gave the personal perspective of the wide range of problems, and issues

It was hard. A great deal was involved. The legislation was complex and there were few precedents. Every step had to be validated, and double checked. Roadblocks continually occurred. The established trade were not supportive. It wasn't easy. (Interview with Brian Pohlen)

The hard work and thoroughness required to progress the establishment of the Trust rested in large part with him. He may say it was part of his responsibilities but the Rimutaka community can be thankful for his commitment and professionalism.

A FINANCIAL PROFILE

SALES

2010	5years ago	10years ago	20years ago	30years ago	1973 ³		
\$2.128m⁴	\$1.670m	\$1.791m	\$2.303m	\$655,900	\$257,800		
ASSETS							
2010	5years ago	10years ago	20years ago	30years ago	1973		
\$1.618m	\$1.054m	\$1.359m	\$1.207m	\$508,600	\$210,800		
PROFIT							
2010	5years ago	10years ago	20years ago	30years ago	1973		
\$114,000	\$80,000	\$320,000	\$62,000	\$49,100	\$13,700		
RETURN ON EQUITY							
2010	5years ago	10years ago	20years ago	30years ago	1973		
9.19%	8.18%	30.98%	8.20%	17.29%	na		
VALUE OF COMMUNITY'S INVESTMENT							
2010	5years ago	10years ago	20years ago	30years ago	1973		
\$1.297m	\$884,000	\$1.153m	\$787,000	\$306,200	\$11,800		



Published in the DOMINION December 22, 1971

³ The first full year of trading.

- ⁴ Not included are the sales from gaming operations which are an integral part of the Rimutaka operations. Accounting protocols require these to be shown in the annual accounts of the Trust House Charitable Trust but these sales and the resulting profits are generated on Rimutaka Trust premises and distributed by decisions of the Rimutaka Trustees. In 2010, the gaming sales were \$922,000 and profits \$427,000. Thus, sales and profits shown in the schedules should be increased by these amounts. Similar adjustments could be made for 5 years ago, and a smaller amount 10 years ago.
- ⁵ The more correct return on equity would be 44% once all profits (see note 4) are recognised.

THE FUTURE

The pressing need is for a new tavern building. In many ways it is as challenging a task as the financing of the original back in 1970. But the Trust start with reasonable equity built up over the years, a great site, and a fine reputation. Its work in distributing profits to enhance the quality of life in Rimutaka has been outstanding. The funds to continue this work are dependent on a new facility that will take the Trust forward for another 40 years.

LIQUORLAND

BAR TAB Gaming

Bottle Store

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The full minutes from the first meeting of the Trustees, December 13, 1971





Maoribank, Upper Hutt, late 1950s

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