



HENDRIK JACOBUS JOHANNES BANGE
6.1.1924 ~ 7.6.2015

A celebration of Henk's Life



Born in Kabandjahe 1924.

Henk Bange was born in a small village in the highlands of Sumatra, Kabandjahe, Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia) on 6 January 1924 to Dutch parents, the second of four children.

His early schooling was in Indonesia. At the age of 8, when his parents were posted to Suriname, South America

(Dutch West Indies) he and his older brother Jan went by ship, under the care of a stewardess, to attend school in Holland. Here he boarded with relatives before the family were united again in Indonesia.

His love of building things began with making his first canoe, 'Seahorse', with plans, paddle and sail sent from Holland by a cousin. Years later living in Waihi he built another canoe for his children who spent many happy hours paddling it at Ongare Point in summer holidays.

With the bombing of Pearl Harbour in December 1941 war came to the Pacific. The family were together in Indonesia. Henk at 18 was at university in Bandoeng but now volunteered as an ordinance rider delivering dispatches riding a German DKW 250cc motorbike. Involved in a crash, the surgeon



Truus, Teuntje, Jan, Ton, Jan (Senior) and Henk Bange, 1939 Semarang, Java.



*The "Seahorse" canoe
Henk built and sailed
in Indonesia, 1937.*

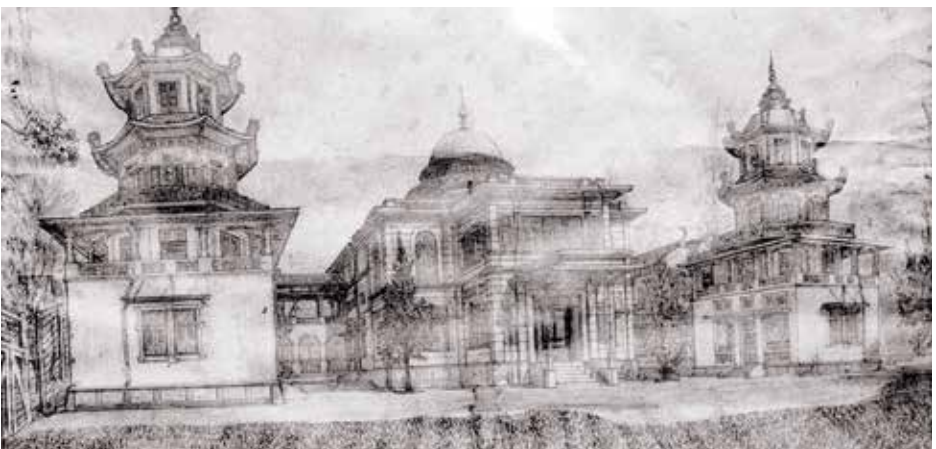
who treated his broken leg told him *'You were not enlisted, your uniform has gone to the hospital incinerator, you are a civilian'*, thereby saving Henk from transportation by the Japanese. However in 1942 Henk and his younger brother Ton were interned together in a Japanese POW camp, his mother and young sister in another and his father in yet another. His older brother was taken to work on the Burma Railroad.

The whole family survived and were reunited at the end of the

war returning to Holland where Henk continued his studies for his Masters in Engineering at Delft. Joining the Delft Rowing Club, in 1947 he rowed as number 2 for the Senior

Eight. The team won the National Championship in Holland and went on to race on the Thames in the Henley Royal Regatta reaching the final of the Grand Challenge Cup. In *'the most exciting race I ever rowed'*, the team came second to Jesus College.

Henk met Anne through the rowing club and they were married on March 30 1951 in Delft. Later that year they sailed from Rotterdam to New Zealand on a wartime "liberty" ship. The "Zuiderkruis" had been converted for passenger transport



A drawing that Henk did as a POW in Kwik Djoen Eng in Indonesia.

The "Yellow" Mk II Zephyr 1959 and early days in New Zealand with Anne.



roading and bridging with his first field job cutting cross sections through old man gorse on a roading survey with a slasher as his first "high tech" tool, blisters galore.

with men in one cabin and women in another, a bit disappointing for the newly weds.

Arriving in Wellington Henk and Anne both admired the surrounding hills clad in golden yellow blossoms. Henk was soon to find out about this curse of the country, gorse.

Henk was the first Dutch Professional Engineer brought out in 1951 by the NZ Government to work for the Ministry of Works. Starting his career as an Assistant Engineer in Wanganui he worked on design, surveying,

A year later he was transferred to the Taumararui office with accommodation in a small cottage in Mananui. Here Henk continued with his love of woodwork making the round dining table out of Japanese oak with legs made of hickory pick handles that went on

to be used for many years by the family. Skiing in the winter at Mt Ruapehu and some tramping in the summer months until early one 'pea soup' foggy morning, Helen was born on the 26th of October 1954.

Next posting was Mangakino where



Iraq 1958: Deborah & Helen.

they lived on 'Snob Alley', so named as one of the older streets housing most of the senior project staff for the Whakamaru Dam where Henk worked for about 8 months.

Henk was bonded to the Ministry of Works for 3 years after which time he went to work for the Hauraki Catchment Board living in Te Aroha and Paeroa where Deborah was born on 7 September 1956. In late 1957 Henk took a two year contract working on the Derbendi Khan Dam in Iraq. With Deborah one year old and Helen 3 the family moved to Iraq. A keen photographer and later maker of 8mm home movies Henk acquired his first single lens reflex camera.

In July 1958 a coup d'etat took place in Iraq overthrowing the Hashemite monarchy. King Faisal II and the Prime Minister were assassinated and the



Coffee table made by Henk, still in the family. Below and bottom: Henk and the bach at Ongare Point with the extension he built.





Helen, Michael, Anne, Judy, Henk and Deborah at 22 Moresby Avenue, Waihi, 1969.

Republic of Iraq was established. Anne, Helen and Deborah left for the safety of Holland while Henk stayed to complete his contract ready to leave at a moment's notice to 'hike' the rugged terrain to the Iranian border.

Henk joined Anne and his children in Holland and in late 1959 they again sailed for New Zealand importing with them the only brand new car Henk ever owned, a canary yellow Ford Zephyr Mk2 which took the family on many summer holidays.

In 1960 Henk began his 28 year career as the Borough Engineer of Waihi. Henk requested accommodation with a septic tank. Even so the flush toilet was still in the old outhouse having simply replaced the night soil can. After the closure of the gold mine in 1952 house prices were at

rock bottom and the house was bought for 1500 pounds with Henk spending many years on remodelling.

With the closure of the mine the amenities and services of Waihi



Henk and the many piles of papers at his office at the Waihi Borough Council, and Henk with Doreen.





Henk, always a keen photographer and below in 2004.

were in need of attention, there was no shortage of work for the new engineer. Roading, footpaths, water supply, refuse disposal, street lighting, street names and numbers and eventually renewed interest in exploration and mining for gold beginning in the mid 1970s.

Daughter Judy was born 8 May 1960 in Waihi with Michael coming along on the 26th of April 1962, at last a boy!

Family holidays the children were piled into the Zephyr and a trailer filled with camping gear meticulously packed by Henk was towed around different locations each summer, the East Cape, Northland, the Tongariro Crossing.

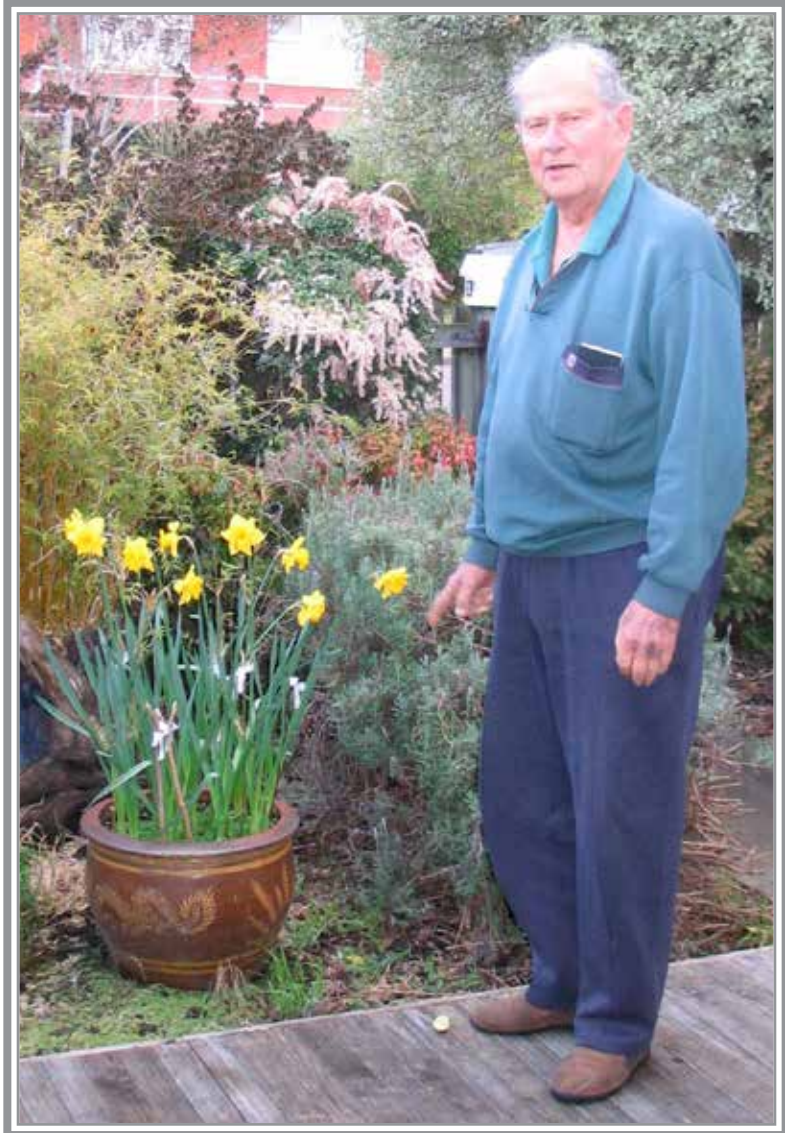
Eventually the use of a bach at Ongare Point meant the trailer had a shorter distance to travel every summer. Henk enjoyed making additions to the bach with materials recycled from abandoned timber mill houses.

As the children left home life changed and Henk and Anne went their separate ways. Henk remained in Waihi and on the 23rd March 1985 married Doreen. Together they travelled many parts of the world until in 2000 they parted and Henk moved to Te Puke to spend his remaining years. His last move was to Te Puke Country Lodge Rest Home where he thoroughly enjoyed having cups of tea brought to him and retained his sense of humour in sharing his experiences there.

At the end Henk was fortunate to suffer only a brief illness. He received the best of care from the doctors and staff of Tauranga Hospital and a loving farewell from his expansive family.

For more on Henk's life see: http://helenharrison.co.nz/documents/20140117Henk_Bange_memoirs_red.pdf





Henk with the daffodils he enjoyed each year at 1B Slater Place, Te Puke.

*We thank everyone for coming today to
Share in the celebration of Henk's life.*

13 JUNE 2015 ~ 368 CAMBRIDGE ROAD/16 PLANE TREE LANE, BETHLEHEM