

Councillors' Office



31 August 2018

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Minister for Culture & Heritage
Parliament Buildings
PO Box 5364
Wellington 6140

Dear Prime Minister,

Schooner *Daring*

Auckland Council's independent Heritage Advisory Panel at its last meeting received a deputation from maritime historians Baden Pascoe and John Street, both passionate maritime heritage activists. John Street in particular is one of the doyens of the Auckland yachting world and has also for many years played a leading role in the Volcanic Cones Society in its mission to protect Auckland's unique maunga. Baden and John briefed the Panel on the plight of the schooner *Daring* which has recently been uncovered by coastal erosion at its last resting place at the remote northern extremity of South Head, Kaipara Harbour on New Zealand Defence force land. Miraculously the hull of the schooner is virtually intact. Its kauri and pōhutukawa timbers, probably because of being buried in sand for over 100 years, are in a remarkable state of preservation. The *Daring* was built in 1863 and hence it is believed to be New Zealand's oldest known surviving ship of this type and a fascinating and important example of home-grown New Zealand boat-building of time. Please find attached report. As Baden Pascoe told the Panel:

"We need to act on extremely fast due to the declamation of the beach and the threat of vandalism and theft. In my circle of maritime historians, we consider the Daring the most significant piece of maritime history presented to us in the last 150 years. She says so much about the vision of our early ship builders and if presented correctly, can play a huge role in taking future generations right back to the beginning of our industrial and maritime past."

In its current position the *Daring* is now exposed to the ravages of the weather and sea as well as damage from trophy hunters. She is in urgent need of recovery and stabilisation.

Heritage New Zealand is the statutory agency responsible for the *Daring* in what is now an archaeological site under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014. To date the Auckland Council has assisted Heritage New Zealand with specialist advice and funding for laser recording of the visible remains *in situ*. But we all agree that is not enough.

The Heritage Advisory Panel is urgently requesting that Heritage New Zealand be given the direction and resources necessary to retrieve, store and stabilise this unique artifact of New Zealand's maritime heritage and has asked me to write to you to make this plea.

I am also copying this letter to Mayor Phil Goff because I believe if you and your national heritage agency can take the lead, the mayor, Auckland Council and the private sector will swing in behind.

Yours sincerely,

Cr Michael Lee

Chair

Heritage Advisory Panel

Cc. Hon Phil Goff, Mayor of Auckland