



Keeping in Touch

Newsletter for NZ Federation of Historical Societies Volume 3 Issue 3 October 2009

www.nzhistoricalsocieties.org.nz

Parnell says it with roses ...



Speakers at Parnell Heritage's inaugural Parnell Heritage Renovation and Conservation Workshop, during the Auckland Heritage Festival this year, presented with examples of the Parnell Rose. Left to right: Ian Grant, Auckland City; Kate Tolmie Bowden, Parnell Heritage; Simon Buckley, Bungalow and Villa; and Jeremy Salmond, Salmond Reed.

There were a total of 10 presenters, with 90 in the audience.

Photo: courtesy Parnell Heritage.



Do YOU have an important event coming up in the next 12 months (or longer)???

Let us know, so we can include YOUR EVENT on the calendar.



Calendar 2009

2—12 October	North Shore City Heritage Festival
16-26 October	Christchurch City Heritage Festival
7 November	Auckland Regional Gathering — Remuera
8 November	Helensville Heritage Day
19-21 March, 2010	NZ Federation Conference at West Auckland Historical Society

Next issue due out January 2010

Contact Lisa Truttman (editor) : 19 Methuen Road, Avondale, Auckland 0600, phone (09) 828-8494 or email historian@avondale.org.nz

Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the NZ Federation of Historical Societies Inc.



**The 2010 NZ Federation
Conference
19th, 20th and 21st March
Hosted by West Auckland
Historical Society**

During the conference, please take heed of times and instructions, as there will be much to see and to do.

Programme

Friday 19th March

5 pm Welcome and registrations at Mill Cottage, Sel Peacock Drive, Henderson. This will include a get together, tour of the features of the cottage and annex, and the water wheel. Nibbles, wine, coffee and tea to hand.

Saturday 20th March

9.30 Corbans Estate, Henderson --see map (with registration papers). More registrations with a morning cup of tea, cake etc.

10.15 am board the bus for Huia. Commentary by Bruce Harvey and Trevor Pollard from Corbans Estate to Huia--then head Ranger John Walsh to Whatipu.

Register early as bus holds 65 --first come first served a seat--come dressed for four seasons.

We are compiling an itinerary booklet for you with all points of interest along the way.

11 am: Federation A.G.M at the Huia Hall

12 noon: A look at the adjacent Huia Museum, and lunch.

1 pm sharp: Back aboard the bus for Whatipu. A Whatipu walk and afternoon tea. Toilet stop back at Huia, then arrive back at Corbans Estate.

7pm: Titirangi R.S.A. for Xmas Buffet Dinner

Sunday 21st March

BBQ breakfast outside St. Michaels Church, Corban Estate.

10.30 am Inside church to be entertained by a Corban descendant singing.

Walk around the Estate conducted by Trevor Pollard.

12.30 Boxed lunch, and farewells.

Registration forms and information will be sent soon with the second issue of *NZ Legacy* this year.

**Auckland Regional Gathering
2009**

Hosted by Remuera Heritage

On November 7th 2009, Remuera Heritage will host the Auckland Regional Gathering of Historical Societies - to be held at St John's Theological College, 202-210 St John's Road, Meadowbank.

10.30am start with a tour of the historic grounds by historian Chris Honore.

This will be followed by lunch (please bring your own) at 12 noon.

1-2pm Jenny Carlyon speaking on the process of researching and writing local history. Jenny is the author of popular books on the history of Ponsonby and Remuera (to be published).

2pm - roundtable update by historical societies
2.30pm - Vanessa James on digital storytelling.

Vanessa James has developed an archive of digital stories regarding the Coromandel community.

3.30pm Afternoon tea will be provided.

Open to all, cost only \$5.

Enquiries to Margaret Harris
margaret.harris@clear.net.nz

Condolences

June Mary Rosoman passed away on 28 August 2009. Her funeral service was held at the White Rose Chapel in Hamilton, on Saturday 5 September. Federation Past President Robin Astridge attended.

74 years old when she died, June Rosoman is remembered by the Federation for her service on the committee from 1987-1990. Any further information on her life would be gratefully appreciated.

Society News & Views

Ashburton Museum

I must say that I think the Museum's Fundraising Committee have a brilliant idea when it comes to their "What's in the Bag" event (held in July). Staged at the Ashburton Seniors Centre, it sounds as if it would spark nostalgic memories of Selwyn Toogood days, completed with questions to start contestants vying for the "money" or the "bag", and even "Postbag" entries for \$5. A \$10 entry fee included afternoon tea. The committee even offered assistance with transport to the venue if needed.

Avondale-Waterview

Students from Avondale Intermediate have created a display of archival photos of Avondale along with their own photos of the area today. Meeting up with Society president Lisa Truttman in the local community library, they asked a barrage of questions about the history of the area, and used the information in putting together their display.

The Society were also involved with supporting the St Jude's Anglican Church historical photographic exhibition, taking place during the first weekend of the Auckland City Heritage Festival. Over 300 people attended over the course of the weekend, viewing 300 hardcopy images and over a 1000 total images screened on a digital slideshow while they enjoyed refreshments. AWHS may have picked up prospective new members from the event; our society brochure went like hotcakes.

Cambridge

The Cambridge Museum celebrated the 100th anniversary in September of the Courthouse in which it is housed. Descendants of Fred Potts,

the man responsible for the courthouse's construction, celebrated with the society at a special commemoration on 9 September.

Catlins

Well-known Catlins historian, Ron (A R) Tyrrell died suddenly in July this year. "Mr. Tyrrell wrote several books on the area, most notably *Catlins Pioneering*, *Catlins Rail* and *Pounaweia*. Mr. Tyrrell was a member of the Catlins Historical Society for many years and was strongly involved in fitting out the new Owaka Museum, which opened in 2007 ... Catlins Historical Society president, Anne Brown, said that until Mr. Tyrrell had written his books there was little history known of the early days of the Catlins ... Mrs. Brown said in her eulogy that the influence and achievements of Mr. Tyrrell could be seen everywhere in the new museum ... Mr. Tyrrell even attended monthly meetings of the historical society until his death at the age of 82 and he was busy writing a history of Owaka when he died." (*Clutha Leader*, 30 July 2009)

Kaiwaka

Completing the district's centennial year of celebrations (from an email to me earlier this year): "Each month throughout the year we have a 'theme' which we hope encompasses most

Society webpages up on Federation website so far:

Karaka Historical Society
(A warm welcome to Karaka
as new Federation members)
Mount Albert Historical Society
Papatoetoe Historical Society
Tauranga Historical Society

Interested in having a web page on the Federation's site? Contact the Editor, or Wynne HaySmith (cwhaysmith@clear.net.nz) for more details.

NZ Federation of Historical Societies Publication Grants Scheme

Don't forget: if your Society needs that extra bit of help in ensuring your research book makes it out there before the public, the Federation does have a grants scheme to assist. Contact our Secretary Neil Curgenvin, PO Box 1625, Paraparaumu Beach 5252, or email: ncurgenvin@gmail.com

of the sections of Kaiwaka's history as well as the present day.

“October: Cockies and Blockies - the changing face of farmland and the innovative experimental living building as well as Koanga Gardens with its heritage plants and trees.

November, Crossroads of Kaipara with SH1, the road to the east coast and SH14 to the west. From the local saleyards, railway station to the gas pipeline from Marsden Point and Kaipara's Service Centre.

December 'Seeing the Light' from electricity to the township in August 1939, the many churches serving the community including St Paul's which was the first building decorated with lights in 1997, today many more buildings have been added to produce our 'Little Town of Lights'.”

Kapiti

(The following comes from the Kapiti Historical Society's newsletter, addressed to other Wellington region societies. I feel it could be of wider interest. — Editor)

“We note that some societies have problems with low membership and attendance at meetings. We hope the following thoughts may be helpful.

“Six months ago [this was written in April this year—note] our society prepared an overhead projector presentation of the various heritage sites in the Kapiti area, and their stories. We applied to the Lion Foundation for funds to purchase an overhead projector, then we made a list of local organizations such as Lions Clubs, Probus Clubs, Rotary Clubs etc. and embarked on a programme of offering to show the presentation at their meetings. We have now addressed a number of such clubs, and our membership has increased by 50%.

“We have recently shown this presentation to the Kapiti District Council to excite their interest and support in a programme of refurbishing these heritage site plaques.”

Mangere

Mangere Historical Society member Henriette Alford (90) received a Mangere Community Award Lifetime Award in June. “A founding member of the Mangere Historical Society and its archivist for many years, Ms. Alford has spent 25 years encouraging people to gather their memories and record the information for

posterity. Mangere Community Board member Val Payne [also member of the Society] says Ms. Alford truly deserves to be recognised for the tremendous work she had done for many decades for the people of Mangere. ‘She encouraged the members to write just a chapter about their lives growing up in Mangere ... They became the basis for several books published by the society ... She was always available to talk to school and library groups about the history of their area and she encouraged other members to go with her and add their own story.’” (*Manukau Courier*, 18 June 2009)

Matamata

David Bayly, former president and vice-president of the Society, died on 24 August aged 85. From the *Matamata Chronicle*, 15 September:

“He made a very active contribution to the Matamata Historical Society ... He used to cut the grass in an extended area of the museum grounds using an old Ferguson tractor and mower.

“His particular interest was machinery. He helped move the remains of the historic pylon from near the tower and set it up at Stanley Landing in the early 1980s. A special achievement was his leadership in the planning and reconstruction of the lookout lantern on the top of Firth Tower.”

Mataura

I'm very pleased to see the following note from the Society's newsletter:

“You will be pleased to know that there was no damage to Clematis Cottage or contents after the recent earthquake.”

Onehunga

The Society seek to try to set up a film library of Onehunga-based items of interest in conjunction with the film archive. They are advertising for home-made films, slides, photos and places of interest. This follows on from the very successful film nights held over recent years during the Auckland Heritage Festival (your editor can personally vouch for them).

Otaki

“We record with sadness the death of Lena Roiri on 16 May 2009. Lena had been a member of the Society for 19 years and attended most of

our meetings. She was active in several Otaki organisations, including for a number of years the Raukawa Marae kitchen and the weekly downtown dinners. Lena did not allow increasingly poor health to interfere with her activities or her independence. She drove her mobility scooter on the road out of courtesy to pedestrians and her skill in manipulating it in and out of the Rotary hall impressed us all. She is a loss to the whole community.” (Society newsletter, July)

Papakura

Visitor attendance numbers at the Society’s museum saw an increase over the last year. The annual report makes special mention of the educational programmes run for schools at the museum, which have helped to spread the word. The Society are waiting to see what the new “Supercity” will bring in the way of challenges.

Petone

“The major work has been the organising associated with becoming an Incorporated Society. The paper work has been finished and sent away. We have yet to hear if we have been accepted. The major assistance to us will be our ability to apply to charitable groups for grants to undertake our projects. We have already received money from the City Council Heritage fund for Warwick’s work on the Gear Meat Company. There are many stories yet to be told about Petone and it would be great if other members would help to assemble information for small books on specific topics. Hopefully we will be able to write one each year.

Some of our members are undertaking some research on a variety of topics so we can make some new panels for the jail. We are getting some assistance from Jackson Street and especially Ian Carson who produces the seasonal “Jackson Street Scene” What we need are more helpers to do research and to help keep the Jail (Lock-up) open.” (Society newsletter, August./ September)

Pleasant Point

“A leading light of the Pleasant Point Museum and Railway and a familiar face around South Canterbury has died. Russell Paul QSM died suddenly at his Timaru home yesterday morning. He was 66. Those who worked with Mr Paul said he had a passion for any project he was involved with, he was a humble and gentle man, and a friend who would be sorely missed. He became well-known through his involvement in



Funeral for Russell Page, Pleasant Point Railway. “The Model ‘T’ ready to lead. Driver Barry Yates (back to camera) awaiting instructions to leave Pleasant Point Station for Keanes Crossing.”

social groups such as the vintage car club and Pleasant Point railway ... “He’s been a big part of my life on the museum side,” said Pleasant Point Museum and Railway president Bryan Blanchard.

“He’s been the guiding light of the museum since the early days. His input and his motivation has got the museum where it is today. He’s going to be a big loss.”

When the closure of the Fairlie branch line was announced in 1967, Mr Paul came up with the idea of running a final train in March 1968 to say goodbye to the Fairlie Flyer. “When it was announced the line would close, I don’t know why, but I was quite upset. It was part of history going,” Mr Paul said in an interview with *The Herald* early last year.

His dedication and commitment to the Pleasant Point Museum and Railway was recognised in the Queen’s Birthday honours in 2007 when he received the Queen’s Service Medal for services to heritage railways.” (*Timaru Herald*, 14 August 2009)

Rotorua

The Rotorua District Historical Society have a puzzle on their hands — who opened the Whakarewarewa Post Office back on March 4 1906? “It is likely it would have been quite an occasion,” accord to the society’s spokesman Bryon Somervell. Issues of the local paper at the time, the *Hot Lakes Chronicle*, can’t be found, and government records have drawn a blank. If anyone can help with the answer as to who opened the post office on behalf of the government that day, get in touch with the Society. (Information from *Rotorua Review*, 4 August 2009)

Silverdale

Silverdale Pioneer Village's Don McErlich can't wait to put a piece of West Auckland history on display at its new home. "But first its owners need to build it a shelter. The 1972 fire engine started its life at Manly and was also used by rural firefighters at Port Waikato before being acquired by the Waitakere Volunteer Fire Brigade during the 1980s. It was spotted in Henderson a few years ago by Silverdale-Manly fire chief Frank Mackereth who learned it was surplus to requirements. The Waitakere brigade agreed to sell it for the princely sum of \$1 and the vehicle is now on the Hibiscus Coast waiting for a proper display shelter to be erected at the pioneer village." (*Western Leader*, 14 July 2009)

"In spite of having moved to Auckland Graham Robinson is up here regularly in his role of archivist. He recently completed a huge job - an index to the Waitemata County Council Archives 1884- 1974 which he and a team from the society spent five years extracting from the Henderson council archives ... We are frequently approached for help with genealogical and other enquiries and Graham's index is already proving very helpful. We are also building up a team to work on the photo collection, checking, sorting and finally entering each photo into our computer accession programme." (Silverdale & Districts Historical Society newsletter)

Waikato Historical Society

According to the President's report presented at the August AGM, membership numbers for the Society have declined, from 115 seven years ago to 72 at present. The committee is to study those societies with over 200 members, to gather information as to how to encourage more membership.

Even so, the Society have had success with regard to fundraising (enabling them to maintain Hockin House and finance necessary overheads).

Waikato Coalfields Museum

Two old railway lamps found by chance on the Trade Me website have been donated to the Waikato Coalfields Museum, and will hang inside the old Huntly Railway Station building owned by the museum. On relocating to Puketirini, the lamps will hang inside the old station, joining other railway memorabilia. (*North Waikato News*, 1 July 2009)

Other Organisations

Truck Crushing Caterpillars

Gareth Winter, Archivist, Wairarapa Archive, Masterton · 04 June 2009

Gareth very kindly gave permission for the following to be republished here — from the recently launched Community Archive website:

<http://thecommunityarchive.org.nz>

— Editor

Photographs of important tipuna, old maps and plans, school records, musical scores, manuscripts, diaries — throughout New Zealand there are valuable collections of archives carefully saved by enthusiastic archivists, librarians, and historians of every ilk, and they are hidden away from researchers.

There are records from some of New Zealand's biggest companies, such as those contained in the Fletcher Challenge Archive. There are papers in nationally significant collecting archives, such as the Alexander Turnbull Library and the Auckland City Library, and regionally distinct archives such as the Wairarapa Archive. There are libraries and archives devoted to specific subjects, such as the Cotter Medical History Trust, and the John Kinder Theological Library. There are small historical societies and marae committees caring for their community's history, and trying to make it available for historians.

And there are hordes of researchers searching for the information contained within these records — and not being aware the institutions exist, much less the records.

Imagine if the archive community had one place where those seeking information on our past could go to search across the collections of these many organisations; where the large players, who already have a web presence with their own sophisticated databases, could be found alongside the smallest of our historical societies, who have a small room in a disused shop, with a mix of museum pieces and archives, and no outlet to the web.

This is such a place.

I first came across the National Register of Archives and Manuscripts (NRAM) in the reference section of my local library — blue ring bound volumes, with details of collections up and down the country. They were the successors to the Union Catalogue of New Zealand and Pacific Manuscripts in New Zealand Libraries, first published in 1954.

In 1998 a taskforce drawn from leading archives and libraries oversaw its redevelopment into an electronic database, and initiated an increase in contributor numbers.

And what a treasure house it has turned out to be.

Personally, a collection of important photographs of Wairarapa tipuna were found to be in the care of a regional museum hundreds of miles away. They have been copied and repatriated back to their rohe.

A thorough search of The Community Archive will no doubt bring forth many such treasures.

I have been having a look at the catalogue and I confess I got a little sidetracked. There is one particular record I am now anxious to see.

Canterbury Museum has a letter from T W Kirk to James Speight, and according to the description, it concerns "truck crushing caterpillars".

I am not sure whether trucks have been crushing caterpillars, or caterpillars have been crushing trucks – or even if a Caterpillar bulldozer has been crushing trucks – or caterpillars.

I just have to find out.

The Wairarapa Archive

The Wairarapa Archive is in a most unusual potion for a small town history centre. It is located in well-lit premises in Queen Street, Masterton's main shopping area, diagonally across the road from the Masterton District Library .

It was established in 1989, following a public meeting called by members of the public concerned about the loss of personal papers and organisational records within the district. It coincided with the running of a pilot project from the National Library of New Zealand called the 1990 Document Search, to ascertain the whereabouts of the region's archives. As a result of the meeting a community archive was established, administered through the Masterton District Library, whose head librarian Joy Tutty, was a strong supporter of the project. It was originally open three afternoons a week, in a set up small rooms up a flight of daunting steps. but successfully met the community's historical needs and quickly became an important regional institution.

It holds some 700 metres of records, acting as the Masterton District Council's corporate archive as well as a community archive. It also houses the Masterton District Library's printed reference collection of Wairarapa material, and holds the

library's family history collections, providing access to genealogical databases.

The archive's collections are strong in rural material, with papers and records from farms and individuals, as well as a variety of rural organisations, such as Wairarapa branches of the Federated Farmers of New Zealand; the Golden Shears International Shearing Championship Society; Masterton Agricultural and Pastoral Association; Wairarapa and East Coast Pastoral and Agricultural Society; Country Girls' Clubs, Young Farmers' Clubs; branches of the Women's Division of Federated Farmers; and many branches of the Country Women's Institute.

Many records from local schools, churches and Wairarapa-wide organisations are also cared for. All records are entered into a web-available database which can be found at the Masterton District Library's web-page www.library.mstn.govt.nz. The collection can be searched by creator, subject, title, keyword, or by an advanced search. A collection of 1600 digitised photographs, called Picture Wairarapa, is available at the same site. Photographs from the archive are also contributed to Matapihi, DigitalNZ and The Community Archive. The archive is open to the public each weekday afternoon, and by appointment at other times.

The Wairarapa Archive has a strong focus on outreach. Staff members regularly speak to school groups on archival and historical matters, and have provided over 150 historical feature articles to the local daily newspaper and other journals.

The archive is fortunate to have the strong support of Ian and Dianne Grant from Fraser Books, who live locally. With their assistance, the archive has published fifteen books in the past ten years, including volumes explaining the origin of the region's urban street names; pictorial publications to mark the sesquicentennial of the Wairarapa townships; the memoirs of Masterton's eponymous founder, Joseph Masters; an extensive survey of Wairarapa's built heritage, by Wellington architect David Kernohan; books on aviation and maritime history; a history of Masterton's Queen Elizabeth Park; a volume drawn from Victorian letters between farming sisters in Derbyshire, England, and Wairarapa; a book drawn from the World War One diaries of a local soldier, and the best seller – a volume of stories drawn from the Eketahuna district!

Among the most unusual items in the collection are a number of albums of local cartoons, produced by the Masterton-based Edward Wyllie. Wyllie was born in India to a Scottish military family. He came to Wairarapa in 1874 as a runholder, but was

forced into town when his farming venture failed. His auctioneering business in the centre of town also failed (and burnt to the ground the following day), as did a number of brief political careers.

His cartoons dealt exclusively with local political concerns and were produced by photomontage. He usually photographed an existing cartoon (usually English) then added photographic likenesses of local identities, often changing the captions as well. Wyllie sold the cartoons individually through the town photographer, T.E. Price. As his career burgeoned he made compilations, not two alike, which he also sold through Price. In many instances the albums are filled with town and district views, affording a good insight into 1880s Masterton.

Edward Wyllie left Masterton in 1886. He lived in California for the most of the rest of his life, where he established a world-wide reputation as one of the paramount “spirit photographers”. These were men who convinced their customers they could produce images of their deceased family members. His work, which features the same photomontage techniques he learnt as a cartoonist in Masterton, continues to feature in publications on the arcane world of spirit photography.

— Gareth Winter
Archivist, Wairarapa Archive
Box 444, Masterton



SHARE THE MESSAGE

If this issue of *Keeping in Touch* came to your society by **email**, why not forward it to others in your society so they can read it too?

Internet publication tools

Cute .pdf

This is a program available free from the internet.

<http://www.cutepdf.com/>

This allows you to transform newsletters, documents, even images into .pdf format for internet website publication, and sending items via email so that everyone can read them, as long as they have a .pdf reader (such as Adobe or Foxit). Helps with the problem of different versions of Word, desktop publishing programs such as Publisher which not everyone has loaded on their computer, etc. Watch out for one issue — including images in documents which are too large (a megabyte upwards, usually) tends to register in Cute pdf as lines across the image. This is solved by simply resizing the image.

I use Cute .pdf in the production of my own society’s newsletter and journals, those for the Pt Chevalier History Group, and the Federation’s *Keeping In Touch* and *NZ Legacy*.

I can also publish directly online using the .pdf files to **Scribd**, another free service .

<http://www.scribd.com/>

Feel free to search for “Avondale Historical Journal” to see what I mean, as an example. Scribd allows for copyright protection to an extent—locking of documents, allowing only for viewing on-screen and no downloading.

Speaking of Foxit — I find it a useful, lightweight alternative to Adobe pdf reader. It’s also free.

<http://www.foxitsoftware.com/pdf/reader/>

Any questions, don’t hesitate to contact me.

— Editor

Tea Parties at historic Alberton, Mount Albert, Auckland



Tea Parties at Alberton

Make time to enjoy a relaxing and traditional tea service on the lovely veranda at Alberton, 100 Mt Albert Road.

The tea services will be available on
Sunday 8 February 2010
Wednesday 11 February 2010
Sunday 15 February 2010

Three servings per day:
10.30—12 noon (“Devonshire Tea Party”)
12.30—2pm (“Classic Luncheon Party”)
2.30 pm—4 pm (“Devonshire Tea Party”)

Freshly baked cakes, special dietary requirements available.

*Bookings are essential. Phone (09) 846-7367
or email alberton@historic.org.nz*