



Keeping in Touch

Newsletter of the New Zealand History Federation Inc Te Kotahitanga o nga Hitori o Aotearoa Patron: Robin Astridge QSM <http://www.nzhistoricalsocieties.org.nz/>

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Editorial.

Many thanks to Lisa who has edited Keeping In Touch (KIT) for the last couple of years. I hope I can keep up the high standards she has set.

Firstly, a personal introduction. Federation members may well recall my work with 'New Zealand Legacy' from 2007, but my involvement with historical societies goes back further than that. My late mother served on the committees of both Birkenhead Heritage and North Shore Historical Societies at different times, and I have followed her in both. She was also the last President of the New Zealand Pioneers and Descendants.

When I became President of the North Shore Historical Society in 2006, one of my first actions was to organise a vote by members to re-join the Federation. Similarly, when I came onto the Devonport Museum and Historical Society committee in 2017 one of my first actions was to have them join the Federation as well. Being part of this federation of historical societies and museums with common issues and concerns is vital to me. Editing KIT will now enable me to further that interest.

As you can see there are hyperlinks throughout the text and this is to encourage you to share an e-version of this newsletter across your committee, and even to all your membership who are on e-mail. If you still prefer a hard copy version, then there may be a little more work involved to access the various websites.

David Verran – david.verran@xtra.co.nz

Report from the Federation's Auckland Regional Day, Saturday 25th August 2018.



Colin Freeland from the Onehunga Fencible and Historical Society opened this get-together at the Onehunga Community House – formerly the old Onehunga Primary School building at 83 Selwyn Street in Onehunga. It was well attended with visitors from the greater Auckland region, Tauranga and the Waikato – spot them here.



Bridget Graham then spoke about the history of the Community House and gave a guided tour. The school building is on a ridge and visible from the Manukau Harbour. It was built in 1901. Bridget outlined the complexities of dealing with the Ministry of Education, which still owns the site, and the vital need to restore the building. Heritage reports were compiled as required, finance sourced from various charities (including local hotel managers) and the building is now a Category One with Heritage New Zealand. It is also a Category A with Auckland Council's Heritage Assessment. Bridget recommended <https://community.net.nz/> as a very useful guide for gaining financial support from various organisations.



As well as a community house, the building also includes a research room with biographical files and a museum of school related artefacts. In 2015 Peter Verschaffelt wrote 'Onehunga Primary School: legacy and legend: the school on the hill' about some of the famous former pupils who attended that school. There are details from that research on the walls, along with early Onehunga area photographs.

After a welcome lunch, there were brief reports from the various societies represented, and from the Federation executive (thanks to Lisa for the photos above). Then followed reports from the different societies attending.

Onehunga Fencible and Historical Society was first up and Colin talked about the gentrification going on in the area, with lots of new people coming to live there. He talked of their involvement with nearby St Peters Church for the Auckland Heritage Festival and encouraged those attending to visit their Laishley House and Blockhouse cottages in Jellicoe Park: <http://www.nzmuseums.co.nz/account/3058> They are open from 1.30pm to 4pm on the first and third Thursday of every month.

Torbay Historical Society talked about their Vaughan Homestead and their Devonshire teas for fundraising. They also issued a call for help with IT.

Silverdale and Districts Historical Society runs a historic village and have monthly 'things of interest' meetings.

Mangere Historical Society promoted their book 'Favona: its histories and stories'. Amongst other things, Favona was known for the big Foodtown worksite (prior to the Australian Countdown chain). They also feature interesting speakers and an archive. Here is more detail:

"Mangere Historical Society recently launched a new book at the impressive Mangere Art Centre. *Favona its History and Stories* records the land grant on behalf of Queen Victoria, signed by her well beloved Robert Henry Wynyard Lieutenant Governor of New Zealand in 1851.

Favona is listed as being in the Province of New Ulster, Parish of Manurewa, and the County of Eden.

It is the land abounding the Manukau Harbour foreshore between Mangere bridge and Otahuhu.

It became a food basket for the people of Auckland with the rich volcanic soil ideal for the growing of vegetables of every kind, orchards etc.

Samuel Vaile and Sons in their advertisement for this subdivided farmland stated that the sun shone on Favona nine months of the year. It was ideal for the businessman who needed to get away from the stresses of city living and have a country retreat with enough land for not only their villa but grazing for the horses and cow, a croquet green or tennis court etc.

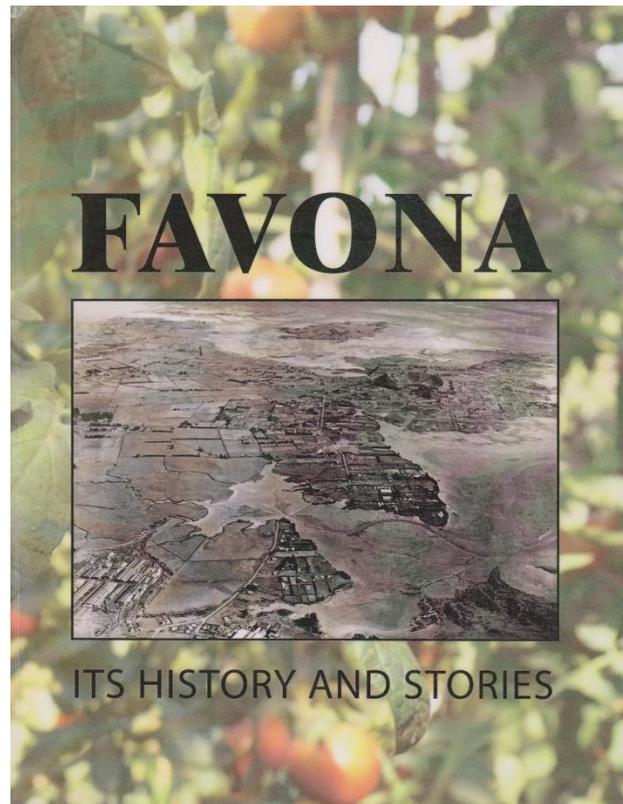
People have recorded their memories of the years they lived in the streets of Favona: Chinese and European market gardeners, early settler families and the generations

that followed. Religion is very important to the many Polynesian families living there now and eleven different churches and fellowships are described.

The large font caters for those with sight difficulties and should encourage the children to read the stories also.

Copies can be ordered c/- the Secretary Mangere Historical Society, 58 Church Rd Mangere Bridge,

Ph 09 636 9261 or vandcp@gmail.com cost \$35.00 posted”.



Helensville and District Historical Society hosted a ‘ghostie’ night at its museum and also run car shows and trips on the Kaipara Harbour.

Franklin Heritage Forum noted the Franklin Historic Society is 60 years old and also is concerned to preserve the old Pukekohe railway station.

Tauranga Historical Society has no regional museum, with a ratepayer poll voting this down. Nevertheless, they are putting their energies into the Battle of Gate Pa Museum.

Papakura and Districts Historical Society is presenting the travelling Mt. Felix tapestries in its exhibition area, to 22 September 2018.

Birkenhead Heritage Society is hoping to upgrade the museum, which needs painting. They offer speakers, encourage stories from members, trips and manage a museum

Otahuhu Historical Society has had visits from Otahuhu Primary School to its rooms and to the pa site on Mount Richmond.

Devonport Museum and Historical Society concentrates on its museum, which has recently been updated by the 'Heritage Rescue' team, and community outreach.

North Shore Historical Society focuses on hosting speakers and is keeping an eye on its bronze plaque in a soon-to-be upgraded car park.

Waikato Historical Society talked about their home base of Hockin House in Hamilton. Built in 1893, it now has a 137-page conservation plan. It housed the first four superintendents of Waikato Hospital, the last of whom was Dr Munro Hockin – hence the name.

Federation has three new executive members: Robin Astridge (who is also the Patron), Susan Verran (North Shore) and David Verran (Devonport). The 2019 annual conference is to be in early May in Picton, with 2020 in Taranaki and 2021 (the 50th anniversary of the Federation) in the Auckland region. Neil Curgenvin talked about his role as Health and Safety officer for the Federation and Robin in a vote of thanks to the organisers noted "talking over the teacups", which is a big feature of these get-togethers.

Most speakers also mentioned their contributions and involvement in the upcoming Auckland Heritage Festival, from 29th September to 14th October - go to <http://heritagefestival.co.nz/>

Wellington's Heritage Week is a little later than Auckland, it stretches from 22nd to 28th October 2018 – go to <https://wellingtonheritageweek.co.nz/>

From the newsletters:

I note that our Mercury Bay colleagues sell monogrammed polo shirts for \$30 – emblazoned with 'Mercury Bay Historical Society, Whitianga New Zealand'.

In association with the Lakes District Museum, the Queenstown and District Historical Society produces a significantly sized 'The Queenstown Courier'. The Winter 2018 issue has 40 pages and backgrounds local reserves and parks, as well as noting locals who served in the First World War.

The Eden and Epsom Historical Society is now peer reviewing, proofreading and indexing its companion volume to their 2006 'History of Epsom', for the history of Mount Eden. Hopefully this will be published soon. Similar to 'The Queenstown Courier', the Eden and Epsom Historical Society publishes 'Prospect'. Are any other societies currently working on local histories of their area or suburb?

The Otaki Historical Society reports that it now has published 39 of its Journals (since 1978), and these are indexed: <https://www.otakihistoricalsociety.org.nz/journals>

For those in the Wellington area, I am sure you all know of the well-produced 'Heritage Today' issued by the Wellington Region Heritage Promotion Council - <http://www.wrhpc.org.nz/>. Many Wellington area local history societies also have their newsletters hosted by the Council's website.

The Canterbury History Foundation – <https://chf.org.nz/> - over the last two years provided grants to eight local histories, including a book on the place names of Banks Peninsula and a history of the Christchurch suburb of Addington.

Te Aroha Museum's Janice Parsell was awarded Volunteering Waikato's 2018 Volunteer Excellence Award as Runner Up.



Do you have any heritage newspapers in your collections?

Most will know of National Library's <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/> which offers digital access to a host of New Zealand newspapers, mostly before 1946. Some current Federation members, such as Otaki, Cambridge and Patea, are already playing a part in this, and perhaps others may be thinking about it? Many societies and museums have unique copies of heritage newspapers. National Library only became a newspaper deposit from 1936 and many earlier titles are only held by public libraries, museums, societies or even privately.

If you go to <https://natlib.govt.nz/librarians/national-library-services/collaborative-digitisation> you will see that applications for the 2019/202 programme open in January 2019 and the options are: to digitise in 2019 (as long as your newspapers are already microfilmed), to microfilm in 2019 (and digitise in 2020), or to receive a letter of acceptance of your submission (enabling you to fundraise for a future year).

Patea Historical Society is of such regard in its local community that its President's Report is published in their local newspaper, the 'Patea and Waverley Press' (of August 2018). Jacq Dwyer reported on their collaboration in the digitisation of the 'Patea Mail' from 1875 to 1941, with the Society's \$30,000 being matched by National Library. National Library is to also microfilm copies from 1946 to 1975 - note that the 'Patea Mail' ceased during wartime. Bequests and investments assisted in meeting the Society's share of \$60,000 total.

Even if your society or museum doesn't have any heritage newspapers you can still follow the example of the North Shore Historical Society. They funded the preservation to microfilming standard of the 'Devonport (later North Shore) Gazette' from 1921 to 1927 for Auckland Libraries. Devonport Museum and Historical Society is intending to pick up from 1927 onwards.

Less likely held in your collections are those that might qualify for UNESCO's Memory of the World Register <http://www.unescomow.org.nz/new-zealand-register/browse> Nevertheless, the Scottish Migration Collection at Waipu Museum certainly does – see <https://www.waipumuseum.com/html/index.htm>

Final thoughts.

The Captain James Cook 'industry' is already alive and well, and it isn't 250 years yet.

Although Lieutenant Cook's first visit to New Zealand wasn't until 7 October 1769, he had in fact left England on the 'Endeavour' on 26 August 1768 for Cape Horn, and thus his first voyage started 250 years ago this year (2018). The books are steadily coming and Sam Neill's 'Uncharted' is already being shown on the Prime television channel.

Cook actually didn't reach Tahiti until 3 April 1769 and first sighted New Zealand on 7 October 1769. He left New Zealand on 31 March 1770, but visited again on 25 March 1773 to 7 June 1773, 21 October 1773 to 26 November 1773, 19 October 1774 to 10 November 1774 and 12 February 1777 to 25 February 1777. The latter was on his third voyage, now as Captain Cook, whereas the three previous were all part of his second voyage. His death came on 14 February 1779.