



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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'Keeping In Touch' goes digital.

At the Federation committee meeting of 11 February 2019, it was decided that henceforth 'K.I.T.' should be digital only. As well as the obvious money saving, this also allows you to share email copies of K.I.T. with your society's committee members, and as appropriate with all your members who have an email address. I am following up with those few remaining societies who choose to receive a hard copy, at an additional cost.

Waikato/Bay of Plenty Regional Meeting.

Raglan & District Museum will host the Waikato Regional Day on Saturday 8th of June.

Auckland Regional Meeting – hosted by the North Shore Historical Society.

A reminder, this will be on 31 August 2019 and held at the HR4 Studio of the Lake House, Fred Thomas Drive, Takapuna. The programme will start with Registration from 10am and close around 3.30pm. There will be a welcome, introductions, brief reports from Federation member societies, a talk on archaeology and an update from the Federation executive. Registration cost, contacts and closing date etc. in the second Keeping In Touch for 2019.

New Zealand History Federation Subscriptions for calendar year 2019.

Following a decision at the 2018 Annual General Meeting, the subscription for a member society or organisation with 20 members or less is now \$25, which is the same as that for individual associate members (who just receive 'New Zealand Legacy'). Societies or groups with 20 plus members will now pay \$50, and institutional members (museum only) will also pay \$50.00. Note that these subscriptions for 2019 are due from Sunday the 31st of March, either by direct credit or to P.O. Box 1625, Paraparaumu Beach 5252.

Guidelines for the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015, for small museums and incorporated societies.

This requires a step by step guide for your small museum and incorporated society to walk through, understand and be aware of your responsibilities. To have something available for reference and for existing and new members to refer to in times of need.

Your rights and responsibilities are to promote safety with the view to preventing accidents and minimising injury, attend to educational and occupational issues and promote safety management and procedures.

Protecting health and safety is now all about RISK identification. Risk management is essential for preventing injury and disease through job analysis.

Standards for health and safety acknowledge the co-operation of both employer and employee/volunteer worker as essential for success in reducing accidents in a workplace. Knowing both who is responsible and the responsibilities of all others.

Your site-specific safety plan is your plan. It is imperative that you make available in the appropriate places the basic procedures for a safe worksite, identifying, recording and actions required.

The Act also requires that you have a regular review. I work in the industry and suggest this be annual and independent of your museum [for those who have created their own Health and Safety folder]. I can offer this – Neil Curgenvan (ncurgenvan@gmail.com).

Remembering Joan Stanley (1929-2019), of Matamata.

Joan was for many years a member of the Matamata Historical Society and in 1993 received both the Queen's Service Medal and the New Zealand Suffrage Medal. She served on the Waikato Branch committee of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust and was active in both Matamata and Tirau, especially at the Firth Museum. The catalogue for National Library lists no less than nineteen books she either wrote or edited or co-wrote, and she is also listed as writing two stories for the magazine 'New Zealand Memories'.

Neil Agar, former Federation President, describes her as *"a writer and historian of the highest order and a role model for all who value the recording of history and the preservation of artefacts from the past ... when facts were needed Joan was the first to be asked, and everyone knew she would have the evidence to back her opinion. And if a story was to be recorded or a notice put by a museum display, there was never any argument – Joan would write it, and it would be easy to read."*

Neil also acknowledges her *"close partnership with her husband Dave ... between them they provided a constant stream of authoritative articles for the local [Matamata] press as well as the published books ... she loved what she did and ... was also a professional, complying with ideals of integrity and consistency."* He also notes that the newest display at Firth Tower Museum was the Joan and David Stanley Dairy Shed, with *"the industry that was the mainstay of Matamata's development ... linked to the two people who had done most to record it. What better memorial could they have?"*

'Southlanders of the year' – as awarded by the 'Southland Times' of 26 December 2018.

And the award goes to ... the entire 12-member Switzers Museum Committee of Wakaia. Their \$1.7 million museum opened in December 2018, after 30 years of fundraising. They attribute their success to hard work, the right people doing the right jobs and listening to advice from building experts and museum designers. Wakaia has a population of around 100 people.

Announcing a new newsletter.

The first issue of 'The Roskill Chronicle' has now been published via email by the Mt Roskill (Puketapapa) Heritage Group (formerly historical society). They welcome article contributions for future issues, or even some memories to share of the way things were in the greater Mt Roskill area. The next issue is for April 2019 and the editor is our Lisa Truttman - historian@avondale.org.nz Go to the website at: <https://sites.google.com/site/roskillhistory/>

'The Stockade' continues.

I recently received Number 50 of the 40-page magazine of the Karori Historical Society. Number One of 'The Stockade' was published in 1973. As well as an annual report from the Society, 'The Stockade' also profiles two local buildings designed by architect Bill Toomath, a new library at Karori Normal School in the 1970s, an obituary for a long-time member of the Society, reflections of a Karori grocer, a 1940s era local fortress complex, a lone French soldier buried in Karori Service Cemetery and memorial plaques around Karori. The list of publications on the second to last page reminds us of five books published by the Society, including 'Karori and its people' which I described in a review in 'New Zealand Legacy' in 2011 as "readable and really well illustrated". It is still available from that Society for \$30, plus packing and postage.

Patea Historical Society active on local architecture.

The Society has been working with the Council to ensure that the Georgian styled Hunter Shaw building in Patea, designed by Gummer & Ford of Auckland and the building of it overseen by Hawera Architect John Duffill in 1930, is earthquake strengthened. The cost of this is almost \$1 million, and fortunately this amount has been secured. Half of this amount has come from the South Taranaki District Council and the other half from Lotteries Heritage funding. This Category Two building is an important part of Patea's landscape.

The Society has also opened up their headquarters, the Patea Freezing Works Display building, a couple of times to the public recently. The building houses the two ammonia compression machines that ran the freezers in the works – see below. The Society has its meetings around these machines, which are normally only visible through the windows, so the public eagerly comes and has a closer look on open days.

