

## **Liaison Officer's Report Visiting Wairarapa & Southern Hawkes Bay**

This trip was a first in the history of the New Zealand Federation of Historical Societies (hereafter referred to as Federation). At the Annual General Meeting of 2007 in Helensville I was appointed Liaison Officer for Federation – another first! There was no format or formula to follow so as a first tentative step the following action was taken.

First there was an introductory pack to Federation produced as a handout, an itinerary was prepared, presented to an Executive meeting and approved by that meeting. All was set!

Whilst traveling south from Te Awamutu a copy of the Federation introductory pack was left at Hunterville Museum, at Marton Museum and a courtesy call made to an affiliated society at Marton.

On 10 November 2008 the first official visit was made to the Featherstone Heritage Centre. This was followed by a second appointment in the same town at the Fell Locomotive Museum. Over the next three days visits were made to Cobblestone Museum Greytown, Carterton Historical Society, Arotoi Museum Masterton, Eketahuna Museum, Pahiatua Musuem, Woodville Musuem, Gallery of History Danniverke, Norsewood Musuem, Central Hawkes Bay Museum Waipawa and a courtesy call to the Onga Onga Historical Centre. Introductory packs were also left at Masterton and Danniverke Libraries as well as the Hawkes Bay Museum in Napier.

All the meetings were well received and to see the work being done, by mainly volunteers, in each center preserving their past for future generations.

The trip proved so useful that a similar one is planned to go to Northland in mid 2009 and subject to funds a similar venture is perceived to travel to the South Island in 2010.

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February 2009