“… and then came the bridge.”

Torbay Historical Society celebrate their local history

A beautifully fine Saturday morning, 8 November, meant that few who were invited to the first launch of the new book produced by the Torbay Historical Society were deterred. Staged in the grounds of the historic Vaughan Homestead, at Long Bay, the event was a truly memorable one for all concerned.

A special book-shaped cake was prepared for the occasion, featuring the book’s cover design.

The book (169 pages) is a history of both Long Bay and Torbay. From the inside cover: “Fascinating and informative, this book tells the story of the diverse nature of the people who lived in the area — from the early Maori to the later pioneers who arrived in the 1860s. The colourful narrative then moves with later generations on the hundred year journey to 1959 when the opening of the Auckland Harbour Bridge changed the nature of these more remote North Shore societies forever.”

Copies are available from the Torbay Historical Society, $35 each plus $5 p&p for 1 copy. Phone Judy Bartlam (09) 473-7956, or Cathy Currey, (09) 473-9371 or contact the Society by post: Torbay Historical Society Inc., P O Box 89-009, Torbay, North Shore City, 0742

Dr. Jennifer Sturm and Marie Gray signing copies bought by eager readers at the launch of “…and then came the bridge.”

Both photos by L. Truttman.

The Federation is Online!
www.nzhistoricalsocieties.org.nz
(see page 4)

Calendar

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Next issue due out March 2009
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.
CONFERENCE & AGM
20 to 22 March 2009
Hosted by Matamata Historical Society
“History brought to life”

Remember to fill in the Registration Form by 20 February 2009 to obtain the discounted price for your Conference fees. This will assist the organisers in arranging catering, etc. A late fee will be charged after that date.

A varied and interesting programme is being arranged for the 2009 Conference and AGM which should not to be missed. This focuses on the history of the Matamata district starting with the geology of the area, some Maori history from a local kaumatua and the story of the beginning of agriculture and dairying on the fertile Matamata Plains. It continues with the history of the dairy industry up to today and the story of racing in this leading New Zealand breeding and training district.

A field trip is being arranged following some of the interesting historical sites around Matamata many of which link to the earlier lectures. An open day at the Firth Tower Museum will give time for visitors to look at displays which also and bring to life some of the history of the area.

There will be plenty of time for social activity and networking with a welcome gathering, a dinner at a restaurant built in the style of an old dairy factory and a barbeque breakfast as well as an early morning visit to see race horses training at the Matamata race course.

Contact the following for more information, a copy of the programme or a Registration Form:

Neil Algar, email neil.algar@xtra.co.nz, ph 07 888 7070, P O Box 82, Matamata 3440 or Colin Kemplen, email: thekemplens@xtra.co.nz, 07 888 4172, 42 Burwood Rd, Matamata 3400 or Joan Stanley, email: joandda@xtra.co.nz, ph 07 888 5373, 12 Totara Ave, Matamata 3400.

Report on Liaison Officer’s trip
10 – 14 November 2008

Robin Astridge QSM
November 2008
Te Awamutu

This is an edited version of Robin’s full and very thorough report. — Editor

I have pleasure in presenting this report to the Executive Committee of the New Zealand Federation of Historical Societies (hereafter referred to as Federation), to be tabled at the next meeting on 31 January 2009.

As previously agreed I, as Liaison Officer, travelled through the Wairarapa and Hawkes Bay regions visiting non-affiliated historical societies and museum societies. This was a first for Federation and was undertaken with some trepidation! I will explain my methodology and then which societies/museums were visited:

Pre-trip Documentation Preparation:

An introduction booklet was compiled. The face page was our logo printed on slightly heavier paper, followed by a short history of Federation, then two pages entitled “How We Work”. These final information pages very briefly covered our objectives and current activities.

Two application forms were enclosed. The first for membership listing the three categories of available. The second is a subscription form for New Zealand Legacy – included in the event of societies/individuals just requiring this publication.

The booklet was concluded with a copy of Federation’s September Keeping in Touch” newsletter and New Zealand Legacy”, Volume 19, Number 3, 2007 as examples of our main means of communication with membership.

Pre-trip Contacts:

The places to visit were selected because of their location on the main highway between Featherston, in the South Wairarapa, to Napier, in Hawkes Bay. Fourteen Museums/Societies were written to suggesting a meeting time at their location. Twelve replies were received, nine confirming the meeting time, three declining to meet me (one of these due to an impending display opening on the date suggested to them).

I was unable to amend times and dates due to my reasonably tight schedule for the trip.
The Liaison Trip:

7 November 2008
Hunterville Museum, Marton Museum. Called and met Pat, a volunteer worker, and left booklet with her after introducing myself and a short conversation. Bulls Museum. This Society is an affiliate but made a courtesy call, and met volunteer Alex who kindly gave me a run down on the Museum and left booklet for their information.

10 November 2008
Featherstone Heritage Centre. This was my first official appointment. Met with three members, John (President), Phil (Secretary) and Ken. Fell Locomotive Museum at Featherston. Met with Noel Meek (Past President) and Pat Flynn (Secretary) and Cliff with an apology from Graeme Jupp (President). A highly specialized Museum dealing with the Rimutuka Incline, which closed in the mid 1950s, and the two purpose built vehicles used on the Incline. Cobblestone Museum at Greytown. Met with Phil Vallance (Secretary) and Graeme (President). (Phil was very aware of my trip being associated with many heritage groups throughout the Wairarapa and Wellington region). After discussion a guided tour of their complex which is also worth a stop. Carterton Historical Society Museum. Met by Maureen Leach (Curator). Every small museum has a driving force and Maureen appears to be Carterton’s! A small, very localised museum struggling with small membership but again a good hearing.

11 November 2008
Arotoi Museum in Masterton. I also visited Masterton Library and left booklet making an emphasis on New Zealand Legacy subscription to their magazine buyer. Eketahuna Museum. Met by Colin & Biddy Fraser-Davies. Again, a useful discussion and left booklet. The Museum is in an old school and their main exhibit is clothing. Pahiatua Museum. Met by Jean Eddie and their Treasurer. Museum housed in an old villa with a unique display on the near by Polish children’s camp during WW11. Again, given a good hearing – booklet left.

12 November 2008
Norsewood. Here I was met by Gary Yearbury (President), his wife Robyn (President Norsewood Promotion) and Jenny Halford (Secretary H/S). Another good meeting and guided tour of their cottage museum.

13 November 2008
Onga Onga Museum. This was a courtesy call as this Society has been an affiliate for some time. I was met by President Pauline Mackie, given a guided tour of their village complex, including the famous Ross Butchery. We then the inspected the privately owned old Coles Joinery Factory and the community owned historic ex Presbyterian Church, both of which were not part of the village complex. Again a good meeting.

14 November 2008
Central Hawkes Bay Museum situated in Wai-pawa.

Personal Observations:
The trip was worth the time and effort. Each group visited showed a dedicated group of volunteers endeavouring to protect their heritage and acting as a repository for local records. I applaud their efforts and their results. A photograph was taken of each place visited which I will place on a disc for future reference.

The Federation information was well received with the general reaction being that “we” should belong to broaden the existence and holdings of each museum/society. I would expect our membership to increase as a result of this first liaison trip.

My expectations increased as immediately after the first visit being handed an Associate Membership subscription then and there!

I would also say that I personally gained from the experience, visiting places that I did not know existed and renewing acquaintances of previous known groups. My thanks for the opportunity to make this journey on behalf of Federation.

Te Kauwhata Experience

The NZ Federation of Historical Societies has organised a visit to Te Kauwhata on Saturday 31 January 2009. The itinerary, from 2pm to 4pm, includes a visit to: Te Kauwhata Greenstone and Bone Carving Museum/Shop, Te Kauwhata Winery, and Te Kauwhata Museum. Total cost is $15.00 per person.

Cheques should be payable to the New Zealand Federation of Historical Societies and sent to Kenneth Stringer, 5/19 Wellington Street, Hamilton, (07) 856-7798, by Thursday 29 January 2009.

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 Curgenven, PO Box 1625, Paraparaumu Beach 5252, or email: ncurgven@khh.co.nz
Ashburton Museum & Historical Society

Congratulations to the Society on their 50th anniversary, celebrated on 8 November by the opening of two new displays at the museum: one marking the 50th anniversary, called “History for Half a Century”, and the other “Changing Times”, their project for Ashburton’s 150th anniversary celebrations. This latter display is a timeline that looks, decade by decade, at items used over the past 150 years, with an emphasis on entertainment and recreation, timekeeping, communication and housekeeping.

Bluff History Group

The Group were judged winners of the Heritage and Environment section of the inaugural Trust Power Invercargill Community Awards — congratulations! They received a handsome framed certificate and a cheque for $500. The Group are continuing research on two books, Grave Stories and Bluffies, and have completed indexing and filing copies of Bluff’s Anglican and Methodist church records.

Your editor was most impressed by Early Bluff, the
The courthouse was a venue for three lecture-demonstrations; a century of kauri milling, fishing on the Kaipara and the story of the 10 acre block and Rata Reserve. Many people took the trouble to dress up in colonial style garb, and this added to the atmosphere on the streets, in the shops and cafes, at the Heritage Houses and at the Museum.

Kaikoura Historical Society

Congratulations to Kaikoura Historical Society who celebrated their 40th birthday on the 11th and 12th of October. The Society have spent the past few months sorting and cleaning items in their main room and office area at the museum, and changing displays. Items have been photographed or book covers scanned. Eventually, they aim to have every item in the museum photographed.

Mataura & Districts Historical Society

Spotted on the internet via the Gore District Council site — the Society wrote to the Mataura Community Board in August regarding the state of verandahs in the Mataura township. The Board agreed to arrange a meeting with the property owner (who owns most of the town centre buildings) when he was next in the district and to keep the Society informed. The township’s buildings have become run-down. The latest news (in November) is apparently that the property owner, in response to a number of community members expressing concerns and even TV3 taking an interest, has started maintenance work on his buildings.

Mt Albert Historical Society—Auckland Regional Gathering

The regional gathering on 9 November, hosted by the Mt Albert Historic Society, was attended by 32 attendees from 21 different organisations. The four presenters gave informative accounts of various types of technology, which is available to historical and museum societies. The audience was enthusiastic about the topics, which was reflected by the large amount of questions and comments that were received after every speaker's address. The historic 1863 Alberton house added to the event through providing the appropriate atmosphere. The visit to Saint Luke’s Church was another interesting aspect of the day. The host for next year's Northern North Island Regional Gathering is Remuera Heritage and Franklin District Historical Society has agreed to run the event in 2010. — reported by Kenneth Stringer.

NZ Fencible Society

The Society celebrated their 21st anniversary earlier this year. Back in June 1987, 26 people met at the old Carnegie Library in Onehunga and
formed the Society. They moved to the Maungarei Room next to the Panmure Library in January 1988, and found a home for their growing collection of material on the Fencibles in the library’s Local History Room. One highlight for the Society amongst many was the publication of their book *The Royal NZ Fencibles 1847-1852* (an invaluable reference in your editor’s opinion). Congratulations on your 21st!

**Otahuhu Historical Society**

Members of the Society, part of a group of fifty hardy souls, attended the unveiling of the David Lange Memorial in Mason Avenue, Otahuhu on 20th September. Kamatua George Taipari gave the blessing. Those who also took part were a small group from Otahuhu College, the school that David had attended and loved, Sua William Sio who spoke on behalf of the ethnic community of Otahuhu, the Mayor of Auckland John Banks, and His Excellency the Governor General Anand Satyanand.

**Papatoetoe Historical Society**

Fifty five past and present members attended the Society’s 20th anniversary celebrations at St Martins Presbyterian Church, Papatoetoe on Saturday 20 September 2008. Following the welcome by David Wyllie the history of the church was explained by the Rev Brian Brandon who presented a copy of the history to the Society. The Otahuhu Historical Society’s representative Ray Goodger spoke of their activities over the years. David Wyllie gave a pepper potted history of the society which concluded with the Patons Bruce & Margaret Wyllie cutting the cake. As the afternoon progressed two books were presented to the Society, one from Nimi and Raj Bedi on the history of Indian Settlers in NZ and the other from David and Maureen Price on a family history.

**Postal History Society of New Zealand**

Robin Startup, the Society’s research officer, advises that he is happy to provide extracts from his extensive database on the history of individual post offices and postal communications throughout New Zealand. There is no charge, and currently he handles over 150 enquiries a year. Contact him at: P O Box 275, Masterton, 5840.

**Silverdale & Districts Historical Society**

On the last weekend in November, the Society held their wonderful and informative “Time for Tea” exhibition — a display of tea pots, cups, saucers, tea towels and tea trivia. Tea tasting as well as old-time refreshments were on offer. This also gave the public a chance to see the rest of the Society’s museum site as a general open day was held on both days in combination with the exhibition. (Your humble editor cordially thanks the Society for their warm hospitality that day — much appreciated and not forgotten!)

**St Albans History Group**

The Group has been busy over winter recording more of the history of the area and the people who lived here.

One recent project was the compilation of a Roll of Honour for the local school. There is a plaque in the School assembly hall recording the names of past pupils who lost their lives during the Great War. We have taken those names, identified where possible full names, years of attendance at the School and included a photograph. Some proved more difficult than others. Two former staff members were included in the list, which made finding them even harder.

Another project has been to research the history of both brewing and cordial manufacturing in St Albans. Two sites have been identified for each business with a succession of owners operating from these. In the 1880s The Springfield Brewery worked from Springfield Road. The St Albans

*Part of the Silverdale “Time for Tea” exhibition. Photo: L. Truttman*
Brewery, which later became Southern Cross Brewery, was in Devonport Lane, during the 1920s & 30s.

Ellinghams and Were Brothers manufactured cordials from a site in Papanui Road, while Griffiths, Smith & Holland, Meadows and finally Cowles had a plant in Edgeware Road.

Identifying the locations of the few early photographs that are available has proved a challenge. The Group is always on the lookout for family photos which may show early scenes of St Albans.

Brian Spear, Convenor

Te Aroha Museum

The Te Aroha Museum is housed in the Cadman Bathhouse, situated in the Te Aroha Domain. This historical building is registered with the Historic Places Trust. The building was opened in 1898 as a Sanitorium and had 23 rooms - 19 were bathrooms. The other 4 rooms were used to apply various therapy treatments of the time including electrotherapy.

The water used in the baths was piped from the spring by the Mokena Geyser just behind the building and after people had taken a bath the water drained into the creek at the northern end of the building and out into the Waihou River.

Due to a decline in tourist numbers to the area, the bathhouse closed in 1962. Our museum opened in the building at Christmas 1978. We have a very wide range of artefacts on display, our collection of souvenir Te Aroha China being the most notable.

We are open daily: winter 12-3pm and summer 11-4pm.

Janice Nightingale, President

Waiheke Island Historical Society

In September the Society held an open day at the Woolshed Museum. According to Judith Phillips (who very kindly wrote to me and enclosed a copy of Gulf News — many thanks!), “It went off well considering the time of year and only locals at it. There was a lot of hard work the month before getting the cottage finished, mainly the Photograph Gallery and Photographic equipment display as well as the Police cells and the garden but it all came together for the day.”

The Gulf News prepared a time capsule which was buried in the new time garden at the museum, to be unearthed in 35 years time.

Wellington Historical & Early Settlers Association

(From an article by Laureen Sadlier, Registrar, Museum of Wellington, published in the Association’s newsletter).

The Association was established in 1912, with key aims to promote and foster the study of the history of Wellington and New Zealand and to inspire a feeling of veneration for early colonists and their work, and to promote a spirit of patriotism, brotherhood and friendship.

Ethnologist Eldon Best was instrumental in the founding of the Association, and served as the first President. Early membership was open to anyone, although aimed at early settlers. After World War II, membership dwindled. The collection was transferred to Wellington Public Libraries in 1937, and parts of this collection made its way to the National Museum in 1986.

In the late 1990s, the Association, the Wellington Maritime Museum and Wellington City Archives came to an agreement where the Archives held the Association’s archive collection, and the Museum received the object collections, with all groups given access and use where necessary. The Association today has a room in the new Museum of Wellington City and Sea.
Enterprising Communities Grant Scheme

Work and Income NZ have a grant scheme in place to help community organisations (such as historical societies) to design and implement projects that will create skills and job opportunities for people who are finding it hard to get work. This could be a means by which historical societies who need manpower to complete projects could find the assistance and funding for that extra help.

Community groups applying must be either a Charitable Trusts & Incorporated Society or have an ‘umbrella group’ that will manage and be accountable for the grant. Funding is available for up to 3 years and by the end of the funded period the project will need to be financially independent of Enterprising Communities funding.

For more information, contact Work and Income NZ, or go to their website (www.workandincome.govt.nz) or FundView (www.fis.org.nz).

Library suppliers

Here’s an opportunity for newly published local histories, and for those boxes of unsold copies your society still hold.

Most libraries purchase from library suppliers instead of directly from publishers and authors. These suppliers have websites that list a wide range of New Zealand publications, including not only material from all the main publishing houses, but also from smaller publishers and self-published material, and, they are happy to sell to libraries on your behalf. Publishers/authors need to contact the library suppliers to discuss pricing and any other conditions of sale that may be relevant.

This means publishers and authors do not have to contact libraries throughout the country to market their books, and libraries have a one-stop place to select their books. This can include older unsold copies of your society’s publications.

The main library suppliers in New Zealand are:

**South Pacific Books**
Raumati Point
145 Bethells Road, Waitakere City 0781
Phone (09) 810 9821
sales@southpacificbooks.co.nz
Contacts: Mary Hooker or Jane Worley
www.southpacificbooks.co.nz

**Total Library Solutions (TLS)**
2/43 William Pickering Drive, Albany, North Shore
Phone (09) 415 4334
Contacts: Claire Murray or Mary-Liz Corbett
Mary-Liz@tlsnz.co.nz, Claire@tlsnz.co.nz
www.tlsnz.co.nz

**New Zealand Books online**
www.nzbooksonline.co.nz
Contact: Louise Wrightson

**Canterbury Library Book Suppliers**
229 Grahams Road, Christchurch
Phone (03) 359 7318
Contacts: Janet and Roy Baker, www.clbs@xtra.co.nz

Rangiriri Heritage Centre

Christine Madsen, a member of Franklin Historical Society, as advised that her company has taken over the running of the Rangiriri Heritage Centre. As from the 13th October there is new management and new staff.

“The tearoom is looking great, the food fresh and the coffee very nice,” Christine says. “I am hoping to get some help in updating the displays of the New Zealand Waikato War memorabilia in the near future. We have the DVD running for visitors. Pat Gaitely has been helping me understand what is there.”

Just call in or for Group Bookings ph (07) 8263663
Visit their listing on the NZ Museums website

250th Anniversary for Robert Burns the Bard

On Saturday 31 January 2009, the Auckland Burns Association (also celebrating their 50th anniversary), are holding a free Scottish Culture Day in the Park at the Auckland Domain, in honour of the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, the national poet of Scotland. Events will include pipe bands, highland dancing, a haggis ceremony and Burns poetry readings and Scottish songs.

For information, contact Alan Bray (09) 636-6260.