



Keeping in Touch

Newsletter for NZ Federation of Historical Societies Volume 5 Issue 1 February 2011

www.nzhistoricalsocieties.org.nz

Auckland Regional Gathering, 6 November 2010



Franklin Historical Society hosted a very successful and pleasant Auckland Regional Gathering on 6 November last year. More details inside. Photos, from top left clockwise — communal table at Pukekohe East Presbyterian Church and period rifle; the church with cemetery; Linton Stuart from the Society atop Cape Hill; and Pukekohe's Pioneer Cottage.

Attendees: Franklin (host), Avondale-Waterview, Cambridge, Clevedon, Karaka, Mangere, Matamata, North Shore, NZ Fencibles, Onehunga, Otahuhu, Parnell Heritage, Pukekohe East Preservation Society, Remuera, Tauranga, Torbay, Tuakau, Waikato, Waikato Coalfields Museum, Waiau Pa, and Waiuku

Calendar 2010-2011

8-10 April 2011

NZ Federation of Historical Societies Annual Conference and AGM at Tauranga

28 August 2011 Auckland Regional Gathering at Avondale (more info soon)

September 2011 Wellington Region Heritage Month

September-October 2011 Auckland Heritage Festival

Next issue due out April 2011

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



**Auckland Regional Gathering
Hosted by Franklin Historical
Society
6 November 2010**

Congratulations to Franklin Historical Society for organising and hosting a wonderful day. Those attending enjoyed a programme which included a visit to the historic Pukekohe East Church, followed by views of the vast sweep of the countryside that is Pukekohe from atop Cape Hill with commentary by Linton Stuart.

Then on to the picture-perfect Pukekohe Pioneer Cottage, before we headed to the Society's rooms for an opportunity to natter among ourselves, have our lunch, and view a range of historical books and publications on display (your humble editor weakened badly and made a number of purchases!)

In the afternoon session Karaka Historical Society showed us via Power Point presentation just how their museum is progressing, and images from their wedding dress show (see more on this on pages 4 and 5). Following this, I talked about websites, blog sites, and keeping safe online.

— Lisa Truttman

**Websites included in
“Putting Heritage on the Web”
presentation**

NZ Federation of Historical Societies:
www.nzhistoricalsocieties.org.nz

Free website hosting:

www.google.com/sites

Examples:

Avondale-Waterview HS

sites.google.com/site/avondalehistory/

Pt Chevalier HS

sites.google.com/site/pointchevalierhistory

Kinder House Society

www.kinder.org.nz/kinder-house-society

Option of having a paid site:

Dash Design (designer of NZ Federation website and Helensville Museum site)

<http://www.dashdesign.co.nz/>

<http://www.helensvillemuseum.org.nz/>

Freeparking (designer of Mt Albert Historical Society website)

<http://www.freeparking.co.nz/getawebsite>

<http://www.mtalberthistoricalsociety.org.nz/>

Blogs (“web-logs”)

Blogger

www.blogger.com

Examples:

Timespanner - timespanner.blogspot.com/

Back Roads - northlandhistory.blogspot.com/

Canterbury Heritage - canterburyheritage.blogspot.com/

Image hosting

Photobucket: photobucket.com

Flickr: www.flickr.com

Picasa: picasa.google.com

Image adjusting

Gimp: www.gimp.org

Irfanview: www.irfanview.com

Free .pdf writer

Cute .pdf: www.cutepdf.com

Free hosting for documents and publications

Scrid: www.scribd.com

Statistics

Either through blogger (for blogs), or

Statcounter: www.statcounter.com

Also:

Keep your anti-virus programs up to date. Some free ones available – **AVG, Avast.**

Also try **Web of Trust:** www.mywot.com.

Very good indication system alerting you to questionable websites.

**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?



Tauranga Historical Society Inc.
People, Preservation, Protection

**New Zealand Federation
of Historical Societies
CONFERENCE & AGM
Tauranga 8-10 April 2011**

Venue: *Historic Village Theatre*
17th Avenue West, Tauranga



Friday 8th April:

- 6.30 p.m. **Registration**
7.00 p.m. **Welcome**
(Tauranga Historical Society)
Welcome (NZ Federation Pres.)
7.30 p.m. **Guest Speaker:** John Koning
*"Peter Grant and the Tauranga Bush Campaign
1864-70"*
8.30 p.m. **Supper – (\$6.00 pp)**

**Saturday 9th
April:**

- 9.15 a.m. **Guest Speaker:** Dean Flavell
"Iwi Migration Tauranga Moana"
10.30 a.m. **Morning Tea** in Village Café (**\$6.00 pp**)
11.00 a.m. **Guest Speaker:** Brian Davies
"Missionary Society Mission & The Elms"
Venue: Historic Village Theatre
12.30 p.m. **Lunch** at Village Cafe (**\$12.00 pp**)
Time to walk around the village.
2.00 p.m. **Guest Speaker:** Tommy Kapai
"The Catholic Mission in Tauranga"
3.30 p.m. **Afternoon Tea** at Village Café (**\$6.00 pp**)
4.00 p.m. **Free Time:** Visits to local historical sites
7.00 p.m. **Dinner (\$35.00 pp)**

**Sunday 10th
April:**

- 9.00 a.m. **NZFHS Annual General Meeting** at Village Theatre
11.00 a.m. **Morning tea (\$6.00 pp)**
Conference closes
Optional Classic Flyers Museum Tour and Lunch

Registration form included with this newsletter — and available from the Editor.



Karaka History on the catwalk

From the Society via email:

On 2 October 2010 the Karaka Hall came alive with an evening of nostalgia and glamour as the Karaka Historical Society presented a showcase of wedding dresses and fashions through the ages.

The evening was a sell-out success with an audience of over 170 welcomed with a glass of bubbly and a glimpse of things to come, as they viewed the displays featuring wedding gowns, men's wedding garments, vintage clothing and underwear.

We were thrilled with the generosity of those who kindly lent their gowns for the evening. Some of these were displayed as they were too delicate to be worn. The elegant 100 year old Edwardian dress of Mrs Janet Kidd was a highlight of the display with its detailed, pin-tucked bodice and boning.

The main event of the evening was the parade featuring around 45 wedding dresses, from the 1870s to the 2000s, worn by our lovely models who were escorted by four of our well-known local men.





The evening was also a family affair with dresses from several generations of the same family on the catwalk and it was wonderful to see these modeled by daughters, granddaughters, daughters-in-law and neighbours.

The compere, Anne Reyes, engaged the large crowd with her lively and knowledgeable commentary, recalling memories from those special wedding days and bringing a tear to our eyes.

We felt very privileged to be entrusted with precious gowns and to be able to bring the community together to share the magic of those special moments once again.

Photographers: Donna McKelvey and Susie Hare. Clockwise from top previous page: selection of early undergarments/nighties; 1929 wedding gown; 1950 wedding gown; 1947 wedding gown, and (left) 1910 wedding gown.



Society News & Views

Ashburton

The Society's newsletter of December 2010 included an obituary for their President, Bevan Stroud. He joined the Society in the early 1990s, being an enthusiastic member. Three years ago he became Society President, as the Society were becoming involved with planning and consent issues around their museum's redevelopment.

From an obituary by Michael Hanrahan:

"His huge community involvement was apparent at the funeral. We knew of a lot of what he did, although he never blew his own trumpet about such things. There is no doubt he will be missed in many areas of the community — Rotary, Savage Club, cricket, rugby, bowls. In earlier years he was involved with educational affairs at a number of schools and the Presbyterian church. However, he will be missed by none more than the Ashburton Museum. We know that his advice would be to remain calm and get on with the job, and that is just what we will do."

Cambridge

Always nice to see that the hard work by volunteers in historical societies and heritage museums is appreciated by members of the community they serve. According to the January 2011 newsletter for the Cambridge Society: "At the beginning of December we had a visit from two High School girls who gave us home baked chocolate chip biscuits for morning tea. 'For the work you do for the community', they said. We were humbled."

Horowhenua

Horowhenua District Council agreed in August 2010 to a project which will see the old Countdown building in Levin converted to being a community centre. "The project has been in the pipeline for about five years," according to the HDC website. "The need for a Community Centre has long been identified as a priority by individuals and community groups. Council purchased the old Countdown building (which sits adjacent to the Levin Library) back in 2006, with the intention of extending the current library and utilising half of the Countdown building space as a Community Centre. However negotiations with the company that had agreed to purchase the other half of the building stalled, forcing the project to go on hold. That agreement has now been abandoned and Council has instead decided to utilise the entire space to create a combined Library/Community Centre, which supporters say has the potential to become a widely used facility at the heart of the community." This will

provide a new base as well for the Horowhenua Historical Society when completed, according to the Society's September 2010 newsletter.

Kaikoura

From their December newsletter:

"We are making progress with our new Museum. The architect is working on one or two changes to the concept design before we get the actual plans ...It was sad to hear about the Kaiapoi Museum whose building had to be demolished after the earthquake."

Kapiti

From their November newsletter, the President's 2010 report:

"As you are aware, the Kapiti Coast is the next area of historic significance after the Bay of Islands, and numerous plaques have recorded the history of various significant heritage sites. These plaques have been vandalised over the years, and progress is being made at last to replace them. The Kapiti Pakeke Lions Club has earmarked their share of the next Lions Book Fair — some \$10,000 — for this project, and the Kapiti District Council has dedicated a larger amount for this project. A committee is now working actively with the Council to replace the plaques."

Lower Hutt

From their November newsletter, the President's column:

"Our society's former Vice-President and Life Member Cyril Townsend MNZM died on 11th October 2010 — three weeks before his 93rd birthday ... Many years ago Cyril screened films at the Naenae and Taita Community Halls. On each occasion two 16mm projectors would have to be set-up at the back of the hall — at Taita the projectors were upstairs. Some of the time I would assist with the taking of the tickets at the door. Those were happy times. With a great interest in what was happening in our city, Cyril recorded countless events on to film or video. Many of the guest speakers at our society meetings were recorded on to audio tape. This means there is a great amount of material available for present and future generations to listen to and/or view."

Cyril Townsend was born in Wellington on 1 November 1917. At age 15 he took on a part-time job as an assistant projectionist at the Palace Theatre in Petone, while still attending secondary school. After leaving school, he worked in several Hutt Valley theatres. During World War II, for health reasons, he didn't see active service overseas, but instead served as part of the home guard

at Kaiowharawhara at the bottom of the Ngaio Gorge overlooking Wellington Harbour. After the war he was a cameraman with the National Film Unit, then worked in sales for Kodak Cameras in Wellington. It was at that point that he ran a cinema three nights a week at Taita and Naenae community halls, before returning to cinema work as a manager for the Regent Cinema in Naenae and the King George in Lower Hutt.

After television arrived in New Zealand, he was a current affairs cameraman, working on the *Town and Around* programme. He was therefore on hand to film the sinking of the *Wahine* in 1968. (Info from *Dominion Post*, 30 October 2010)

Papakura

The new Papakura Museum opened on 2 October 2010, "after many months of hard work by staff and volunteers" from the Society. "Feedback from the visiting public has been extremely positive," the Society reported in their November newsletter. "In one month the museum has seen nearly 2000 people through its doors, more than a third of the number usually attained during the previous 12 months."

Petone

From the Society's February/March newsletter.

In November we laid another five plaques for more of our sporting greats. We had about 50 people present for the ceremony and a photo layout was in the December *Vibrant Hutt* magazine.

St Albans

The History Group lost the use of their headquarters as a result of the recent earthquakes, so their convenor Brian Spear has advised, but they continue to meet, in private homes for the time being.

Waikato

Their November newsletter advised that the Society had raised nearly \$751 of the \$1000 needed to replace their Hockin House sign. The project should commence shortly.

Waikato Coalfields Museum

From their January/February 2011 newsletter:

"The Pike River Mine disaster tempered the enjoyment of Christmas for most of us ... The museum sent a floral tribute to the memorial service at the Omoto racetrack in memory of the Waikato miners lost in past mining disasters ...

"The museum's float in the Huntly Christmas Parade featured a coal skip, complete with coal,

pick, banjo shovel, helmeted coal miner and little grey pit pony. The pit pony stole the show although a few concerned people were worried about the weight of the skip full of coal he was towing. We were able to allay their fears however. The coal content of the skip was only a few inches, sitting on top of a false shelf."

West Auckland

Publication of the book *Titirangi: Fringe of Heaven* is expected in March 2011. A sub-committee of Society members will work during the Christmas break on the launch requirements.

Gabriels Gully Goldrush 150th Celebrations 18-21 March 2011 LAWRENCE, OTAGO GOLDRUSH HERITAGE MARQUEE

The Gabriel's Gully Goldrush 150th Celebrations are now just over four months away and the organizers are busy finalizing the event programme.

As part of this prestigious weekend of celebrations, a very large marquee will be erected in the Gully to hold the Goldrush Heritage Centre; the centre point where all the historical displays of memorabilia, photographs, artifacts etc along with arts and crafts from the Goldrush days 1861 – 1911 will be on display.

The descendants of the goldminers, prospectors, Lawrence industries and pioneer entrepreneurs hold the key to the success of the Heritage Centre and are therefore being strongly encouraged to join with their families to collect items and stories on the Tuapeka Goldfields Area for contribution for the weekend display. Your information and presence at the celebrations would be welcomed. There will also be an opportunity for Pioneer Story Telling during the weekend. Descendants are invited to retell Goldrush stories which have been handed down through generations.

Application Forms to apply for Exhibition and/or Commercial space in the Marquee are available from the convenors Peter and Elaine Herbert. They would really appreciate hearing from descendants whom have not already been in contact with them. Email pjecherbert@xtra.co.nz, PO Box 518, Wanaka 9343, phone (03) 4434480

To keep up to date with the latest information on the Celebrations, go online to www.cluthadc.govt.nz You can sign up to receive newsletters and updates straight to your inbox.



Coolangatta: A Homage

by Peter Macky

(Livadia Publishers 2010)

212 pages, plus notes, bibliography and index

Review by Lisa Truttman

I was contacted by author Peter Macky just after the publication of the last *Keeping in Touch*, and asked if I would do a review and place it in the newsletter. My immediate response was no, on the basis that there usually isn't much space for such here, and I hadn't got a copy of his book anyway. Mr Macky remedied that with an offer: three books sent to my doorstep. One for myself, one extra (I donated it to my home society, who send their hearty appreciation at his generosity) and one for the readers of *Keeping in Touch* (see more below.)

The other reason I was reluctant to do a review was that, as the researcher commissioned to find out the history of the house called Coolangatta in Remuera for Auckland City Council, I'm under obligation not to comment on such research to media etc. But, Mr Macky does cite my report to Council, and according to his index refers to me four times in the book.

Well, here goes. I read *Coolangatta* in a few sittings. It is a well-written and passionately-told study on political and municipal process with regard to heritage protection in the former City of Auckland, which lead to the demolition of the house called Coolangatta in Remuera in 2006. There are a few factual errors involving general Auckland history, none that jarringly interrupt the flow of the story but worth keeping in mind should the book be used as a research and information source. But I am pleased that he has brought more to light. This book almost lovingly includes summaries of the careers of some of our talented architects of the period, along with family photos taken at the house which no longer exists which his family must treasure. Which he has, now, shared with the rest of us in *Coolangatta* which teems with images, from a free copy of the

house plan as an insert to the dreadfully sad photos of the house's destruction.

For entry to a draw for a free copy of the book, send me (by email or postal) your name, address, and name of your Society or institution where applicable — associate members of the Federation are included — to:

**Lisa Truttman
19 Methuen Road
Avondale
Auckland 0600**

I've arranged for a local JP to draw a name out of the equivalent of a traditional hat and the winner will be announced in the second *Keeping in Touch* for 2011 in late April. I'll pay the postage for sending the book to the lucky winner.

Society webpages on the Federation website

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

NZ Federation of Historical Societies Publication Loans 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 loans scheme to assist. Contact our Secretary Neil Curgenven, PO Box 1625, Paraparaumu Beach 5252, or email: ncurgenven@gmail.com

Judy McDonald is a recently qualified proof-reader and editor with tertiary qualifications in science, education and music. She would like to become involved in helping historical societies prepare material for publication. Her hourly rate for larger projects is \$25, but she would be happy to do small jobs on a voluntary basis to gain experience in the area of local history. Judy can be contacted by phone on 07 8552019 or by email at judy.c.mcdonald@gmail.com