

President	John Smith	420 8428
Vice President	Glenyss Blackshaw	420 8513
Secretary	Lynn Millar	420 7881
Admin Officer	Lynn Millar	420 7881

Our Mission Statement

To promote, understand & preserve the history & heritage of the District & its intrinsic values. Our past is our future.

Helensville & District Historical Society Inc
and Helensville Museum
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The Kaipara Pioneer

Newsletter of the
Helensville & District Historical Society (Inc)

July 2013

Contents include:

AGM in June
Farewell to Bob Cridland
Stewart Family Interests - Lecture
Kaukapakapa commemoration
Coming Events



Anzac Day 2013. Athol McLachlan, Brenda Steele, Peter Phelan, Tom Grace (page 4)
 Photo by Colin Lunt

EDITORS' NOTES

How the year is racing by - six months gone already! There are still plenty of activities to look forward to - so check the list on page 4. We are looking forward to the efforts of the Stewart family descendants to tell us their story at the last of the 2013 Winter Lectures on 21 July.

This newsletter is shorter than usual, as this mailing includes the financial report which was available to members at the AGM.

We are sad to say farewell to our friend "Bob the Builder" but we have the Schoolhouse as his memorial - without his skill and leadership it could have collapsed as a total wreck!
Wynne and Lynn

NOTES ON AGM

The AGM on Friday 28 June was a good opportunity to look back on our achievements of the past year. Those present heard a lively illustrated story from Leigh Bosch of some of the people she has met on her international travel to some of the world's poorer countries.

John Smith chaired the meeting. The election of officers saw the return of all the former officers and committee, apart from two changes. Mike Hadwin has retired due to ill health. He was thanked for his work, particularly in the organizing of the Museum roster. Judy Lloyd retired from position of secretary, but has remained on the committee. Lynn Millar, the Admin Officer has taken over the Secretary's duties.

In the absence of Glenyss Blackshaw, a financial report was presented by Wynne HaySmith. A copy is included in this mailing.

An appeal was made for more helpers on the Museum duty roster, as there have been some retirements. The society has 362 members; so why is it so hard to keep the Museum open even only 3 days a week?

Patron Gay Hildreth, who was present, was given a lavender spray, and best wishes were to be sent to the other three patrons.

The morning ended with a very satisfying morning tea, provided by committee members.

THANKS TO COLIN LUNT, PHOTOGRAPHER

The Society is grateful to Colin Lunt for his help and support with the provision of quality photographic material over the past 7 years and we wish him well as he leaves Kaukapakapa and returns to Tauranga.

Would you like to join the Society?

Please include your full name (s), postal address and phone number on the back of the form below. Include any special interests you have and whether you are willing to help as an attendant, a worker and/or committee member.

Post to the address below with your cheque, or make a payment to the Society via Account number 12 3139 0003816 00 (include name and 'subs' and send your details via email to helensvillemuseum@xtra.co.nz)

As a member you will receive our quarterly newsletter, which will keep you updated on news, projects and activities and gain free entry to the Museum (except for special functions).

Cut out the form below and check that your address on the back is correct. To pay electronically, see above

MEMBERSHIP : now due for the 2013-2014 year

If you receive the newsletter by email and you are not sure if you have paid, check with the office by email. If you **now** have email please include it so that we can send the newsletter that way.

Helensville & District Historical Society Inc Box 133, Helensville 0840	
Subscription Single :\$15 or Family \$20 (circle one)	
Research Donation \$..... Garden Donation \$.....	
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OFFICERS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PATRONS:

Doris Jenkins, Gay Hildreth, Barbara Waller, Roy Young .

COMMITTEE: 2013-2014

President /Accessions	John Smith
Vice President/Treasurer	Glenyss Blackshaw
Secretary	Lynn Millar
Publicity	Judy Lloyd
Archives/Library	Lesley Holt
Family History	Isla Willis
“Past Perfect” catalogues	Leigh Bosch
Heritage tours	Julie Colville
Hospitality	Rhonda Grace
Accessions/gardens	Jean Davidson
Newsletter/events	Wynne HaySmith
Media/events	Jennifer McCann

PARAKAI PAINTINGS IN MUSEUM

Paintings of the Parakai boarding houses, which were on show in the Parakai Tavern are now on display in the Museum. The paintings were commissioned by George Hoare, first chairman of the Parakai Trust from local talented artist, Mrs Lasca Burns. The Society is very pleased to be custodian of these valuable items.

ART SHOW POSTPONED TO APRIL 2014

The Art show for local and visiting artists and craftspeople to be organised by Trudi King and Leda Daniels has been postponed to April 2014, to allow for fuller coverage and programming. Watch this space!

HISTORICAL REGIONAL DAY - BIRKENHEAD

The annual Auckland Regional Day, sponsored by the NZ Federation of Historical Societies and open to all Hist Soc members is to be hosted this year by the Birkenhead Society, 10 am - 4 pm, on Saturday 24 August. An interesting programme of talks and a bus trip. Cost \$20 per head. **Ring Wynne HaySmith 09 427 8199 (evenings) for more information.**

FAREWELL TO BOB THE BUILDER



Robert Edward Cridland
1932 - 2013

Bob Cridland was a true friend to the Historical Society. He came in at a crucial time. When the buildings were moved on to the River Reserve, the old schoolhouse was in a parlous state. It had been in storage for 2 years, and had suffered rain damage. A large part of the floor was rotted, the ceiling was down - bird's and rat's nests spilt out, and the walls and floor were mud-splattered. Restoring the building appeared to be a hopeless task. There was also damage to Hedley House.

Bob headed up a good team of volunteers who worked tirelessly - they cleared the debris, patched and replaced walls, ceilings and floors. Bob, assisted by his son John, did many hours of skilled voluntary work, including the re-designing and building of the toilet area. Bob's dedication and leadership truly helped to create order out of chaos.

Those who worked with him will remember his good nature and lively personality - always cheerful and cracking jokes and even at the toughest times, he never uttered an expletive!

Bob was born and brought up in Portishead, Somerset, England. He had a great love of animals and wanted to work on a farm, but his mother insisted that he train as a builder. He served two years of National Service in Germany. He met Janet in 1954, and four years later they emigrated to New Zealand, where they were married. Bob built their first home in Te Atatu where they lived for 30 years, later moving to Taupaki.

Bob and Janet arrived in Helensville in 2002, and both became very much involved in the local community - the Historical Society, the Riverside Walkway scheme, and later the community patrol. He had a passion for motorbikes, and was a keen glider pilot. But his great love was his family and he was a loving husband to Janet and father to John and Susan.

Many friends gathered to give Bob a good farewell at the Kaipara RSA on Monday 1 July.

A GENTLE REMINDER! - SUBS DUE

The 2013-14 financial year started 1 April, so subs are now due. Please phone Lynn (weekday mornings 9 am- 12 noon) or send an e-mail if you are not sure whether you have paid for this year!

KAUKAPAKAPA COMMEMORATION

Research and organisation led by local resident, Athol MacLachlan resulted in a marvelous celebration at the Kaukapakapa Hall on Anzac Day. A memorial stone, bearing the four plaques from the old Hall site was unveiled before a large crowd. The Rodney Times reported that there were 100 people seated and many more standing. People had travelled from as far as Whangarei, the Times reported. Of the 88 names recorded, seven are still alive, and four were present on the day - Ron Drinnan, 91, Dave Holwell 91, Murray Dye 89 and Peter Hildreth 88.

Some funding for the project had come from the former Rodney District Council, and a handsome stone now stands in front of the Hall. Soldiers and Cadets, Kaipara RSA personnel, and Rodney Board Councilors took part in the ceremony. It is hoped that the site will be used for Anzac services in the future.

Isla Willis and helpers had done research on the servicemen and their families involved, and this is a valuable addition to the Society's family history archives. *see cover page photo from Colin Lunt.*

Colin's photos taken on the day are available for viewing at the Museum, and copies may be ordered.

COMING EVENTS

Sunday 21 July 2 pm Stewart family lecture -see next page

Friday 2 August 7.30 pm War Memorial Hall, Trivial Pursuits

Bookings are being taken for this popular annual event, so members and friends are urged to book their teams with Lynn at the Museum. (Individual bookings are being taken for placement in teams) BYO refreshments.

October date to be announced. Bingo night

People attending the first Bingo night, have asked for another and a date in October will be announced shortly Watch the local newspapers.

Thursday 24 October Bus trip to Gibb farm, Kaukapakapa

Book early for a place on the bus. (\$20 pp, with Lynn at Museum)
Meet at 9.15 am at Museum. Bring lunch and drinks (10 am - 2 pm trip)

October children's events as part of Auckland Heritage Week .

More detail in next Newsletter and Heritage Week publicity.

STEWART FAMILY IN HELENSVILLE

JULY WINTER LECTURE

In the early days of Helensville, business at the south end was McLeod territory, while the Stewart family were dominant at north end. The business interests founded by Daniel Stewart in the 1870s and continued by his sons were spread all over the Kaipara.

As well as their wide range of business involvement the Stewarts were active in community affairs.

The July winter lecture, on Sunday 21 July, 2 pm in the Father Sakey Centre (Catholic Church) is an opportunity to hear the story of the diverse interests of the Stewart family as told by Stewart descendants.

Glenn Hoare will lead a team of speakers, who are travelling from as far afield as Wellington to be take part. Members of the Stewart family are still active in the Helensville community today



Mr Jim Stewart (bowler hat) with one of his many crews on board a Stewart Bros vessel. These boats linked the main Helensville Store with its many branches throughout the Kaipara district.

CAN YOU HELP AT THE MUSEUM?

Once again we are appealing for help to keep the Museum open. We are short of people for Wednesday afternoons in particular. **Please ring Lynn**