

The Kaipara Pioneer

**Newsletter of the
Helensville & District Historical Society (Inc)
June 2012**

Contents include:
AGM
Trevor Curel's Toys
Past Perfect for Catalogues
Helensville 150th



Trevor Curel's toys— see story on page 4

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Wednesday 27 June 10 am
Helensville War Memorial Hall
Refreshments available**



NOTE: DAY TIME MEETING FOR CONVENIENCE

The committee have decided to revert to a daytime meeting for the AGM, in the hope that it will encourage more members to attend. The evening meetings have not been well attended for the past couple of years. The AGM is the chance to hear of the society's doings over the past year, to ask questions on policy and action and to show support for the committee. It has been a very busy year, and plenty of action lies ahead with the 150th celebrations, and two big building projects

Please note the day and time - Wednesday 27 June, 10 am

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

Subscriptions for the financial year 1 April 2012 - 31 March 2013 are now due, and if you are waiting to renew (or join), please cut out the coupon at the back, check your name is on it and any change of address.

Methods of payment

- 1 by post to PO Box 133 Helensville 0840,
- 2 Call in to the Museum *any afternoon* between 1 and 3.30 pm.
- 3 or you can pay electronically via the Society's Account number **12 3139 0003816 00** (include name and 'subs' and send your details via email to **helensvillemuseum@xtra.co.nz**).

Change of address

It is very important to advise the office of any change of address to make sure that you do not miss out on newsletters or other information.

Get newsletter by e-mail?

If you would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail instead of by post, please contact Sue on 09 420 7881. It will come in glorious technicolour!

Subscription overdue?

There are still a few members who owe for last year. Check your address label if you think that might be you!

TE AWAROA - HELENSVILLE 150 YEARS

Labour Weekend 19th to 22nd of October 2012

will see the celebration of 150 years of European settlement in the Helensville area with the establishment of McLeod's Mill. The celebrations will be amalgamated with the annual Helensville Heritage Day events, and will cater for all ages from toddlers to seniors.

A wide variety of celebrations are planned to cover from Friday through to Monday of Labour Weekend. They range from art and photographic exhibitions, musical events (including a pipe band, of course) to a variety of foodie experiences. Historical displays will be available at the Museum (south end) and the Railway station, (north end). The Museum will have its usual range of live colonial crafts.



At the primary school hall, games and trivial pursuits sessions will be held. A Church service and blessing of the Cairn are also on the programme. Other events are still being planned so watch out for a fuller timetable to be Advertised.

Helensville's 150th will be an exciting celebration with something for everyone to join in.

VOLUNTEER ATTENDANTS - GOOD NEWS

As a result of recent publicity three new volunteers have come forward to help with opening the Musuem. These people are now training with experienced volunteers and will take up duties shortly.

The addition of these new names on the roster have helped with the three Museum openings per week, but the aim is to gain more volunteers, so that the Museum can be open more often, ideally daily!

If you know of anyone in the area who would be available to help, please encourage them to do so. Contact Mike Hadwin 420 6553 or the Museum Office 420 7881.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS -

TREVOR CUREL'S TOYS

A wide variety of requests come into the Society from New Zealand and overseas. Recently Sue had an e-mail from Australia looking for information on Curel Products, Helensville. The enquirer, Kevin Lemm, of Melbourne collects wooden toys, and was pleased to find one - a monkey riding a trike, in a New Zealand store. We were quickly able to establish that Curel Products was the business of Trevor Curel, son of Archie Curel and brother of Norma McCathie. Trevor was born in 1923. He married June McGill - from a railway family. They later moved to Auckland. Trevor died in 1992.

Norma remembered that Trevor made his wooden toys and games in a small factory/shop in Commercial Road - just north of Creek Lane. At the time Trevor lived on the premises. He was a fireman on the railway, and the toy making was a side-line job. (Dates are uncertain, but probably in the 1950s). Two other products Norma remembered were a rugby game, and a dancing man.

SERENDIPITY INTERVENES

As is sometimes the way with research, co-incidences happen..... At the lecture on Sunday 20 May, (a week after the Curel toy request had come in), Alan Scott was showing Brackebush film on Kaipara Cruising club events. Sometimes to finish off a film, odd snippets of other subjects turned up - usually views of Parakai Domain or the Brackebush family. On one reel a shot of a "Dancing Jimmy" on a puppet stage flicked up, and Alan, (unaware of the Curel query) commented that it was a view of the window of Trevor Curel's shop. Alan had one of these puppet toys. Alan Hargreaves also remembered the shop and said that his brother still had one of the "monkey on a trike" toys. He has generously offered to lend it to be on show at the Museum.

Do any other readers have memories of the shop or the toys? More information would be welcome.



WINTER LECTURE SERIES UNDERWAY

KAIPARA CRUISING CLUB - OVER 60 YEARS AGO

A highly appreciative audience of 50 people gathered at the Father Sakey Centre on Sunday afternoon 20 May for the first of the 2012 season of Winter Lectures. Alan Scott presented a slide and movie show using 1940s - 1950s Brackebush film, which he has had converted to DVD.

Alan, with help from many others, had already identified many of the boats and people, but further names were added from the audience as the show went on - making for some lively discussion! Much of the film was shot at Pahi Regattas, but races in the Kaipara River at Helensville were also featured.

Mr Brackebush was masseur at Parakai, so shots of the Domain and pictures of his home and family (Garfield Road) featured as he was finishing off his film reels. Unfortunately his son Ian, (the only surviving member of the family) was unable to be present on Sunday.

NOTE CHANGE FOR JUNE LECTURE

Lecture 2 (on 17 June) was to have been on some of the collectables in the Museum collection, but this topic has had to be postponed, so the second lecture will now be "Tell it to the Generation Following" – a DVD presentation of the Albertlanders' story; 1862 – 2012. Peter Marsh, President of the Albertland Society will be the presenter for this event.

The story of the Albertland settlers is full of drama, excitement, despair and hope, courage and faith of a group of people, leaving the Midlands of England to seek a better life for their families in a far off land. The documentary follows their incredible journey and the ordeals they faced. The DVD was created by the Albertland 150th Celebration Committee as part of their Easter weekend re-union events.

The Albertland settlers were passing through Te Awaroa on their way up the harbour as the McLeods were setting up their mill and settlement in 1862 - 1863.

The third lecture (Sunday 15 July) to be presented by Colin Lunt, will be looking at past and present photographic views of Kaukapakapa.



SHOWSTOPPERS CONCERT - WHAT A TREAT

A treat was promised - and a treat was delivered. The *SHOWSTOPPERS* concert presented at Helensville on Sunday 29 April by the Pinesongsters of Green Bay, played to a very appreciative audience. Many were amazed at the high quality of the singing and acting.

The afternoon provided a mix of nostalgia, fun and serious music which, in the words of the programme “showcased the wonderful talent that is found at Pinesong”. As well as group items - mainly music from the shows, there were several soloists and duets.

A generous afternoon tea was served after the concert, and was the opportunity for quite a re-union, as several of conductor Doug Lilly’s former Kaipara College students and music pupils from the 1960s were among the audience.

The Historical Society is very appreciative of the contribution of the Pinesongsters to the Helensville 150th celebrations, and for their financial support. which netted about \$400 to the Society’s Special Projects Fund.

Here and There

Get Well Soon wishes go to Brian Blackshaw, who has been facing a range of tests and treatments over the past few months.

Brackebush pictures: Alan Scott has made some DVDs of stills from the Brackebush films available. Suggested donation \$5.00. If to be posted add \$1.50 p&p. Ring Sue on 09 420 7881, or e-mail (address on back page).

Thanks to the mower man: visitors and members often comment on our well-kept grounds. The Society is very grateful to Ron Harland for the magnificent (voluntary) job he has done for the last 7 years in keeping our grass well mown and tidy.



RECENT VISITORS

Two trustees from the **Paeroa Family Trust** visited the Museum on Wednesday 9 May. Sandy Nelson, who was appointed to the Trust last year, joined the volunteers working party for morning tea, then went on a tour of the buildings with President John. Bob Narev, and his wife Freda came for lunch, and met up with committee members and volunteers. The trustees were impressed with the range of activities that the Society is involved in. The Society appreciates the financial support provided by the Paeroa Trust.

A party of Senior School **students from Kingsway School**, Red Beach visited the Museum as part of their preparation for drama presentations. Jen McCann, who had studied drama while at Kaipara College was on hand to meet the group, and Wynne HaySmith had given them a photo gallery background talk a few days before their visit. Other group visits in April were from the Silverdale Historical Society and the Fencibles Society from Auckland.

AGM AND CONFERENCE OF NZ FEDERATION

Levin was the venue, and the Horowhenua Historical Society the host for the 2012 conference and AGM of the New Zealand Federation of Historical Societies, over the weekend of Friday 27 to Sunday 29 April.

Delegates and members from Mataura in the far South to Helensville in the north, attended. The programme covered a gathering on Friday night, a bus trip to interesting sites in Foxton, Shannon and Levin on Saturday morning and information sessions and the AGM on Saturday afternoon. A talk by Victoria Esson from National Services, Te Papa, encouraged societies to take advantage of Te Papa's services and money grants. The official programme concluded with a dinner on Saturday evening.

Probably the most interesting part of the weekend was hearing about and seeing the work of the Horowhenua "Adopt an Anzac" project. The Cenotaph and Memorial Park have been renovated and rebuilt. Full files on every soldier on the monument have been put together. This was an amazing undertaking and an extremely valuable resource for researchers. *Report provided by Wynne HaySmith, Helensville delegate.*



HOCKEY REUNION BENEFITS WAITOKI SCHOOL PROJECT

Over 100 enthusiastic former hockey players of the Kaipara Ladies Hockey Association celebrated their 60th anniversary on Saturday 28 April, in the Waitoki School Hall. People travelled from as far afield as Whangarei, Dargaville, Tauranga, Wellington and Christchurch.

Judith Pitcaithly described the day as “a real buzz” Generous gifts were donated for the raffles and a delicious range of food brought for lunch.

Mrs Mavis Cooper, formerly of Helensville and now living at Warkworth; one of the earliest coaches and referees, was the oldest present (aged 97) and cut the celebration cake. Taura Pitcaithly, granddaughter of Judith read the minutes of the first meeting and other memories and stories were shared during the afternoon. Judith, with assistance from others, plans to put together a story of the Hockey association years.

The organizing committee generously decided to donate the proceeds from the day to the Historical Society. At the Winter Lecture on Sunday 21 May, Judith Pitcaithly presented President John Smith with a cheque for \$235, to be used on the Waitoki Sunshine Block project. John thanked the hockey players for their generosity and said that the assistance on the school project was much appreciated.

TRIVIAL PURSUITS

The date has been set: mark this on your calendars and get together with your friends to make a team of 8 people. **Friday 17th August** at 7.30pm in the Kaipara College Hall. Cost \$10 per person. This date fits in nicely between the Olympic Games and the Para Olympics. You will be looking for some entertainment!

Phone the Museum Office (09 420 7881) to register your team. There will be the usual supper and raffles.



PAST PERFECT HERE WE COME

We all have photographs at home. Some of us have hundreds of them. We keep them in albums, in boxes - or, if we're really conscientious, in ordered and pretty scrapbooks. But are your photos named and dated - and can you easily find the ones you want? Often this is a problem.

The Helensville and District Historical Society has far more photographs than the average household. Over the years various methods have been used to keep track of the photographs, but it can still be difficult to find a specific photograph - or to see if a photograph of some particular person, event or place is held at the museum. Cataloguing is often understood by an elite few and researchers need to find the right person to ask.

Over recent years the number of photographs has increased (now over 12,000) and keeping track of them has become a real issue. The protection and conservation of the photographs is also a concern.

Computer software called Past Perfect will help change this. Past Perfect is a museum cataloguing system that will make finding photographs much easier. All photographs will be digitally copied, catalogued and described in **Past Perfect** and storage place listed. Photographs can then be found using keywords. For example, enter "John Smith" and the system will give you a list and digital image of every photograph the Society holds of John Smith. Finding photographs will be quick and easy and handling of the originals will usually be unnecessary.

The software is a dream come true but it comes at a cost and a lot of work. Thanks to a very generous donation by a local family the Society has purchased the software and is now starting the long, slow job of learning how to use it, entering data and copying photographs. The process is slow and we have few people able to enter the data. It will take over two years to complete but it will be worth the effort.

All photographs will eventually be rehoused in the archival building (still awaiting completion) along with other valuable archives which are currently inadequately housed.

A laptop designated to **Past Perfect** and extra computer memory storage units have also been donated. Let the work begin!

OFFICERS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PATRONS:

Doris Jenkins was an early member of the society and the secretary for a number of years.

Gay Hildreth was involved with the Woodhill area and started the oral history section. She is still involved whenever she is able.

Barbara Waller involved with South Head, maps and documents and particularly Maori history. She has donated many interesting things to the Museum.

Roy Young has been involved with the society for many years and was part of the “summer wine” group. He was involved with Parakai history.

COMMITTEE:

President/accessions	John Smith	ph 09 420 8428
Vice President/Treasurer	Glenyss Blackshaw	ph 09 420 8513
Secretary	Judy Lloyd	ph 09 420 5276
Gardens/accessions	Jean Davidson	ph 09 420 8407
Archives	Lesley Holt	ph 09 420 7102
Family History	Isla Willis	ph 09 420 5114
Past perfect	Leigh Bosch	ph 09 420 6146
“ “	Jennifer McCann	ph 021 110 6361
Tour Guide	Julie Colville	ph 09 420 8475
	Rhonda Grace	ph 09 420 8969
	Mary Massara	ph 09 420 8819

Office and Administration	Sue Hadwin	ph 09 420 7881
Membership	Sue Hadwin	ph 09 420 7881
Museum Roster	Mike Hadwin	ph 09 420 6553
Newsletter	Sue Hadwin and Wynne HaySmith	
Barn Team	Led by Ron Iles	
Archives Team	Led by Lesley Holt	
Lawn Mowing	Ron Harland	

Anyone is welcome to join us on the committee or on Wednesday morning working bees.

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).

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW

The end of the financial year is approaching and subscriptions will be due in March/April. Cut out the form below and check that your address on the back is correct. If you now have email please include it so that we can send the newsletter that way. **No individual reminders will be sent.** However, the address label should have the date your subs is due. Thank you.

Helensville & District
Historical Society Inc
Box 133, Helensville 0840

Subscription (April 2012—March 2013)

Single :\$15 Family \$20

Research Donation \$.....

Garden Donation \$.....

Other \$.....

Name _____

E-mail _____

Alterations/additions to address

President	John Smith	420 8428
Vice President	Glenyss Blackshaw	420 8513
Admin	Sue Hadwin	420 7881
Secretary	Judy Lloyd	420 5276

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

P O Box 133, Helensville 0840.

Ph (09) 420 7881

www.helensvillemuseum.org.nz

helensvillemuseum@xtra.co.nz

Helensville Museum, 98 Mill Road, Helensville

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