

Newsletter of the Helensville & District Historical Society (Inc)

December 2015

Contents include:

Taonga page 4-5

Car Club Show page 3

Farewell to Friends page 6-7

New Patron page 5



Picture by Rani Timoti NorWest News

From left to right:

*John Smith, Glen Wilcox, Jim Wilcox, Te Aroha, Gay Keane, Leigh Bosch,
Awa Hudson, Lon Bycroft*

FROM THE EDITORS

It is that time of year again. Where did the year go? The Executive Committee would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas. We hope that you will have a great time with your family. Santa has been for a visit to the Museum (see page 9) already so the season has really kicked off here. The year has brought some changes within the Museum with the archives and office moving to the new building. The Schoolhouse is undergoing a transformation and we are hoping that this will be finished shortly. Our team are currently working on new displays for the building. We have lost some good people this year but the team that is left will continue to do such a great job in keeping the Museum such a wonderful place to visit. Good reading to you all— ***Lynn Millar & Wynne HaySmith.***

MEMBERS NEWS

It was with much regret that the Committee accepted the resignation of Glenyss Blackshaw from the committee at the October meeting. Due to health reasons Glenyss and Brian have sold their home at Ohirangi and are moving to a village in West Auckland in the New Year. Glenyss has held many roles within the Society and Brian has also been a tower of strength. There will be an opportunity to thank them at a later date, but in the meantime we all wish them well in their new venture and look forward to seeing them at Society functions when possible.

CHRISTMAS HOURS

The Executive Committee have finalised the hours over the Christmas Break. The Museum will be closed the following days:
Saturday 26th Dec, Sunday 27th Dec, Wednesday 30th Dec, Saturday 1st Jan, Sunday 2nd Jan, and Wednesday 6th Jan.
The museum will reopen on Saturday 9th Jan 2016.

The office will be closed from 23rd December and will reopen on 11th January 2016.

A NEW NAME FOR THE MUSEUM

The Executive Committee has decided that we need a new name. This name change will reflect the multicultural nature of our Society and Museum. The word “*Pioneer*” will no longer be used in our title and we will now be known as the “***Helensville Museum***”. Consequently our newsletter now needs a new name—you may have noticed that the front page of this newsletter is a little different this time. We have a competition for the new name, please see the society’s Facebook page for the competition or suggestions can be sent by email or letter to Lynn in the office. The best name will be selected at our January committee meeting. There is a prize up for grabs for the best entry.

CAR CLUB DAY

On the 8th November the Museum hosted the annual Classic Car Show in conjunction with the Kaipara Classic Car Club. There were over 100 cars on show. These were displayed in centre of the grounds and all stood gleaming in the sun. The car club charged a gold coin donation for entry for the visitors. The weather was really good with a breeze to keep everything a bit cooler. There were food stalls which catered to the crowd.



*Museum full of cars in the sun
Photo by Dave Addison*

The Helensville Museum had the ever popular butter making demonstration. This demonstration encourages everyone to have a go at actually making butter along with a taste test and in the past has been everyone's favourite. I suppose that this is because people can actually taste what butter should taste like. The recipe that is used contains no salt and the butter that is made has to be eaten almost immediately. The best way I think. The other demonstration was spinning and knitting. The volunteers who come for this also encourage people to have a go at the crafts.

The day raised a total of \$1050.00 from door takings and this money will be going towards the renovation of the Waitoki Sunshine Block. This building still remains the main fundraising cause for the Museum. Any donations to aid this would be gratefully accepted. The cheque was presented to the Historical Society President John Smith the Treasurer of the Kaipara Classic Car Club Graeme Ritchie a few nights later at the Club's HQ.



*Presentation of the
cheque by Graeme
Ritchie to John Smith
Photo by Helen Martin*

The cars in the show were voted on by the public as they viewed the car with the cars being able to be voted for only once on each voting paper. This makes the overall winner exceptionally brilliant as they also got several other prizes.

The winners were:



*1933 Studebaker
Photo by Helen
Martin*

Best Original, Best 4-Door, and the prestige People's Choice—

1933 Studebaker Speedway Regal President 8 entered by Clifton Thomson & Lulu Martin of Kaukapakapa.

Best Pickup—1950 Ford F5 entered by Sandra and Brian Strickland of Hibiscus Coast

Best 2-Door Award—1965 Chev Impala entered by Lee Wood of Kaukapakapa

Committee Choice—1964 Ford Fairlane entered by Coral Ritchie of Helensville.

MUSEUM'S CHANGES ALLOWS GUARDIANSHIP OF TAONGA

The Helensville Pioneer Museum was set up by the Helensville and Districts Historical Society to record Helensville's history. Helensville began with the arrival of the McLeod family but Te Awaroa existed well before that time. The pioneer history was easy to tell with a wonderful collection of local diaries, newspaper items, letters, photographs and artifacts available to help. But what about before the arrival of the McLeod family?



• Te Aroha carver Leigh Bosch (lower left) examines the newly gifted carving - photo Stellanova

Recently the Museum's committee decided it was time to drop the word "Pioneer" from its title, become the Helensville Museum and to try to encompass local Maori history in its research and displays. With the recent move of the Archives collections and the Office to the new Archival building there are plans for the schoolhouse to have its display areas upgraded. So now is the perfect time to create a dedicated area telling Ngati Whatua's story.

For this to happen Maori interest and involvement is needed. An approach was made to the kaumatua (elders) of Nga Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara asking for their support in creating a display and their verbal support was given. That support was quickly followed by something far more concrete and exciting.

In a significant and highly valued move, a pōwhiri held in November saw representatives from Haranui Marae's Ngāti Whātua iwi hand Helensville Museum a pou (carved post) to care for and display.

As Leigh has explained, carvings were often hidden in swamps to be kept safe when an iwi was under attack. It is thought the pou was probably put in the swamp when South Head Ngāti Whātua were attacked by the northern Ngāpuhi 300 - 400 years ago. While the swamp would have preserved the carving for the time it was buried, it was much more vulnerable when exposed to the elements. Sometime in the 1960s or early 1970s a carving emerged out of the swamps at Haranui. It was a magnificent pou. This taonga (treasure) was given the name Te Aroha and was kept at Haranui.

A decision to house the taonga in an environment better suited to its conservation, aligned well with the museum's request for a co-operative approach to a Maori display and the Helensville Museum was contacted to see if they would accept kaitiakitanga (guardianship) of Te Aroha. The huge significance of this offer was not lost on the museum personnel who hurriedly made preparations. Heta Tobin of Reweti accepted their plea to be kaumatua and guide the process of welcoming Te Aroha into the museum. Patron Gay Hildreth and senior member Gay Keane joined President John Smith and committee members to be the welcoming party. Local media and photographers were invited to attend.

Awa Hudson, from Haranui, brought Jim Wilcox, Lonny Bycroft and Glenn Wilcox through the museum's gates, her karanga (call) responding to that of Leigh Bosch. The magnificent

taonga was placed on the floor of the museum and unwrapped to muted sounds of awe. The true magnificence of Te Aroha was revealed.

In his whaikorero (speech) Heta Tobin reminded those present that the McLeod family were not the first people here and that with the arrival of this taonga a clear statement was made that Ngati Whatua was at last acknowledged and was in the house! President, John Smith, stated that he hoped it was the start of a much greater relationship with local iwi and shared his dreams of a small Maori village alongside the European buildings of the museum.

Glenn Wilcox gave the warnings of responsibility that come with the manaakitanga (care of mana) of such a taonga and reminded Leigh Bosch, who was appointed as kaitiaki (carer), of her responsibilities as a member of Ngati Whatua and who is, therefore, directly associated with Te Aroha. Leigh is also Vice-President of the Historical Society and a former Chair of the Reweti Marae Trust.



*Te Aroha's head
Photo by Leigh Bosch*

After the formalities, morning tea gave everyone the time to discuss the event and to reflect on the responsibilities and challenges it presented. It may be some months before Te Aroha is available for public viewing as he must first be cared for and prepared for his role as kaitiaki (guardian) of all who now come under his domain in Helensville Museum and as resident kaimanaaki (carer of the mana) of Ngati Whatua. The style of carving and decoration and other significant features of Te Aroha, will be described in a later article.

*Contributed by Helen Martin and Leigh Bosch
Photographs by Rani Timoti (cover) and Leigh Bosch and Stellanova*

SOCIETY HAS A NEW PATRON

The Helensville and District Historical Society has appointed a new patron. We welcome Eric Perrett to this position. Eric has been involved in the past with the Society and has long been a keen supporter. Eric was one of the original “Last of Summer Wine” team who were mostly responsible for the maintenance and renovation of the buildings as they arrived at the Riverside Reserve in 2004. Eric along with the rest of the team gave his time to paint, varnish, build and any other jobs required. The Executive Committee invited Eric to be a patron after the passing of Roy Young (who also worked in the Summer Wine team) earlier in the year and he was pleased to accept.

Welcome aboard Eric from everyone at the Museum.

FAREWELL TO FRIENDS

MADGE BALDERSTON



Madge Balderston, who died recently aged 97 had lived in Helensville for 71 years, since she and her new husband arrived in 1944. Ethel Madge Healey married Dennis (Denny) Balderston in 1944. They boarded with the Williscrofts when they first came to Helensville. Later they bought their own home in Awaroa Road which remained the family home until Madge moved to Craigweil a few years ago.

Denny worked on the railways, at West Timber Company, a mill at Riverhead and at the Waitemata Electric Power Board. He died in 1981 aged 61 years.

Madge with her active interest in many local organizations truly earned the right to be called a dedicated citizen of Helensville. As well as following the interests of her son Eric and four daughters Brenda, Claire, Fay and Heather she was active in a number of organisations including the Red Cross, the Country Women's Institute, the Methodist Church, and later the South Kaipara Co-Operating Anglican-Methodist Parish (St Matthews) and the Historical Society.

Her interest and activities earned her Long Service Awards and Badges with the CWI and the Red Cross, including the Heart of Gold Community Award. For the Historical Society Madge was a regular on the Museum duty roster and a keen attender at Historical outings and functions.

Madge was a keen gardener and cook, and was interested in many crafts. She was a regular exhibitor at the Helensville A & P Show. It was her interest in and concern for helping people that persuaded her to keep going with Red Cross, even after the club membership had dwindled.

Information and photograph supplied by the Balderston family

HERBERT FRANK HENLEY 1926 – 2015



Frank Henley was born in Kaukapakapa on 14th January 1926, the second child of Herbert Chaplin (Bert) and Bell Marguerite (nee Scott) Henley. With his siblings Mary and Arthur, he grew up in Henley House (originally known as 'The Poplars'), which their grandfather Morris Clark Henley, an early settler in Kaukapakapa, had built for his family in 1887.

Frank had a lifelong connection with Kaukapakapa and Henley House, and was proud in a humble way of the associated history. His Grandfather and two brothers had settled in the area and had had a strong influence

upon the community, donating land for various civic uses and participating in community life.

Educated at Kaukapakapa Primary School, with a brief stint at Helensville District High School, Frank didn't enjoy formal education, but had a lifelong love of learning, educating himself through reading, and practical learning, and displaying an interest in the wider world around him.

He held a number of jobs, including farming, supervisor with the Electricity Department, builder's labourer, and working in a timber treatment yard. During the war, and eager to serve the country he loved so much, he enlisted as soon as he was able in the New Zealand armed services – during the war in the Airforce, posted to the Solomon Islands, and then post war, with the Army in J-Force in Japan. Like his forebears, he was also involved in the Kaukapakapa community, and for a number of years was the sexton for the Methodist Church, as was his father before him.

In late 1966, Frank headed off to England on his OE. Prior to leaving New Zealand, his English born Auntie Beat Henley, had given him a list of people to contact, including the address of her niece and family. Frank visited the Wannells, falling in love with their daughter Joy, marrying her and bringing her back to the family home at Kaukapakapa. The birth of two children followed, Elizabeth and Christine (Chrissy). A few years later, they sold Henley House as it had become too much to maintain and built a new home nearby. They were fortunate enough to be able to continue their association with Henley House, with subsequent owners.

Frank had a strong faith in God, and out of this came a love for Israel and its people. He was an elder in the Helensville Baptist Church for several years. His beliefs coloured who he was and what he did.

In 2002, due to ongoing health issues, Frank and Joy moved to Orewa. Here they settled into a new phase of life in that community, making many friends, while retaining strong connections with Kaukapakapa. Over the past few years, Frank's memory began to fail and earlier this year, he moved into a rest home. He had further health problems, and was admitted to North Shore Hospital where he passed away, aged 89 on 8th November, having celebrated his 48th wedding anniversary two days prior.

FURTHER FAREWELLS

GUY SHANKS a longtime local resident, died recently, aged 97 at Cragweil, Parakai. Although not currently a member of the Historical Society we record Guy's death as a member of the well-known Kaukapakapa pioneer Shanks family and send our condolences to the family. There will be an opportunity to hear stories of the Shanks family at the May Winter Lecture (Sunday 15 May) when Bruce Shanks will be the speaker.

BEN CAPEDO was a dedicated member of the West Auckland Historical Society and had a great deal of knowledge of local history. Among his many other talents he operated the model of a kauri trip dam which is a popular feature of the Museum at Henderson. Ben died at the end of November and we extend our sympathy to his family and friends.

PAT BRADLY Sympathy and condolences are extended to the Bradley family on the death of Pat, a lifelong resident of Te Pua.

NOTES FROM LYNN'S DESK

Well it is that time again—Christmas is almost upon us. It has been a busy year at the Museum with lots of fun events happening. Our main fundraising efforts this year have been going towards the Waitoki Sunshine Block. This building is looking a little worse for wear but we are now in a position to replace the roof. Once this happens and the building is once again water tight, we will be able to replace the beam under the verandah and get the new deck underway. The interior of the building is in quite good condition and will not need much (apart from a small hole in the floor—I nearly fell through this at one stage). Once this building is complete it will be another fantastic display area.



The new garden under flag poles

The gardens are looking great thanks to the hardworking garden team. This team turns up every Wednesday to trim hedges, weed the gardens, and any other things that always need doing in the garden. The new garden under the flag poles was planted out about a month ago and over the last couple of weeks has come into its own.

The Barn team have also been busy with maintenance work—another job that is ongoing. They have put up curtains, stopped walls, changed light bulbs and other many jobs. Without the efforts of this team the Museum would not be in such good condition as it is.



The garden outside the Archives

The archive team are another team who turns up every Wednesday. They have been working on the cataloguing of the archives which were moved from the old room to the new building. As everything was packed up it was an ideal time to make sure that everything was properly filed and the database updated. The photo team have also been busy digitilising the vast collection of photos and entering them into the database.

We have had quite a few visitors groups over the year. If you belong to another group who wants somewhere to go for a day trip, please think of us. I will open the Museum and give personal tours around. Coming to Helensville for the day is great, you can come to the Helensville Museum in the morning, have lunch at one of the many great cafes and visit the Railway Museum in the afternoon. All for a modest cost.



The old archive room

Once again a big thanks goes out the PD Boys who come to the Museum every Saturday. Since the last newsletter, they have refurbished school desks, oiled the saddles and bridles in the barn, cleaned up the trees, raked grass and put them on the gardens. They have also painted the two spare rooms within the Schoolhouse. These will soon be turned into the new rosterer's space and display spaces. We are hoping to have the whole renovation of displays in the schoolhouse completed. Watch this space.

CHRISTMAS PARADE 2015

The Christmas Festival was held on 5th December 2015. The parade started at 12pm and went through town to the Museum. There was face painting, markets, a bouncy castle, Santa Lolly Scramble and photos with Santa in a classic car in the afternoon at the Museum. The day weather wise was just great. There were some clouds to make the day a little cooler but the afternoon sun caused a few sunburnt bodies.



Helensville Museum Parade entry

The parade entries were judged this year by Ralph Martin with Jools Topp and Teresa Trull. Jools and Teresa were also down at Creek Lane in the morning with Yvonne Hilton to make announcements and they sang a few numbers. A great coup for the

organisers to get these two great singers to our little town parade. Jools and Teresa were also in the parade in a pink Cadillac. These two great singers did some numbers at the Museum in the afternoon which was just terrific. There were also the belly dancers who did a number of dances at the Museum in the afternoon as well as down at Creek Lane in the morning. These were terrific.

The colouring competition this year was a great success with the winning entries are now displayed in the window of “Allsorts” in Commercial Road. “Allsorts” was the sponsor of the prizes in the competition.

Creek Lane was blocked off during the parade as there was be a bouncy castle, face painting and the sound system in this area. There were also photos at the RSA with Santa in the morning. This year the photos were be taken by parents as the photographer who usually does these has moved away from the area. The same applied to the Museum in the afternoon for photos.

The Museum had demonstrations of butter making, spinning, knitting and carding.



The spinning demonstration was in the Courthouse for the better light with the butter making in the kitchen. The Museum was open from 10am to 4pm and the donation boxes collected some money.

Hope you came down for a look. It was a great day all round for all visitors and locals to the town.

VOLUNTEERS MORNING TEA

Wednesday 9th December is the Annual Volunteers Morning Tea. This is to recognize the all the hard work put into the Museum by the volunteers over the year. This year the list of volunteers has grown from previous years as more people have helped over the year at our open days in addition to the regulars. Morning tea will be provided by the committee. I have sent out all the invitations so if you did do some volunteering this year you should have already received your invite.

If you are able to give a few hours each month, I am still looking for more volunteers to go on the roster. Maybe if we get a few extras, we may be able to open a couple of days more during the week. This would be fantastic. If you can help, then please contact Lynn 420-7881.

OFFICERS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PATRONS:

Doris Jenkins, Gay Hildreth, Barbara Waller and Eric Perrett

ADMIN OFFICER: Lynn Millar

COMMITTEE: 2015-2016

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| President /Accessions | John Smith |
| Vice President/Financial | Leigh Bosch |
| Minute Secretary/Publicity | Judy Lloyd |
| Archives/Library | Lesley Holt |
| Family History | Isla Willis |
| “Past Perfect” catalogues | Leigh Bosch |
| Heritage tours | Julie Colville |
| Hospitality | Rhonda Grace |
| Gardens/Accessions | Jean Davidson |
| Newsletter/Events | Wynne HaySmith |
| Media/Events | Jennifer McCann |
| Accessions | Janet Cridland |
| Tributes | <i>*Glenyss Blackshaw</i> |
| Financial Committee | John Smith , Leigh Bosch |
| | <i>*Glenyss Blackshaw</i> Wynne HaySmith |
| | Lynn Millar |

** Resigned from committee 30th October 2015 as moving to New Lynn*

* * * * *

THANKS SO MUCH

We are always appreciative of the generosity of members and friends for their contributions to the Museum and the Society. Memory being what it is, we sometimes slip up on mentioning these donations. Please forgive us if this has happened to your family.

PLEASE REMEMBER

That we are in **urgent need of more volunteers** to help run the Museum operations, including **Roster Duty** (Wednesday, Saturday or Sunday afternoons), **Housekeeping**, and **Open Days** volunteers.

If you can spare a couple of hours a month, or what ever you can, we would welcome you with open arms (and some of Lynn's home baking on Wednesday mornings; the usual workshop time)

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 38-9017-0078008-00** (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 2015-2016 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. This helps to reduce our costs and enables more projects to undertaken.

Helensville & District Historical Society Inc

Box 133,

Helensville 0840



Subscription Single :\$15 or Family \$20

Corporate rate \$30 (circle one)

Research Donation \$..... Garden Donation \$.....

Other \$.....

Name _____

E-mail _____

Alterations / additions to address

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| President | John Smith | 420 8428 |
| Vice President | Leigh Bosch | 420 6146 |
| Secretary | Judy Lloyd | 420 5276 |
| 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

P O Box 133, Helensville 0840

Ph (09) 420 7881

www.helensvillemuseum.org.nz

helensvillemuseum@xtra.co.nz

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