

# The Kaipara Pioneer

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

December 2013

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## KIDS DAY OUT AT THE MUSEUM



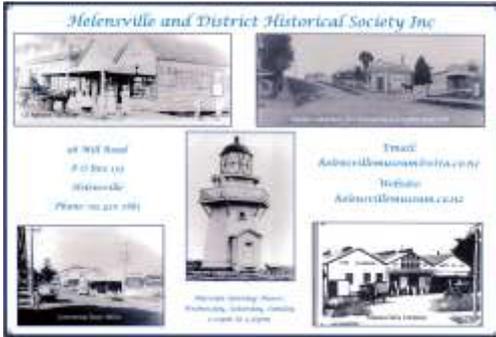
Jennifer McCann, organiser of the Kids Day Out with young keen marble players

## SEASON'S GREETINGS

All the very best to all our readers for a happy and relaxing Christmas and New Year from your Executive Committee and your editors . We'll see you back next year!

*Wynne and Lynn*

## CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS



**Calendars for sale** this year, available from the Museum for \$6.00 each with P & P \$3.00 extra if required.

Also available are **smart ballpoint pens** (coloured body with chrome clip and tip) for \$5.00. Suede slip case is an extra \$1. The pens are inscribed "Helensville and District Historical Society".

We also have gift membership certificates. Why not give a membership to the Historical Society to family members or friends?

**Contact Lynn - phone 09 420 7881 (or e-mail) today with your order**

## Invitations

**MORNING TEA FOR VOLUNTEERS** the annual "Thank You" morning team for the Society volunteers will be held at the Museum on Wednesday 11 December at 10 am. We are hoping that all those willing workers are able to come along. Your contribution is essential to the Society, and much appreciated.

## 150th ANNIVERSARY OF THOMPSON MURDERS

Coral Begley, on behalf of descendants of the Thompson family of Violet Farm, Kaukapakapa has invited Society members and anyone interested to join them at an unveiling of a plaque at Kaukapakapa Cemetery at 11.30 am on Sunday 22 December followed by refreshments at the War Memorial Hall, Helensville. (See page 4)

# KIDS DAY OUT - Saturday 5 October

This day was a great success for everyone who attended. The weather was just perfect—slightly overcast.



Tin Can Stilt Walking

The activities were all enthusiastically participated in by the children—and parents. We had horseshoe toss, sack races, hoops, and stilts on the grass outside. Marbles and chalk pictures were done on the cobblestones outside the Schoolhouse.

The children were able to make peg dolls and sand saucers on the deck to take home. There was a colouring competition and butter making demonstration in the Schoolhouse and story time in Hedley House along with some demonstrations of spinning, knitting and other crafts. The Treasure Quiz which took the children all around the Museum to find the answers, was a great success with a small prize for completion.

The West Auckland Woodturners Association put on a display with items for sale in the barn.



Even Dads can do chalk pictures

Flora Thirkettle was also there demonstrating net making techniques.

We also had a sausage sizzle and drinks for sale.



Peg doll Making

## museum holiday opening hours

*Note change*

**The Museum will close for visitors on Monday 17 December and re-open on Wednesday 8 January, 2014. The office will be closed from Friday 20 December 2013 until Monday 6 January.**

## L W Nelson - Seen at whangarei

*While at a recent function at the Whangarei Club, I noticed a plaque on the wall recognizing the founder members, dated 1911. One name and photo was of Laurence Nelson.*

**Laurence William Nelson** was a prominent Northland farmer and businessman - recognized as a careful, shrewd, self-made man, prominent in property and investment. With his wife Jane, he set up the L W Nelson Trust which has for many years been a benefactor to help Northland's aged and destitute or those suffering serious disability. Over the years the trust has distributed more than a million dollars in Northland. There is also an L W Nelson Agricultural Scholarship which supports Northland students to pursue further education at an agricultural institution. \*\*  
L W Nelson was named in the 1959 birthday honours list for his community work, but died before he could receive the award.

**Laurence William Nelson** was second son of Charles Nelson and Irapeta (Isabella) Stanaway, and was born in Helensville about 1869. The Nelson family moved to Auckland in the mid 1870s. Isabella and Charles were both prominent in Helensville business and community. Charles worked with Judge Rogan in the Native Land court as an interpreter and agent and with his wife Isabella was first owner of the Kaipara Hotel. Her hospitality was legendary. She also owned land in the town.

\*\* *information on the L W Nelson Trust found on the Internet and on the Nelson family from "Pioneering Women of South Kaipara" (2nd edition), page 91.* **article by Wynne HaySmith.**

## The Thompson murders - 1863

On 21 December 1863 a double murder occurred at Kaukapakapa which shocked both the Pakeha settlers, and local Maori. Mr Thompson, local postman, and his wife and family lived at Violet Farm, Kaukapakapa. On the fateful day a young Maori, who had formerly been on friendly terms with the family, attacked and killed Mrs Thompson and one daughter, Olivia. With the co-operation of the local chiefs and tribe, Rurangi Kingi was identified by two young Thompson sisters and handed over for trial. He was later sentenced to death.

## Cars on display

On Sunday 24th November the Museum was transformed with the arrival of about 50 classic cars for the Car Show which was held in conjunction



Best In Show—El Camino

with the Kaipara Classic Car Club. The Museum was open all day with the gate takings of the show going to the Museum. There was a sausage sizzle by the Kaipara College Waka Ama Group, mussel fritters, ice creams and drinks were also available.

The Best In Show was a beautiful red El Camino. There was also a 1956 Messerschmidt on show which came second in show  
A Great day was enjoyed by all who visited.



1956 Messerschmidt

## More waitoki memories

The Waitoki story in the last newsletter raised memories for Isla Willis (nee Scott, a former Waitoki resident). She remembers Mrs McCook as being a very strong character - large in stature and a very hard worker on the family farm. She held strong political views, and was also happy to accept rides to church services at Waitoki.

While on an overseas trip in 1956, Isla met up with Maurice Mihotich (one of those serendipity occasions that many Kiwis experience overseas). It turned out that Maurice along with his parents and sister had lived in the house in Waitoki, that the Scotts moved into in 1943.

Maurice went on to become a very well known dress designer, based in Auckland. His classy garments are still offered for sale on Trade Me (the internet). Daphne Stevens added that the Mihotichs were related to the Zurich family, also of Waitoki.

# Far ewel l to fred- and thank you

Fred Hendon, Past President of the Helensville and District Historical Society and a strong influence in the Society, died on 10 October 2013 in Motueka. Unfortunately Fred's health had declined after his move to the South Island, but local members will remember his boundless enthusiasm, and his ability to get things done, while President of the Society.

Before his retirement Fred worked with UEB, in the packaging business. He retired to Helensville, with his wife Janice about 1994 and set up home in Rimmer Road. Fred's life interests were his family and his extensive and ever growing garden and after moving to the district he joined the Historical Society. It was a time when the Society was facing difficult decisions about its future. The site on the Hall reserve was limited, in size (the Courthouse and Hedley House) and the Council wanted more room for car parking.

A Feasibility Study was done and various sites were investigated. Fred came in as President after John Pyatt retired, and led the push for moving to the River Reserve - known locally as the "Tip Site". The rest as they say, is history. As President, Fred was very keen to see the society work on a "professional" basis, setting goals, writing reports etc - a new emphasis for the society. He was ably supported by VP Peter Reaves.



Jan was also active and well known in Helensville as a member and President of the CWI.

In 2005 Fred and Jan moved to Motueka. Fred is survived by his wife Janice, three sons and their families.

Fred with members of the "Summer Wine" team. **Above** Trevor Loveridge and Roy Brooks (photographer); **below left** Roy Young; **below right** Eric Perrett



# tributes to fred hendon

**Eric Perrett writes:** I can recall a public meeting with Brian Sharplin (Clerk of the County Council) over the future of the public waste dump in Mill Road. A commercial group wanted the area, but we suggested the site was ideal as a future site for the Museum.

The “Last of the Summer Wine” team started as Roy Young, Hec Nicholls and myself. At this stage we were trying to paint the weather boards and roof of Hedley House. Luckily a working party from the Lions Club (including Ian Amooore) came to the rescue to complete the job, plus Fred Hendon, who was new to the area. Fred then became involved in the general maintenance of buildings, (the Summer Wine Team) freeing me up for work on the wrecks and map on the Kaipara Harbour and my involvement with Grey Power.

At some stage we organised a fund-raising sale of many donated items from Society members and the public. This event in the War Memorial Hall was conducted by a talented auctioneer and many items of value were sold. We also held our first Trivial Pursuits evening in the hall. At some stage I got planning permission for the archway and memorial plaque next to the RSA on the main road..

Fred became President and was heavily involved in the move of the Museum buildings to the River Reserve - a mammoth task, but what an achievement! Fred was followed as President by Ian Amooore.

**Ian Amooore writes:** I was sorry to hear of Fred Hendon’s passing. His contribution to our community is much appreciated. His business life and experience endowed him with leadership skills which we all benefitted from. His contribution to the Historical Society was substantial as he had the knack of co-ordinating people’s various skills and abilities to work for the common good.



\* \* \* \* \*

## **Fred as John Mcleod**

Fred played the role of John McLeod at many Society functions, and was a commanding figure in top hat and tails - very akin to the stature of “Long John” himself. In the event pictured the beard is real!

## recent acquisitions



### **Chairs for the Courthouse**

Not two chairs as mistakenly reported in the last newsletter, but three! Apologies for the miscount. The third is placed behind the typewriter in front of the judge's bench.

### **Toys and cabinet from Pete's Museum, Kerikeri**

The society was pleased to be offered (free) a glass showcase and set of model transport toys by Pete's Pioneer and Transport Museum, Kerikeri. Unfortunately Pete has had to close his Museum. Lynn drove to Kerikeri and brought back the bounty! It will be on view shortly.

## Spring cleaning at the museum

Members of the Society committee gathered at the Museum with mops and dusters on Wednesday 16 October for a spring cleaning day. Cobwebs vanished, the wooden deck was water blasted, and window and showcase glass cleaned. A very satisfactory result. Thanks everyone!

### **Mavis cooper 8 February 1915 - 20 November 2013**

Mavis Dunning of Warkworth came to Helensville to work at Hinemoa House, and married Alan Cooper in 1939, so beginning her long and active association with the Helensville community (nearly 50 years)



Mavis was active in social, sporting and helping organisations, including Women's Institute, Red Cross. Indoor and Outdoor Bowls, Presbyterian Church, Historical Society. As well as helping at the Museum, Mavis donated lucky 4-leaved clovers for sale! She also gave her scrapbook on CWI activities, which has proved a very useful resource, to the Archives.

Mavis was widowed in 1980, and when she decided to return to her native Warkworth, in 1985, she was afforded nine farewells! She died in Warkworth on 20 November, aged 98 years. She had lived a long and very full life. The society extends sympathy to her family.

# VISIT TO GIBB FARM

In October there was a bus trip to Gibbs Farm Sculptures. The wind was bit keen that day but did not detract from a great day. A minivan was able to be driven around the farm for those who were not up to the long trek around the farm. Lunch was eaten down by the beach. The sculptures were amazing and the company was great.

## Hugh Poland at Helensville

*The NZ Herald recently ran a series of heritage articles "People in our Past". On Thursday 14 November the story of Teresa Poland 1839 - 1914, was told by her great grand-daughter, Diane Wilson.*

Teresa and her husband John Poland migrated from Ireland to New Zealand, arriving in 1865, and were allotted 20 acres at Tuakau. They had a large family of eleven children, one of whom was Diane Wilson's grandfather, Hugh Poland. Diane reported that as a young man Hugh won a district scholarship to Auckland Grammar School where he topped the NZ Civil Service exam in his fifth year. He also excelled at sport - athletics and rugby. He played rugby for Auckland from 1887-1894.

Hugh trained as a teacher, and in the story of Helensville schools *Do You Remember* he is listed as the second teacher at the Parkhurst School, 1887-1889. In *Men Came Voyaging* we read that Hugh Poland married Ellie Hand, daughter of James Hand Senior (Judge Rogan's boatman). After two years at Parkhurst School Hugh took up flax milling (a trade his father had worked at in Tuakau) and had a mill at Pipitewai between Mt Rex and Helensville from 1890 - 1892.

From Helensville Hugh moved on to Rotorua and then Paeroa, where he became active in local politics, and the Ohinemuri Jockey Club. In 1906 Hugh Poland was elected to Parliament for Ohinemuri as a member of Sir Joseph Ward's Liberal party. Ohinemuri was a mining district and Hugh worked hard to improve the lot of miners until he lost his seat in 1925. The Poland family remained active in the Paeroa district.

# OFFICERS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## PATRONS:

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

**ADMIN OFFICER:** Lynn Millar

## COMMITTEE: 2013-2014

President /Accessions	John Smith
Vice President/Treasurer	Glenyss Blackshaw
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
Accessions/gardens	Jean Davidson
Newsletter/events	Wynne HaySmith
Media/events	Jennifer McCann

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## 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. Training and support are offered for new rosterers.

**Please ring Lynn on 420 7881 or e-mail or write to Museum**

## another gentle nudge! - 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 leave a message on the answerphone or send an e-mail if you are not sure whether you have paid for this year!

Your sub which is life blood to the Historical Society; will gain you quarterly newsletters, the chance to join others for trips, and free access to visit the Museum (except for some special events).

## Tail piece

*They say with age comes wisdom - but sometimes age comes alone.*

Quote from “Sideswipe “ back page column in NZ Herald, 20 November, 2013.

## 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](mailto: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)

Corporate rate \$30 (circle one)

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

Other \$.....

Name \_\_\_\_\_

E mail \_\_\_\_\_

<b>President</b>	<b>John Smith</b>	<b>420 8428</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Glenyss Blackshaw</b>	<b>420 8513</b>
<b>Minute Secretary</b>	<b>Judy Lloyd</b>	<b>420 5276</b>
<b>Admin Officer</b>	<b>Lynn Millar</b>	<b>420 7881</b>

### 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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