

The Kaipara Pioneer

Newsletter of the Helensville & District Historical Society (Inc)

June 2014

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James Hunter was son of John Hunter, who came to Helensville in 1878 from Riverhead. Jas Hunter, or Hunter Bros were carriers of freight and passengers throughout the Helensville District. Their business was situated at the corner of Railway and Stewart Streets.. The Hunter story is the subject of the 15 June Winter Lecture.

Photo from Noelene Lawson

FROM THE EDITORS

We have a mixed bag of news for you this issue - with the good news about the grant to complete the Archives building and the sad news of the death of several good friends of the Society. Winter Lectures continue and plans are underway for the 90th Waitoki School anniversary (26 July), Trivial Pursuits, (1 August) and the Heritage Children's Day (5 October). Once again several items of local interest have appeared in other publications - see page 6.

Lynn Millar and Wynne HaySmith

GENEROUS GRANT FOR ARCHIVES

Work on the Archives building was on hold for several months, after the money from the ASB grant was all used. Fortunately the Paeroa Trust have made a generous grant to the Society to continue work on the project. The provision of special shelving for the archives, completion of the interior divisions, store room, office area and plumbing for kitchen, accession room and toilet are awaiting completion. The Archives vision is becoming a reality!

GET WELL SOON, JEAN

One of the Society's most active volunteers is Jean Davidson. She wears many hats: accessions, gardens, roster duty and display. She is at the Museum often, always willing to take any job that needs to be done. Unfortunately Jean suffered a fall at her home recently, and broke her hip. She is reported to be making good progress after a hip replacement operation but will be out of action for a couple of months. We send heartfelt good wishes Jean - come back soon..

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday 15 June 2 pm Catholic Church Hunter Family Lecture (page 9)

Sunday 20 July 2 pm Catholic Church Kaipara Mills Lecture (page 9)

Friday 27 June 2 pm War Memorial Hall Supper room A G M (page 6)

Saturday 26 July 11 am Waitoki School 90th Anniversary and Concert (page 7)

Friday 1 August 7.00 pm War Memorial Hall Trivial Pursuits (page 4)

Saturday 5 October Children's Heritage Day (page 4)

October date TBA Gibbs Farm visit (page 5)

November date TBA Car Club Show and activities

FAREWELL TO AMOORES

It is with great sadness that we record the deaths of former President Ian Amoore on his 77th birthday, 27 May 2014 and his wife Jan, on 16 April 2014.

Ian was born in Wellington although his family had links with Taranaki. Ian was educated in Wellington, and moved to Australia for vet training. Jan and Ian had met as teenagers, and were married in Wellington after Ian qualified. They lived in Taranaki and Wanganui before coming to the Vet Service, in Helensville in 1970. The Amoores had three sons, Michael, Richard and David.



The family moved from McLeod Street to Ohirangi in 1980 and Ian set up in private practice. He worked with the deer industry locally, nationally and internationally in a practical and advisory role, travelling as far afield as Malaysia Indonesia and Canada.

Ian was involved in community affairs - he had been Assistant District Commissioner of Scouts, before coming to Helensville. In Helensville he belonged to the Presbyterian Church, Lions Club and the Historical Society. He also served on the Borough Council. Ian was a dedicated Lion, holding various offices, including President in 1971-72, and was later presented with a prestigious Melvin Jones Fellowship Award. Ian played a key role in the Historical Society, working closely with Fred Hendon and his team in the transfer of the Museum to the River Reserve. Ian served as President from 2002 - 2007. Ian and Jan moved to Pinesong, Green Bay in 2010, but remained as interested members.

Jan had a very successful career in education, first as a classroom teacher, then moving to an administrative and advisory role in the provision of special and assisted learning for primary school pupils in the South Kaipara district.

Gardening was a passion for both Jan and Ian, and they built a beautiful and productive garden-orchard at Ohirangi. Fishing and boating were major recreations for the family and their friends.

The Society extends sympathy to Mike, Rick, Dave and their families.

MEMORIAL SERVICE, FRIDAY 6 JUNE

Family, colleagues and friends of the late Jan and Ian Amoore gathered at the Blockhouse Bay Boat Club on Friday 6 June to honour and farewell this popular couple. It was a beautiful spot looking out across the harbour to wood-clad hills. Laughter was mixed with sadness as heartfelt tributes, funny stories and memories were shared.

Contributed by Wynne HaySmith

NOTES FROM LYNN'S DESK

Periodic Detention Crew

Over the past few months Ron Iles has given up his Saturdays to be at the Museum when the PD crew come. They have done some heavy jobs such as smoothing out the gravel on the driveway and filling in pot holes in the grass beside the driveway with soil. They have also fixed the front fence which was damaged some time ago. The painters in the team have painted the inside of the new Archive Room with paint donated by PJS Painters. The Waitoki Sunshine building has had some attention - scraping back old paint work which will be an ongoing job. The trees and bushes have benefitted from pruning to allow the lawn mower people easy access around them. They have been washing down the buildings monthly so that we present a clean image to our visitors.

We would like to thank the boys and their supervisor Kevin McAllister for the work they have accomplished since they have been coming. A big Thank You also goes out to Ron who has given up his Saturdays to be here.

Children's Heritage Day

On 5 October 2014 from 11am to 3.00pm, the museum is holding its annual Children's Day to coincide with the Auckland Heritage Festival. We will have more things to do this year. There will be games such as toss the horseshoe, sack races, a new treasure quiz, old fashioned peg dolls to make and the ever popular sand saucers. The colouring competition will go out through the schools in September, and prizes awarded on Children's Day.

The entry fee is a gold coin donation and soft drinks, tea and coffee will be available for sale. A sausage sizzle will be going all day. We hope to have musicians, kapa haka and a Morris Dance demonstration on the verandah.

We will have demonstrations of traditional and heritage crafts with plenty of opportunities to join in. Butter making comes with the sampling of course. The barn will have demonstrations of wood-turning (items for sale), net making and mending. There will be mock trials in the courthouse with story telling sessions in Hedley House of old fashioned stories that will be enjoyed by all ages.

Come along with the children and grandchildren and have a fun day with us.

Trivial Pursuits Night

This popular annual event will be held on Friday 1 August, starting 7 pm at the War Memorial Hall. Quiz Host this year will be John Smith who promises some real posers. Prizes and raffles add to the fun. Teams can book in with Lynn at the Museum. (\$10 per person). Bring your own drinks and nibbles - tea and coffee available. Come along and enjoy a night of fun and competition.

Northland Museums Association

Lynn Millar went to the last meeting of the NMA at the Warkworth Museum. There was a speaker from Museums Aotearoa with an insurance discussion following.* The general consensus was that there needs to be a group scheme which would increase the bargaining power of museums with the insurance companies. This will be investigated by Museums Aotearoa and they will report back at the next meeting. It is interesting to note that there is an article published in June 1984 by AGMANZ (Museums Association at the time) which has all the same problems which are being faced by Museums large and small today. Helensville Museum's insurance has drastically increased over the past couple of years even with our insurance agent giving us a good deal.

Museum entrance fees were discussed. The entry cost among members ranges from \$12 - \$25 for larger Museums down to \$3 - \$8 for the smaller Museums. It was suggested that there could be a discount system when visiting fellow members of the NMA, but this was not popular with the smaller museums. If members are visiting other northern Museums it would pay to enquire whether member discounts are available.

John Bull from Mangawhai was re-elected as President but advised that this would be his last year. The next meeting will be at Kiwi North, Whangarei.

****NOTE The NZ Federation of Historical Societies has also been wrestling with this problem over the past couple of years, without any resolution yet.***

Gibbs Farm Trip – October 2014

We have arranged to go back to the Gibbs Farm in October to view the sculptures. We will take a mini-van again, for those who do not want to walk the whole distance around the farm. Bring your lunch for a picnic by the Kaipara Harbour. (Bring a folding chair if you like, as the ground is a bit hard!) This is a wonderful day trip with great company. Book with Lynn at the Museum. Cost is \$20.00pp and seats are limited so book early.

Visitor Survey

At present AUT University are conducting a Visitor Survey to find out what the area has to do in order to increase our visitor numbers. This research is being conducted with support from Rodney Local Board and local stakeholders in the area. If you have visitors then please encourage them to complete this survey (www.regionalsurveys.co.nz). There is a chance to win one of five Family passes to Parakai Springs. The survey takes about 10-15 minutes to complete. The more people who do this, the better the results of this research. **There is a form to register for this at the Museum.**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with its Constitution
that the Helensville & District Historical Society Inc's
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
will be held on
Friday 27 June, 2014
Commencing at 2 pm in the Supper Room of the
Helensville War Memorial Hall

All Welcome

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Tributes
- 3 Minutes of 2013 AGM
- 4 Matters arising from Minutes
- 5 Reports
- 6 Election of Officers and Executive Committee
- 7 Appointment of Auditor
- 8 General Business

Afternoon Tea will be served at the conclusion of the meeting.

NOTE 1: Reports will be available at the meeting. Any member not present but wanting copies of the reports, please contact Lynn at the Museum office.

NOTE 2: As the Auditor is not available until June a draft financial report will be presented at the AGM, and audited accounts will be available later.

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IN OTHER MEDIA

People with Helensville connections, in the news recently include

Judith Williams - honoured in Queens Birthday list for services to the Puhoi community. Judith is a journalist of long standing, and a friend of the Society.

Rod Dennis and his wife Elaine, now residents of Orewa, recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Rod was first chemist at the Kaipara Dairy Co from 1953-1958. He has been in the news over recent years for his efforts in assisting sufferers of aphasia (loss of ability to read and speak, after a stroke), which he suffered himself in 2003 and worked hard to overcome.

John Hood - knighted in Queens Birthday honours 2014. He attended Helensville School in 1962-64 when his father George was Headmaster there. John later went to Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar from AUT. He has held positions of vice-chancellor at Auckland University, and at Oxford University, England.

WAITOKI SCHOOL 90 YEARS

Waitoki School was established in 1924 in a one roomed building which soon became the centre of the district's schooling, social and sporting activities. Ten years later, as the district's population grew, a second building was added – a new “Sunshine Block”.

A celebration to mark these 90 years is planned for Saturday 26 July 2014 at the present Waitoki School. Facilities at the school have been considerably extended over the years and the 90th function will be held in the new school hall.

The day's events will begin at 11 am with shared memories and photo displays. People are asked to bring food for a shared lunch at 12.30 pm. In the afternoon at 2 pm a variety concert featuring local artists of all ages will be staged in the school hall and a celebration cake will be cut.

Tickets for the concert will be available at Waitoki School, or from Helensville Museum or on the day, at \$15 per adult, \$12 concession (Seniors, students or disabled) Primary children free.

A writing competition recording memories of Waitoki is part of the celebration with prizes to be awarded at 3 levels – primary school, secondary/tertiary students, and adults. Entries can be poetry, fiction or non-fiction. Entries should be posted or delivered to Waitoki School by Monday 14 July. (*1119 Kahikatea Flats Rd, R D 1 Kaukapakapa, 0871*).



Enquiries to Daphne Stevens 09 426 6383, Wynne HaySmith 09 427 8199 or Helensville Museum 09 420 7881 or e-mail to helensvillemuseum@xtra.co.nz

FAREWELL TO ROD MOYLE 1926 - 2014

The Society extends sympathy to Iris Moyle and family on the recent death of TRR (Rod) Moyle, a resident of Helensville for 52 years. Iris and Rod came to Helensville in 1962, when Rod joined the Kaipara Dairy Company - a position he held until the KDC closed in the mid 1980s. Rod began training as an accountant, then went farming for 4 years. Iris and Rod married in 1955.

Rod joined his first Dairy Company in Opotoki, and completed his accountancy qualifications. He worked at Albertland, Moerewa, and Edgecumbe before coming to Helensville. Rod was appreciated as an honest, sincere citizen and ready to share his talents as an accountant and auditor for local organisations.

Iris Moyle is a regular rosterer and craft demonstrator at Society Open Days

BRUCE COCHRANE OF SOUTH HEAD

Alexander Bruce Cochrane, resident of South Head for 64 years, died at his home on 22 April, aged 94. Bruce and his wife Rene were the first settlers on the Te Kawau block of the returned soldiers “Rehab” scheme at South Head, and at the time of his death Bruce was the last surviving farmer still living on his land.

When Bruce and Rene arrived at their balloted farm on 3 July 1950 it was somewhat of a disaster. Cows were calving, but there were limited facilities for dealing with them, and no living accommodation. Bruce wrote in his memoirs that there was “no power, no water, no toilet, no nothing!” The implement shed was the Cochrane’s home for 14 months.

Rene and Bruce worked as team to get their farm and home established and also took a full and active part in the local community. The Te Kawau block – the northernmost part of the South Head rehab settlement – was isolated from Helensville by distance and poor roads, so local residents built up their own community facilities, based on the Hall and the Waioneke School. Rene and Bruce were involved with Christmas concerts, bowls, cards nights, the library and other activities. Rene was an active member of the Women’s Division of Federated Farmers. Bruce was an elder in the Presbyterian Church and the Cochranes organised monthly South Head church services for many years.

Although Rene and Bruce did not have children of their own they were always very involved in children’s activities. Through the Presbyterian Church, Rene, with Bruce’s support ran the Busy Bees group and taught numbers of local girls sewing, handcrafts and other living skills. These girls remained their friends and supporters over the years.

Bruce had served with the Field Artillery in the Pacific during World War Two, as a driver and stories were told at his funeral of how he passed on his driving skills (particularly the art of backing articulated vehicles and trailers) to those who helped him on the farm!

Rene died in 1996, but Bruce was determined to stay at their farm “Windy Pines” and with the help of a dedicated group of friends and caregivers was able to achieve this wish. Friends who gathered for his funeral at Helensville warmly farewelled Bruce – a loyal friend, a quiet, unassuming man with a warm smile, a sense of humour and an important part of the South Head community.



*Story by Wynne HaySmith ,
photo by Dianne Mcleod*

WINTER LECTURES 2014

STORIES OF THE WADE (SILVERDALE) 15 MAY

Stories of the early settlers and the settlement of Wade (Silverdale) was the subject of the first of the Historical Society's 2014 Winter Lectures held at the Father Sakey Centre, Helensville on Sunday afternoon, 18 May.

The speaker was Robin Grover, historian, researcher and author, of Silverdale Historical Society. Robin recently published a book "Makers of the Wade" and used stories and photographs from this volume in her talk.

Although the European settlement Wade (Weiti) was about 10 years ahead of the McLeod's arrival in Te Awaroa, there were some similarities – both settlements relied initially on timber felling, milling and sales of logs – and the clearing of land for farming. The Wade had much easier access to Auckland by sea, for trading, transport and communication. Families involved in the early settlement included the "Kelly Gang", Fairs, Lloyds, Bonds, and Robin's own family – Stoneys, and Robin related some very colourful events.

Robin's talk was well received by the 25 or so people present. Afternoon tea and the usual interesting conversations and questions rounded off the afternoon.

HUNTER FAMILY HISTORY SUNDAY 21 JUNE

The June illustrated lecture will be given by Noelene Lawson (nee Strong) on the Hunter family of Helensville and their varied business, community and family interests. There are still Hunter descendants in Helensville today.

John Hunter and his wife Sarah (Campbell) came to Helensville from Lambs' Mill, Riverhead in 1878. John was a farmer at Te Pua and ran a bakery in the town. His son James (Jas) Hunter, whose wife was also Sarah (Doyle) started a carrier's business with horses, which continued through to truck transport. Their houses and business premises were at the corner of Stewart and Railway Street. Other families linked to the Hunters include Reylands, Blundells and Le Grices.

The lecture will be at 2 pm on Sunday 15 June at the Father Sakey Centre, Kowhai Street.

TIMBER MILLS OF THE KAIPARA - SUNDAY 20 JULY

On 20 July, 2 pm Father Sakey Centre, the speaker will be Kaipara author Wayne Ryburn of Taupaki and his subject – "Timber Mills of the Kaipara". Wayne's book "Tall Spars, Steamers and Gum" is well known among local historians, and provides a comprehensive illustrated record on activities of the early Kaipara settlement. This promises to be a very interesting lecture.

* * * * *

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

CAN YOU HELP? WE DO NEED YOU!

Once again we are appealing for help to keep the Museum open. We are short of people for Wednesday afternoon roster duty in particular. . If the thought of showing people around is a bit daunting, there are other jobs you may like to do! Volunteers are the life blood of the Society. -

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

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WANTED - FRIDGE AND CHEST FREEZER

The **FRIDGE** in the Museum kitchen has quietly expired! Does anyone have a spare small to medium sized fridge which needs a new home? Lynn and the volunteers would greatly appreciate a frig to keep their morning tea and lunch food safe.

The Society also has need of a small or medium sized **CHEST FREEZER** for the accessions room at the new Archive Centre. It is recommended practice that when items come into the Museum they be chilled in a freezer to kill off such nasties as silverfish.

* * * * *

Greetings and good wishes to Alan Moore who recently had back surgery.

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 2014-2015 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 _____

Alterations / additions to address

President	John Smith	420 8428
Vice President	Glenyss Blackshaw	420 8513
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

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