

# *The Kaipara Pioneer*

**Newsletter of the  
Helensville & District Historical Society (Inc)  
August 2011**

Contents include:

Pioneering Women of South Kaipara  
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AGM



Modcom ready for siting, extension and completion

## **WINTER LECTURES 2011**

### **MAY**

A large number of people turned out for the May lecture and photos by Alan Scott. There was much enthusiasm from the people who were able to see photos of themselves or their loved ones. Following questions which arose at this showing it has been decided that the parade was to celebrate the end of World War 2 in August 1946.

We still have 1 copy of the CD of the photos which is available for a donation of \$10, which includes postage and packing.

### **JUNE**

About 30 people turned out on a wet day in June to hear Wayne Ryburn talk about the wealth of Kaipara and how it had impacted on the growth of Auckland in the later years of the 19th Century. Such well known businessmen as Sir John Logan Campbell, Edwin Mitchelson and L D Nathan trade gum and kauri from the Kaipara area, exporting it to Australia, America and England. Gold, although commanding a higher price was not traded in the volumes of kauri gum, over the years.

### **JULY**

The third lecture, the Ups and Downs of Helensville Businesses was prepared by Grev and Maureen Walker, on a sunny Sunday in July. Grev illustrated the talk with an effective Powerpoint presentation, put together by Sue Hadwin.

The activities of a range of Helensville's business and community organisations over the past 30 years were covered in the talk, which showed both ups and downs. Some, like the Kaipara Dairy Company which was a positive influence in the life of the town for 77 years, became a "down" in recent times with the loss of employment, and then the deterioration in the buildings, becoming an eyesore at the entrance to the town.

Another "down" was the closure of the two major trading banks in March 1998, as apart from the great inconvenience to customers it also threatened to stop the chances of getting a supermarket in the town. However this "down" was reversed, when due to the sterling work of a group of locals, the ASB was persuaded to open a branch in the town.

One of the best “ups” was the transformation wrought by the Riverbank Heritage trail people, in creating an attractive area from a rubbish tip. The creation of the River Reserve was another example of an eyesore becoming an attraction.

Lack of time prevented Grev completing his presentation and he will present a further lecture next year. The notes of his first lecture are available. Contact Grev or the museum for a copy.

### **A CINDERELLA STORY—MODCOM TO ARCHIVES**

The first fairy godmother in this story was the outgoing Rodney District Council, which made a modcom building available to the society for the purpose of creating an Archival centre. At last the building has been across the road and onto our property beside the Waitoki Sunshine block.

We are now awaiting the second fairy godmother to provide the funds to complete and extend the building so that it can be used for its designed purpose, the storage and use of our archives.

The society made an application for funding for this project last year, but it had to be re-submitted and has gone in this month. The project is a major one, entailing the provision of an airconditioned, temperature controlled, vermin proof, fire resistant addition to the existing modcom for archival storage.. The present building, which is carpeted and wired for airconditioning, will be subdivided to provide a reception/treatment area for incoming articles, a research area ,library/reading room and office.

The modcom is a utility building, so it is planned to add a verandah and ramp in an effort and make its appearance fit in more with the heritage theme of the Museum complex.

*FOOTNOTE—when the archival building becomes a reality some areas of the Museum such as the store room in the courthouse and the present archival room, will be available for other uses. One suggestion is an AV room for showing of videos, slides or Powerpoint presentations. More display space is also always needed.*

## **Heritage Day—Saturday 8 October**

Helensville is planning a special Heritage Day this year, in conjunction with the Rugby World Cup. It is to be on **Saturday 8th October** and the opening ceremony will be at the Pioneer Museum at 9am.

There will be street stalls from 9am to 3pm. Then, from 3pm—6pm there will be entertainment for the young in the council car park, behind the Memorial Hall.. This will include a bouncy castle and live music. The car park will be closed to vehicles.

Then from 6pm there will be rugby, shown on the big screen, also in the council car park. It is hoped that there will be public transport available. People will also be encouraged to use the river walkway and the heritage trail.

If you have not visited the museum for a while, why not make a day of it? Besides the Pioneer Museum, the Railway Museum will also be open and there will be plenty of places to buy refreshments.

Watch out for more details in the local papers. If you live out of the area, consider organising a bus with your friends for a great day out.



Heritage Day 2010

## **REPRINT OF PIONEERING WOMEN'S STORIES** **NEARS PRINTING**

First published in July 2000 by the Historical Society, *Pioneering Women of South Kaipara* has been a popular book, and the first edition sold out within nine years. The book featured stories of many pioneering families in the South Kaipara area, from Glorit in the north to Riverhead in the south.

When the Historical Society decided to reprint, allowance was made to extend the selection and 15 more pioneers have been added, including Helensville's first business woman, Irapeta Nelson, Waimauku's first postmistress, Mary White and New Zealand's first registered woman veterinarian, Ann Leighton.

The text has now been checked, and alterations and corrections made. In some cases photographs have been edited to make articles run together better; for clarity; or consistency of style. The editing work on this edition has been done by Leigh Bosch (nee Keane) and Wynne HaySmith, with assistance from proof readers Julia Rewi and Gabrielle Hildreth, and liaison work by Sue Hadwin in the Museum office. Dave Addison of Dash Design has upgraded the quality of some of the photographs to good effect.

Due to the wonders of modern technology, most of the editing work has been actioned by e-mail contact between Leigh in Armenia, Wynne and the local team in Orewa and Helensville, and the printers in Auckland. The first proofed copy has been submitted to the printers, and it is hoped to have the book ready for release shortly.

*Pioneering Women of South Kaipara* is truly a great collection of fascinating stories.

The new enlarged edition will cost a little more than the first edition.

## **HERE AND THERE AT THE MUSEUM**

- Ron and his team have been working on restoring an old windmill. This is now getting near completion and will soon go on display. It is hoped that it will be set up to show it working.
- There is also a milking stand now on display in the barn.
- A Post office display is being prepared at the front of the courthouse. It will include a telephone exchange. This is also nearing completion

## **ALWAYS THE QUESTION OF MONEY?**

2011 and 2012 are and will be very busy years for the Society. The two major reprints of “Men Came Voyaging” and “Pioneering Women of South Kaipara” have taxed the finances, and many hours of volunteer labour. On the building scene we have seen the arrival on site of the Waitoki Sunshine block and the Archival building. The bringing of these buildings up to useable standard will involve large amounts of money and many more hours of volunteer labour.

The Society is very grateful to the many generous individuals and businesses and organizations who have already assisted in these projects, and is very aware that the Society relies on the goodwill of so many people.

If you, as members are able to help financially with either of these projects or any other of your choice, it would be greatly appreciated.

Fundraising is an ever present need for the Society, as apart from major projects, as listed, there is the need to fund our ongoing running costs—display, archives, insurance, security, power, phone and all the office work, including paying a part time office manager.

Brenda Steele, a Rodney Board member of the Auckland City Council recently visited the Museum to hear the Society’s views on the need for council’s support in maintaining Museum services to the community.

### **ANOTHER STEAMER MODEL PRESENTED**

Mr Gordon Hendriksen, of Wellsford presented the Museum with a model of "TSS THE MINERVA" last year, at one of the Winter lectures.

At the June lecture this year, when Wayne Ryburn was talking about the Kaipara Harbour, Gordon came back with another generous gift—a handsome model of the steamer. "TUIRANGI". This boat was built in 1908 for the Sellars-Allen company and served many years on the Kaipara.. Six members of the Sellars family were able to be present at the lecture and presentation, and were pleased to be photographed with the model—and its creator.

The society sends a big thank you to Gordon Hendriksen for this gift..

### **AUTUMN BUS TRIP**

Although few in number, the group who went for the autumn outing to Henderson had a most enjoyable and informative day. First stop was the West Auckland Society's Mill Cottage Museum where the extension housing the models of the mill settlement (fascinating detail), and the working Kauri dam was admired . The catering team provided a tasty morning tea .

After lunch the group moved to the Corban Arts Centre, and the old St Michaels Henderson Parish church where well known Henderson identity Assid Corban spoke about his family's association with the town.

### **STOP PRESS - Trip to Avondale Sunday 28 August**

In lieu of a Spring Bus Trip members and friends are offered the opportunity to attend the Auckland Regional Historical Meeting at Avondale on Sunday 28th August, starting at 9 am The programme includes talks on West Auckland history, oral history projects, and exchange of news from Auckland Societies. There is no charge for the meeting .An organ Recital at the Hollywood Theatre (\$25) is an optional extra.

.Phone Sue at 420 7881 for information or booking. Car pooling could be available

## AN OPPORTUNITY MISSED

### **KAUKAPAKAPA PICTURE SHOW AND AGM**

A disappointingly small number attended the AGM on Wednesday 15th June which was a shame as Colin Lund presented an excellent picture show of past and present photographs about Kaukapakapa. It is hoped to have this show repeated so that more people can appreciate it.

Annual Reports were presented, and are available if anyone requires them (please send an stamped addressed A4 or A5 envelope). When it came to election of officers most of the present committee were reappointed, except for Suzanne Weld, who resigned as she has moved out of the district. We are pleased to welcome Jenny McCann, who is new to the committee and a good deal younger than many of the committee members! It is great to have some “new blood” on the committee. For full list (with special duties) see below.

It was suggested that next year the AGM be held during the daytime, to make it more convenient (especially for out-of-towners) to attend. There was a query whether the AGM could possibly be on the same day as one of the Winter Lectures. We would welcome feedback on that idea .

The accounts audit had not been completed in time for 15 June, but is now to hand, and a summary will be printed in the next newsletter.

#### **Election of officers:**

President John Smith (buildings). 420 8428

Vice-President: Glenyss Blackshaw (bus trips). 420 8513

Secretary: Judy Lloyd, assisted by Sue Hadwin. 420 7881

#### **Committee:**

Leigh Bosch,(PWSK) 420 6146 Julie Colville (membership) 420 8475

Jean Davidson (gardens) 420 8407 Rhonda Grace 420 8969

Lesley Holt (archives) 420 7102 Mary Massara 420 8819

Isla Willis (family history) 420 5114 Jenny McCann

Finance committee: John Smith, Glenyss Blackshaw, Wynne HaySmith

Newsletter: Sue Hadwin and Wynne Haysmith

## **ANN LEIGHTON (B VSc (Syd) 1919 – 2011**

*Note: , Ann Leighton's death was announced in June, as entries were being finalised for the reprint of "Pioneering Women of South Kaipara", and because of the importance of her place in the veterinary field she was included. Ann was a member of the Historical Society, and a few years ago made a generous donation to the Society in memory of her husband, Eric, which was used to provide the paving in front of the Schoolhouse. Here is a précis of the book entry as our tribute to Ann Leighton.*

Ann Leighton made her name in Helensville as a highly regarded veterinarian, but many people did not realise that she was indeed a pioneer - the first woman veterinarian registered in New Zealand.

Ann Rogers was born in Wellington in 1919, an only child, greatly treasured by her family. As a young girl she loved animals, and had her own horse – named Black Beauty, of course! Ann went to Iona College in Havelock North.

With her love of animals, her dream was to become a vet, but that was not a usual career for young women in the 1930s; and vet training for New Zealanders was based in Australia. However Ann started training at Sydney University, in March 1937, graduated in 1942, and was registered on 17 June 1943 – the first New Zealand women to attain this qualification.

Ann's first job was at Ruakura, in the Waikato Her preference was for larger farm animals – cows, sheep, horses (and later), deer.

Ann's introduction to Helensville came when she worked as a locum with the then Kaipara Vet service. She moved on to work in Taranaki, but came back to Helensville in 1959, to a permanent appointment at the Vet Clinic.

One of Ann's particular concerns was T B testing and she played a senior role in this work in the 1970s. TB testing was of vital concern to local farmers as the highly specialised export of frozen cream from Kaipara Dairy Company depended on the supply herds being TB free.

*Continued over*

She soon became a familiar figure travelling between the farms in her Volkswagen car, often accompanied by her dog – for some years the daschund (Minnie), and a papillon at one stage.

In 1962 Ann married South Head farmer, Eric Leighton. As well as their sheep and beef farm in Tupare Road, Eric and Ann had a run-off block on Wilson Road where they farmed deer.

Ann was a modest person, and made little of her achievements. She was very highly regarded professionally and appreciated by colleagues and customers. Ann retired from the vet service about 1990 – before the practice moved to Commercial Road.

Eric died on 13 September 2001 and about three years later Ann retired to Taupo. Although a quiet, retiring person Ann was a good and loyal friend, and will be sadly missed. She died at Rotorua on 22 June, 2011, aged 92 years.

*By Wynne HaySmith with assistance from Ann's friends and colleagues,*

FOOTNOTE the society is sad to note the announcement of the death on 10 August, 2011 of Mrs Suzanne Tyndel widow of Dr Joseph Tyndel who was appointed to the Kaipara Vet Service in 1953. He was the highly respected head veterinarian over an important period in the Service when among other achievements Kaipara dairy herds achieved TB free status. Mrs Tyndel taught at Kaipara College. The Tyndels moved to the Kumeu area from Helensville.

#### **PATRONS**

Gay Hildreth

Doris Jenkins

Barbara Waller

Roy Young

## Moved home?

Please be sure to let us know. Phone 09 420 7881 or write to PO Box 133, Helensville 0840, or email [helensvillemuseum@xtra.co.nz](mailto:helensvillemuseum@xtra.co.nz)

If you forgot to send in your subscription for the financial year which started in April, please cut out and fill in the form below and send it with your cheque.

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<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Glenyss Blackshaw</b>	<b>420 8513</b>
<b>Admin</b>	<b>Sue Hadwin</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.*

The Helensville Museum  
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