

ARTEFACTUAL



An Occasional Newsletter of the Warkworth & District Museum

Tudor Collins Drive Box 73 Warkworth 0910

Website www.warkworthmuseum.co.nz

e-mail warkworthmuseum@xtra.co.nz

Facebook www.facebook.warkworthmuseum.com

Editor Alan Britton

E-mail museum.artictaull@gmail.com

PRESIDENT: Derek Hoggart

The Museum continues to tick over satisfactorily thanks to our willing volunteers.

We continue to follow a narrow path with our income / expenditure balance but our fundraising team does a great job and Victoria keeps a watchful eye on any opportunities to apply for any grants that might be available.

We have made inroads into our obligations under the new Health and Safety Regulations and our education initiative is producing good results.

Jean is working on more display ideas and Alan is helping us de-clutter our collection of artefacts to make more space available.

Our plants department keeps ticking along and we were fortunate to be donated many unsold plants after the Snells Beach Flower Show to add to our shelves.

In early August we invited the Friends of the Museum to morning tea and later in the week our Supporters and Sponsors for drinks and nibbles after work, to see our new display in the ASB Foyer. The idea was to show our gratitude for their support and both events were very successful.

We have a great team at the Museum but we always have room for more volunteers. There are many areas where people can slot in, so if you know someone who might be able to spare some time to help please contact us.

MANAGER/CURATOR: Victoria Joule

Since the last newsletter was sent out, we have continued to have a busy time of things at the Museum. Before I get on to what we have been doing I wanted to share with you a few key points and achievements from the report that I submitted to the AGM in May.

Over the last financial year the income we received from entrance fees rose by 31% on the previous year. According to our reception records this is a total of 3632 people who came through our door. This can be broken down further into 2886 adults and 746 children. Our annual Friends of the Museum income also increased, this time by 117% on the previous year. This was aided by the purchase of a "Friends of the Museum" membership for all of the children at Warkworth Kindergarten. Unfortunately despite best efforts the Kindergarten is struggling to physically get the children to the Museum so it's unknown whether this will

be renewed this year. We applied for 3 grants last year and won two – Helping Hands from Te Papa National Services, and a Rodney Local Board Quick Response Grant, which aided our Borer project.

On the down side our expenditure also rose in comparison to the previous year. We had a number of unforeseen expenses, increases in general operating costs as well as running or contributing to a number of special projects such as the Borer treatment. Unfortunately we also had a spate of thefts, from our plant shop but also from our Big Shed, items that we have had to replace at our own cost.

I don't have actual numbers but believe we have reached many more people in our local community through taking the Museum out beyond its physical walls than the previous year. We have done this through the use of social media and our Facebook page which now has 291 people actively following it, and we reach many more through use of the local Facebook community pages. We have put three displays in the Snells Beach library, participated in three of the Warkworth library school holiday programmes, participated in last years Warkworth Santa Parade, taken butter making into Warkworth Primary School and Warkworth Kindergarten as well as talked at the U3A AGM. This is in addition to participating in the Rodney Museums Association and Northern Museums Association bi-annual meetings.

Our number of Volunteers has increased by 14 (25%), now totalling about 69 people. This is a phenomenal amount of Volunteer hours and does not include the hours given by our committee, our plant and garden Volunteers or the Bushman who aid us when there are school visits. Many other Volunteer hours are spent outside of the everyday Museum work such as stocking the shop, fund raising, baking, Bingo, Markets and work entailed in the plant shop & gardens.

I hope this gives you all an idea of what an amazing year we had last year, something which I hope we are repeating this year. I personally feel it is important that we strengthen our membership base and relationships with local schools and community groups. I feel we need to be an active part of our local community to ensure we continue to be used and supported. We need to continue to protect our artefacts and renew and develop our displays to improve our visitor engagement and attract wider audiences. All of this whilst ensuring we are also compliant with current legislation. This work has to take place on top of the everyday work undertaken at the Museum, the fundraising events like markets and bingo, stocking the shop, banking money, digitising photographs, accessioning and deaccessioning, restoration and cataloguing, general maintenance, welcoming visitors and of course upgrading and developing new displays. Ultimately, a huge thank you must go to all of our Volunteers and the local businesses who support us. Without the support of these people the Museum would not be able to continue, so thank you !!!

Moving on to what we have been up to over the last few months.

I hope you have seen our new signs, which can be found outside of the i-SITE building in Warkworth and also on the front of the Museum. Local graphic designer Sascha Brebner designed them for us, and they were printed by Chappell Printing also of Warkworth. I think they are excellent and I hope you do too!

As I mentioned in the previous newsletter we also publicised our new Friends of the Museum package. For an annual membership fee the package now includes free entry to the Museum, a single use family pass to use with friends or family as well as receipt of our newsletter. We designed a new flyer along with the membership form and we were extremely grateful to the Kowhai Coast Ladies Lions, who walked around Warkworth and other areas dropping them in letter boxes. From this exercise we have certainly seen some new members joining, including Life Members.

I would also like to use this point to acknowledge that many people when renewing or joining our Friends of the Museum are extremely generous in sending additional donations to the museum along with their Membership fee. We have received donations ranging from \$10 to \$1000 this year and whilst I send everyone a letter of thanks, I just want to reiterate our thanks and acknowledge how generous our supporters are and how much we appreciate all the support we receive.

Our new display was been put in place during August by Jean Gardner and is called Hidden Treasures of



Warkworth and its Districts. We have been very fortunate in being able to use research and stories from the Warkworth U3A local history group as the basis of the display and I hope you all can make time to come and see it. We used the new display as an opportunity to invite our “Friends” of the Museum to visit the new exhibition at the museum and enjoy a morning tea put on by our wonderful caterers – an event enjoyed by everyone who attended. We also held an evening “drinks and nibbles” event as way of thanks to those local businesses who also support us,

and whilst we would have liked to have seen more of our local businesses join us, those that did seemed to have enjoyed themselves and the new exhibition.

We continue to work on our education programme and have seen a huge increase in interest from local schools. This year we have had 387 primary school children and 234 senior school students visit us, and we are looking forward to the 200 students from Mahurangi College who are visiting us in October. Brenda recently applied for and was awarded a “Grass Roots” grant from Fronterra to purchase a new butter maker and camp oven and tripod, to use as part of our education programme. We are hoping we will be able to use them with students to demonstrate how early settlers made butter and damper and then allow the students to taste it !!!

Coming up we have our annual Open Day on October 2nd which this year is part of the Auckland Heritage Festival and the Kowhai Festival. The open day will have a range of children’s activities from gum polishing, making clay tiles to learning how to draw NZ birds. The Museum will be open, as will archives and textiles and as usual we will have running machinery like the hay bailer.

I am also excited to announce that we will begin to sell our 2017 Calendars at the Open Day. It’s been a fun project trying to decide on which photos to use from our and they cover a range of topics from the Hill Street Junction (Now and Then) to Matakana Township to the Old Warkworth Primary School. A huge thankyou must go to Ian Ferguson and Wallace Wild, without whom we wouldn’t have been able to get it together in time to sell at the open day. The calendars will also come with an envelope so you can post them overseas to families and friends in time for Christmas!!!

If you have any questions about what we are doing, what coming up, compliments, comments or complaints please feel free to get in touch. I am at the Museum Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Warkworthmuseum@xtra.co.nz

094257093 Victoria

ENGINEERING: Alan Britton

One thing about the workshop is that there is never a shortage of work, the only shortage we have is one of space and as a result we are going through the artefacts that we are storing and finding out what duplications we have and relocating them. As a result I have been volunteered to progress this task. This will at least mean one less in the workshop to fight for bench space.

Our carpentry/cabinet making team- for they are more than just 'chippies' -have spent the last few months



almost continuously working in the museum helping with creating the new displays, making display cabinets as well as general maintenance in the main building.

Our electricians, both of whom have been kept away with work at home from time to time, but when they do manage to get away for a rest they are always fully occupied. The rest of the team are busy beavering away at a number of restoration tasks which they frequently have to put to one side as something else moves to the top of the "Jobs to Do" pile.

Over the next couple of weeks we will be deciding which machinery we are taking out for the open day, checking them over to make sure they are serviceable and presentable. We are also working on items we are taking to the 150th A & P Lifestyle show in January. This is going to be a big show for the Warkworth A&P Association and as well as the machinery department having a larger than usual presence, the museum has been invited to put on a display & Jean and her team, which at times like this comprises of anyone who cant find something more urgent to do. A 12x10 metre marquee has been allocated so it will be well worth a visit.

DISPLAY: Jean Gardner

The new exhibit Hidden Treasures of Warkworth and Districts has settled in and bringing interesting comments from visitors.

We are refreshing the Maori display and bringing it up to date within the Museum standards. Some of the items will be put in storage due to their fragility and to prevent further deterioration. Iwi are being consulted to ensure we have accurate information.

New labels with more of the history will be put in the newly constructed cabinet.



All the items will also be photographed and their accession numbers checked as they have been on display for a long period.

Whenever the contents of cases are changed we ensure that they are recorded, catalogued and photographed if they have not previously been recorded in this manner. This is the reason that changing the displays is not done as frequently as we might like it to happen.

All departments are involved in mounting a display.

Jean

TEXTILES: Jenni McGlashan

Nothing much to report as have been away for 6 weeks and just back

Nicola very ably took over the running of the Textile Dept in our absence. She has now embarked of the project she has been looking forward to executing, that of bringing all shoes down from the attic to be photographed and stored in the back store room.

I am in communication with our two carpenters Trevor and Peter, to plan the suggested Xmas float. I would like this to give recognition to our pioneer families who arrived by ship by depicting what a ship board galley and dining area might have looked like 1840-1900, then names of ships and families who travelled on these ships to be included. A good deal of research is required and all departments are focussed on the A & P anniversary.

Apart from these projects, I am wondering if Wednesday Workers will be required/ asked to cater for a Volunteers End of Year Thank You gathering.

I guess our overseas adventure is over!

Jenni & textile team

ARCHIVES:

Our regular team consists of 5, the very valuable Judy with her vast knowledge and willingness to help, Mavis with her helpful manner and finder of information for enquires and accommodating visitors wishing to do research – she does a wonderful job of finding and carrying boxes backwards and forwards to and from the Research table, Christine who clears the emails, researches and has been and is currently researching Warkworth's founder: John Anderson Brown. Christine has been away for several weeks and in her travels abroad is visiting Warkworth, Northumberland, England and hopes to find some answers to the questions she has on John Anderson Brown's birthplace and residency. Then there is Wallace who is the photograph scanner and documenter whiz and I the new chum.

Currently I am researching the 50 year period from 1867 to 1916 for the Warkworth Agricultural Show 150th Anniversary on 28th and 29th January 2017. Brenda (Education) is doing 1917 to 1967 and Victoria and Trish 1968 to current.

All, in our 'spare time' are looking for photos and articles on the history of the Mahurangi & Matakana Show, later to be called the Warkworth A & P Show often being preceded with Evening Concerts.

Did you know that in 1925 children under the age of 16 were prohibited under the direction of the Health Department from visiting the Show due to the Polio epidemic? Children under 16 were banned from school, Sunday School, races, community functions and social gatherings until the epidemic cleared. Movement even between the North and South Islands was restricted.

In the meantime, my process documentation is on the back burner but we have been able to get a couple of forms done and am constantly gathering process information for Procedures. The Fire Evacuation one has been brought forward after I burnt my toast one lunchtime and set the alarm/s off to find the internal alarm did not sound, almost no one moved or knew how to turn the alarm off. I was thankful that the Fire Engine did not appear at our front door!!

Noelene Quedley

Acting Coordinator for Archives

EDITOR: Alan Britton

Were has the year gone? Not sure whether we will be able to squeeze a news letter in before Xmas so may we be the first to wish you the condiments of the season

A reminder of upcoming activities that are on which we are taking part in,

- **October 2nd** is the date for our annual Open Day, the museum will have all the departments open so you can see what our team of volunteers get up to and our machinery will be on display. We also have a number of activities on for the children including a treasure hunt through the museum.
- On a date yet to be confirmed we will be entering a float in the Christmas Parade and hope that we can duplicate our success in last years parade.
- **January 28th-29th** is the 150th A&P and Lifestyle show and the museum will be having it's usually display of machinery and to celebrate the anniversary of the show the museum staff are organising a display of artefacts from the indoor collection in a marquee.