

ARTEFACTUAL



An Occasional Newsletter of the Warkworth & District Museum

Tudor Collins Drive, Box 37, Warkworth 0941

Website: www.warkworthmuseum.co.nz

email: warkworthmuseum@xtra.co.nz

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PRESIDENT Derek Hoggart

Another financial year has come to a close and first indications are that it has been a successful one. We await our Treasurer's Report which is due to be given at our AGM on 21st of this month for final details. We hope to see as many of you as possible on that day.

I can tell you that our income from Entry Fees, Shop Sales and Donations have all gone up substantially as a result of the increased foot traffic we have had. Also our Plant Sales this year made over \$5000, which is fantastic.

Our volunteer force has also gained several new members, all keen to help in the various departments and the ever important meet and greet role of Reception, and taking money of course!

Several projects are under way to upgrade the Museum, such as an internal paint job, re-hashing the plants area to make it more attractive and customer friendly, plus the creation of a new working area for our carpenters team so as to free up space in the Big Shed - more about this next time.

We also have a number of new initiatives under way to promote the Museum to our local community and to visitors from further afield. I leave Victoria, our manager to give a few details.

Derek Hoggart

MANAGER/CURATOR: Victoria Joule

Well here we are in May and I am writing my first newsletter update of the year and honestly do wonder where the months have gone!

The year started at a racing pace for us, with the display at the A&P show in January. Not only did we have our machinery running but also had an additional display to celebrate the 150 years of the show which contained items from our archives, our textile archives as well as various artefacts. A lot of Volunteer hours went into this year's A&P show which I feel was appreciated by the many people who visited us. Hot on the heels of the show, we contributed a photographic display for the weekend of the Warkworth Town Hall opening in February and during March and April we celebrated the Bushmen's 50 years of the Parry Kauri Park. This celebration included a new display in the Museum as well as participating in Mahurangi East Libraries "living library" event on the 1st April where Maureen Young did a talk on the Bushmen alongside a pop up display in their glass display cabinet. April also saw Anzac day and we replaced the Bushmen display in Mahurangi East Library with a "supporting the troops" display showcasing some of activities that took place at home whilst the troops were away fighting.

I believe our strategy of raising our profile out in the community through participating in these events is certainly beginning to work and we have recently been invited by the Mahurangi Sports and Recreation Committee to put up a “pop up” display showing the sporting history of the district into the Mahurangi rugby clubrooms as part of the “Big Turn On” which is on May 19th at 4.30pm. This event is to celebrate the turning on of the LED floodlights at the sports grounds (the first in NZ) and encouraging the community to come and have a go at the various sporting activities available in our district. The club rooms (where we will be) will be selling food and the bar will be open, so please come up and say hello.

Our AGM will be held on Sunday 21st May at 1pm at the Museum. Please come along and show your support for the Museum, there will be elections of officers, as well as a guest speaker and afternoon tea. If you would like to be considered for election to the Committee, please contact me for an election form. It will need to be submitted 4 days before the AGM.

You have probably seen my call out for new Volunteers, and I am extremely happy to say we have had a really positive response. We now have 2 maybe 3 new volunteers in archives, 2 new volunteers working on projects and grants and 6 for reception. If you feel you can join our happy team, please do get in touch, we are still looking to bolster our ranks in particular on reception.

I have sent a reminder out for our friends of the Museum membership renewals. For those of you don't know what it entails, you essentially get free entry to the Museum for the year and a free family and friends pass as well as the knowledge that you are supporting us in all we are trying to do! This is all for \$20 a person, or \$30 for a family! This year we implemented an online facility via our website if anyone would like to submit their application or renewal online: <http://warkworthmuseum.co.nz/support-us/>

We also have a number of projects on the go at the moment.

In archives, we recently applied to Auckland Council for a grant to purchase acid free boxes. These specialist boxes are the recommended standard for archives and we hope to get the money to purchase enough for all of our archival documentation.

The big shed are currently going through the process of cleaning out and tidying up. The guys in the shed are struggling for space, so we are looking at tidying up and disposing of anything which isn't part of the collection, and creating an area at the back of the open shed for the carpenters and storage. Part of this process will also be to look at how we can put more of the machinery and outside collection on display. You may have noticed the tractor has been relocated onto the front lawn, which is part of this work.

Our communities team, continue to work with schools and kindergartens. We have been visited by Orewa College and Ahuroa School already this year, and have Mangawhai Beach Primary coming in June. Their topic is sustainability, and so in addition to the visit through the museum and the bush, we will be working with the Bushmen to show the children how to pot up seedlings, and they will be able to have a go themselves. Brenda and Trish will also be visiting Warkworth Kindergarten to make butter using the butter churns. This is part of the kindergartens food education programme, which this month's topic is milk.

In addition to this, the communities' team are in the early days of a very exciting project which we are calling Memory Boxes and which we aim to make available to rest homes. They are being used extensively overseas and have been shown to have positive outcomes. The aim is to stimulate conversation and the sharing of memories with people who might otherwise have become withdrawn – especially people with dementia. We do however need some help – we need to collect items from the 1940s through to the 1970s to put in these boxes. We already have some but need a bigger collection in order to have a number of themed boxes. Some of the themes we would like to develop and some examples of items we could include are

- Home Sweet Home - Examples include kitchen items, laundry items (we have blue bags. washboards. Sunlight soap) old sewing equipment, knitting patterns, magazines, old phone etc.

- Out on the Town (Glitz and Glamour) - Examples include stockings, gloves, powder compacts, perfume, programmes, music, costume jewellery, hair rollers, evening bags etc.
- One For Him - Tie pins, cuff links, cigarette cases, small tool kits, shaving kit, music, etc
- When We Were Young - School memorabilia, books, annuals, pencil cases, magazines, games, music, pictures, toys, dolls etc

On May 10th and 11th we were visited by Jamie Bell who is the Curator/ Manager of the NZ Cricket Museum in Wellington. Through the support of Te Papa National Services, Jamie spent two days with us, looked through our displays and gave us some ideas on where we can update them and how to go about it (obviously in a cost effective way!!). Jamie has a Masters in Museum Studies from Victoria and postgraduate diploma in Marketing from Otago University. Before becoming Curator at the Cricket Museum, he spent four years as Curator in



Alexandra Museum and Art Gallery, as well as working at Auckland Zoo where he took a leading role in the development of the Te Wao Nui native area. I think we are extremely fortunate to get some somebody of Jamie's experience to come and give us some suggestions and advice!

So other than that, its business as usual! A big thank you to the hard work and time spent by the many other Volunteers who keep everything going on a day to day basis, without which none of the projects above would be possible!!

Jean, Jamie Bell and Victoria

ENGINEERING:

The team in the shed always seem to be busy and the months since Christmas have been no exception, Trevor and Peter spent the last few weeks prior to the Christmas Parade working on our entry and since then have been busily involved in various repair and manufacturing items for the internal display areas. Their job is ongoing and it is hoped that in the short term we will have a dedicated area for them to work in a tidy and quiet area.

The rest of the team have been busy with repair and conservation work on the mechanical items we look after, one of the long outstanding jobs has been brought to fruition is the completion of our Lister diesel engine. All the team have been involved in this project but Don and Ken have been the main driving force, these engines have been a stalwart in the agricultural industry and many of them were used for motive power in shearing and dairy sheds as well as a wealth of other applications both locally and nationally. We hope to have it on display at the Open Day as part of the Kowhai Festival in October, more on that nearer to the day.

As Victoria mentioned in her report the shed is getting a bit of a tidy up and we are looking at some of the items we hold that extend to multiple examples, two items in particular are the common or garden Scythe of which we have over 20 and food mincers of around the same number. We, like other museums, have a standard procedure for this process which does unfortunately take some while to complete. These items and many others, once identified are withdrawn from the collection and stored in the container we have onsite until the de accessioning process is complete.

A few weeks ago restoration started on a Dennis lawnmower, these were regarded as the "Rolls Royce" of lawn mowers, the early models were developed to replace the horse on large estates and information is being sought from a variety of sources both local and overseas.



DISPLAY: Jean Gardner

As mentioned in Victoria's report we have had a visit with Jamie, the curator of the New Zealand Cricket museum in Wellington and sponsored by National Services a department of Te Papa. His brief was to give us a report on our museum, covering topics, displays and direction which we could take to update and co-ordinate our displays and stories. This is going to be a large project which will entail some major reorganising of current displays and painting of the interior walls. This will give us a fresh outlook and will concentrate on the major themes of development in the districts.

Some of the displays have recently been changed or updated the most recent is a new display commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Parry Kauri Park in conjunction with the Kauri Bushmen. The museum has contributed to the Town Hall opening, Mahurangi East Library displays and will also have a presence at The Big Turn On at the showgrounds on May 19th.

TEXTILES: Jenni McGlashan

Winter is the time when the Textile team make the most of their good health and retirement to take time out to travel to escape Warkworth winter, not that it is especially cold but it is nice to avoid soggy squelchy lawns to find adventure and a little warm sun elsewhere.

Textiles recently opened the workroom/ storage room to offer a quick guided tour of Warkworth Museums significant collection to a group of 30 women from North Harbour Friendship Club.

It is always a challenge to tell our story which is why they paid us a visit, when most only want to tell "their story" when memory is being triggered by items we put on display as a representative selection of what we have in storage.

With each visit come offers of like articles they own when it is noted there is a place to store "History". Unfortunately, we have to kindly tell these folk we are a District Museum preserving the history of Warkworth and District.

The next comment is, "Why isn't this all on display?" where upon we explain that textiles are fragile and can deteriorate to constant exposure to light therefore displays are constantly changed to alternate items on display.

Inevitably there is also a comment on the fact that most items in hanging racks visible as you enter the storage area are white, Children's clothing and christening gowns in particular. My assumed answer to this is that these items were only worn on special occasions and therefore were precious, many times intricately hand worked, therefore not worn when playing but removed immediately the children were taken off "best behaviour" in times when children were seen but not heard. How times have changed.

Having a visit from the older generation like this is the very reason Brenda is putting together memory boxes to take to retirement homes. These folk desperately want to tell their story and be heard. They all have had past active lives but now in the autumn of their lives have time to reflect. Who will listen?

Warkworth Museum are housing many stories which we continue to unearth.

We have in the past accepted offers of old polyester filled pillows which have been used to pad coat hangers and other projects. I have turned down offers as we had more than enough in storage. This has changed so if you have old pillows you would like to rehouse we will gratefully accept same.

The Textile Team

ARCHIVES: Noelene Quedley

The department has been very busy for the last month. Today there are no visitors but lots of action finding items for the Sports ground Light Up.

Recently 2 maritime researchers, from Australia – a registrar of ships built in NZ and Australia, and the second looking for contributions for his book 'True Stories of Kawau Island'. What a coincidence – 2 marine researchers in the rooms at the same time, and they had a lot to share with each other.

The Museum website is working well – the Australian visitor had consulted it at home.

Acid free boxes; So far we have changed over 35 boxes to acid free replacements, and they look very smart. This is quite a mission, and we have 2 dedicated helpers.

We have 2 new archivists, Gayleen Redding, and Priscilla Brady, and they have skills that fit in well with all the jobs that need doing.

Noelene has been working on our collection of Oral History tapes, Stan Gittos interviews, and digitized them. Some members went to the series of talks on oral history recording techniques, run by Auckland Libraries in Warkworth. This is a very valuable skill and can be implemented quickly. We are building up a Library of tapes, very important to be able to hear the person speak.

Wallace had a query from Auckland Transport, who want photos for a presentation about the local area of the new Matakana –Sh1 Link Road, in particular the US army camps.

EDITOR: Alan Britton



I recently visited the Clapham Clock Museum in Whangarei for the opening of a new exhibition of Clocks they had acquired from the Auckland Council. Known as the Wilkinson collection it had been donated to the council but they then offered it to the museum as they had no area to display it, it was an interesting evening and enabled me to see a 'Master Clock' in operation similar to the one our museum has in its collection. Our one, which is located on the first floor adjacent to the Post Office display, was donated to us by Telecom on the introduction of the automatic exchange at the Warkworth exchange. As well as telling the time it also timed toll calls automatically which relieved the operators of this time consuming task

These clocks were common in areas where clocks needed to be accurate, railway stations and telephone exchanges relied on accurate time keeping and the master clock is capable of driving numerous 'slave' clocks around buildings and factories.

A museum well worth a visit they have some wonderful clocks and possibly the oldest and largest juke box I have ever seen