



Keeping in Touch

Newsletter for NZ Federation of Historical Societies

Volume 6 Issue 4 December 2012

www.nzhistoricalsocieties.org.nz

Join Us in Dunedin — 5 to 7 April 2013



See inside for details on the conference and Annual General Meeting to be held in Dunedin next year.
Image ref 35-R454, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Library.

Calendar 2013

2013

17 March: Waikato/Bay of Plenty Regional Gathering at Matamata. See inside.

5-7 April: NZ Federation of Historical Societies Annual General Meeting and Conference at Dunedin. See inside.

Late September-early October: Auckland Heritage Festival.

Next issue due out February 2013

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Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the NZ Federation of Historical Societies Inc.



FHS Annual Conference and AGM 5-7 April 2013

Historic Dunedin: New Zealand's First Great City

About the Otago Settlers Association

The Otago Settlers Association is looking forward to hosting the New Zealand Federation of Historical Societies in Dunedin for its annual conference next April and we'd like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves. The Association was founded in 1898 as part of the golden jubilee celebrations marking the arrival of the first two ships, the *John Wickliffe* and the *Philip Laing* in 1848. These ships brought the first European settlers to Otago, mainly Free Church Scots who brought to the new settlement the Scottish flavour still evident. The original Early Settlers Association was an exclusive body and only members of families who had arrived in Otago before the 1861 gold rush were eligible to join. (Now any 'settlers' can join, even if they have only just touched down at the airport) The early settlers believed it was important to preserve their documents, photographic portraits and other treasures for posterity and by 1908 they had built a special museum to do so. This building is the heart of the present Otago Settlers Museum and the collection of documents, artefacts and portraits it holds is a very rich one. The Settlers Association owned and ran the Museum until the 1990s. It developed its collections, gradually became more open to the public and expanded by purchasing the adjacent Railway Bus depot. Eventually though the cost became too much for a voluntary organisation and the Association gifted the museum to the Dunedin City Council. Our role is now a 'Friends' one and although membership is less strong than a decade or so ago, we still number just under a thousand members.

The Otago Settlers Museum Today

Over the past few years the Museum has undergone an exciting \$40 million expansion and redevelopment, mainly funded by the City, but with Government input and substantial support from the Otago Settlers' Association. The museum has been closed for the past year and a half during the final stages of this process. It will reopen in December with twice as much exhibition space, excellent new storage facilities, some old storage areas brought up to

exhibition standard and a new entrance hall, shop, café and auditorium.

From the outside the building is nothing short of amazing. Stretching along Cumberland Street from the Dunedin railway station at one end to the Chinese Garden at the other, it is an extraordinary amalgam of the old (the original 1908 museum) through the art deco, (the 1939 former railway bus station) to the contemporary (as yet not quite finished!)



Otago Settlers Museum, 2006. Photo by Grutness, from Wikipedia.

Walking through, you will be able to follow the history of Dunedin and its environs from pre-European times to the present – and even to a glimpse of what the future might hold. All along the way there will be special displays to cater to special interests, such as the military history gallery. Not everything has been changed. For example, the much-loved portrait gallery of our 19th century forbears is still intact, but instead of wondering who these formidably serious people were, you can touch an image of any of the portraits on a handy computer screen and up will come information about the person in the portrait. There is new colonial cottage, built to the specifications and with the same materials as a cottage owned by the Buchanan family: mud walls and floor, hand adzed window frames, straight manuka poles holding up a thatched roof.

The Conference

We have been working on a programme for the conference which will enable you to sample some of Dunedin's rich heritage, much of it dating from the period of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when Dunedin had used its wealth from gold to become New Zealand's first great city.

Friday evening: there will be a social get together.
Saturday morning: there will be the option of a

tailor-made coach tour of the city or a leisurely exploration of the attractions in the heritage precinct around the Settlers Museum and Queen's Gardens. This would take in the Dunedin railway station (said to be the most photographed heritage building in New Zealand), the tranquil Chinese garden and a new attraction, the old Dunedin prison.

About 11.30 am we will all gather at First Church. The work of the outstanding architect R. A. Lawson, the church has been described (by John Stacpoole in *Colonial Architecture*) as the most impressive of all nineteenth century New Zealand churches. Early English Gothic in inspiration, its simple clear-cut lines and slender spire show up dramatically at the top of a rise. The Church also has a well-developed Heritage Centre, which is a treasure trove of local history. There will be time to look around before members of the Settlers Association serve a finger food lunch in Burns Hall, in the Church grounds.

Saturday afternoon will begin with a tour of the newly named Toitu Otago Settlers Museum before we settle in to the new museum auditorium for the AGM and discussion among the Historical Society delegates and representatives from local museums and historical societies. We have two excellent invited speakers, Sean Brosnahan, a curator at the Museum and Professor Tom Brooking from the University of Otago. Both are deeply knowledgeable about local history.

Saturday evening. The conference dinner will be a highlight. We'll go to the Dunedin Club, originally 'Fernhill', the splendid home of the early settler and entrepreneur Johnny Jones. Built in 1867, just two years before Jones' death, it was the work of architect David Ross and generally regarded as one of the most interesting Dunedin buildings of this busy decade.

Sunday will give conference-goers a chance to sample a selection of the heritage-tourism attractions of Dunedin. If you fancy one major outing, you will be able to take a coach tour down the Otago Peninsula, to enjoy the spectacular views of the harbour from the high road, take in Larnach Castle and its grounds if you wish, and move on to the albatross colony. Or you may like to spend the time on the Taieri Gorge train, travelling through a singular landscape you can't see from the road.

Perhaps you may prefer to stay closer to home. There are commercial tours available at Cadbury World, at Speight's brewery and at Olveston, the remarkable turn of the century home of the Theomin family. Or you can visit, at no cost, the outstanding Dunedin Public Art Gallery, the Otago Museum, the Botanical Gardens or the unique Gasworks Museum

(donation requested). Obviously combinations of these are possible.

So come to Dunedin next April, enjoy our Southern hospitality and our Southern heritage. We're looking forward to your company.

by Dorothy Page, Immediate Past President of the Otago Settlers Association.

2013 Conference/AGM registration costs:

Full conference: \$50.00

Saturday afternoon only: \$25.00

Friday evening (informal get-together) \$6.00

Saturday bus trip: \$10.00

Saturday evening dinner (including addressing the haggis): \$50.00

RSVP with your registration form to our Secretary Neil Curgenvin by 23 March 2013.

(If your Society would like copies of the programme and registration forms emailed, contact the Editor.)



From the Secretary's Desk

At the recent meeting of your executive committee (Sunday 25th November 2012) there were a couple of important topics discussed (and a whole lot not that important but essential for the smooth running of the Federation).

INSURANCE

The Committee has, through the Secretary, been trying to get some insurance information to assist Member Societies with property interests. "xxxxx does not actively target historic homes and currently have significant underwriting restrictions on this type of business," was one of several responses. "xxxxx stated, as a result of the Canterbury earthquake, the Government announced that Earthquake Commission (EQC) levies on home and contents policies would increase from 1 February 2012, the levy is collected by all general insurers on behalf of the EQC and it is itemised within your total insurance premium."

Not to be deterred by this I will, on your behalf, follow up with two other organisations and ask if

members out there have experiences they would like to share, or a direction I should head toward to get a 'deal'. Please feel free to email me ncurgenvn@gmail.com

MUSEUMS AOTEAROA

Your President, Neil Algar and I met Phillipa Tocker, Executive Director of Museums Aotearoa on Friday 2nd November. This first meeting was a ground breaker where we discussed items of joint interest as several of our members have dual membership, and we both participate in Diversity. Whilst we don't have formal regions there may be a benefit in establishing some (possibly with similar boundaries) so that we may work together at local level on similar activities which we could all gain from. Any thoughts would be most appreciated.

We are looking at similar consultation with Historic Places Trust and their new upshot organisations, Genealogy / New Zealand Family History Association, and the History Association of New Zealand. There a probably a couple I have not yet come across. We feel this communication is valuable for the going forward of history in New Zealand as we represent it and envisage these organisations do as well.



**Waikato/Bay of Plenty
Regional Gathering
at the Firth Tower Historical
Village and Museum,
Matamata
Sunday 17 March 2013**

Programme:

10.00 am: Morning tea

10:30 am: Welcome, brief description of the establishment of Firth's Matamata Estate followed by the opportunity to view the Firth Tower Historical Village and Museum, in particular the recently opened enlarged and redesigned Mark Madill Shed telling the story of the development in the area of farming and farm machinery.

12:00 noon - lunch

1:00 pm - Speaker (to be advised)

1:30 - 3:30 pm - member societies' reports

Cost: Registration, including morning tea, light lunch and afternoon tea — **\$10**

Contact Matamata Historical Society, 12 Totara Ave, Matamata, 3400. Phone/Fax: 07 888 5373
Email: joandda@xtra.co.nz

Society News & Views

Chinese NZ Oral History Foundation

“Chinese NZ Oral History Foundation started approximately 8 years ago, after the NZ Government's apology in 2002 to the Chinese Poll Tax community in NZ.

“The Foundation aim is to record the Oral Histories of Chinese Poll Tax family descendants and that these histories (i.e. audio CD, DVD and the transcript) can be accessed by academics, researchers and communities.

“We have received support from Sky City Community Grant, Chinese Heritage Poll Tax Trust, and COGS .

“We have completed our First project of 22 interviews and will shortly complete the Second project of 10 interviews. These will be lodged at oral history centres at the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington and several larger regional libraries.”

Glenfield

(From the Society's October newsletter)

“The Kaipatiki Local Board has accepted our late submission on the heritage status of the Glenfield War Memorial Hall and will press for its A status to be retained. Many thanks to Bruce Powell for his ongoing support of this valuable community asset.”

The Society gathered at the Hall on 12 October to share memories of Glenfield before 1959.

94-year-old Bruce Powell said that (according to the *Auckland Now* website, 9 October) he “was worried about the site as Auckland Council proposes to downgrade its heritage status from category A to B. Category A offers the highest amount of protection to buildings of historic, social or cultural value.

“Built 80 years ago during the Great Depression, 15 families mortgaged their houses to find the £855 to build the hall as a tribute to local men who had died in World War I. Accessibility ramps and Glenfield Rd, which runs beside the hall, are some changes which have impacted on its heritage importance, council says.

Powell says the hall is a "national treasure" and should retain its status. "If we don't recognise our history, what have we got? Surely after all this effort it's still worth it, as a national icon." In 2004, “in recognition of his recent driving force behind the upgrade and addition of a supper room to the

Glenfield War Memorial Hall the room now bears his name. Dorothy and Bruce Powell came to NZ in 1955 with their two children, Trevor and Susan. His first appointment was as an electrical draughtsman at the navy dockyard in Devonport. The family bought a section in Glenfield in the 1960s and built their own house over three years. In 1977 Mr Powell set up the only North Shore Anzac Day service for civilians to have been held ever since at the War Memorial Hall. In 1997, he received a civic award for voluntary services to the North Shore community. He is still involved with Toastmasters, the Lions and the Glenfield Historical Society, as well as the RSA." (*North Shore Times*, 23 April 2004, via Local History Online database, Auckland Library).

The Society were also involved with running a writing competition for intermediate school pupils in October and hope to extend this to include the local College in the near future.

Kapiti

(*From the Society's November newsletter*)

"We'll all remember "Selly" (Selwyn Ernest) Hyde as one of those characters who are larger than life — the joker in the pack. Selly could have got a laugh from someone on death row, which made him so popular as a guest speaker. He had a great interest in the history of the Kapiti area which he demonstrated with long-term support of our historical society and as a member of the committee.

"Born in 1925, he died on September 19 last — a day after he celebrated his 65th wedding anniversary with lifetime sweetheart Ngaire.

"Selly's father Alf ran the Renown Cinema in Shannon, with the help of his two sons. Shannon, with its early hydro-electric generator, was a much larger town in those days. Selly's mother Eleanor ran a furniture and shoe shop and later expanded into electrical goods. In the evenings she played the piano accompaniment for silent movies and ran the cinema milk bar. After his father's death Selly managed the Renown till it closed, and was turned into a knitting factory ...

"In later life he gave free rein to his historical interests by developing Hyde Park at Te Horo, with its pioneer museum established in the old dairy factory buildings. If Selly was available he'd take visitors on a personal tour of his museum with its wide variety of displays including shops stocked with brands of wares us oldies remembered from our childhood. It is to be hoped that his extraordinary collections can continue to be a local attraction. Selly's interests in the Kapiti area were wide, including Rotary, the Volunteer Fire Brigade, St John's and the local branch of Heritage Council ...

"Each of us in the historical society lend our sympathies to Ngaire and their family."

Mangere

(*From the Society's November newsletter*)

"The committee has met with Bruce Ringer the person at the front of the donation of \$10,000 to help put our archives on line so they are available for people to check. We have decided to go with an attachment to the Federation of Historical Societies website and to have connections to other historical sites. Bruce is providing assistance with the setting up and we are most grateful to him and his team. We are going along the same lines as the Otahuhu Historical Society as they received the same donation as well. "

Mataura

(*From their online page at "NZ Museums"*)

"Our collection reflects Mataura's rich industrial and farming heritage. We are based in Clematis Cottage which is a small restored working family's home, built in the mid 1880s.

"We have a strong set of local photographs dating back to the 1870s and a comprehensive local history archive. We are currently putting our collection on-line, to share it with a wider audience. We welcome enquiries and your information about Mataura's history. Copies of our photographs are available for purchase. "

C/- The Secretary, Mrs Marie Wilkinson, 5 Hillcrest Avenue, MATAURA 9712

<http://www.nz museums.co.nz/account/4033>
mataura.historical@xtra.co.nz

Mercury Bay

(*From the Society's November newsletter*)

"A Tribute to Janet Riddle"

The name Janet Riddle has for many years been linked with the Mercury Bay Museum. She began working there in 1989, well over 20 years ago, and she has done a wonderful job. She has indicated that she wishes to reduce her hours of attendance at 11A The Esplanade, not because she wishes to sit down and rest, but because she has now begun another venture on her farm at Hodges Road, growing strawberries!

"Janet is often called Whitianga's historian and judging by the number of books she has written and compiled, it is appropriate. Regularly she received queries from descendants of early settlers in this our area, asking for information about relatives, and she has been a tower of information and help.

"The following books, *Saltspray and Sawdust—One Thousand Years of History of Whitianga* and

Violet—Marian Campbell Riddle 1852-1922 were both compiled by Janet Riddle and are available for sale at the Museum. The booklet *From the Land Our Strength, a Century of Guntown/Coroglen 1896-1996* was compiled by Zillah Hamilton and Janet Riddle for the Centennial of that district.

“We all wish her well with her current venture, but look forward to her still keeping in touch at the Museum too.”

NZ Founders

What is New Zealand Founders Society?

The Society is a heritage society established in 1939 by a group of prominent Wellingtonians to honour the work and achievements of our pioneer ancestors who arrived in New Zealand before December 31st 1865 and whose contribution helped shape our nation and its history.

We have branches around New Zealand – in Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Taranaki, Hawkes Bay, Wanganui, Wairarapa, Wellington and Canterbury. Our specialist reference library includes lists of ships and passengers arriving before 1865, family trees and histories and members records containing valuable genealogical information.

We also have a Research Award to help with the publication of a work on national or local history. We take an active interest in our country, which includes making submissions on topics of interest or concern, such as the Foreshore and Seabed Act, the establishment of a republic, a change to our national flag, the re-naming of geographical entities etc., and we assist in preserving historic places, buildings and monuments.

Who can join New Zealand Founders? Those who are descendants of persons who arrived in New Zealand before December 31st 1865.

Interested? For more information contact New Zealand Founders Society at P.O. Box 17-126, Karori, Wellington.

E-mail:

nzfounders@paradise.net.nz

www.nzfounders.org.nz

Otaki

According to the Society’s annual report in their September newsletter, the Society “fully investigated a possible merger with the Otaki Museum Trust, but due to a range of issues that were raised we have not reached an agreed position. Our resources are stored, cared for and used by the

Museum and no doubt this will be a subject that will be revisited in the future.”

Paeroa

(From Hauraki Herald, 5 October 2012)

“Whenever there was a need to clarify a historic point, whether it was a debate between two people at a council meeting, or someone wanting information about anything in Paeroa’s past, you would hear, ‘Go and see Graham Watton, he’ll know.’”

“They will no longer be able to do that after Mr Watton died on October 1 ... He was born in 1932 and moved to Paeroa to take up a job with Thames Valley newspapers in 1954. He became a reporter and photographer with them in 1963 before becoming the editor of the *Thames Valley Gazette* and *Waihi Gazette* in 1967 and the *Thames and Peninsula Gazette* in 1973 ... He was a foundation member of the ... Paeroa and District Historical Society ... and the Historic Places Trust. [He] was awarded a Queen’s Service Medal in 2007. He was a man who, once he decided to become involved an organisation or project, saw it through to the very end.”

Parnell

Rendell McIntosh, Patron Parnell Heritage, told us "This is the eighth year that our historical society, ANZ/National Bank and Scholastic have combined to provide suitable recognition and prizes to children entering the contest. We are the only historical organisation in Auckland that organises a contest involving research or art categories. It is the perfect way for children to start appreciating the rich heritage surrounding them in Parnell. The standard of entries continues to rise every year as children submit artistic endeavours or research projects. The overall winner of the Robert Tod Memorial Trophy (Mr Tod established the village of Parnell in September 1841) was Karolina Omenzetter with a wonderful summary of the historic St Stephens Chapel in Judges Bay."



Winners -**Merit Certificate**

Jamie Mora, Charles Earthquake, Victoria McCall, Georgia Tippett

Research - Senior Category

Sasha Watson

Research - Junior Category

First - Karolina Omenzetter; Second - Rosa Watson; Third - Johnny Chunn

Art - Team Junior Category

First - Lucy Woodhams and Alysee Naddi; Second - Gracie Greenhough and Lily Brinsdon

Robert Tod Memorial Trophy

Karolina Omenzette

Petone

(From report by Society President Nik Zangouropoulos, October newsletter)

“I made an appearance in the Environment Court together with other Petone advocates such as Pam Hanna from the Petone Planning Action Group to argue against the proposed Countdown development at the western end of Petone. The proposal to have a number of small shops appended onto this supermarket development in its own right might not sound threatening. It is difficult, however, to see how other similar operations could be prevented if this was allowed to proceed. We remain steadfast in our view that development is welcome, but it has to be compatible with the aspirations of Petone to be a progressive, vibrant community - with a main street that is a showpiece in terms of heritage and commercial appeal. Multi-purpose developments outside this zone clearly threaten those aspirations. Needless to say we will do whatever we can to protect the hard won improvements achieved in our town in the last two decades.”

The Petone Planning Action Group has been set up “which is leading the fight against the proposals to extend retail shopping area beyond Victoria Street in Jackson Street to allow small shops as well as a mall, which would devastate our heritage shopping area.” (*The Society's November newsletter*)

Queenstown

(An email from Marion Borrell of the Society)

“Thank-you for reading our *Queenstown Couriers* and including items in *Keeping in Touch*. I enjoy reading what other societies are doing.

“Danny Knudson's book *Edith Cavell: a bridge and bravery* [see last issue] retails at \$15, and can be purchased mail-order through us, the Queenstown

and District Historical Society at PO Box 132, Queenstown, adding \$2 for postage.

“Thank-you for including the advertisement for our calendars. We're particularly pleased with them, and the idea of using the hand-tinted postcards could well be taken up by other societies as the result is an ethereal combination of photo and painting. “



Centenary of start of World War I in NZ Legacy 2014

Now calling for written contributions from all full and associate members of NZ Federation of Historical Societies for the three issues of *NZ Legacy* in 2014. Associations with the war from YOUR area/district — the people, the events, the memorials, the memories, the reminders of a time of change, grief and remembrance in our history. Contact the editors

Other Organisations

Volunteers Sought to Lend a Helping Hand at Gallipoli

Volunteers are being sought for an experience of a lifetime, assisting with vital visitor services at Anzac Day commemorations in Gallipoli in 2013.

Conservation Volunteers has been appointed by the Department of Veterans' Affairs and Veterans' Affairs New Zealand to manage volunteer involvement in the Anzac Day commemorations in Gallipoli, Turkey. This is an exciting, and strictly limited, chance to be a part of the team carrying out important visitor services throughout the commemorative services.

Volunteers will take part in the Dawn Service near Anzac Cove, the Australian service at Lone Pine and the New Zealand service at Chunuk Bair. Volunteers will fulfill a range of roles including handing out information packs and providing support to assisted mobility visitors.

Team Leader, Graeme Hickingbotham, said “To experience the Gallipoli peninsula on Anzac Day is special for Australians and New Zealanders. It is made even more special through being part of a team of volunteers serving visitors at the commemorative services. This experience will stay with you for a lifetime.” Applications close for this unique experience on the 7th of January 2013.

“We encourage applications from volunteers who feel they can assist with the program. Although not essential, volunteers with medical and Defence Force backgrounds are encouraged to apply.”

Past program teams have had a diverse demographic of ages and backgrounds and young people are encouraged to apply for the team in 2013. The minimum age for an applicant is 18 years.

Program dates: 17th – 29th April 2013.

Program fee: \$NZ6900 inclusive of return international airfares departing ex Syd/Mel/Bris/Perth, meals, hotel accommodation, coach and ferry transportation, battlefield visits, project leaders.

For more information visit
www.gallipolivolunteer.org.nz



Digital deluge in archival world

(From October newsletter, Federation of Australian Historical Societies)

“On 13 July 2012, the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported that globally, the amount of data created, collected, and shared in 2009 was 800,000 petabytes. By 2020 this figure will be 35 zettabytes (one zettabyte is equivalent to 260,000,000,000 DVDs).

“With rapidly evolving business systems, cloud environments, expanding application and software development and information profusion, we are in an environment where a stable archival heritage will be difficult to create, let alone sustain.

‘The evidence suggests that our professional methods are not coping with the scale and complexity of contemporary recordkeeping challenges, and they are failing us at a time of critical risk. And this is not the first call to reinvent our professional practices.’ In 1986 David Bearman first argued that archival core methods of appraisal, description, preservation and access were fundamentally unable to cope with the volumes of information that archivists were required to process. He called on the profession to completely reinvent its core methods. Much has been done in the intervening 25 years.

Chinese archives - Guangzhou (formerly Canton)

The *Chinese Archives News* of 16 August 2012 was widely distributed at the International Archives Congress, 21-24 August 2012 in Brisbane. It contained numerous articles on the growth of the archives profession in China and the community repositories as well. For example, the Guangzhou Municipal Archives (formerly known as Canton in the western world) submitted an article outlining its collection of archives. Canton was the centre from which thousands of Chinese came to the Australian colonies to mine alluvial gold.

The Art Archives of Liwan District (established in 2007) has a repository area of 3000 square metres collects documents and objects of the artists and houses objects of ivory, jade, wood, Guangzhou coloured porcelain and Guangzhou embroidery.

Archives of Fanyu District was established in January 1959 and has a repository area of 2850 square metres. In 2009 it became the demonstration site for digital archives at the county level. The Fanyu archives has an information centre covering the district and towns with broadband access and manages electronic, audiovisual and paper archives.

The Real Estate Archives of Guangzhou (former Office of Real Estate Ownership Registration Records under the Land and Housing Administration of Guangzhou) has a repository area of 15,700 square metres and houses 3.7 million volumes of archives (99% of which are real estate archives) spanning 400 years, with a monthly increase of 30,000 volumes. 520,000 volumes are consulted per year. (Source: *Chinese Archives News* 16 August 2012 p.24)