

PORIRUA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION INC.

July 2013 Newsletter

Next Activity:

1.30pm, Saturday 3rd August in the Helen Smith Community Room, Pataka Museum, Porirua.

John and Hillary Mitchell of Mitchell Research will be coming across from Nelson to give a presentation to the Porirua Historical Association on *Aspects of the Wairau Affray*, the first post-Treaty armed confrontation between Maori and Europeans. Hilary and John will cover:

Precursors to the events of June 1843, in which rangatira of Ngati Toa Rangatira opposed the New Zealand Company's claim to ownership of the Wairau

Immediate effects on Maori-European relations of the Nelson community (and further a field)

Longer-term impacts, including the sale of Porirua to the Crown.

Portraits of some of the main participants by a number of artists, particularly Isaac Coates, will illustrate the talk. *Everyone invited to attend.*

Coming Activities:

If the Saturday afternoon meeting on the 3rd of August is a success we intend to hold another one in late November or early December, to examine the impact of the Great Strike of 1913 on the Wellington Region.

Next year is 100 years since the Great War and we intend to have three meetings where speakers and panels will also examine the impact of this "war to end all wars" on the region.

In 1965 the Porirua Historical Association was formed and we need to think now about ways in which we can commemorate this in two years time. Someone has suggested a series of bus tours around the city to visit historical locations and as this is something our Association has done in the past and is perhaps worth considering again?

Past Activities:

Last month we met to watch a video on "The War Years". This video was made up from old newsreels that we used to see in the cinema every Saturday afternoon or night, depending on your age. The general opinion was that it was very good and because it was filmed mainly in the Wellington area it showed the way the city had changed or stayed the same in half a century. Anyone wanting to borrow this video can ring Brian on 233 0709.

This and That:

the Mana U3A intend to hold the three session course on the history of Porirua. It will be held at Pataka on the ninth 16th and 23rd of September in the afternoons. Three sets of speakers will cover periods of our history up to 1840 then two 1947 and then to the present day. If any members from the Porirua historical Association wish to attend these they can contact Brian Mosen, 233 0709 after 27 August.

Wellington Museum of City and Sea are once again going to hold their winter program of musical concerts. Every Sunday between 28 July and 1 September you can enjoy free concerts at the Museum. Acts are all from numerous talented New Zealanders, featuring blues, guitar, folk, Celtic harp, jazz, American country music that will have your toes tapping.

The Porirua City Council have been advised by a planning consultant and heritage architect that because of the high heritage significance of the former United States Marines Hall in Titahi Bay, it should not be demolished. As a result of receiving this advice the Council, as the applicant to a resource consent, has asked for their application for demolition be put on hold while it reviews the extent and cost of the remedial work at the community hall. They will consider whether or not to proceed with its resource consent application once the review has concluded.

Petone Police Station Museum in Jackson Street-well worth a visit. This is where I found out that passengers on the first three immigrant ships to New Zealand, leaving Gravesend on 16 September 1838, were the first to organise a police force in Petone. The New Zealand company officials had been warned that it would be illegal to establish any system of government independent of the Crown, but they got passengers to sign a provisional constitution agreeing that a committee of leading settlers could make regulations for preserving the peace. The committee was formed on arrival in March 1840 and subsequently Richard, Baxter a former Spanish Legion Major was appointed Police Magistrate. He had two constables and they were the first elected Police at a settlement in New Zealand. The initial police establishments were in Petone and Thorndon, across the harbour. This little museum has lots of treasures and information and is part of the Jackson Street Program.

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Committee: Alistair Robb; Margaret Blair; Liz Evans, Gale McRoberts.