

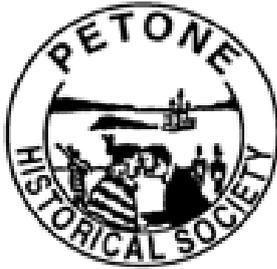


# PETONE HISTORICAL SOCIETY inc.

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## Chronicle August 2013



### 2013 committee

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Greetings to all,

We are now half way through our year and still have a number of outstanding subscriptions. If you are one of them please pay now. The red **NOT PAID** on the e mail will tell you that you have not paid. We rely on our subs to keep the organisation going, so the more people who are willing to join the more we can do to keep Petone heritage to the fore.

June/July has been a very busy period. We worked with the Jackson Street Programme to celebrate the 100 year birthday of the Petone Town Clock on 7<sup>th</sup> July. It was a great occasion with the Mayor and Mayoress in period costume and mayoral robes arriving in a vintage car to cut the ribbon. We were entertained by the brilliant Faultline Chorus, We had a large birthday cake which everyone enjoyed. This was followed by lunch in the community house. As the Mayor said the clock has witnessed so many of the events of the past century. From soldiers during the first world war 1914 -18, to strike parades, the USA Marines arriving in 1942, The great Petone Christmas parades and the Petone centennial and later the fairs and parades among many other activities like the Petone Tech. band and cadets marching during their barracks week. The afternoon ended with a couple of short local heritage walks.

Children's competition. The colouring in of the old clock tower and putting in the correct time 2.25 produced well over 100 entries from Korokoro School and Petone Central. Wilford and Sacred Heart had none! Every entry received a voucher from McDonald and the best three received other prizes as well Thanks to the sponsors.



Mayoral party leaves  
Community House in  
their limousine



Mayor Ray Wallace  
cuts the centennial  
cake while Mayoress  
and the faultline  
chorus look on

Our last meeting was held on Thursday 20 June, the worst night of the year. Thirteen people braved the elements and we had an excellent presentation by Allison Allitin on the streets of Wellington. Allison hails from Australia and has travelled in many countries. She is a town planner and at present is on contract to Hutt City Council. I find it fascinating to hear the stories behind the street names and Allison brought these to life. Thank you to all who attended.

## **HERITAGE MONTH IS SEPTEMBER**

We have begun preparing for Heritage month in September. Of prime importance is getting some new exhibitions made. We have the material but need help with editing. We have been fortunate in having the services of Deanne Puata From Prestige Print willing to do the setting out and design work for us. A working bee specifically for the editing will be held on Thursday 8 August. 2p.m.

We will also be undertaking heritage walks on three consecutive Sundays in September 8<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4p.m.

If we can get enough people we will hire a bus to take a 2 hour tour of all Petone and we will provide a commentary on the history. If people like to register with me 5686449 we can find out if this is a viable project.

Our Jail Museum will be open each weekday 11 a.m to 3.p.m and if we can get a volunteer Saturday and Sunday 11a.m to 3.p.m Any offers?

Other local activities over September

**The Petone Community House** Petone Book day with books about and by Petone people including unpublished writings and . There will be the opportunity to listen to Geraldine Brophy and Friends reading in different rooms of the house. There will also be music at times. Date Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2p.m to 4pm. Gold coin admission

**Jackson Street Programme** will be mounting an exhibition in the library about Jackson Street. This will include photos and stories about some of the heritage buildings in the street together with a story about how Jackson Street began

**Lower Hutt Historical Society** will feature Clark Stiles Heritage manager at Petone Library at their meeting on the second Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September. He will talk about digitalising newspapers and how this is done.

**The Wellington Region Heritage Promotion Council** will be sending out their second Newsletter by 1<sup>st</sup> August. This a great newsletter filled with colour. I will forward it on to all those on e mail. Unfortunately the cost of printing in colour prevents us from sending out hard copies. This issue I may send out in black and white because it features all the happenings in heritage month

## **COUNCIL MATTERS:**

As people are well aware council has put out a couple of plan changes that if carried n their present form could drastically alter the heritage nature of Petone. Plan Change 25 centres on WEltec and their desire to be able to build higher than allowed. There were some strong submissions but Council has yet to approve the final plan as yet. Plan change 29 allows for high rise (up to 30metres as of right in the area west of Victoria Street and includes additional retail including a mall. There was poor design qualities We have along with 250 other submitters opposed the degrading of our heritage area. Extra shops will basically kill

Jackson Street as we know it and therefore our heritage village. A decision is due out very soon. Although council says that they want to protect our heritage these schemes seem to do their best to destroy it. Some change is desirable but it must be in keeping with the character of Petone. The earthquake prone land makes it unsuitable for high rise apartments. The recent earthquake in Wellington showed just how unsafe high rise apartments are. Petone is lucky it has a Petone Planning Action Group that is very active.

## FETES, FESTIVALS AND FAIRS IN PETONE.

In 1994 our volunteer worker in the old jail , Geraldine Laing, spent some time in researching the Fetes, Festivals and Fairs in Petone.. She compiled her findings in an unpublished booklet for the Petone Historical Society. Petone has always been a place where the community celebrated together, in fairs, festivals, fetes and parades. The following account comes from the work Geraldine produced in a section called **“Demonstration Day - Britannia’s own Samuel Parnell. 8 hours work;8 hours recreation; 8 hours rest”**

On and after 30<sup>th</sup> June, J.King the Jeweller of Cuba Street (wgton.) will close his establishment st 6 O’clock in the evening. Saturday excepted, and hopes that numerous customers will do their business with him before that hour”

Notice is given in the Gazette that today (Demonstration Day) will be observed as a public holiday in the Government officials throughout the colony. Most of the shopkeepers in Petone have signified their intention pf closing shop, so that the day will generally be regarded as a holiday here.” ( Hutt & Petone Chronicle Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 1891)

Samuel Parnell, a carpenter and joiner, landed at Britannia with his wife from the “Duke of Roxburgh” on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1840. After he had erected his own house, a fellow passenger George Hunter (to be first mayor of Wellington) asked him to erect a storehouse for him at Korokoro.

When working in London, Parnell had felt hours of work were too long- often 16 hours a day – but his shop mates saw no hope of getting things altered. He took the opportunity of a new colony to put into effect his philosophy of eight hours for work, eight hours for sleep and eight hours for recreation. Hunter objected strongly but was forced to give way as there were only three carpenters on the beach. Parnell met the incoming ships and encouraged workers support,

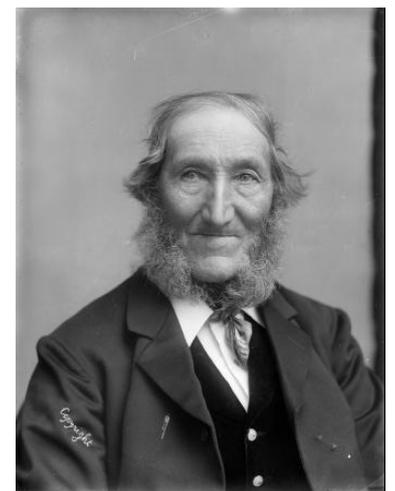
At Jubilee time in 1890 the Maritime Unions decided to establish a commemoration of the achievements of trade unions (already recognised in Australian capitals). Parnell headed the first labour demonstration paraded to Newtown Park where he was presented with an illuminated address for his noble efforts as father of the 8 hour movement.

Mr W.McGill read a reply from the 80 year old Parnell who said-

“the chord struck at Petone 50 years ago is vibrating around the world, amd I hope that I shall live to see the eight hours a day as a day’s work universally acknowledged and become law in every nation in the world.”

There were sports at the park and a variety concert in the Opera House that evening.

Samuel Parnell (from internet



8 hour Demonstration was instituted a public holiday, although "The Evening Post" commented the event was marred by that years Maritime Strike which had alienated the majority of employers. (there had also been a major strike at the Petone Woollen Mills early in the year)

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Parnell died on 17<sup>th</sup> December that year and at his funeral procession of thousands was heralded by the Garrison Band from his home in Cambridge Tce. to Bolton Street cemetery.

Despite a special meeting of Petone Borough Council in 1892 observance fluctuated in Petone until in 1899 Labour Day became a public holiday by Act of Parliament.

Petone was a town mainly of artisans and labourers, and Labour Day processions through the town were memorable in the years up to the second world war. There was a carnival at the Petone Recreation Ground with fancy dress competitions for children.

Despite the 8 hour day the working week was still long. The Hutt & Petone Chronicle of 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1892 discusses a half day holiday and unanimity on the day selected for the colony. "It is not only in the interests of shop assistants, but the business people themselves, except for the grasping and the selfish, equally enjoy a respite from the eternal performance of the daily round ,the trivial task."

Parnell Village in Auckland is named after Samuel Parnell.

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I had an interesting query from a resident in the same retirement home as Vera. He asked me when the Railway was changed from the Melling route to the Waterloo route. I asked Gerald who knows about the railway. His reply is below.

The dates are : Petone to Waterloo opened 26 May 1927. Waterloo to NaeNae 7 January 1946 (single) 14 April 1947 (Doubled). NaeNae to Taita 14 April 1947 (Single), 22 February 1953 (Doubled). Taita to Manor Park, 1 March 1954 (Single), 19 July 1954 (Doubled). Official date for changeover from old line to new line is 1 March 1954. Section north of Melling closed on that day. The dates for electrification are: Wellington to Taita 14 September 1953. Taita to U. Hutt 24 July 1955. Hutt Valley junction (just north of Petone) to Lower Hutt 23 November 1953. Lower Hutt to Melling station on new site 1 March 1954. (Source: NZ Railway and Tramway Atlas) Gerald.

**One hundred years since the clock was first opened in the tower over the road Mayor Wallace cuts the ribbon**

