

Heritage Today

The OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2013 issue of the Wellington Region Heritage Promotion Council (WRHPC) newsletter

Visitors enjoy a traditional Japanese tea ceremony at Minoh House during Heritage Month. See story pg 4.



This year's Heritage Month saw a huge variety of engaging events being rolled out at heritage venues throughout the region, and many

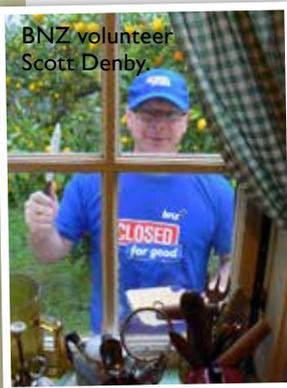
are noted in this issue. Thanks to all who participated and made it such an interesting and enjoyable month. Our AGM is coming up on 29 October and long standing Chairman, Philip Vallance, is intending to "hand-over-the-reins", though he still intends to be involved. Philip was one of the founding members of the WRHPC, who organised an event at Battle Hill in 1993 as a first step in promoting the region's heritage. From then, he has been the face of the WRHPC for many years, putting in an incredible amount of work. Philip is very well known and respected in heritage circles, with a flair for getting people on board and securing funding. Living in Masterton has never been a hindrance to his being involved in heritage matters anywhere in the region. We're pleased he will still be involved with our path. We all thank you Philip for your many years of stirring leadership, ably supported by your wife Alison. See his story on pg 2.

Phil Parnell, Wellington Region Heritage Promotional Council



Library's fact finding mission a huge success

Around 100 people turned out for 'The Way We Were', held at Upper Hutt City Library for Heritage Month. "Seniors in our community were invited to share a light lunch and their memories of Upper Hutt 1940-1990," says archivist Reid Perkins, one of the organisers. Large prints of 400 photographs from the Library's Heritage Collections were distributed for people to view. They could then discuss and contribute their own information and recollections – a physical equivalent to how the Library's RECOLLECT website works (<http://uhcl.recollect.co.nz>). "Feedback to the event has been so positive that the Mayor has asked us to try and regularly hold more events of this kind," says Reid.



BNZ volunteer Scott Denby.

Golder Cottage maximises business networks

Golder Cottage in Upper Hutt has been working with local businesses to great effect in the last few months. They were chosen as part of the BNZ's 'Closed for Good' community scheme last month and benefitted from having seven bank volunteers cleaning, painting, and gardening at the homestead. Yvonne Airey, of the Golder Homestead Museum Society, says "Their enthusiastic support greatly helped the small volunteer committee who keep this historic pioneer home open to the public. It also meant everything was spic and span for Heritage Month, where we had 'Crafts of Yesteryear' demonstrations every Saturday. The Cottage was also hugely grateful for a donation of \$500 from the recent 'Ladies DIY Night' fundraiser at Upper Hutt's Mitre 10. Cottage

volunteers mounted a display of 1800s gadgets (right), and enjoyed the competitions, refreshments and giveaways along with 300 other guests. "Marketing Manager Paul Hammond, assistant Amy Blake and the other staff all worked like Trojans to get a great atmosphere going, and 'Sam the Man' from the Mitre 10 Dream Home was very popular with the ladies," says Yvonne. Mitre 10's 'BIG Levi' will be on-site at Golders Cottage on Saturday 26 October. <http://www.nz museums.co.nz/account/3320>.



Our Taonga: Katherine Mansfield Birthplace

"You never gave me such a perfect birthday present before. A divine one. I love you for it...."

Letter to John Middleton Murry, 13 October 1922

This month, the Katherine Mansfield Birthplace (KMB), Thorndon, is having a double celebration. October 14 marks 125 years since the writer's birth - and the 25th anniversary of the opening to the public of the historic villa where she was born.

The exhibition *Forever Young* showcases KMB's collection of rarely-seen Mansfield memorabilia and also the story of the venue. "The title is bittersweet and conveys the dual purpose of the exhibition," says Board member Nicki Saker.

"Mansfield's death aged 34 means she does, in a sense,

remain forever young; and the KMB project means the place where she spent her first five years is a focus for all who are interested in her life and work as well as being a fully restored Victorian house museum."

KMB keeps much of its most precious Mansfield memorabilia in a bank vault, so *Forever Young* is a unique opportunity to see these intimate, personal possessions. They include a bowenite pendant, which belonged to her brother; the mother-of-pearl brooch recently gifted to the Birthplace which Mansfield called "the little eye"; the Ukranian folk costume given to Mansfield by her

friend, Koteliansky; a vivid orange orange evening dress; a whalebone hei tiki; the Beauchamp family Bible; a wooden hand fan and other objects. *Forever Young* exhibition, Katherine Mansfield Birthplace, 25 Tinakori Rd, 1 Oct - 14 Nov, Open Tues-Sun, 10am-4pm except Christmas Day.

House Background

Three generations of the Beauchamp family lived together in the house from 1888 to 1893. The outward appearance of the house has changed surprisingly little since it was built in the 1880s. Its plain wooden construction with minimal ornamentation is likely due to the economic depression of that era. Few houses of significance remain from this period, making it all the more special.

In 1986, the house became available for purchase for the first time in 50 years. With just \$500, the Katherine Mansfield Birthplace Society took the first steps to acquire and restore it. The process involved meticulous research, archaeological expertise and excavation, exciting discoveries and much hard work.

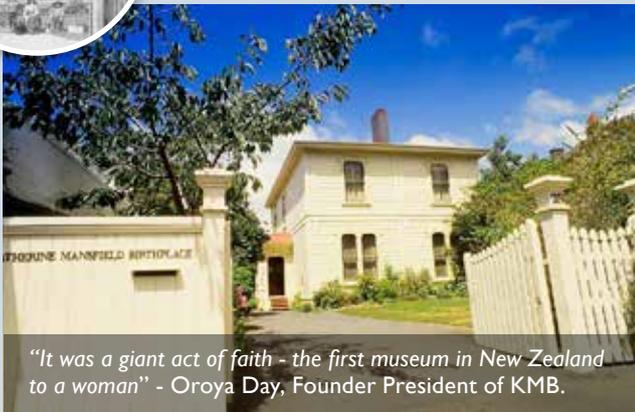


Katherine Mansfield in 1913.

They put out a call to donors who responded with artefacts from America, England, Australia and New Zealand, ensuring furnishings and other objects were authentic to the era. KMB is now recognised as an international cultural destination. You can read more at <http://www.katherinemansfield.com/>.

Old St Paul's

The childhood church of Katherine Mansfield, is hosting a special event in honour of the 125th Anniversary. An interactive tour of the church will explore the links with the Mansfield (Beauchamp) family and parish life between 1888 and 1923. Musical director David Trott will then perform a repertoire of music from the era. *Old St Paul's, Mulgrave St, Sun 13 Oct. Tours 11am, 12.30pm and 2pm. Gold coin donation.*



"It was a giant act of faith - the first museum in New Zealand to a woman" - Oroya Day, Founder President of KMB.

A Hunting Heritage: The Vallance Family in Wairarapa

At least four generations of Philip Vallance's family have been actively involved in horsemanship in Wairarapa. Charles Augustus Vallance settled in New Zealand in 1844, and was an expert horseman - as many had to be in the pre-auto era. He is generally acknowledged to have worked as a vet, and leased and managed extensive lands in Wairarapa. He became the owner of Kahurangi farm when he married Catherine Drummond (nee McRae), a widow with five children. The couple had six children together and Charles Frederick Vallance, later inherited Kahurangi. Charles (Philip's grandfa-

ther) is mentioned pre-1918 as having ridden to hounds at Te Parae, and his obituary noted he was president and master of the old Wairarapa Hunting Club. His son Berne was

A huntsman c.1910-18, possibly at Kahurangi.



honorary whip. Anthony St. Hill Vallance was Huntsman in 1948 when the Club resumed activity after WW2. Fast forward to 2013 and Philip's son Andrew Philip Vallance is sharing the job of Master of the Hunt with Charlie White. "Farming is a lonely life so all kinds of rural sport which promote camaraderie are popular," reflects Philip. "Hunting has survived to the present day because people enjoy the company and their horses. It's good to breed the best and ensure that the skills required to break in horses and train them are not forgotten. It comes down to tradition and nostalgia."



Charles with son Charles Hales Vallance in jockey's uniform c.1900-20.

Museum creates novel display at Mall



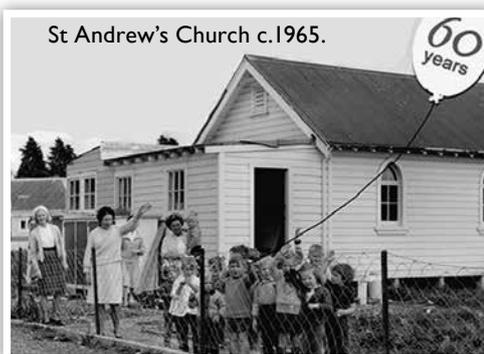
The Dowse staff chat to Mall-goers.

"Contemporary museums are often being told to be more like shopping malls, so we thought we'd take this idea to its natural conclusion, and relocate the museum to the mall - well, just for a day!" says Emma Bugden, curator at The Dowse. They

set up an off-site Petone Settlers Museum booth at the Wesfield Queensgate mall, showcasing 10 'mysterious objects' from the collection and ran a competition around them, which was won by Barry Sievers of Lower Hutt. "Over the course of the day we received dozens of entries for our competition, played with several babies, wished someone happy birthday, saw photos of ancestors and even had two songs sung to us," says Emma. They also listened to many stories of family history in the Hutt, and introduced the museum to lots of people who'd never been. <http://petonesettlers.wordpress.com/> / <http://www.newdowse.org.nz/>

Wallaceville Playcentre turns 60

Wallaceville Playcentre (which combines the former Moonshine and Upper Hutt groups) is inviting 'Playcentre veterans' to enjoy cake and a tree planting for its 60th Jubilee this month. Since the 1960s, the group has been using the 1920s St Andrews Presbyterian Church which was moved from Tawai St to its present site in 1965. The Playcentre movement began in Karori in 1941 to support women raising children on their own while partners were away during WW2. The groups promoted 'child initiated play', and were run democratically with mothers rostered to help and encouraged to discuss a wide range of topics. They are now seen as important sites for feminist thought. There are 489 Playcentres affiliated to the New Zealand Playcentre Federation, and 10 Playcentres established in Japan. Wallaceville Playcentre Jubilee, Sun 6 Oct, 11am-2pm. Cake cutting at noon. Event page link: <https://www.facebook.com/events/4711611239625028/?ref=ts&fref=ts>.



St Andrew's Church c.1965.

Raising the rafters at Old St Pauls

Old St Pauls is hosting two uplifting charity concerts this month, as part of a packed programme of summer musical events. The Capital Gospel Show Benefit Concert will share some of the magic that's been happening at the Tuesday night gospel music workshops at the Soup Kitchen in Tory St. These have seen participation from clients and other community groups and individuals. They use a fun 'call and response' format that will feature at the concert. The Voices for Hospice Charity Concert will also be strong on audience participation. This is a multi-choir event, involving community singers from throughout the region, "coming together to sing songs of loss, remembrance, hope and joy.... a true expression of community." says Manager Silke Bieda. For the full Old St Pauls programme, see <http://www.historicplaces.org.nz/placestovisit/lowernorthisland/oldstpauls/events.aspx>. Capital Gospel Show Benefit Concert, Thurs 10 Oct, 7pm; Voices for Hospice, Sat 12 Oct, 7.30pm.

From the archives: Massey's 'Cossacks' armed and ready....



Photo: ATL 1/2-014887-G

In 1913 the Government led by Prime Minister William Massey recruited 1,500 young farmers and other civilians to act as special constables. Their mission was to protect and work the wharves and to put down the trade union demonstrations. Their violent approach earned them the name 'Massey's Cossacks'. To mark the centenary of this clash, part of the 1913 Great Strike, there will be a re-creation at Queen's Wharf featuring Cossacks on horseback, striking workers and soapbox speakers in the form of historians talking about the event. A procession of horses and strikers will then cross to Post Office Square to Lambton Quay, and head to the Cenotaph. Invited MPs will address the crowd. Starting Queens Wharf, Tues 5 Nov, 12pm. For more information on the Strike see www.1913greatstrike.org. See Calendar pg 4 for related events. **Image supplied by Kim Young, Marketing Manager, Wellington Museums Trust.**

Multimedia Antarctic experience

The Explorer's Club: Antarctic is a witty multimedia song cycle that marks the centenary of the end of Captain Scott's ill-fated Terra Nova expedition. Inspired by the incredible stories of Captain Scott and Sir Ernest Shackleton, the show has been devised by Auckland alt-folk outfit Bond Street Bridge and captures tales of courage, endurance and Edwardian pluck in the snow, accompanied by heritage photographs from the Alexander Turnbull Library, and mixed media images by Auckland artist Emily Cater. Science broadcaster and author Veronika Meduna will give a short talk from 7.15pm. Wellington Museum of City & Sea, Fri 8 Nov, 7pm-9pm. Bookings essential: T: 04 472 8904 or www.museumswellington@wmt.org.nz. www.bondstreetbridge.blogspot.co.nz/p/explorers-club-antarctica.

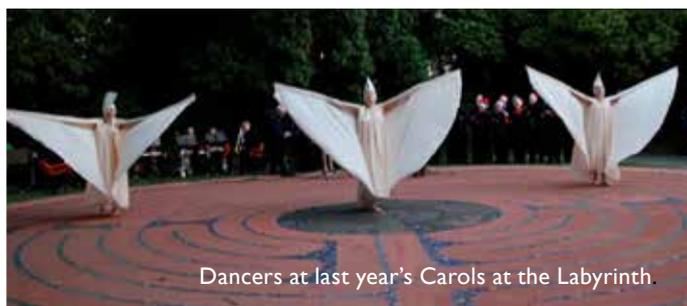
Twenty years reached for Pointon Museum

If you love the style of 'The Great Gatsby' era, it's a good time to visit the Pointon Museum, east of Masterton. Owners Gaye and Francis Pointon are celebrating 20 years of being open to the public with a display of 1920s clothing from their collection (below). "We have everything from sportswear to brides and flappers' outfits," says Gaye. The couple started their museum, which also includes vintage cars, trucks, motorcycles and automotive memorabilia, in an ex-military WWI prefab building on their block of land. The collection has grown steadily and visitors can enjoy a recreated 1930s small town garage, Harvest Garden and craft shop. Open 10am - 4pm most days. www.pointoncollection.co.nz.



Carols Around the Labyrinth

Get into the Christmas spirit early at the tranquil Hutt Hospital Labyrinth on 6 December. The labyrinth is 'a pathway of peace', a worldwide form dating back millennia. The Hutt Labyrinth is surrounded by magnificent trees and a grove of kowhai. Hutt City Brass starts the evening with a Christmas medley from 7.45pm. The choir of St James, Lower Hutt, considered one of the Hutt's finest, will lead the singing, accompanied by the Hutt City Brass. There will be a special guest performance. Carols conclude at 9pm with supper, by sponsors the Rotary Club of Hutt City, served in the nearby hospital chapel. Hutt Hospital precinct, High St. Wheelchair access, unlimited parking. Wet weather venue available. More on the Labyrinth: <http://www.huttvalleynz.com/Sights-and-activities/Arts-Culture/Public-Installations/Labyrinth/>



Dancers at last year's Carols at the Labyrinth.



ZLW Wellington Radio workers honoured

On a cool calm Wellington Spring day at the Te Ahumairangi lookout, the harbour was like glass - unlike the day this unique radio facility was first opened 1912. ZLW Wellington Radio was a key part of early Wellington communications, shipping and emergency heritage. It is 20 years since the facility closed, along with similar facilities nationwide on 30 Sept 1993.

NZPO/Telecom employees, led by Barry Allison, gathered to commemorate 81 years of 24/7 operation which ensured the safety of those at sea in New Zealand and transoceanic waters, through the use of morse code and radio telephone. The group also paid homage to nine civilian radio operators / coast watchers who died in the Gilbert (Kiribati) and Ellice (Tuvalu) islands in 1942 following capture by Japanese forces. Two plaques organised by Wellington City Council were placed in a new picnic table now at the lookout picnic site. Friends and relatives enjoyed the occasion and celebrated appropriately after the moving ceremony. They were joined by Mayor Celia Wade-Brown.

Normandale's grand old lady in fine fettle

Minoh Friendship House is flourishing in its new life as a Japanese cultural centre. At last month's annual Japan Spring Festival, over 300 visitors experienced judo, calligraphy, ikebana, a tea ceremony and more. The 1904 Queen Anne home in Normandale Rd was built in 1904 and refurbished in 1999 as the focus of the Lower Hutt's relationship with Minoh City, in Osaka. It was home to society couple Alice Fitzherbert, daughter of Lower Hutt's first mayor, W A Fitzherbert, and Victoria College's first professor of modern languages, George von Zedlitz. They sold 'Norbury' in the 1920s and the next owners were Kate and Basil Donne, who significantly enlarged the house as a venue for entertaining. It was sold to the city council in the 1940s, and had various uses until the 1990s. It has a category one classification and is administered by a regional trust. A venue for calligraphy and other classes, it is available for private functions, and also open to the public for the Japanese Martial Arts Expo every autumn. Contact Rosemary McLennan: rmclennan@vodafone.net.nz. <http://www.huttvalleynz.com/Conferences--Weddings-/Conferences/Hutt-Minoh-Friendship-House/>.

OCT-DEC CALENDAR

(additional dates to those in newsletter stories)

Oct-Dec	A range of events at the National Library. Full details: www.natlib.govt.nz .
Oct - 23 Nov	Shared Baskets – Social Equality in Aotearoa NZ exhibition, NZ Film Archive, 84 Taranaki St. www.filmarchive.org.nz .
2 Oct	Twilight one hour tour - Wellington's buried history with the Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park. Meet at 6.30pm at Seddon Memorial entrance to cemetery, Kinross St, by Anderson Park. Gold coin.
2 Oct	Overview of the 1913 Great Strike with Peter Clayworth. Ministry for Culture and Heritage, L4, ASB House, 101 The Terrace, 12.15pm.
2 - 5 Oct	German Film Festival 2013 evenings: Focus Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau. NZ Film Archive. www.filmarchive.org.nz .
5 Oct	Afternoon stroll with Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park. Meet at 2pm at Seddon Memorial entrance to cemetery in Kinross Street, by Anderson Park.
6 Oct	In the Pink for Spring Festival 2013: Mezzo Soprano Bea Lee-Smith sings up-beat show tunes at Wellington Museum of City & Sea, 2pm (proceeds to Breast Cancer Research); Paint a pot & plant a sunflower kids event at Colonial Cottage Museum, Nairn St, sessions every half hour from 12.00 to 3.30pm (bookings T: 04 472 8904, \$2 each); The Useful Garden talk by Hannah Zwartz, Colonial Cottage Museum, 2pm. Koha.
6 Oct	Lower Hutt Civic Centre Walk with conservation architect & Modern Movement specialist Ian Bowman. Meet St James Church, Woburn Road, 2pm. Free.
8 Oct – 19 Nov	People's History Series 2013 - Tuesday talks on Wellington workers to mark 1913 Great Strike. www.museumswellington.org.nz .
9 Oct	Mark Williams & Jane Stafford: Knowledge, Fantasy and Forgetting: Editing the Oxford History of the World Novel. A Friends of the Turnbull Library event. Tiakiwai Conference Centre, National Library of NZ, Aitken St entrance., 5.30pm.
17-19 Oct	Khandallah and Johnsonville on Film. NZ Film Archive, 7pm.
29 Oct	WRHPC AGM & General meeting. Venue TBC, 2pm.
13 Nov	Friends of Turnbull Library Lecture programme: Bill Macnaught, National Librarian: What's New at the National Library. Tiakiwai Conference Centre, National Library of NZ Aitken St entrance, 5.30pm.
24 Nov	Expert appraisals at Curiosity Roadshow day. Museum of Wellington City & Sea, Queens Wharf. www.museumswellington.org.nz .
5 Dec	International Christmas Gala. Old St Pauls Church. Doors open 6.30pm for 7pm. http://www.historicplaces.org.nz/events/osp_x-mas_5dec.aspx?sc_lang=en .

Please send your February 2014 dates to the Editor E: editor@wrhpc.org.nz.

Heritage Month

September 2013

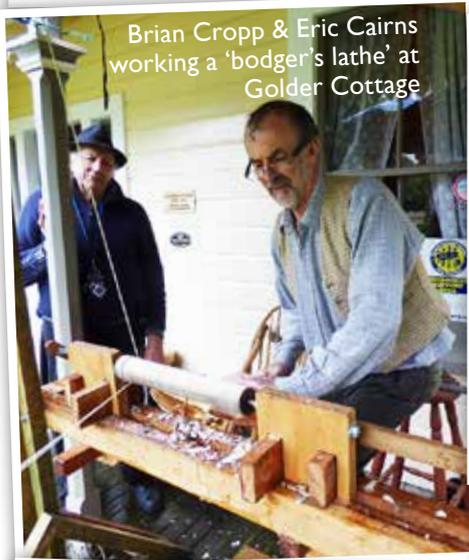
Heritage Month features a huge range of community events celebrating heritage in its many forms across the Wellington region. It is organised every year by the Wellington Region Heritage Promotion Council (WRHPC). We'd love you to see you next year! www.wrhpc.org.nz.



Lolly scramble, Minoh Friendship House



Storyteller Bea Joblin & Sir Jon Trimmer, Petone Community House



Brian Cropp & Eric Cairns working a 'bodger's lathe' at Golder Cottage



The Steam Locomotive at Carterton Railway Station.



Plant sale at Otari-Wilton Reserve



Outdoor train set, Carterton Railway Station.



Seniors look at historic images & share memories at Upper Hutt Library



Open Day at The Blockhouse, Heretaunga

Heritage
Wellington Region
Heritage Promotion Council

The Wellington Region Heritage Promotion Council (WRHPC) consists of groups and organisations engaged in promoting our region's heritage. For more information go to www.wrhpc.org.nz, or contact Phil Parnell T: 04 479 2239 E: landy@xtra.co.nz. WRHPC, P.O.Box 2280, Wellington 6140.

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