



PETONE HISTORICAL SOCIETY inc.

Roy Hewson Secretary 143 Esplanade Petone ph 5686449

roy.hewson@xtra.co.nz

Chronicle August 2014

Welcome to our August Chronicle. This is the last issue before Heritage Month so I will set out the programme, as we know it, below.

NEXT MEETING AUGUST 21 AT LIBRARY MEETING ROOM

Members are invited to attend the next joint meeting with Hutt Historical Society at the Library meeting room, 7.15 for 7.30 start on Thursday 21 August. The speaker will be a member from the Wellington City and Sea museum who will give an outline of how their museum began and their plans for redevelopment. They say that their museum is now recognised as one of the top 50 museums in the world. Their development will include a further two storeys which have become vacant. It should be a very interesting evening

Petone Bus Tour on Sunday 21st September. We ran a very successful two hour tour last year which was booked out. Asked if it was to be repeated we said yes if the demand is there. We will have only 45 seats at \$10 a seats. This year we have been promised that the microphone will work properly.

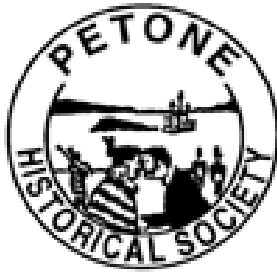
What's on in Petone for Heritage month.

PETONE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Petone Heritage Walks - Sunday 7 September 1- 3 pm leaving from Petone Community House, 6 Britannia Street, Petone.

Register with name/s and contact details on petonehistsociety@gmail.com

Walk of Champions Plaque Laying – Saturday 13 September. Meet at Jackson Street Programme office at 274 Jackson Street (beside Petone Police Station) at 10.30am and be part of three plaques being added to the Walk of Champions and the sharing of citations. There will be plaques laid for Mark Erwin, member of champion Rowing Four in 1967 to 1969, Riki Flutey, NZ Maori Rugby team 2002 – 3, and Michael Watt, Smallbore Rifle champion both indoor and outdoor from 1966 to 1982 including 1972 Olympic team.



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First Gift of Green



New baby, new tree

...the

Petone Heritage Bus Tour – Sunday 21 September 2 - 4pm leaving from Petone Community House, 6 Britannia Street, Petone. Register with name/s and contact details on petonehistsociety@gmail.com Payment of \$10 to Petone Historic Society via Westpac 030543 0101318 00 or posted to Treasurer, 143 The Esplanade, Petone 5012 to secure a place.

Petone Old Jail Museum – open most week days between 11am and 2pm – ring 939 2811 to check. Or register interest for a group visit any day of the week in September on petonehistsociety@gmail.com

JACKSON STREET PROGRAMME:

How we used to Be. There will be a display in shop front windows throughout the month of heritage photographs of Jackson Street , Visit at your leisure and also take in the walk of champions and take time to have a meal or a coffee break in one of the many quality eating places along the street

Small Towns Conference. Jackson Street Programme is hosting a New Zealand wide small towns conference between Wed.23 September and Friday 26th September. There will be many people from other small towns throughout the country visiting. Say hello to them if you see them along the street.



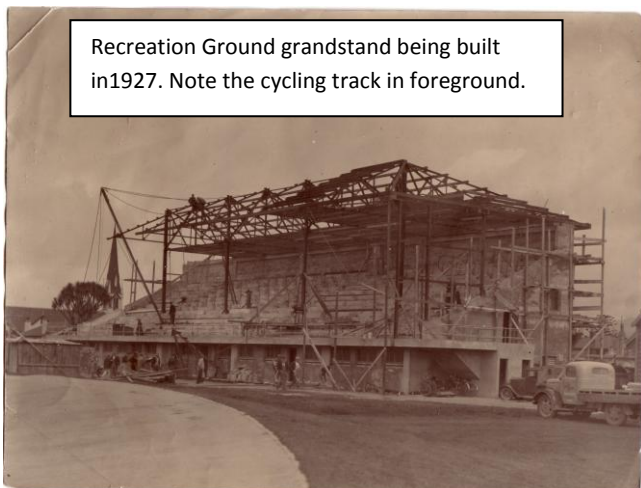
WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING

Because of our inability to staff the Old Jail Museum especially over the weekends the society is offering a volunteer \$20 costs, per weekend for opening and manning the museum between 11 a.m and 3p.m on Saturday and Sunday during September. Ring Roy (5686449) if you can find a person willing to undertake this task.. It is important over Heritage month to have the museum open. We now have bought a TV for the jail which will show loops of the development of Jackson Street and also the Walk of Champions.. This will go with the new displays. Well worth a visit when it is all set up in a week or so.

Council heritage grants The society has received grants from the city’s heritage fund to buy the TV for the jail. And also a sum to cover the preparation and printing of our **Memories of 20th Century Petone.** which is the working name for our book

We have been collecting stories from members and other long term residents over the past 10 years. Hopefully the book will be ready for purchase towards the end of the year. We are still looking to borrow photos of ordinary events in Petone over that period. Families doing things together like walking down Jackson Street on a Friday night; or attending the beach Guy Fawkes bonfires in the late thirties and forties or going to an event in the recreation ground or other things that we used to do.

Petone Recreation Ground has been saved thanks to the hundreds of people who took time to protest to the council. It showed that the weight of public opinion does count with council. Now we will have to find out how Sportsville is to be established.



New happenings in telling Petone history.

A new facebook page has been developed called - **Remembering Petone Founding and its People.** - It is very popular with loads of photographs by people who become members of the page. Well worth looking at. We have already received enquiries about buying the book of Memories. One as far a field as Australia. This page makes an idea additional to the history of Petone. Gerald has set out below the addresses on the internet to gain access.

Petone is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/897682593581583/permalink/906561216027054/>

Hutt is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/366095943481052/>

Old Lower Hutt is <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Old-Lower-Hutt/624647914290150?fref=ts>

The above (Old Lower Hutt), incidentally, is posting a lot of Petone material at the minute.

OUR HERITAGE NEEDS PROTECTING It is very important to retain our heritage values in Petone and develop them to their potential. Look how Jackson Street has livened up the town because of the strong desire to retain its heritage. Many people visit because of Petone's character. One of the goals for our Historical Society is to try and preserve our Petone Heritage and Character. It is our task to keep everyone informed as much as possible on how Council see the future renewal of Petone and just how much this will affect our heritage and change our village.

AUGUST IS FAMILY HISTORY MONTH.

If you are interested in genealogy visit the Library heritage room and find out about the events taking place in Petone. The Genealogy Society is very active from their base at the library.

THE SEARCH FOR WATER IN PETONE

One of the biggest problems in the early days of Petone Settlement was the inability to put out fires because of a lack of pressure water supply. Most people in Petone had their own artesian supply and were loath to pass a request by the local council to raise a loan to get a water supply when they had their own water. Public apathy to the need for a water supply to fight fires caused two councillors to resign. The fire brigade was formed in 1891

It took until 1902 and a growing number of major fires, before people realised the need for a pressure supply of water. The Victoria Hotel was destroyed by fire on 6th June 1900 and the Gear works had a major fire in December 1902 as well as several other major fires. Most suffered a shortage of water. Even in 1929 a lack of a good pressure supply of water contributed to two houses in Riddlers Crescent being destroyed.

Council had been negotiating with Wellington City Council to get attached to their Wainuiomata Supply but they did not think this suitable. A further source was Belmont's Speedy Creek. They had just about completed their negotiations when Lower Hutt Council secretly bought up the Speedy Creek water supply. The position between the two councils soured and this coolness lasted for a number of years.

A further source was the Korokoro Stream. Here was a possible difficulty in that Petone Woollen Company had obtained the water rights. After some negotiation the Petone Council was able to use the stream but there were some strong conditions. They had to build a lower dam for the woollen mills and also guarantee 1,000,000 gallon of water each year. This led to council having to use an upper dam on the Korokoro and pipe water down to Petone on a gravity feed.

Water from Korokoro served the borough quite well up to about 1964 when four major bores were dug to tap the artesian supply. Petone has been on artesian well supply since that date. One consequence was that all private artesian wells had to be plugged.

A further problem came with the fluoridation argument where some towns fluoride was being put into town supplies. The NZ Dental association recommended this process but many people did not like the thought of forced medication. Petone was especially vocal and persuaded The Hutt City Council to continue to supply Petone with unadulterated artesian supply at a cost of some \$400,000.

. Petone people are very proud of their artesian water. There have been many arguments around the country over the value of placing fluoride in town supply. Arguments for and against are still taking place around the country.

When the question of the proposed super city amalgamation is resolved any centralisation of water could be another change in the story of Petone water supply.



In 2000 Petone built a water fountain on Buick Street/ Jackson Street corner as a millennium project. This has proved to be immensely popular and there are always people from outside the borough filling their containers with pure Petone Water. So popular in fact in that Hutt City Council has installed an artesian pump in the Dowse square and proposes others.

We are particularly lucky in our area to have the choice of where our water comes from. Our artesian supply originates in the Hutt River and flows beneath us as far as Somes/Matiu Island. The journey through rock, shingle and sand takes several years and provides an ideal filtering system. It was rumoured that the Petone Borough council sent water samples to France in the early 1980's and it was given an "A" rating for water quality. There is no evidence that this actually happened but the story has been told many times

A word about politics The election is about to descend upon us.

Those who are too smart to engage in politics are punished by being
governed by those who are dumber.

~Plato, ancient Greek Philosopher

**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR SUB YET? SEND YOUR CHEQUES TO THE TREASURER AT 143
Esplanade Petone. \$15 single or \$20 family.**