

PORIRUA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION (Inc)

August 2014 Newsletter

NEXT ACTIVITY:

Thursday 14th August – Join others for mid-day lunch at The Film Archive, 88 Taranaki Street, to view the first of the television series, “The Governor.” The **Governor** was a 1977 New Zealand [docudrama television](#) (never seen again on TV) on [Sir George Grey](#), co-produced by [TV One](#) and the [National Film Unit](#), with Grey played by English actor [Corin Redgrave](#). There are six parts. We will be viewing until 2.0 pm. Call Brian 2330709

Saturday 16th August - The Passchendaele Express

Join us (book individually) on a newly restored WWI memorial locomotive Ab608 “Passchendaele”. Co-inciding with the commencement of the WWI anniversary commemorations this will be a fitting run for Ab608. Runs from Paekakariki to Feilding and return. Options at Feilding include a country pub lunch. Train fare Adult \$109, Child \$69. Provisional times Departs 8.40am, arriving back at 5.30pm.

www.steaminc.org.nz Phone 0800 783 264

Sunday 28th September – At 4.00 pm in the Porirua Club, Lodge Street, Porirua: Roger Gardner will give an illustrated talk on “Motor Pioneers through the King Country”. It will be about a 100 year re-enactment of the first motor journey in a Ford Model T, from Wellington to Auckland through the non-existent central route. It was at a time when there were no maps, no road signs, no petrol, few bridges, just tracks and mud. Everyone invited, (sign at the door) & meals etc. available after the talk.

P A S T A C T I V I T I E S

On the 7th July Peter Clayworth, a historian with the Labour History Project, gave a talk on ‘The Great Strike of 1913’. During his talk Peter clearly revealed and illustrated the dramatic events that took place in Wellington over the period of the strike. Although the industrial unrest didn’t last as long as the 1951 Waterfront Strike many of the participants went on to achieve political prominence in later years.

Anthony Dreaver in his book on ‘The life and Work of Leslie Adkin’ looks at our near civil war from the farmer’s point of view: “a lockout of unionists became a strike and spread nationwide as seamen and watersiders alike downed tools, and railway workers threatened to follow. The loading of farm produce came to a halt, threatening to turn Horowhenua’s milk to pig food and rob dairy farmers of their monthly payout, (the practice was to pay suppliers on the 20th of each month, but only when the produce was actually on board ship.) Massey called for volunteers to load cargo, and for a force of special constables to guard them. The Farmers’ Union, and especially the President, saw this as a great opportunity to demonstrate the power and efficiency of their organisation.”

MILITARY HISTORY : New Zealand and the First World War- Anyone interested in this course should contact the WEA on 04 9041598 Tutor: Chris Pugsley

Sessions: 5 Wednesdays-Dates: 1/8/15/22/29 October

Venue: Lounge, Presbyterian Church Hall, 43 Ngaio Rd, Waikanae

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 noon - Cost: \$60 members \$75 non members

The course will cover a range of topics, and each session will consist of a 50 minute Power-Point presentation, followed by a coffee break and a wide ranging discussion period. The discussion sessions will include New Zealand, the Gallipoli Campaign, the Western Front, the Mounted Rifles and New Zealand, Anzac and Empire today.

THIS AND THAT

Congratulations to Mary Casey who received a civic award for her long-time service in the Plimmerton Red Cross. The Red Cross will celebrate 75 years in September and began just three weeks after World War II. Members of the Red Cross volunteers raised money by holding events like card evenings and raffles, for blankets, socks and other items to send to the servicemen overseas. Mary was a secretary of the Plimmerton Red Cross branch for several years and then she became President from 1988 to 1992. She again accepted the role as President in 2001.

The Tawa Historical Society is publishing a book on "a History of Tawa." It will be a soft covered book and on sale for \$45 per copy. The Tawa historical Society have published many books on the history of the area but this is the biggest one yet and will have 256 pages, 65 photographs, 17 maps, 15 tables, 11 illustrations and an index. The book will be launched by the Mayor of Wellington on Monday, 10 November at the Mervyn Kemp library on 5.30 pm.

Several years ago our Association went on a weekend trip through the forgotten highway (Stratford-Taumaranui) and then from Raetihi down to Pipiriki and along the River Road back to Wanganui. Those who went on this journey will remember the rain and the mud plus slips, all exciting stuff. However, at last the River Road has been sealed all the way from Wanganui to Pipiriki then to Raetihi. Before the River Road was built there was only the Whanganui River and then in 1915 the road only went as far as the top of the Gentle Annie, a large hill not far from Wanganui. During the depression years of the 1930s, relief workers put a road through, but the sealing of it proceeded with glacial speed until more recently when an injection of funds from central government enabled it to be completed. The new sealed road was opened in March with a memorial stone marking the completion.

The Porirua City Council has released their decisions on submissions made to the 2014/15 Annual Plan. The good news is that as a result of our submission the Marines Hall in Titahi Bay will now receive maintenance work to protect it from further weather damage and there will be a permanent security fence erected to secure the site. As to the future of the Hall the Council is asking for further public consultation.

Just a reminder-The Story of Ngati Toa Rangatira opened at Te papa on **14 June, 2014 in the Iwi Gallery, Level 4, free entry**. The exhibition has been produced in collaboration with the Iwi-in-residence, Ngati Toa Rangatira. Highlights of the exhibition include several significant taonga that speak to some of the key tupuna and history of Ngati Toa; an Interactive map that allows the viewer to learn about Ngati Toa's tumultuous migration from Kawhia to the Wellington region; and a multimedia presentation of the Ngati Toa 'Ka Mate' haka.

Scotland is in the news at the moment and in September this year we will find out whether or not we have to change our flag, at least the Union Jack part of it. On the subject of Scotland I found out the background to "first footing" and why I as a fair haired male was not welcomed to be first to cross over the threshold on New Year's Eve, even though I had a lump of coal and some alcoholic beverage. Apparently the custom of having a dark haired person to be the first across the threshold originated in Scotland where they were in fear of the Vikings (fair-haired giants) for several centuries.

The Wellington Heritage Promotion Council is an organisation formed to promote and encourage the preservation of the region's heritage. To achieve this goal they have organised a Heritage Month annually since 1993 with displays and events throughout Wellington, Kapiti, Hutt Valley, Porirua and Wairarapa. This year for the first time there will be no theme but each contributing member will have activities promoted through the Wellington Heritage Promotion Council's website. www.wrhpc.org.nz

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