

PORIRUA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION (Inc)

June/July 2015 Newsletter

NEXT ACTIVITY:

Sunday 21st June 2.00 pm in the Helen Smith Community Room, Pataka
The Friends of Pataka have arranged for Euon Murrell and Graham Kelly to tell us some tales regarding the "We Built this City" exhibition. Euon is a local business owner, who has lived in the area for over 40 years and is currently a Porirua City Councillor. Graham was MP for Porirua, 1978 - 1986 and apart from serving as the High Commissioner to Canada, has lived in Porirua since.

Saturday 12th July -4.00 pm at the Porirua Club, Lodge Place, Porirua Dr
Damien Fenton, of Massey University presents a public lecture on the nine month Gallipoli campaign, that reveals who the ANZACS were fighting at Gallipoli and why? And why did the ill-fated campaign go so badly wrong for our boys? Koha (drinks and meals available after)

Past Activities:

On Sunday 7th of June the Mayor of Porirua, Nick Leggett and the Director of Pataka Helen Kedgley opened the exhibition "We Built This City". Guest speakers were Paul Adams of the Carrus Group and the Mayor. The Curator for the exhibition was Alice Masters and many who attended commented that they needed to return to "take it all in". This exhibition runs until September.

Twenty-five stories and photos from Allan Dodson's collection of men and women who went to the First World War were successfully displayed in an exhibition at pataka during April.

This and That:

The year 2015 seems to be one of historical anniversaries. As well as our own city celebrating 50 years there is the Magna Carter, the British Charter which was signed 800 years ago. It is a charter that was agreed to by King John of England near Windsor on 15 June 1215. It was designed to make peace between the unpopular King and a group of rebel barons, it also promise protection for the Church, as well as protection for the barons from illegal imprisonment, access to swift justice, and limitations on feudal payments to the Crown. All this was to be implemented through a Council of 25 barons. It was the start of our democracy as such and interestingly enough, both France and the USA referred to this document when they were in the process of establishing their own democracies.

The other important anniversary is the battle of Waterloo which occurred 200 years ago. Wellington City is named after the Duke of Wellington and there are other references to this battle around the city. The outcome of the battle certainly changed Europe and world history and although the Duke was English, the majority of the troops opposing the French were not.

A very short précis of the battle is that on the 18th June 1815 the three armies of France, Britain, and Prussia descended upon a quiet valley south of Brussels. In the previous three days the French army had beaten the Prussians at Ligny and fought the British forces to a standstill at Quatre-Bras. The allies were in retreat. The little village north of where they turned to fight the French army was called Waterloo and the Prussians arrived in time to save the day.

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