

# PORIRUA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION (Inc)

August 2015 Newsletter

## **NEXT ACTIVITY:**

2.30 pm Sunday 30 August

**Heritage Month** is to be launched this year in the Helen Smith Community Room at Pataka Museum+Art. All invited.

1.30 pm Saturday 17 October

In October this year the Porirua Historical Association has been in existence for 50 years. When you read through the minutes of our Association there have been many achievements and one or two disappointments. However, there is something to celebrate and we are going to do this with a "High Tea", some speakers and entertainment in the Helen Smith Community Room at Pataka Museum+Art. Mark this date in your diary now.

## **PAST ACTIVITIES**

On Saturday, 12 July Dr. Damian Fenton of Massey University presented a public lecture in the Porirua club lounge. His talk covered nine months of the Gallipoli campaign with a Turkish viewpoint on the events of this conflict.

### How We Started

In 1965, Porirua was granted city status. As part of the celebrations the Papakowhai Homestead was furnished in the Victorian manner with the help of the Dominion Museum, (as it was then known) and in collaboration with the Porirua City Council and the new owners of the Homestead. Over 10,000 people visited the homestead during this time and the administrative committee set up to be in charge of this operation realised that there was a great need for a local historical society and for a museum.

After the Homestead was closed to the public, sometime in September 1965, the committee set about arranging a meeting of interested people in the community to discuss the possibility of forming such a group. Mr Alf Mexted convened this meeting and the inaugural meeting for the Porirua historical Association was 16<sup>th</sup> of October 1965 where it was decided to cover an area from Tawa up to Plimmerton, also including Pauatahanui, although it was acknowledged that they already had a separate association. Mr Alf Mexted chaired the meeting and he said that the main object for the society would be to further promote past present and future history of the district and in keeping and preserving historical photographs.

Bob Cater was recorded as being present at their next meeting which was held on Thursday, 2 December 1965. At this meeting a guest speaker, Mr Arthur Carmen of Tawa, gave an interesting talk about Elsdon Best. He suggested that the articles by Best, recently relocated by the Alexander Turnbull Library, be published by the Association as their first important project. Somehow our Association never completed this task but fortunately the Tawa Historical Society has done this successfully.

However, our Association has over the years been able to assist members and others with the initial costs for historical publications. It has promoted local history through bus tours, colonial dinners, conferences, and regular meetings. In recent years the trend has been to sponsor public seminars and this has been relatively successful.

In February next year we will be holding our 50<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting and hopefully this will provide a positive start for a further 50 years.

**President:** Tony Cross 2327593 **Secretary:** Brian Mosen- 233 0709 **Treasurer:** June Penman 236 7438 **Committee:** Carole Naylor; Margaret Blair; Liz Evans, Gale McRoberts.

