

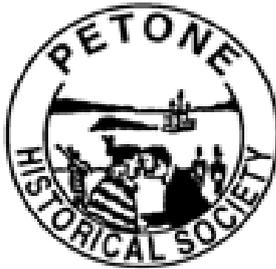


PETONE HISTORICAL SOCIETY inc.

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Chronicle April 2016



2015 committee

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Artic Ice Cream factory in Peel Street where the car park is now, The owners pictured

Welcome to the second Chronicle for 2016. Here has been a lot of activity in the Historical Society over the past two months. Alfred has now organised the new hanging fixtures for our displays in the "Jail Museum" and it is so much easier to put up display boards and adjust their height. We now have to get on with making new display boards and the committee is taking care of that. The book "Sun Sand and Sweat" has been selling very well and we have only a few copies left. People seem very pleased with the publication and it has brought back a lot of memories for Petoneites.

WE managed to have the "Jail" open on Fair Day and we had 290 visitors between 11 a.m and 3 p.m. This is the first time I have seen people queuing up to get into the jail. The video loop is working well and proving popular with visitors. J.S.P. tells me that there have been a number of overseas visitors from the cruise ships and also from those who went to the Tattoo at the stadium. It is important now that we keep producing new exhibits. It is a shame that we have to close the jail during the weekend because of lack of volunteers.

The closure of the Settlers Museum while it is being refurbished and new windows put on the southern side has possibly increased our visitors to the jail.

Pam has been working on downloading STQRY which is the digital history of Petone to go along with the Discover Petone brochure. People will be able to follow the brochure and listen to the short history of each of the articles in the brochure by simply downloading an app on their smart phone.

ANZAC DAY IN PETONE...

25th April 2016 will mark the hundredth anniversary of Petone's first Anzac service held by the Petone Railway station. The service will be a 7.a.m. and there will later be a steam train taking those who make reservation, north to Upper Hutt and return 10.a.m. and again in the afternoon



PETONE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Petone Historical Society AGM

Monday 11th April 7.30pm

Room 3 at Petone Community House at 6 Britannia Street

The Guest Speaker is Jenny Sands who was the Mayor of the London Borough of Islington and was a member of the Planning Committee for a number of years and Chair of the Conservation Advisory Committee.

Jenny says she is absolutely not an expert but we know she will be sharing some interesting experiences with us and she will also touch on how that Islington involvement has informed her work on heritage in the Hutt – now that she lives in Eastbourne for at least half of the year.

Do come and hear Jenny share some of her experience and vision.

Tea and coffee will be served after the meeting.



Petone Beach – building the Dunes
Some people have protested about Dunes being created on Petone Beach. Petone beach was created after the 1855 earthquake raised the land some 2 metres and the previous dunes were lost. Dunes are now being recreated so that the beach can again be protected from erosion and retain the sand so that it returns to a natural beach. (Photo shows volunteers planting spinifex and pingau.)

ADMINISTRATION NEWS

Have you paid your sub yet? It should be paid by our AGM meeting. WE will be screening our membership list after the AGM and deleting those two or more years in default and deleting them from our list. Your sub goes to preserve and record as much of Petone's history as we can .

Continuing the article by Charles Heaphy to Wellington Philosophical Society on 1879

Port Nicholson and the Natives....

The Port Nicholson natives, when the 'Tory' arrived here, were a fine specimen of the Maori race. All the men were tried warriors and had fought successively the Waikato, the Wanganui and the Wairarapa people. But they occupied rather an inconvenient corner of territory. As long as they could maintain peace with the Ngatitōa at Porirua and Kapiti and the Ngatiraukawa of Otaki, they were tolerably safe; but in the event of serious hostilities in the direction of the West Coast, and such hostilities were threatening, the Wairarapa people, whom they had defeated but not subdued, would operate in their rear, making the position very critical.

It was this feeling of insecurity which caused them so readily to sell land to Colonel Wakefield and to hail the arrival of Europeans. Having determined on the policy to pursue in this matter, Epuni, the Chief, with his immediate people, behaved with great consistency and never receded from his bargain, or wavered in his friendliness to the settlers. There was a singular mixture of amiability and fierceness about these Port Nicholson natives. The circumstances of their position required them always to have arms ready beside them and the war canoes at hand on the beach but to the white people they manifested entire confidence and exhibited the greatest kindness. When the schooner 'Jewess' was stranded on the Pitone beach, they helped to dig a channel for her to the sea and eventually, by force of numbers, animated by their war yell and chorus, dragged her until fairly afloat. At the subsequent upsetting of a passage boat in the surf at Pitone, they risked their own lives – men, women and children – to rescue the exhausted Europeans from the fatal undertow.

Ere the purchase of the land was well completed their relatives were treacherously attacked by the Ngatiraukawa in force at Waikanae and it required hard fighting with the advantages of position, to beat them off. Ere the excitement of this attack had passed away the chief of Waiwhetu. Puakawa was shot in his potato field by a marauding band from Wairarapa.

Arriving at Waikanae, as we did, just after the action terminated, it may be interesting to notice what occurred. The Waikanae pa stood on the sand-hills, behind the beach and may have contained about 350 natives, of whom about 200 were fighting men. The attack had been made just before daylight on a small outpost of the pa, where a boy noticing a strange native peering into the whare seized a gun and shot the intruder dead, thereby giving the alarm and arousing the inmates of the larger pa. The attacking party now surged against the stockade of the main village but were fiercely resisted. Spears were thrust through the fences and men shot down in the act of surmounting them, but no entrance gained. Then the fight would lull for a time, to be resumed outside in rough "scrimmaging" as the whalers called it, amongst the sand-hills.

Te Rauparaha, the great Ngatitōa chief, watched the fight. He professed friendship for the Waikanae natives but had come over the Kapiti Island to assist the Ngatiraukawa with his advice rather than materially. He was seen by the people within the pa and a quick rush out was made to capture him. The Ngatiraukawa interposed and sacrificed themselves to save him. The fighting was here hand to hand but Te Rauparaha escaped only however, by swimming off to his canoe which was moored outside the surf. We met him ere he arrived at his island which was distant

about three miles from Waikanae. He looked crest-fallen but was composed and self-possessed and more than usually friendly in manner.

On Te Rauparaha's departure the Ngatiraukawa became dispirited and carrying off their wounded, retreated rapidly along the beach towards their fortified pa at Otaki. The doctors of our expedition immediately proceeded to the assistance of the wounded. We entered the pa about three hours after the fight was over. The chief, killed by a musket-ball, lay in state on a platform in the large enclosure; his hair was decorated with huia feathers, a fine kaitaka mat was spread over him, a greenstone meri was in his hand with the leather tong around his wrist; his spear and musket were by his side. The bodies of slain persons of inferior rank were lying in the verandas of their respective houses; each covered with the best mat, and with the personal weapons conspicuously placed beside.

Around the bier of the chief the people of the pa were standing in a circle, performing the tangi; the women and several of the men had divested themselves of clothing down to the waist-belt and were bleeding profusely from a series of cuts inflicted in the ecstasy of their grief. It was not for the chief only that the tangi was proceeding, each person there had some near relative lying dead within a few feet of where they stood and the cold and placid face in their midst was only the objective embodiment of their mourning. Several of those in the circle were themselves desperately wounded and supported themselves on the shoulder or hand of their neighbour, decorously to pay the melancholy rite.

But a party of men ere still out amongst the sand-hills burying the dead of the enemy or buringly in the corpse of a friend. Before we entered the pa we noticed, standing on a provision stage high up above the stockade, a woman, who appeared by her violent gesticulations to be much excited. Closely following us as we passed into the stockade was a litter-party carrying a dead body, the last of the missing. Suddenly there was a heavy fall, or thud, close by us; it was the woman from the high stage, recognising at last the corpse of her son she had frantically thrown herself down, nearly twenty feet and lay there, apparently dead, while the litter-party passed on. Such matters were apparently of trifling moment while a tangi was proceeding.

There were a number of seriously wounded men to be attended to and gun shot to be extracted. One native had the tendon-achilles cut through and the foot was drawn upward and powerless. To some, bones of the arm and leg, fractured by shot, they had already applied splints, fairly made from the thick part of the leaf of the Phormium tenax. To cut and lacerated surfaces they had applied dressings of herbs. How far these were effective, medicinally, it is impossible to say but after a few days nearly all the wounded were progressing favourably and without fever. One man had his knee smashed by a bullet and he was advised to submit to amputation. He agreed to have the operation performed and was told about being able to walk with a wooden leg. The children considered there was fun to be found in wooden legs and proceeded to manufacture them according to their lights – stumping about before the wounded man. At this ridicule he changed his views and said that he would rather keep his leg and have it buried with him than live to be laughed at.

Most of the wounds healed by what is termed "first intention". The severed tendon-achilles united but with increased length and consequent loss of power in the foot. The Ngatiraukawa had 45 killed and the defenders of the pa 14

killed and about 30 wounded. The man with the injured knee recovered for a time but with a stiffened joint. Four years afterwards he had it removed by Dr McShane of Nelson. He smoked his pipe during the whole operation.

Dr Hochstetter, in his valuable work on the geology and natural history of New Zealand, pointed out the fact that extensive districts which had formerly been covered with forests of kauri pine were, when he wrote, totally destitute of this most valuable of the forest trees and that its extermination was progressing from year to year at such an alarming rate, that its final extinction was as certain as that of the natives themselves, only in a much shorter period of time.

Such being the facts of the case it is surely necessary that some steps be taken to preserve a portion of our forests and to check the continually increasing destruction which is still being carried on; and it would appear to be not only expedient but absolutely necessary that the far-seeing views which were expressed on their subject by Sir Julius Vogel in 1874, and which were to create a department of "Woods and Forests" and to enact forest laws, be carried out without delay.

The most stringent measures will now have to be resorted to for their conservation; a sum of money should be set apart annually for the purpose of planting and improving the State forests; every township in the colony should have its adjacent forest reserve and every encouragement should be given to landowners towards the planting of trees on their farms and runs.

Should this not be done, after the fashion of other and older countries and should no steps be taken to conserve our forests, the consequences will, in all probability, be of the most disastrous nature to the ensuing generation.



Here is a simple quiz about Petone and including Hutt Park. Up to amalgamation the Hutt Park was managed jointly by Lower Hutt Council, Petone Council and Eastbourne Town Board.

1. Where did Wilford School get its name from?
2. What was the name of the ice cream factory in Peel Street?
3. Where did the name STOP OUT as in the name Stop Out Football Club, come from?
4. Who sold council the land where Petone Recreation Ground is?
5. Hutt park was originally a swamp True or false
6. Why was the Hutt Park railway spur line Built?
7. When was the Pipe Bridge built and why was it called Pipe Bridge?
8. Where was the first Petone Fire station built?
9. Why was the building on the corner of Nelson Street ie the Drill Hall, built?
10. Who was the first Mayor of Petone?

ANSWERS IN THE NEXT CHRONICLE N JUNE.

