



Tena Koutou Katoa

Greetings to all from
President DALE WEBB

For several years your committee has followed good commercial practice by producing a strategic business plan. The plan runs from the 1st July and covers five years from then, plus the budget for the year to come. It is a good exercise for the Committee to think ahead for what you as members would like plus what is good for Marlborough Heritage generally. It also helps hugely with the funding applications we make each year; I suspect without this indication of the professionalism of the governing body we would have less money and a less successful organisation all round. We are about to start the process again for the 2014-19 plan.

Normally the plan could be summarised as "business as usual", but this year that is not at all the case. By the end of the year it is probable that the Marlborough Museum, the Heritage Education Programme and the PastPerfect project will be operated by the Marlborough Heritage Trust rather than the Marlborough Historical Society. That is both an opportunity and a challenge for us. The MHS will no longer be running a medium sized business - so what will we do? The answer to that question - and I hope it is a full and very exciting answer - is what we will put in the plan.

Your Committee have spent considerable time considering that and have some good ideas but the minds of nearly 300 members plus the input from the eight other organisations that are members are a much larger thinking resource. Without limiting it in any way, there seem to be two general areas to contemplate. First - what do we continue to do and expand on for the benefit of MHS members? Second - what do we do in the wider sense for Marlborough's heritage?

If we go back to 1955 (yes the MHS will be 60 next year), and consider what our very visionary founders achieved in the first 10 years of our existence we are going to have to be very energetic and creative to match them. Unlike them we don't have to amass a huge collection of historical artefacts, establish an archives, become established on Brayshaw Park, plan for a museum and build Beavertown; that has already been done. But if those pioneers were able to have "one more hour" with us, what would the late Frank Smith, Norm Brayshaw, 'Cracker' Andrews, Ralph Denton and associates suggest to us? That's a pretty high standard to try to match, but a standard I am sure we should aspire to.

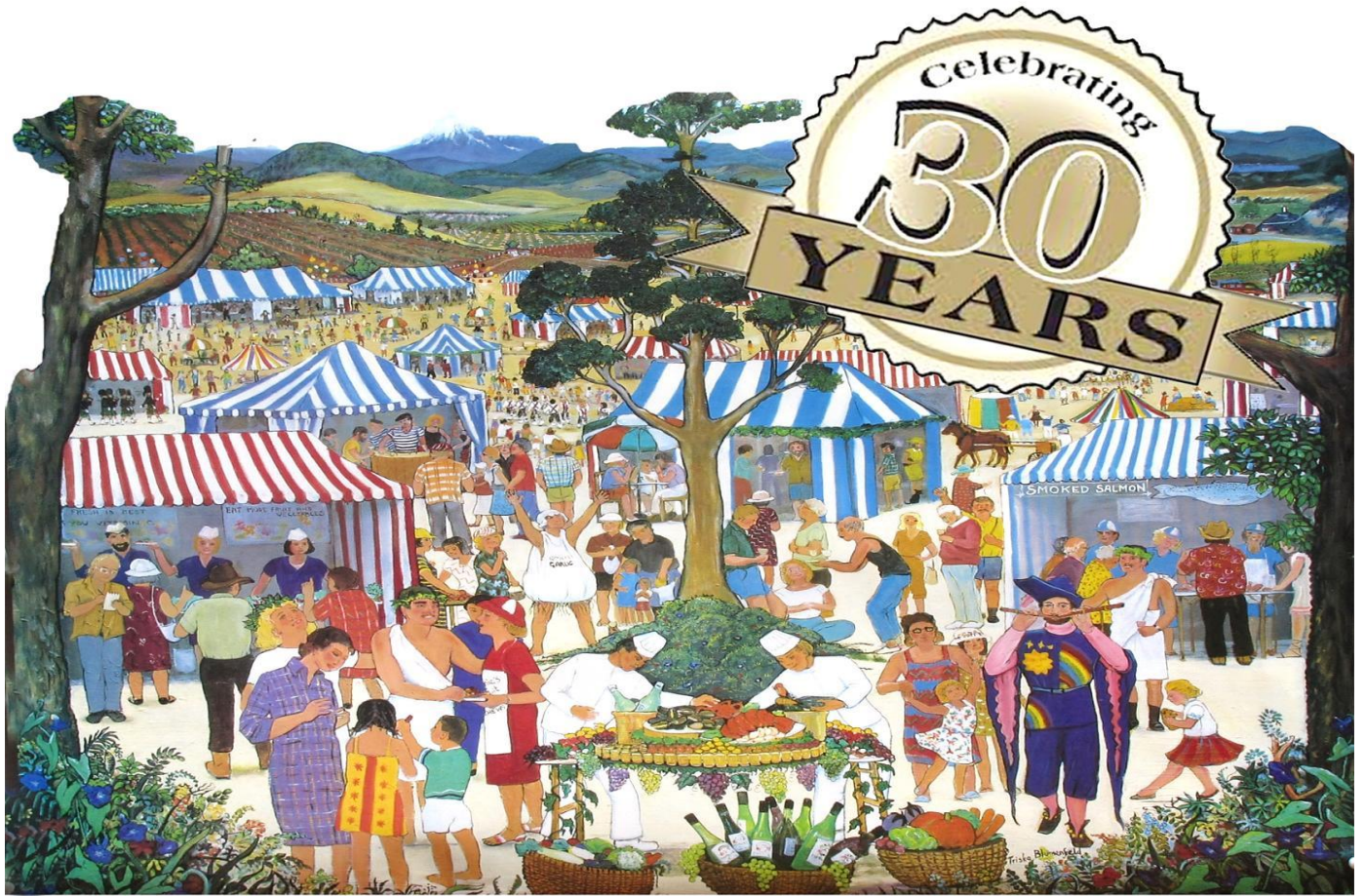
There is no such thing as a stupid idea, though naturally not every brainwave may make it through the filter. But the more we have to work with the better. Please flood the members of the Committee and me with your ideas, we would be delighted to hear from you.

As well as your ideas, many thanks for your ongoing support as we continue to celebrate Marlborough's marvellous heritage.

Dale Webb

dale@vinastra.co.nz





Courtesy Triska Blumenfeld – Picton

30 YEARS OF WINE FESTIVAL

All history was once the future, and then for a short time, the present. How quickly this change happens was reinforced for me recently when I was commissioned by Wine Marlborough to make a short documentary film to mark the thirtieth Marlborough Wine and Food Festival.

Having been a regular attender of the festival since 1992, it hardly seemed feasible that events from my "recent" middle age were now becoming "history" in other eyes. But in the course of interviewing many of the pioneers and hearing their stories of the eighties, it became apparent how much things have changed, in scale, style and society generally. Five wineries turned on the first festival, patrons were bussed between the various locations and it ended up a riotously cross-cultural mix of Beer Fest and Toga Party, for which, some have suggested, more than one current thirty year old owes their existence!

Nowadays the whole province is covered in vineyards, fifty-six wineries were at this year's festival and the mildly bacchanalian debauchery of the eighties has been replaced by sophisticated supping, cool music and classes in exquisite cuisine from the nation's top chefs.

What is really impressive however, is what a huge role the volunteers of Marlborough play in the success of this iconic event. Lions and Rotary Clubs, Firemen and First Aiders, Schools and Play Centres, Sports and Social Clubs, friends and family all help with the set-up, the big day, and the clean-up afterwards. So over the years the Festival has not only made the word "Marlborough" synonymous with world famous wine, it has made the Marlborough community a better place. Long may it continue.

Paul Davidson



Festival Pioneers – Jane Hunter, Bill Floyd, Ernie Hunter, Allan Scott, Mike Blair, Malcolm Aitken, Karen Ryan, Gerry Gregg

"FESTIVAL 30"

A short film celebrating the pioneers of the Marlborough Wine & Food Festival will soon feature in the popular WINE EXHIBITION now on at Marlborough Museum.

SNEAK PREVIEW -
<http://vimeo.com/85640996>

NEWS

CODY WILLS of Blenheim was the winner of the Heritage Day Passport competition. President Dale Webb presented him with his prize certificate. Well done Cody!

The annual HERITAGE DAY at the Park was one of the most well attended yet, we were blessed with perfect weather and a big crowd. The screening of historic films of Marlborough in the AV Theatre was very popular, and over in Beavertown the displays in the Livery Stables, the Radio Room, Girlings and the Post Office drew many fascinated visitors. Thanks to Ian Lyell, Bill Marsh, Trevor Jane, Pam Saunders and the many various helpers who contributed to bringing Beavertown alive for this once-a-year special day.

Several people would like to take our next HANMER FIELD TRIP but need to share a ride. If you are taking a 4WD with room for a passenger or two, please let the office know on 578 1712. If you have booked but not yet paid, please do promptly.

One of our longest serving volunteers ILONA ALLOWAY has for many years recorded the Archives takings and prepared the banking. She is now taking a break from this. Many thanks Ilona.



Cody takes the Prize



Peg Moorhouse – Cultural Treasure

NEWS

A warm welcome to our new members, including our first Student Member – Miss DIANE TRAYLING, daughter of our popular museum host Gillian. Welcome also to Dr PATRICIA BERWICK, ROBIN & CHERRIE MITCHELL, HELEN AINSWORTH & DON MILLER, CATHERINE BRANSON & GEOFF BUTCHER, MARGARET RODLEY, Dr DENNIS & SANDRA ROBINSON.

Watch out for our exciting new exhibition “KIWIANA” - which will have something for everyone. Opening next month.

Congratulations to our museum host RACHAEL SCLATER who is planning her 17th May wedding at Bankhouse Station. Best wishes Rachael.

Forty eight members and friends enjoyed a summer cruise on Queen Charlotte Sound and a tour of the WWII gun site on Blumine Island. Thanks to hosts JOHN ORCHARD and ROBIN COX.

A huge thanks to our Society member RICHARD SWEETZER for his recent donation of a stunning silk waistcoat from 18th century England. Thank you Richard

Nominations close very shortly for the next “LIVING CULTURAL TREASURE” of Marlborough. Contact the office now for a nomination form.

THE NELSON MARLBOROUGH MOUNTED RIFLES GUIDON

For many years, this silk Nelson Marlborough Mounted Rifles GUIDON hung high and proud in Blenheim's Nativity Church. A ceremony for the presentation of the regiment's new colours, made in England, was held in 1936 at Woodbourne Estate, Fairhall. The Guidon was consecrated by the Bishop of Nelson, William Hilliard, and later presented to the regiment by the then governor-general, Viscount Galway.

The governor-general said the guidon symbolised loyalty to the Crown, ideals which were shared by everyone both in peace and in war, and a love for the throne. Colonel F C Hammond, the commanding officer of the regiment, received the guidon.

After the camp the colour was taken to the Church of the Nativity for safekeeping, to be used by the regiment every time it was mobilised for training. But through the years the flag's own weight and exposure to light took their toll on the ageing material and it was decided the Guidon should be kept in a dark space at Marlborough Museum, where it is on permanent loan.

Although a replica was made for display in the church, the original is available for special occasions.

Maika van der Heidi – “Marlborough Express”



FIELD TRIP

MARCH 2014

RAINBOW HANMER MOLESWORTH

29-30 March 9am

Our next trip is a full weekender leaving Blenheim on Saturday 29 March 2014 and travelling 4WD to Hanmer via the upper Wairau Valley and Rainbow Road. We will overnight in Hanmer for hot pools and socializing, then return on Sunday 30 March via Molesworth Station and the Awatere Valley.

MHS MEMBERS \$10

NON-MEMBERS \$15

plus

ROAD TOLL (per vehicle)

MHS MEMBERS \$15

NON-MEMBERS \$25

HANMER ACCOMMODATION

To be arranged as required by those travelling.

MARK THE DATE !

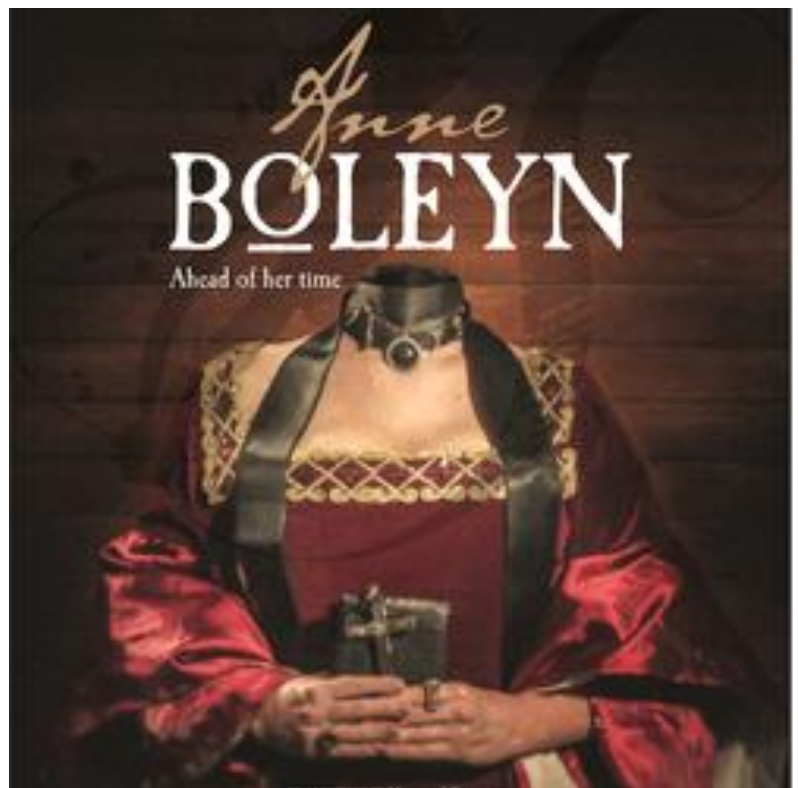
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL for all trips and should be made by phoning 5781712 during office hours or email to –

info@marlboroughmuseum.org.nz

Marlborough Repertory Society
presents the historical drama

Anne Boleyn

2nd - 12th April 2014



"Ahead of her Time"

History weaved into an engrossing and highly entertaining story line by Howard Brenton. Hunting through an old chest, the flamboyant, newly-crowned James I discovers the controversial legacy of Anne Boleyn, Henry VIII's notorious second wife. Time jumps back 70 years, when the witty, clever and flirtatious Anne was in love with not only Henry, but also the most dangerous ideas of her day. Conspiring with the exiled William Tyndale, Anne plots to make England Protestant forever. A generation later the thoroughly outrageous but scholarly King James, shrewdly manoeuvres to reconcile England's religious factions by creating his 'authorised' version of the Bible. Don't miss this!

Tickets on Sale Now

from Ticket Direct

www.ticketdirect.co.nz/search/events?searchText=anne+boleyn



On now at Marlborough Museum

CREATIVE FIBRE NEWS

The year has started with great gusto.

Heritage day for us was the busiest for a very long time. We put it down to the many extra activities happening in and around Beavertown. There is still room for more, after all it is set up to be an insight as to what "Old Blenheim" was like.

I hope that in the future more activities can be recreated from the past at our end of the Park, such as a tent site showing the conditions our first arrivals lived in. We have the cob cottage for the next stage, old time activities for children such as a coconut shy, apple bobbing, egg and spoon races, hop skip and jump races, children's folk dancing and of course music. I am sure some of our more senior members could add to the ideas.

It only takes a bit of imagination, suggestions and a few helpers to create a great day to remember what we once took for granted. Imagine the old stories that could come out.

Cheers for now

Pam Hilliard



POT LUCK LUNCHEON

*Calling all volunteers,
members, staff, and
friends of the Society*

Bring along a little something to share and join us all at a
POT LUCK LUNCHEON
in the sunny Thomson Courtyard.

SUNDAY 23RD MARCH
FROM 12 NOON

BYO. Tea and Coffee provided

250 YEAR OLD WAISTCOAT

An "extraordinary" 250-year-old embroidered silk waistcoat has been donated to the Marlborough Museum by Society member RICHARD SWEETZER. The 18th-century gentleman's waistcoat was similar to what Captain James Cook would have worn on formal occasions, along with boots, breeches and an overcoat. It features exquisite detailing of a spring pastoral scene, with a straw hat, rooster, blossoming peonies and green fern-like leaves embroidered onto cream coloured silk with a linen backing.

Steve Austin, Museum Chief Executive, says garments of this age were particularly fascinating because they gave such insight into the intimate lives of the original owner. I am always thinking of the person who owned, treasured and flaunted the garment. It is a very intimate thing. The shape of their body has become part of the garment itself" says Steve. The waistcoat will join the museum's acclaimed textile collection.

Springlands resident Richard Sweetzer says the waistcoat had been in his family as long as he could remember, but he is not sure which of his ancestors originally owned it. "I have lived here for 10 years now and I thought, let's give something to the museum in a place that has become my new home" says Richard.



BLUMINE ISLAND TRIP

Forty eight members and friends recently enjoyed a cruise on Queen Charlotte Sound and a guided tour of the WWII gun emplacements on Blumine Island. The full day trip was hosted and interpreted by historian John Orchard and Robin Cox of the DOC Sounds Office, who provided historical and conservation perspectives on the unique island structures plus significant aspects of the trip there and back. All in all a great day out.

Our next field trip is a weekender encompassing the scenic 4WD trip though Molesworth Station, an overnight stay in Hanmer and the return via Rainbow and upper Wairua Valleys. Not to be missed!



Chief Executive Steve leads the way ashore



The group moves inland



In the shelter of the gun emplacement



Guide John Orchard explains the finer points



Gunlayer's view. No Japanese warships in sight today!

HERITAGE RADIO DAY



Our Radio shop custodians and Marlborough Amateur Radio "Hams" presented the sounds of the past on Heritage Day

WILD THINGS



Photo – Derek Flynn, "Marlborough Express"

A "colonial gentleman's study" of natural history in Marlborough is how Steve Austin describes the new permanent display at Marlborough Museum.

"WILD THINGS" is a collection of taxidermy, fossils and specimens of plants, insects, molluscs, fish and birds was inspired by an earlier naturalist, 19th century Speaker of the House Sir David Monro.

Museum chief executive Steve Austin says people either love or hate the stuffed birds. "Taxidermy is sad for the birds," he says "but it's wonderful their lives have been used to inspire people."

The Marlborough Historical Society's museum collections are traditionally focused on family histories, he says, so he is excited to start a permanent display of the region's natural history. "Who knew we had all these fossils from the Awatere?" he asks, pointing to a crystal display from Mount Lookout.

Dried scurvy grass was provided by the Department of Conservation and is displayed beside some native celery. Both were used by Captain Cook to keep his crew relatively healthy during their sea voyages.

DOC is keen to help the museum develop its new natural history display, located in the short corridor leading to the museum lecture room. Steve says it is the last area to be re-designed since his appointment eight years ago and was five years in the planning. "It's wonderful it's come together," he says, pulling open some large display drawers holding preserved land snails, birds' eggs, rock samples and fossils. "Marlborough has such a range of habitat between its wetter western side and its dry eastern side. It makes it the best playground in the world."

WILD THINGS

Wild Things is our new permanent natural history exhibition. It includes the story of Marlborough's unique plants and animals set within a colonial naturalist's study. Items include a tuatara, dolphin's skull, shark jaws and many stuffed birds as well as special Marlborough rocks, plants and insects.

GREAT STUFF FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES – SEE IT NOW!

DON'T MISS THIS !!!

Pop Up Restaurant!!!

Friends of Marlborough Museum

1950s Retro Dinner



Marlborough Womens Club

108 High Street Blenheim

28 March 6 p.m.

\$35 per person

Tickets from Marlborough Museum or Bookworld. Ph: 578- 1712

Enquiries: info@marlborough.museum.org.nz

