

APRIL 2015



**Tena Koutou
Katoa
Greetings
to all from
President
DALE
WEBB**

It was truly delightful to be part of the little ceremony we had in the Museum and Archives Building on Friday the 6th March when we formally named two of the major parts of the Museum and Archives building. Two of our life members were instrumental in the funding, design and build of this major feature of Brayshaw Heritage Park and it is great that we have finally acknowledged it. We have many hard working and appreciated volunteers but the dedicated, knowledgeable and very industrious group that turn up every Tuesday and Thursday, now do so to the Derek Cordes Archives, and our many visitors mostly come to the Kevin Andrews Museum Wing.



The signs now over the door to the Archives and Museum respectively.

Kevin and Derek alternated as MHS President from 1984 until 2004, a very formative and productive period of our existence. During that time as well as building the original two wings of the M & A Building they also sourced the funds and with significant technical input from Peter Thomson for design and build, added the large archives and storage wing behind the original building. The enclosed area that created is of course now the Peter Thomson Courtyard. Their next major achievement was the establishment of the Heritage Education Program, originally under head teacher the late John Davies but now for many years in the very capable hands of John Orchard QSM. As well as many

other milestones though it is my personal belief that Kevin and Derek's greatest attainment was convincing the Marlborough District Council to provide regular funding which enabled the recruitment of permanent customer service staff to operate the museum and archives in a way that simply cannot be done with volunteers alone. That funding agreement laid the essential foundation for the formal partnership with the Council and appointment of our current professional staff from which the whole of Marlborough now benefits.

The brief naming ceremony, which was attended by all your Committee was a surprise to both gentlemen and was one of the few occasions that they were briefly lost for words. Over a glass later they made up for that and enjoyed a brief reminisce of those halcyon years.

On a more routine note on the 8th March the exhibition celebrating 100 years of Red Cross in New Zealand was opened. While that exhibition is on display we fly the red Cross rather than New Zealand flag on the flagpole. Also our Sunday Series starts again in about a month, as well as more about the Series in this newsletter there will be a separate program published as soon as we have all the speakers confirmed. As I hope has been mentioned before this year the MHS celebrates its Diamond Jubilee and planning is underway for that. If you have any ideas as to how and where we celebrate that please let us know, there is still time to add to the draft programme.

As usual there is lots of other news in the rest of the newsletter. As always many thanks for your continuing support as we continue to celebrate Marlborough's marvellous heritage.

Dale Webb

dale@vinastra.co.nz

A BIG THANK YOU

It was very sad when our Blenheim CBD agent closed at the end of February. Bookworld have been very good to the MHS over the years as our *In Town Embassy* and Peter and Charlene Scott, Bookworld's owners are enthusiastic MHS members and generous Friends of the Museum. Their latest generosity has been to donate 34 fabulous books to the Archives library.



These books and many others are available in Archives for research if you wish during normal Archive hours, 10.00am to 4.00pm Tuesdays and Thursdays. Many thanks again to Peter and Charlene.

PEOPLE

In this newsletter we welcome as new members of the MHS Ms Jane Buckman and Mr John Kershaw.

As a friend of the Museum a welcome to Ms Lynell Morris and as Student Members and equally warm welcome to Jack Webb and Ruby Webb; it's great to have you all with us.

Kyla Spence who lives in Picton, recently began at the Museum as our cleaner. Kyla is also a weekend Museum Host and brings a warm bright smile to both roles.

Peter Olliver of Blenheim, has started work as a Casual Heritage Education teacher, assisting John Orchard with Heritage Education programs. A warm welcome to both Kyla and Peter.

From the CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Recently you will have received a copy of ONLY MARLBOROUGH INSPIRING GENERATIONS with your Saturday edition of the Marlborough Express. This went to 18,500 readers and links the Museum collections to our history, heritage, other heritage collections, as well as heritage tourism operators.

It represents a significant investment which we have been saving up for over several years. This year I celebrated my 9th Anniversary at Marlborough Museum, and as Chief Executive of the Marlborough Historical Society. This publication shows what we have been able to build – a significant resource, visitor experience, and tourism product. Our audiences have to come first. Collections require significant resources to care for them in the future. This investment can only be made if there is the broadest possible sense of community connection and ownership.

Museum visitors continue to be impressed by the quality of their experience, here are some recent quotes from our Visitor Book – don't just take my word for it:

5 Feb – Richard Irune. Dublin, Ireland. *Fantastic exhibition – v. informative*

17 Feb. – Kathy & Jim. Honokaa, Hawaii, USA. *Impressive ESP. Maori Collection.*

23 Feb. - Mike & Wendy Neary. Lichfield, England. *Extremely interesting and informative.*

26 Feb. – Tony & Rachael Reynolds. Cemox, BC, Canada. *Very informative*

26 Feb. – Mary & John Nelson. Hampshire, England. *Extremely well presented.*

11 March – Cheryl Martin. Winchester, Hampshire, England. *Finished our Wine Tour V. well. Enjoy the Maori Culture & History. Met Clarry Neame at Hunters.*

15 March - Mark Sorenson. Buderim, Queensland, Australia. *The wine will have more meaning now.*

We have also recently installed red OPEN flags at the entrance of the Museum, and added the Only Marlborough signage over the front entrance. The Only Marlborough logo is an important recent initiative lead by MDC with the Chamber of Commerce and Destination Marlborough.

The heritage sector is increasing part of the Marlborough offering. Heritage is well placed to build on this brand to engage new audiences. Here is a little more from the MDC website which indicates how our heritage can add value to this brand.

The Only Marlborough story reinforces that Marlborough is unique to the world. This positioning statement highlights the unique characteristics of Marlborough that influence why people choose to live, work, visit, and do business here.

Our values are at the heart of The Marlborough Story®. They express our identity, our way of life and our pride in our region and peopleChampioned by the pillar organisations of Marlborough, the project has been led by the region's community and business sectors.

Heritage will be increasingly seen within this context, and it is an exciting time for me to foster this, with the support of the Society for the future.

From **THE REGISTRAR**

KIWI FEATHER CLOAK

In Textiles we have a large kiwi feather cloak. Recently we had a visit from Ngaire Hamilton (nee Mills) and her daughter, Catherine. Ngaire is elderly and frail, but was



determined to see our cloak, having heard about it from her daughter who saw it in our online collection and remembered her mother speaking of a similar cloak. They drove up from Christchurch, Catherine having flown down from the North Island to collect her mother, and spent two hours with Steve and I.



They very obligingly told us all they could about their family and their cloak which added a lot to what we now know about ours.

Jenny Pierson, our hard working and very knowledgeable Registrar has also recently compiled details about some of the replica buildings in Beavertown, you may have already seen it in the Marlborough Express supplement but your editor found this intriguing and thought you may enjoy it again as well.

BEAVERTOWN, starting at the car park end.



Barber and Tobacconist shop: In an era when most people smoked, a small store could survive by selling tobacco, cigarettes, pipes, pipe cleaners, lighters, matches and other smoking paraphernalia. Often these businesses also offered hairdressing services and sold razors, shaving cream and hair-care products. In Blenheim, Professor Augustus was a hairdresser/chiroprapist in 1868.

Blenheim Post Office: Blenheim has had a Postmaster since 1857. The first permanent Post Office was built in Market Place in 1861. It burnt down and was replaced with a concrete building in 1877. The current Post Office, on the corner of Main and Scott Streets, opened in July 1974.

Parker's Music and Cycle Shop: Edward S. Parker, Mayor of Blenheim 1922 to 1925, was a drum major with the Blenheim Garrison band in 1904, proprietor of His Majesty's Theatre in 1912, and at various times owned Parker's Cycle Depot and Parker's Music Depot.

Livery and Bait Stables: "Livery" means a horse or horse-drawn vehicle is available for hire, and "Bait" means a traveller's own horse will be stabled, fed and looked after. In the days of horse transport most hotels had their own stables, but a visitor to town would leave his horse and vehicle at a Livery and Bait stable. McKenzies in Alfred Street was well known in Blenheim in the early 1900s.

Barratt's Hat Shop: Established about 1923, it ran through from Queen Street to Market Street. The Market Street end was hats and menswear and the Queen Street end was dry cleaning. William Barratt was the hat manufacturer in 1945.



William Collie's Sweet and Drink Shop: Collie's ice cream and cordial factory in Grove Road made Collie's Ice Cream and Vankist Cordial (aerated soft drinks). In 1917 William Collie, confectioner, had a shop in High Street, Blenheim.

Billy Carr's Shop: William (Billy) Carr (1856-1934) set up business in a small tin shed as an iron, zinc, gas and water fitter in 1881. His hardware emporium offered everything necessary to build a house and furnish it; Christmas was a highlight with a Santa Claus and generous three penny lucky dips.

Rabone's Radio Shop: In 1917 Rabone and Co. were printers in Market Street North producing Rabone's Marlborough Directory and Almanac. In 1952 they were Rabone's Radio Limited of Radio House at the same address.

Girlings: Established in Grove Road, Blenheim by William Baker Girling (1833-1898) in 1878. This drapery department store specialised in clothing, Manchester, fabrics and furnishings. It was a trend-setter emporium, early on having a cafeteria and was the first to have public toilets.

Aren't **WE BRIGHT AND POPULAR!**

Next time you visit the Museum wear your Shadze or the bright new **OPEN** signs will dazzle you. There are now two bright and fresh OPEN flags outside the Museum making it very obvious we would welcome you inside.



You can also see in the picture the new signage over the entrance canopy, it all looks very inviting. As well as the signs our Wine Exhibition is now included in the Wine Trail map and that has lifted our visitor numbers markedly. Our February visitor numbers were the highest in the last two years.



This photo was taken on Saturday 28 March and shows three buses outside the Museum, each with a good number of visitors, so as mentioned "Aren't we Bright and Popular."

RIVERSIDE RAILWAY EXTENSION

On Saturday 21st March the extension to the railway from Brayshaw Heritage Park to Omaka was opened. Those of us with long memories will recall that the Railway Society began as a small group of enthusiasts within the MHS so it is great to see the success of our offspring and the magnitude of the operation they now have. The recent opening ceremony was attended by a number of invited guests including some from our Committee and was a celebration of the hard work of all involved in this project as well as a very pleasant occasion.

BLENHEIM RIVERSIDE RAILWAY SOCIETY INC.



After several years of planning, 2 years of hard work, and the huge support of many local organisations, businesses, and volunteers, this project is ready to open. We are making history, with this being the first new South Island branch line for decades.

PROGRAMME

- Guests meet prior to 2.30pm at the new OMAKA Station near the entrance of the Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre and the Omaka Classic Cars Collection.
- 2.30 pm. Welcome.
- Several speeches.
- Ribbon Cutting and formal photographs.
- Board trains to journey over the new 1km long Omaka Branch Line to Brayshaw Park Station where refreshments will be served.
- Trains will take guests back to Omaka as required.
- Please note that this is an occasion for invited guests only. Public train services will begin on the following day, Sunday March 22nd.

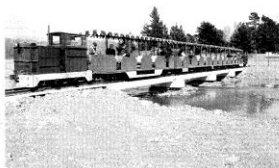
RSVP

By Sunday March 15th

john@marlboroughmuseum.org.nz

OR

Answerphone 03 5781716



The picture in the previous column, is the new station (refurbished and originally at Kekerengu) and now at Omaka as Corlett Station.

BLENHEIM RIVERSIDE RAILWAY

TIMETABLE

MARCH 2015
 Sunday 22nd Sunday 29th
 Omaka shuttle trains on the new **Blue Line** between Brayshaw Park and Omaka. Trains depart from 1.45pm onwards.

APRIL
 Friday 3rd Air show transport Beaver(Blenheim) - Omaka
 9am and return 4:30pm.
 Return Fares: Adult \$15 Child \$7 **Cash Only**

Saturday 4th As above plus **Red Line** as shown below.
 Sunday 5th " " " "

Wednesday 8th - 1.45pm only (red line)
 Sunday 12th - as below
 Wednesday 15th - 1.45pm only (red line)
 Sunday 19th - as below

Red Line Train departs Brayshaw Park at 1.45pm and 3pm for Beaver Station central Blenheim. Also Omaka(**blue line**) running. This award winning scenic train ride on a two foot gauge railway runs alongside the Taylor River from Brayshaw Park to Beaver Station at Riverside Park in central Blenheim, and return.

Return:	Red Line	Adult \$10	Child \$5
FARES	Blue Line	Adult \$6	Child \$3
	Combo	Adult \$15	Child \$7

Sorry, we do not have **EFTPOS** . **CASH ONLY**.

RED CROSS EXHIBITION

Our latest exhibition in the foyer and passageway of the Museum was opened on Monday the 9th March and celebrates 100 years of red Cross in New Zealand. The guest speaker on this occasion was the Mayoress Ms Thelma Sowman as 100 years ago the Mayoress of the day organised a very substantial fund for the relief of servicemen and their families affected by World war 1.



As part of the Red Cross Exhibition we have tea towels for sale for \$10 based on the following poster.



Books

In the last newsletter we mentioned the book written by Marlborough Historical Society member Ms Elisabeth Airey. The book is now available at the Museum for \$29.99, and selling well.

A family story with a difference

For the sake of my daughter
From Aberdeen, Scotland to
Nelson, New Zealand
by
Elisabeth Airey

A wonderful 'portrait' of a woman, her daughter and the courageous decision they made to emigrate to Nelson in 1867, but a book with a wider purpose.

Primarily, it endeavours to tell us why such momentous decisions were made. It outlines the circumstances that drove much of 19th Century migration to New Zealand, spanning events and issues from the Reformation through to the early 20th century. It journeys from Aberdeen to Nelson, and tells a remarkable story that will resonate with many New Zealand families.

A combination of an astute, well-researched and precise account of historical circumstances of the time, and story, of Elizabeth and Annie Smith upping and leaving Scotland to establish better lives on the other side of the world.

With mention of a range of early Nelson and Marlborough families, personalities and places, it is likely to appeal widely.

Contains extensive illustrations, indexing, bibliography and endnotes.



Aberdeen Harbour: Univ. Aberdeen



Elizabeth Smith: Marlboro. Museum



Nelson c1863: Nelson Prov. Museum

As well as that book we also have Wairau Bar Moa Hunter, the Jim Eyles Story by Jim himself. The Calm

Beyond by Cynthia Brooks, the story of Tua Marina and the Waikakaho from the Wairau Affray until Today. Blind Bay Hookers, the Little Ships of Early Nelson by Fred Westrupp. Finally Teak and tide, the Ebbs and Eddies of the Edwin Fox by Nigel Costly. Nigel completed the book from material originally assembled by the late Roderick Glassford and Don Grady. Don as many of you will know was the author of a number of other books on aspects of Marlborough's Heritage. Nigel has kindly offered to be our Sunday Series speaker in June (see below) and will sign any of his books you bring or buy at his talk.

SUNDAY SERIES

Keep your diary free for the upcoming Sunday Series which we hope will be interesting and informative as well as social.

- 3rd May, 2pm, Port Underwood in the Early days (1830's - 1840's) by Barry Holdaway. Barry is very knowledgeable about that era of Port Underwood history.
- 7th June, 1:30pm, Auntsfield Winery. Marlborough's original winery. We will see original vines cellar and have a tasting. Meet at Brayshaw Park car park so we can carpool out to winery. We need to leave at 1:15pm. A cost of \$10 per person, paid in advance and maximum of 40 people, so first in, first serve. Reserve your place and pay at the Marlborough Museum.
- 28th June, 2pm, The Edwin Fox, unsung gem of Marlborough's Maritime Heritage by Nigel Costley. Nigel is the author of Teak and Tide, the book recently published on the Fox.
- 26th July, 2pm, Life before the mast on the AS Echo by Ron Perano. Ron was a member of the Echo's crew.
- 30th August, 2pm, The Archaeology of New Zealand's sub Antarctic Islands by Steve Bagley. Steve is the DOC Archaeologist for Nelson / Marlborough and did a survey down there some months ago.
- 27th September, 2pm, Yarns and tales of the early years of the Marlborough Historical Society by Derek Cordes, Kevin Andrews and Prue Mathews. In the lead up to our 60 years of Marlborough Historical Society celebrations in October, listening to tales and viewing photos of the early days in the society by past presidents and committee member, Derek, Kevin and Prue.