

APRIL 2016



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

It is very much the time of year when the season changes. I really like autumn, I've never had a problem with the five portions of fruit and veges each day and during the fresh fruit season it's often far more than five portions. Our orchard is really producing well this year so a true pleasure to wander through it. While the wine industry has given Marlborough many benefits it is a shame one of the less desirable effects is a reduction in the number of fruit orchards. A study of our heritage though tells us this ongoing process of change as to how we use the land and sea, where and from what we make our living has been with us from when the first humans came ashore here some 700 years ago. As historians and supporters of heritage we often like to preserve things as they are but a study of history quickly shows that the most common factor by far, is change.

That first paragraph was inspired by two great days out – our launch trip to Tory Channel on the 28th February and to Port Underwood on the 20th March. These days were in large part successes due to a rather different Orchard, that very productive heritage unit Mr John Orchard.

John (on the recent trips very ably supported by Barry Holdaway and Robin Cox) really makes a difference to our Society by the energy and enthusiasm as well as the huge reservoir of knowledge he brings to all he does. He also makes changes, but unlike in his beloved history almost all John's changes are for the good.

There are two other very inspirational people that feature in our newsletter this month; Past President Derek Cordes and Living Cultural Treasure Peg Moorhouse. In my opinion the most important structure on Brayshaw Heritage Park is the Museum and Archives Building. Neither the first or second stages of that building would be there without Derek's involvement. He will tell you, and he would be right, that he had a lot of help from others to do that but the help alone would

not have made the difference; Derek did. His ability to find sources of funds is legendary. When I was his Treasurer I well recall saying after he outlined his next proposed project "Derek it's a great idea but we don't have any money!" His reply was invariably "don't worry, something will turn up" and it always did. He always found some way of raising the finance. The MHS and citizens of Marlborough owe him a great deal. The other inspiration is Peg Moorhouse. On behalf of the editor my wife Bev and I recently visited Peg at her home in Sunshine Bay. Peg is a weaver (see the section on her later in this newsletter) but is more, much more, a true textile artist. Bev (quite an artist herself, Embroidery) was admiring her work and spontaneously said "gee Peg, I really want to be just like you!" Who wouldn't. At 98 she has an international reputation as an artist, is still creating in her chosen field, still lives in her own home and is still making plans for the future. I want to be like that too. As well as being like that though I have one more item on my list. A few years ago we invited a senior family friend to lunch, he was 97 but drove himself to our home. Soon after arrival he admitted to having been "a bit naughty lately", he had been given a ticket for speeding, 110kph on the open road. It is not at all a creditable ambition but as well as being like Peg I want to get a speeding ticket on the open road when I'm 97.

On a different note, many thanks to all those that bid in our Silent Auction. It proved very successful and raised \$367.00 for the Archives. Most of the books were sold and have gone to good new homes. with one fetching over \$50.00.

I hope you have enjoyed a glimpse at some of our very inspirational people. Also many thanks for your continuing support as those inspirations plus the rest of us continue to celebrate and preserve Marlborough's Marvellous Heritage.

Dale Webb

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From the **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**



Below are just two images from the *“Never a Day Goes By”* Exhibition currently in the Museum theatre.



PEOPLE

One of our long term volunteers, Mrs Joy Parker has recently retired as an Archives Volunteer because of failing eyesight. Joy has been a volunteer since July 1989, nearly 27 years. Very sincere thanks, Joy, for all your service to MHS and the Marlborough community. We look forward to you continuing as one of our members for many years to come.

Rachael Pauwl, one of our weekend Museum hosts, asked her husband Danny to construct a base for the office cash register cabinet to sit on. Equipment is now level with the office desks – and it looks great, thanks Danny. We understand Danny and Rachael have cooperated in another productive venture and Rachael will be busy with the first increase to their family in a few months time.

SUMMER TRIPS

Trip to Perano Whaling Station 28th Feb

2016. Brief report, a 133 people enjoyed a great day out on the Beachcomber. We didn't see the station quite as it was when working but John Orchard, Ron Perano and Barry Holdaway brought it nearly back to life with the stories, research data, artefacts and reminiscences they shared. All those that attended now know there were at least eight sites in Tory Channel from which whaling was conducted, not just one. Robin Cox also added a lot of interesting information on current Department of Conservation activities.

Port Underwood 20th March.



A very early picture from the Port; in the last newsletter we asked "is it the Guard family at Kakapo Bay or somewhere else?" According to Dr Reg Nichols it is Hakahaka Bay which was the main area the Guard family farmed; they whaled and fished from Kakapo Bay.

Another great day, much enjoyed by all that went; again John, Barry and Robin had a very well prepared and informative program. Many thanks to John and Narelle Guard who opened the historic Guard family graveyard for us all to look at.

Woodbourne Heritage Homestead and Farm Visit on 10th April.



The "Radio Horse", the communication section of the Nelson Marlborough West Coast Mounted Rifles was featured in our last newsletter and generated significant comment. John Walsh and Trevor Jane have spent hours looking at photographs of the period and are certain that this one was taken at Woodbourne in the 1930s. The other possibility was Marshlands, also used for military training during that time and the Radio Horse is almost certain to have appeared there, but not in this photograph.

The history of Woodbourne Heritage Farm is amazingly rich with aviation, agricultural, military and other firsts, something for all. Please REGISTER at the Museum if you plan to go and there will be no cost as those going will make their own way there though any donations will be gratefully received. Meet at Woodbourne Farm at 10.00am where John and Lynne Walsh will be our hosts and guides. John, a life member of the MHS has lived on Woodbourne from the day he was born and has a matchless depth of knowledge and passion for the history of his birthplace. It is strongly recommended that those going bring food for lunch, drink, and suitable clothing with shoes for a reasonable amount of walking. If you require directions, they will be available from the Museum Office. If you need a lift rather than directions, please also advise the Museum office and that will be arranged.

SUNDAY SERIES 2016

The first of the 2016 Sunday Series lectures is scheduled to be held at 2pm on Sunday 29th May. Unfortunately, while the program is all arranged not all the speakers are

as yet confirmed so the details will be published separately.

BEAVERTOWN OR BEAVERTON?

The following article was recently written by MHS member and avid researcher Jenny Pierson. For perspective I have added some recent photos of the current Beavertown or should that be Beaverton? Read on to get the facts to make your own decision; Ed.



There has been discussion recently about the name 'Beavertown'. Was it ever the name of our town? Or should that honour go to 'Beaverton'? Fresh evidence has come to light showing that Blenheim, although known officially as Beaver until 1860, was known by Beaver, Town of Beaver, Beaver Town and Beaverton. An interesting article in the Nelson Examiner and New Zealand Chronicle, dated 30 November 1859, (Marlborough Province was born on 1 November 1859) is worth quoting at length.

"A Glance at the Province of Marlborough [Continued]. We took leave of our readers at Beaverton, without telling them anything about this rising township, which for some time at least will be the seat of Government of the Province of Marlborough. Much has been said about naming, or misnaming, the capital town of the province, Waitohi (now by the Governor's proclamation absurdly changed to Picton), but the nomenclature of the "Town of Beaver" – for the present the more important place – escapes criticism. Why "Beaver," or, as the spot was formerly called, "The Beaver," – what was the origin of the term, and its application? These may hereafter be puzzling questions; and in order to save future antiquaries a great deal of labour in their researches after the origin of names, we will make known at once to the world how the important township in question came to bear the name of an animal that has no existence in the country. A party of surveyors, while engaged several years ago in making the first survey of the district, had a hut on the site of the present township. In a heavy flood which occurred at the time, they had to take refuge on

the roof, which circumstance led one of the Party to liken their position to a family of beavers. To distinguish it from other survey stations, this afterwards came to be called the "Beaver Station;" and hence, when the natural advantages of the place led to the laying out of a town there, it was named the "Town of Beaver," now by many persons styled Beaverton – the latter name, to our ear, being less formal, and more euphonious....."

Nelson, it appears, at the time of separation in November 1859, was calling the town of Beaver in the Wairau, Beaverton because it sounded better. For a short time, about six months, both the Colonist and the Nelson Examiner newspapers use Beaverton in their advertisements; the first time in both papers is November 1859 and the last time in April 1860 (Nelson Examiner) and June 1860 (Colonist). Prior to Beaverton being used, from June 1858 to September 1859 [15 months], it was Beaver Town, and from May 1860 Blenheim is used. Prior to Beaver being thought of as a town [1857], for general usage it was Wairau, or else Beaver Station, the Beaver, or Beaver. It seems those living in Beaver also thought Beaverton sounded better. According to Dr. G.H. Scholefield, in an extract from his work Newspapers in New Zealand, in January 1860, when Beaver's first newspaper, The Marlborough Press, was founded by George Coward and Timothy William Millington, there were only about 500 or 600 people living in the town. But it seems those people also preferred Beaverton to Beaver. Marlborough Museum Archives has microfilmed copies of the Marlborough Press and on 6th January 1860 the newspaper masthead shows it was published and printed in Beaverton. Three months later the masthead shows Blenheim, and Scholefield says a later editor, William Collie, "has some claim on the gratitude of Marlborough for his part in petitioning Governor Gore Browne to relieve the rising central township of the name of Beaver... to the more dignified Blenheim".



An earlier article from the Nelson Examiner, published 25 May 1859, titled "A Walk from the Wairau", never mentions the words Beaverton, or Beavertown.

The author has just arrived in Beaver and is first speaking of the Wairau overflowing..... "At such times the Beaver Town deserves the name the surveyors gave it when they found their wares [huts] resembling those of that amphibious animal. I had hoped that the name had been given the town in honour of the earliest friend of Captain Wakefield, whose bones lie on the Massacre Hill, visible from its site but such, I find from a gentleman engaged on the survey, is not the case, and its cognomen is derived from its watery predilections". I, too, when finding an article [A Biographical Sketch of Captain Arthur Wakefield, Nelson Examiner, 24 April 1847] about Captain Arthur Wakefield who lost his life at Tua Marina in the Affray of 1843, wondered if Beaver was in his honour. Arthur Wakefield, at ten years of age [in 1810], was selected by Captain Beaver as one of his probationary midshipmen in the frigate Nisus. Captain Beaver died from injuries at the Cape of Good Hope and Sir Charles Schomberg succeeded command, but so well had Arthur been trained by his patron that when his father solicited a friend, Captain Brenton, to appoint Arthur to his ship, Schomberg replied, "You shall not have him. As long as I have a pendant flying, Arthur shall be one of my midshipmen." Captain Wakefield went on to win great honour in his chosen profession, but the article above shows Beaver was not named for him. In fact, Beaver is not such an uncommon name. Apart from Arthur's friend Captain Beaver, in those early days in America, along with real beavers and the surname Beaver, there is a place named Beaver in Philadelphia, and Beaver Island is in Lake Michigan. Gentlemen's hats were known as Beavers, coming in white and black skins. There were real beavers in Britain too and the surname Beaver is there as well. In the USA there was a ship called Beaver and in Montreal, Canada, there was a house named Beaver Hall.



So, where does this leave us?

The Nelson Examiner began publishing in 1842 and they first mention Beaver as a place on 21 July 1849. The Colonist newspaper began publication in 1857 and their first mention of Beaver is on 23 October 1857. The town had a life span of four years before it became Blenheim,

so I compared the mentions of each town name in each Nelson newspaper from January 1857 to December 1860.

	Nelson Examiner	Colonist
Town of Beaver	162	103
Beaverton	063	097
Beaver Town	051	090
Beavertown	nil	nil

Beaverton definitely has the edge over Beavertown, but the interesting thing is that Beaverton first turns up on 16 November 1859, after separation on 1st November 1859 [the official birthday of the Province] and ends in August 1860, five months after the town was named Blenheim. Perhaps the inhabitants, after achieving separation, thought the Governor would look more kindly on Beaver if it had a more distinguished name. Officialdom never called Blenheim Beavertown or Beaverton. It was always the District of Beaver, or the Township known as Beaver. The petitioners for separation called it Town of Beaver. Alfred Dobson, when he surveyed the area for Alfred Fell in June 1857, labelled his plan the Town of Beaver. When the first elections for the Province of Marlborough were arranged in 1860, the town of Beaver was in the District of Beaver. People, when naming their place of abode in the electoral rolls, never gave Beavertown or Beaverton, only Beaver, and although Waitohi [also known as Cromwell] had its name changed to Picton at the time Marlborough Province was created, Beaver continued to be Beaver until March 15, 1860, when His Excellency the Governor was pleased to direct that “the Township in the Province of Marlborough, heretofore known as Beaver, be for the future named BLENHEIM, and be referred to accordingly in all Official Documents”. In my opinion Beaver is the correct name of Blenheim pre-separation, supported by the Town of Beaver being used most when distinguishing the town from the district. That it was known by other names, one of which was Beaverton, and one of which was NOT Beavertown, is now on record. But we need to know how our own Beavertown came to be named.



I wrote to Prue Matthews, whose late husband, Nevil, was President of the Society in 1973 when the first replica shops in what became Beavertown were opened. Prue told me that the idea of the shops had been discussed by Nevil and Norm Brayshaw, often around her dining room table, in 1970 and that the idea of creating them was discussed by the Council of the Marlborough Historical Society later that year, before they received approval from members at the AGM in October 1970. Prue remembers the names Beaverton, Beaver Station and Beavertown being the most talked about as suitable for the area where the shops would be built, but there is no record of this discussion in the MHS minutes.

The first mention I can find of the area being called Beavertown is in the MHS minutes of July 1973 when Norm asks for volunteers to help paint the shops at “Beavertown” in quotes, showing that the name is a new idea. The Robert Chilvers painting of the replica shops project, completed in April 1973, is titled ‘Replica Shops’, not mentioning Beavertown. And the project is still being called ‘Replica Shops’, now at Brayshaw Park, at the June meeting 1973. By August the quotes have come off and they are the Beavertown Replica shops, and the large article about the opening, published in The Marlborough Express of 24 September 1973, says, “Beavertown will become a centrepiece for the 14-acre Brayshaw Museum Park...”. The article doesn’t mention how the name of the area came about, except to say, “The five buildings are replicas of former shops in central Blenheim – once called Beavertown...”. Common usage has come into play.

Common usage even tripped up the author and historian, C.A. MacDonald in his articles published in The Marlborough Express in 1932 and 1933 which, when gathered together, became ‘Pages from the Past’. On page 275 in his chapter, ‘A Separate Province’, he has, “...an obscure Gazette notice changed the name of Beaverton to Blenheim”. The New Zealand Gazette doesn’t actually say that. As quoted earlier, page 53 of the Gazette of 15 March 1860, published in 1861, has: “... known as **Beaver**, be.... named BLENHEIM”. We know how Beaverton came about in 1859 and that it was only around for about nine months. The idea of it lived on in other publications. It was used six times between 1868 and 1920, mostly in the Canterbury area, and twice in The Marlborough Express, both times in 1906. Beavertown turns up nine times in The Marlborough Express between 1868 and 1920 and eight times in other newspapers. In fact The Marlborough Express of 3 April 1897 says, “‘Beavertown’ is now the accepted name in the South for Blenheim..”, so it is easy to see why it might have been chosen for Brayshaw Park. But that doesn’t make it correct.

If we want future generations to use the right term for Blenheim pre separation, then we need to rid ourselves

of common usage and think about changing our Beavertown to Beaver. The shops at Beaver, or the Beaver shops in Brayshaw Park, will take a while to get used to, but will become the norm over time; especially if there are Beaver signs around the Park.

MEMBER PROFILES

This time we feature life member Derek Cordes, a Past President of the MHS and Friend Peg Moorhouse.

M.H.S. HONARY LIFE MEMBER DEREK CORDES



HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF THE MHS AND WHY DID YOU JOIN? Sometime during 1977, I was caressed into joining by Kevin Andrews who told me I couldn't photograph an antique bottle in Collies Bottle Shop in Beavertown at the Park unless I was an MHS member, and the rest is history. I also have a deep interest in history and its on-going preservation, so that was another reason for joining.

WHAT WAS YOUR OCCUPATION? I spent just over forty years as a Forest Ranger with the old New Zealand Forest Service, and worked all around New Zealand including Stewart Island and in many of our Forest and National Parks. After the disbandment of the NZFS and the 1987 re-organisation, I was transferred to the new Department of Conservation as a Conservation Officer.

CAN YOU GIVE EXAMPLES OF WHAT THIS ENTAILED? As a member of the Forest Service, and for the Department of Conservation, I worked out of the Blenheim Office for a couple of years and was responsible for the management of the head of the Wairau Valley including Rainbow State Forest. As Ranger in charge of this area I oversaw the development of the Rainbow Ski Field, from its beginnings with the construction of the road up Six Mile Creek to the buildings and its final completion. After redundancy from the Department of Conservation

I formed a bus transport company, which my late wife and I owned and operated for just on 22 years, specializing in contract and charter work all over New Zealand until my retirement.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE ABOUT YOUR WORK OR INTERESTS? In 1967 I was fortunate and privileged to spend five days with the late Sir Edmund Hillary, his first wife Louisa and their children Belinda, Sara and Peter, at the Hopeless Creek Hut in the Nelson Lakes National Park. I managed a few hob nail tramps in the area with Sir Ed and got to know the family pretty well. It was through Sir Ed's good offices and a great reference from him that I got to spend nearly 6 months during the 1968/1969 summer season working for the old Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) as a Field Assistant in Antarctica. That was definitely a career experience, working on the frozen continent and being able to drive and work with the Ferguson tractors that Sir Ed had used on the ice at Scott Base in the 1957/1958 summer season.

WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT MHS MEMBERS MAY BE INTERESTED TO KNOW? After my return from Antarctica, I went back to work for the NZFS as a Ranger in charge of the Walkway Building Team, based in Wellington, however this entailed quite a bit of travelling throughout the country supervising and inspection of new sites for walkway bridges, maintenance of existing bridges, etc. and generally working in sometimes isolated and remote areas. While on this work I survived two helicopter crashes – in one case the aircraft was completely written off after the crash in a remote area of Fiordland – luckily no one was hurt.

HAVE YOU ANY FINAL COMMENTS? It has been a great journey and experience being involved with this Society; when I joined in 1977 it was a very small organization existing on meagre funds, with every dollar being a struggle to get. By the time the Society was ready to go ahead with the first stage of the construction of the Museum & Archives, it had become a multi-million dollar enterprise and a far cry from the early days. We have the late Ralph Denton to thank for our situation today. I have enjoyed my time as Vice President and President over the years, and being associated with some great historians, authors and people in general including Bernice and Jim Adams, Ilona Alloway, Kevin and Jenny Andrews, Pix and Jack Andrews, Ethel Collins, John Davies, James Eyles, Ted Finch, Doreen Fowler, Don Grady, Barry Holdaway, Lloyd Kerr, Prue and Neville Matthews, John Orchard, Pam and Lawrie Saunders, Peter Thomson, Roger Thwaites, Rita and Bert Tuckerman, Dale and Bev Webb, Pam and Tom Woodward, along with many others who have contributed in so many diverse way to shape the Society.

First Living Cultural Treasure and Friend of the Museum - Peg Moorhouse



HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF THE MHS?

Just a few years, at the time the Friends of the Museum was established by Toni Gillan and Steve Austin. They were very persuasive and talked me into joining.

WHAT WAS YOUR OCCUPATION? For over 50 years now I have been a weaver, and I'm still a weaver. (Ed, the photo above is of Peg receiving the first Living Cultural Treasure Award, in the Paul Davidson Theatre in 2013. Her home is full of the loom, the treasures she has made and is still making, and the true treasure Peg herself.)

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE ABOUT YOUR WORK OR INTERESTS? My husband Len and I moved to Waikawa in 1958, 10 years later we heard that Sunshine Bay was for sale so we jumped into the dinghy, rowed around the corner to the beach, walked up the 21 steps and introduced ourselves to the owners. When we walked down the steps, Len had given the owners a shilling (10¢) and the place was ours. I can't remember the total price we paid but much less than would be paid for a single section now. When Len died everyone assumed I would leave the Bay but I was adamant I was going to stay. Over the years I sold off the sections Len had had surveyed, keeping our home and a piece I promised myself to build on if I reached 80. When the time came I had the house built, the one I still live in with a curved ceiling to reflect the hills, large windows to capture the view and a large main room, to host my loom. I don't like small rooms or harsh lines; in my childhood I had few of either. My mother died when I was five and I lived with my aunt and uncle at their marvellous Christchurch house of Risingholme where I lived a life of "old style gracious living". I met people such as Rita Angus, Ngaio Marsh, Vera McMillan Brown, Eve Page and Olivia Spencer Bower. The artists among these people broke away from the Arts Society which was very stuffy and wouldn't accept their paintings. They called themselves "The Group" and set up their own exhibition. These people, Risingholme and my aunt and

uncle were all part of a magical childhood. It was just as magical when Len asked me to marry him while we were walking in the grounds and then literally swept me off my feet while waiting for my answer. That fantastic childhood, the other delightful parts of my life (after Len died she eloped to Australia at 62 with a "big Scotch trawler skipper" and was a model at WOW in her 80's) plus this house and the Bay all make it just so easy to keep on living here and weaving.

WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT MHS MEMBERS MAY BE INTERESTED TO KNOW? I bought my first computer for my 90th birthday present and now I wouldn't be without it, my website and my blog. I don't know what I will get myself for my 100th birthday which is in 16 month's time.

PASSPORT COMPETITION



Bailey Robynson the winner of the Heritage Day Passport Competition receiving her \$50.00 Warehouse voucher from President Dale Webb.

TUA MARINA CHURCH

Church progress, the last of the cladding timber has arrived and will soon be painted ready to be attached to the vestry and porch. The window glass has been etched and should be installed into the windows by now. So another burst of activity should be under way as you read this. Sowman's Monumental donated the etching of the names onto the windows, a big thanks to Jenny Andrews and Sowman's Monumental. The paint has been very kindly donated by our Vice President, Rien Wagenvoort of Equus Industries. You may also have seen the recent promotional article in the Sun Newspaper so thanks to the Sun as well. The committee applied for funds (\$1078) for the glass from Pub Charity but we were turned down, so that leaves the funds short. Please feel free to donate to this worthy cause.

FROM THE FRIENDS

The Friends of the Museum are hosting a High Tea in the Museum Courtyard on Sunday the 3rd of April. If you would like to join them on the day details as below. If you would like to become a member of "The Friends" the necessary form is at the Museum office so either drop in and get one or give the office a call 578 1712 and they will mail one to you.

Friends of the Museum, you are warmly invited to

Sumptuous High Tea in the Garden

Sunday 3 April 2 p.m.

Marlborough Museum Courtyard

Hosted by **Toni Gillan, Museum Ambassador**

Entertainment for your delight by **Heather Jamieson**

\$20 Bookings and Payments @ Marlborough Museum before 31 March.

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