

Official Newsletter of Marlborough Museum and Marlborough Historical Society Inc - December 2014



Tena Koutou Katoa
Greetings to all from
President
DALE WEBB

As is sometimes the case with volunteer organisations there has been a longer than normal time since our last newsletter, for that I apologise. For those that were at the 2014 AGM on the 9th November my sincere thanks, always good to see members participating in what we do. For those not there the committee continues much as it was with Vice President Rein Wagenvoort, Secretary Lauri Ashwell, Treasurer Ian Conway and members Pam Woodward, Robin Cox and Trevor Jane. After a long period of service past President Paul Davidson stepped down and has been replaced by Cynthia Rangī. A particular thanks goes to Paul who will certainly be missed, and a very warm welcome to Cynthia; great to have some youth and enthusiasm among us. The audited annual accounts were presented and accepted by the meeting but with a note from the auditor advising that the audit was not quite complete and that a correction to the accounts would be issued in the following week. All the corrections have now been identified and incorporated and we have a set of annual accounts that we know is correct with a clean audit. As promised at the AGM several sets of the final version are available at the office for members that wish to view them. Members will I am sure be aware that this was the first AGM in the entire history of the Society when we have not had Bev Brayshaw as a member. As a result we needed to elect a new patron. Pam Saunders and Lloyd Kerr were proposed by the

Committee and the meeting supported them whole heartedly. Pam has graciously accepted the nomination, Lloyd advises that he doesn't see himself in that role and has declined; I will keep working on him.

As it has been such a long time in gestation I cannot resist an update on the Tua Marina church project. As we knew it would, it has evolved from the move to the refurbishment. It already has a new roof and progress on the wiring and external cladding is well underway as is planning for the restoration of the windows. We have been fortunate to be able to collect a fair amount of the necessary furniture so attention will soon transfer to the restoration of the interior. After all this time it really is great to see such progress. If you are able to provide either time or a donation to this worthy cause we would be delighted to hear from you.

The Marlborough Heritage Trust is up and running but at this point is focusing on the transfer to it of the assets and operation of the Edwin Fox Society. When that is complete the same will occur for the Marlborough Museum. In conclusion once again many thanks for the part you play in ensuring Marlborough's treasures continue to live.

Dale Webb dale@vinastra.co.nz

New Members

We are delighted to welcome as new members of the MHS Miss Janette Cook, from Renwick, Mrs Margaret Scott, from Blenheim, Mr Charles & Mrs Clare Waddy, from Seddon (Friends of Museum), Mr Murray & Mrs Julie Brown, from Blenheim (Friends of Museum) Ms Jenipher Hubley, from Picton (Friends of Museum) and Mr Bill and Mrs Audrey Ford, from Fairhall (Friends of Museum).

Archives

For those that use the Archives in the Museum and Archive Building please be aware they will close on Thursday 4 p.m. 18 December 2014, and re-open on Tuesday 10 a.m. 6 January 2015.

Missing their Owner

A pair of sun glasses were found in the Paul Davidson AV Theatre, following the AGM on Sunday 9th November.

The owner can claim them from the Museum Office.

Heritage Day 2015

Planning is underway for next year's Heritage Day, as always on the 6th February; the theme is "Gearing up for Gallipoli" as in February 1915 that is exactly what the nation was doing. The RSA are of course commemorating the various aspects of the centenary of WW1 of which Gallipoli is one. They have donated many packets of Flanders poppies and the seeds have been planted around the Museum. They will hopefully survive a Marlborough summer and be blooming on Heritage Day. Some of the other organisations, resident on the Park, are doing the same so it will hopefully look a real picture. As part of the theme the ladies of the Marlborough Embroiderers' Guild Inc. will be displaying, in the old Tua Marina church, the work resulting from their Guild Challenge for this year which has been called "Pick a Poppy". They will have quite a large selection of poppies stitched in a number of different techniques. There will also be other embroidery on display including a number of Hussifs (sometimes called a house wife when issued to military personnel); sure to be interesting for people to look at.

What happened to Poppas Horse?

By Jenny Pierson. One of those lovely moments we all look forward to happened to me at work on Tuesday. The first I knew was when Marilyn Lowe in the office rang to say Matthew Saunders and his family, on a visit from Wellington, were in the foyer

wanting to know where "Poppa's" horse was. "Poppa's" horse, it transpired, was a rocking horse and they had taken the children to see him in Parker's Music Shop in Beavertown only to find he wasn't there. Did I know where he was? Thankfully, I did. Steve and I had brought several items up from Parker's Music Shop in February so they could be cleaned (thanks Kim you did a great job) and added to the collection, but we had no information about "Poppa's" horse so he had become a 'Found in Collection' item. While Steve retrieved the rocking horse, Matthew, his wife and his three small children came down to my office and there they had a lovely time getting to know 'Poppa's' horse; the two eldest eventually having their photos taken riding him. Unfortunately I don't have a copy of those photos, but I have included one from our collection. Matthew gave me much needed information about the rocking horse – he never had a family name, but perhaps MOBO would be good as Mobo Bronco is the name his maker, D. Sebel & Co Ltd of England and Australia, gave him - so I have been able to update our records and put a name to his owner, John Saunders. Thanks very much to this young family. If they hadn't come back to the office to enquire as to where "Poppa's" horse had gone we would never have known his story.



Donations

Our very sincere thanks go to those funding organisations and charitable organisations that support our endeavours. Recently we have received \$2,531.00 from



for installing & connecting 3 phase sub-station power for the Tua Marina Church. By the time you read this it should be installed; the electrician was hard at work when your editor arrived at the Museum to draft this newsletter.

We also received \$1,000.00 each from



and



The Pelorus Trust funds are for the restoration of the Tua Marina church, the Redwood Trust funds were for blinds in the Museum Office, Archives Research and Archives work rooms. Jenny Pierson along with other members has also made a generous donation towards the Tua Marina church's restoration.

Restoring the church now has a deadline date. We have a brave 'bride to be' that has made a tentative booking for her wedding in December 2015.



Museum and Archives News

There have been two new exhibitions opened in the Museum recently: Mapping Marlborough and the Dolls Garden Party. Our Archives Manager, Megan Ross and her assistant cartographer Melanie Newman have done a fantastic job with the mapping project most of which is behind the scenes. The ones exhibited though do show the diversity and extent of the maps we hold covering all parts of Marlborough going back for more than 150 years. Two examples are:



Pam Saunders and Bev Webb put together the Dolls Tea Party Exhibition which was opened on Sunday 23rd November. Both exhibitions were of course overseen by CE Steve Austin who was also extensively involved in their design and production. The dolls concerned enjoyed their party (and presumably the tea and cakes) which was hosted by Museum Ambassador Toni Gillan and her companion Sylvia.

The dolls were all accompanied by their companions (because none of the dolls has ever learned to drive) who also enjoyed the occasion. There were two gentlemen present; Dr Reg Nichol, who did not have a doll to bring but, told the story explaining why he didn't have one and CE Steve Austin who accompanied himself on the piano while singing "Hello Dolly".

Jenny Pierson was one of the 26 ladies present seen here with her son's much loved companion "Big Dog".



These doll photos were taken by Karla Manning who was also at the party.

The sailor doll is a Horatio Nelson commemoration doll. Issued in 1890 and originally owned by John Newman, late of Cowslip Valley, Marlborough. It is a wax-headed doll with Navy coloured cap, Navy coloured uniform with Navy coloured knickerbockers and Navy coloured stockings - one shoe. John and Maria Newman gave this sailor replica Doll to their youngest son James Walter Newman at about two years of age. James, "Uncle Jim" said that his sailor doll was produced sometime after Horatio Nelson's victory at Trafalgar on 21 October 1805.

Summer Trips

22 February 2015 MHS trip to Kaikoura Museum, Fyffe House and Seals! Departs 10 am at the Museum car park.

Costs – contribution to your driver's fuel if you are not taking a vehicle and donations at both places we are visiting.

If you can offer a ride, or need one, let us know, and we will do our best!

7 March 2015 MHS trip of St. Arnaud circuit and Nelson Railway sites including the old rail site at Kawatiri Junction. Departs 8.30 am at the Museum car park aiming to be back in Blenheim around 5 pm. Costs to be advised.

Call 578 1712 to register your details, and receive any updates.

Heritage Education Programme

We don't have a report for this edition as our head Teacher, John Orchard QSM, is currently on sick leave. John is recuperating after surgery on the 24th November and I am sure you all join in wishing him a speedy recovery. While he is away Steve Austin, ably assisted by Caroline Harvey and Barry Holdaway, has been taking the normal Heritage Education classes that John would have given, most of which are field trips.

From The Creative Fibre Guild

Time keeps moving on so quickly. Trying to fit in all our plans seems to bottle neck at this time of the year. Do we get them done? of course we do because we enjoy doing and learning new skills and knowledge.

Our Creative Fibre ladies have achieved such a lot this year; since my last addition to this newsletter we now have an additional felting group that meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month as well the day group on 1st Thursday of each month, both groups are gaining members at a steady pace. With several workshops recently all were well supported bringing more people into the park. Jan Hannay from our Tapestry group went to Wellington for an advanced course and will pass on what she learnt to Marlborough members. When you wander around the park all members of Brayshaw Park and Historical are welcome to call in and say hello and see just what we do. Recently we took on a task to help with WW1 Remembrance celebrations by making red poppies and there is a big basket full almost ready to go and another basket of children's slippers to go to a local school for children to wear in class when shoes get wet etc. as well as many singlets for our new born citizens. A very big thank you to Paddy Morris from Linkwater, Paddy hands in a continual stream of singlets and to Rosemary Burton who contributed a huge bag of children's slippers to the cause this year. Another community project is in the planning for 2015.

We have a display of our work at Selmes Garden centre in the showroom – items are for sale with a donation to the trust. Next year's display in the Girling building will be done by the spinners and hopefully will be on all styles of wheels. DO YOU HAVE AN OLDER WHEEL TUCKED AWAY IN THE GARAGE , CEILING OR SHED?

Please contact me at Beavertown Hall any Tuesday if you can help. This now only needs me to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year and a wish for fine weather over summer including regular rain to keep our gardens in full bloom.

Cheers

Pam Hilliard Marlborough Creative Fibre group

Guys and Dolls Christmas Party

The Friends of Marlborough Museum enjoyed a party on Friday 21 November at which Tan McNab read an appropriate poem in line with the Dolls Tea Party theme; she also supplied an item on dolls included below.



The study of Dolls in a literary and sociological sense is so very interesting because basically it's a way in which you can view society, fashion, personality alter egos. Childhood is a condition of powerlessness. Dolls and toys are controlled by their owners who are in turn are at the mercy of adults who manage their lives. Victor Hugo provocatively said...

"Blessed be providence which has given to each his toy: the doll to the child, the child to the woman, the woman to the man, the man to the devil"...

"man is least himself when he talks in his own person. Give him a mask, and he will tell you the truth"

The ventriloquist, the puppeteer, Pinocchio was created to be a companion but then so was Frankenstein. Stories of example, of attachment, love and loss. Franz Kafka supposedly walking in a park meets a child, Nancy, crying over a lost doll. Franz then it is said went home and started a series of letters purported to be written by the doll Suzie and delivered each day to the park. Dolls and toys give a real sense of continuity and history. One of my favourite poems is by John Ciardi (Char-dee) written in 1961 called

The Dolls

*Night after night forever the dolls lay stiff
by children's dreams. On the goose-feathers of the rich,
on the straw of the poor, on the gypsy ground -
wherever the children slept, dolls have been found
in the subsoil of the small loves stirred again
by the Finders After Everything. Down lay
the children by their hanks and twists. Night after night
grew over imagination. The fuzzies shed, the bright
buttons fell out of the heads, arms ripped, and down
through goose-feathers, straw; and the gypsy ground
the dolls sank, and some - the fuzziest and most loved
changed back to string and dust, and the dust moved
dream-puffs round the Finders' boots as they dug,
sieved, brushed, and came on a little clay dog,
and a little stone man, and a little bone girl, that had kept
their eyes wide open forever, while all the children slept*



News from Steve Austin

Our much loved Riverlands Cob Cottage is getting a new lease of life. Unfortunately there is an interim period when we will go through an ugly duckling stage.

Restoration of the walls, and the start of earthquake strengthening, are current projects.

This is Cob Cottage is currently not a safe site to enter, specifically dangerous areas are the sides of the cottage where there is a danger of falling building material.



Marlborough Wine Show

The Legacy Award is presented to a wine company for three outstanding vintages of one wine style not less than two years apart within a 10-year period. Coopers Creek was the winner of The Marlborough Museum Legacy Award 2014, for their Riesling.

Last year the Award went to Johanneshoff for their Gewürztraminer.

The Award recognises excellence over time and we are able to support the Award with help from sponsors of The Wine Exhibition.

Tua Marina Church

Dean Coward from DC Electrical connected up the power between the Tua Marina Church, and the Marlborough Museum this week.



In the background of this pic you will see the builders at work replacing some of the panels from the church. Ian Conway is the Project Manager, so if anyone has volunteer time and skills, please contact Ian, via the Museum Office.