



Tena Koutou Katoa

Greetings to all from
President DALE WEBB

Normally in this part of the newsletter I look back on some of the recent events of your society. This month we are looking forward – to the big question of what the Society might look like – and do - after activation of the MHT - Marlborough Heritage Trust.

Those of you that have attended the last two or three AGMs will be aware that the current committee were elected on a policy of forming a trust and then transferring the "commercial" activities of the MHS to it. Work on the trust deed began in late 2011 and was completed by about this time last year. There was then a period of communication with the other heritage organisations of Marlborough and the Marlborough District Council about the purposes of the trust and the advantages of being a party to it. After two legal reviews, (the MHS and MDC solicitors have provided valuable input) the deed was sent to the Charities Commission for approval and registration as a charitable trust. This process takes several months and is not yet complete.

Your committee agree that it is now time to consider the next steps, some of which have already been taken. The major issues to be resolved fall under three general headings –

- 1) our Collections - artefacts and archives;**
- 2) our Buildings – old and new;**
- 3) our legal Contracts and Agreements.**

Taking the **Legal Issues** first – it seems appropriate that activities that have a substantial budget and/or

involve paid staff are transferred to the trust. That would include the Museum and Archives operation, the Heritage Education program, Council contracts, the Past Perfect project etc along with the budgets and staff that support them. All other agreements and contracts, including our agreements with Park groups, outside organisations, and our own volunteers would be considered individually. There are currently well over 30 of these agreements to sort out.

Next, our **Buildings**. We own more than 20 buildings of various sizes and functions. What will the trust need for its activities and what will we want to retain for ours? That seems to go to the heart of the vital question 'what will be the ongoing function of the MHS?' The committee are considering options and will present them to you shortly.

Finally, our **Collections**. There seems to be almost unanimous approval that these should remain the property of the MHS but be on indefinite loan to the trust. The trust will be fully responsible for their security, care, conservation and display.

It would be very much appreciated if any thoughts, concerns or questions you have on any or all of the three general headings are passed to us so they can be built into the proposal that the committee is working on. When completed the draft will be widely circulated and then presented to a special general meeting for discussion and eventual adoption.

The advent of a Marlborough Heritage Trust is a very major step in the progression of our Society and will enhance the preservation and understanding of all that represents the times that preceded ours.

Please have your say on this most significant step in the care and celebration of Marlborough's heritage.

Dale Webb

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OLD HOMESTEAD CELEBRATES 151 YEARS



ALTIMARLOCH homestead in the Awatere Valley is the Marlborough ancestral home of the Mowat family. Over Easter 2013, family members gathered to view the homestead and visit the graves of Alexander and his wife Marjory, their daughter Kate and son-in-law Alexander McRae who are buried in a private cemetery on the property.

Altimarloch homestead was built for Sea Captain Alexander Mowat and his wife Marjory between 1861 and 1862. It replaced the original home which was destroyed in the massive 1855 earthquake. Architects and builders from Nelson were employed to design a large two storied wooden homestead comprising eleven main rooms, with hallways measuring eleven feet by twenty four feet on both floors and an underground cellar. The exterior of the homestead today is very much as it was 151 years ago and is in remarkably sound condition, largely due to the materials used and the maintenance of previous and present owners.

Alexander was a giant of a man, and his genial disposition and hospitality led to a large number of visitors over the years. Many christenings and weddings in those early years were held at Altimarloch, one of these occasions being the wedding of their eldest daughter Helen to Englishman Henry Stace.

Alexander Mowat first came to New Zealand in 1846, then again in 1847. In 1848 he sailed in to Nelson harbour. While the ship was being repaired he met, and fell in love with Marjory, daughter of George and Helen McRae, who had arrived in Nelson in 1842.

Alexander had to return to London to fulfil his commitments to the ship's owner, and arrived back to marry Marjory in 1849. At this time the McRaes and the Mowats moved to the Awatere Valley to take up adjacent stations, being Blairich and Altimarloch. Alexander added Middlehurst to his estate in 1852. He died at Altimarloch in 1875 aged 61.

In 1883 the eldest son K P Mowat took over Altimarloch from his mother. Another change came in 1906 when A C McRae purchased the property. He was the son of William McRae of Waipapa, and was married to his cousin Kate Mowat, who had been born at Altimarloch. The property stayed in the McRae family until 1935.

ALTIMARLOCH is one of the oldest wooden houses in Marlborough still being lived in. John Walsh's home at Woodbourne is the same age; Fyffe House at Kaikoura is older but is no longer lived in. Marjory McRae was one of just five women in the Nelson province (which at the time included Marlborough) to receive a NZ Company grant in her own right as an adult settler. This was the original 80 acres which formed the beginning of the Altimarloch run.

Visitors to Marlborough Museum will notice a large model of the ship *Ralph Bernal*. This model was made by the bosun of the ship for Captain Alexander and was displayed for many years in the entrance hall of Altimarloch. It is now held by the Marlborough Historical Society, along with various dairies and the photograph album of Helen Stace, *nee* Mowat. The most recent addition is Alexander Mowat's globe, believed to be his celestial globe, which was donated by Suzy Richardson in 2012.

Text adapted from "The Awatere and It's People" by A L Kennington



CONGRATULATIONS

As we know, there are many volunteer members of the Society who spend considerable time unearthing historical gems from the very comprehensive records kept in the Archives.

One dedicated researcher, who shall remain anonymous, recently discovered a small but significant piece of Society history. In May 1973 Mrs BERNICE ADAMS joined the Marlborough Historical Society.

Over the 40 years since then Bernice has worked in almost every area of the museum and archives as well as spending many years on the committee.

CONGRATULATIONS BERNICE

Your service is very much appreciated.



MARLBOROUGH MUSEUM

Online



This Month – JAMES CHINN and his Marlborough Stereoviews

THE STEREOSCOPE

A stereoscope is a device for viewing a stereoscopic pair of separate images, depicting left-eye and right-eye views of the same scene, as a single three-dimensional image.



A typical stereoscope provides each eye with a lens that makes the image seen through it appear larger and more distant. It also shifts its apparent horizontal position so that for a person with normal binocular depth perception the edges of the two images seemingly fuse into one "stereo window".

In current practice, the images are prepared so that the scene appears to be beyond this virtual window, through which objects are sometimes allowed to protrude, but this was not always the custom. A divider or other view-limiting feature is usually provided to prevent each eye from being distracted by also seeing the image intended for the other eye.

Research - John Penney, Jenny Pierson

JAMES CHINN was an artist and photographer of Grove Road, Blenheim. Born in Britain, James joined the Royal Marine Light Infantry at age 20 and came to New Zealand on the 'Carnatic' in 1875. Two Daines families (*one is Walter Fox Daines, son of Anne Chinn formerly Daines*) lived next door. James was a member of the Marlborough A & P Association and had a strong interest in horticultural matters. In 1898 he became the manager of the nearby Wairau Brewery in Dodson Street.



Among other work, he produced stereoscopic views of Marlborough, including (*above*) the Ronga Memorial at Havelock, a country garden and the Awatere bridge.

James Chinn is buried at the Omaka Cemetery.

再见 zàijiàn - bye, see you again



Photo - Scott Hammond

Chinese visitors Jia Zia Zhu (centre) (and Xzao Ye Pan (right) try some Marlborough wine with their interpreter. Jia and Xzao are influential Chinese food and travel bloggers, who were in the province to experience the food, wine, culture and landscape of Marlborough during the grape harvest.

As part of their tour they visited the WINE EXHIBITION at Marlborough Museum and by all accounts were most impressed. They left a message in Mandarin characters in our visitor book which when interpreted was very complimentary of our Museum and staff.

Xièxiè gèwèi fāngkè - Thank you, visitors.



DAVID WATT and ANNE NEILL from the Historic Places Trust in Wellington recently visited to present commendations to former committee members of the now disbanded Marlborough Branch of HPT, and to others in the community who have supported the Trust over a long period of time.

David Watt gave a brief history of the branch in Marlborough, followed by a few words from Anne Neill on behalf of HPT Central and a short speech by Mayor Alistair Sowman.

Framed Certificates of Appreciation for their dedicated service to the local Branch were then presented to Chairman **ROBIN COX**, Secretary **BARBARA MURRAY** and also to **BEV WEBB**, **ALISON ORCHARD**, **JOHN ORCHARD**, **FRANCIS MAHER**, **JESSICA BAGGE**, **REX HANSEN**, **KATHRYN NICHOLLS** and **BRENDA OLDFIELD**.

TEXTILES Online

Marlborough Museum holds a nationally-significant collection of textiles. From these, our new on-line exhibit draws what are termed "*Communication Artifacts*", which in museum terms are defined as -

"Artifacts originally created as expressions of human thought. Communication artifacts comment on, interpret, or enhance people's environments. Communication artifacts can function symbolically or literally. This category excludes the tools and equipment that are used to create communication artifacts".



The example here is a typical Communications Artifact, a banner with a brown material base and embroidery words "**REDWOODTOWN INSTITUTE - HOME AND COUNTRY**". Little is known about the work of the Institute which went into recession at least 20 year ago.

If you are reading this e-Newsletter on your computer, just click on the pictures to go directly to the items on the exhibits website.

As before, if you know others who would like to receive update news - OR if you would prefer not to receive updates at all, just email me at -

museums@penney.co.nz

John Penney

OnLine Exhibits Curator

From the
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Now that the Wairau Bar Exhibition is blessed and open, we turn our attention to the somewhat more mundane but very essential matter of storage – specifically the need for big improvements to the storage, cataloguing and care of our important Map Collection.

This is a \$41,000 project that includes the purchase of new map drawers, staff time for improved cataloguing, and the purchase of archival folders, boxes and tissue paper. Letters of support for the project were a very important part of the application, and we are grateful for such support from Chris Adam (*Regional Archivist with Archives New Zealand*), Glenn Webster (*District Libraries Manager MDC*), Kirsty Chalmers (*MDC Electronic Records Management Team Leader*), Nola Leov and Vicki-Anne Heikell (*Field Conservator, Alexander Turnbull Library*).

The Society's Archives are an approved repository for Archives New Zealand, and also provide archival storage for all Marlborough District Council and previous Local Body records. The collection includes a large number of maps and plans, some of which date back to the 1840s. We are delighted to have been granted \$27,400 from the New Zealand Lotteries Grants Board, and hope to shortly hear the result of our application to Canterbury Community Trust for the balance of \$13,700. Then the work will start!

Elsewhere you will read details of our trip exploring Historical Picton, the achievements of long-serving members Pam and Bernice, and of course the Winter Sunday Series which starts this month. Last Sunday of every month – mark the dates!

Finally, it was with heavy heart I attended the recent funeral of Hugh Vavasour. My deepest sympathy to Vice-President Belinda and her whole family on their sad and untimely loss.

Steve Austin



CREATIVE FIBRE GUILD

CREATIVE SCARF EXPO

10 – 15 June
22 Scott Street, daily 10am-4pm

FREE ENTRY



On now at Marlborough Museum

Preparing for



DISASTER

A large group of Museum staff and volunteers, including several from Marlborough Museum, attended a recent Two-Day Workshop on Disaster Recovery held at Base Woodbourne.

The Workshop was initiated by Marlborough Museum and supported by Te Papa National Services and Marlborough District Council. Chief Executive Steve Austin says that he has been working towards ensuring this kind of training is provided in Marlborough as our location has inherent risks including the Alpine Fault Line and extreme fire risks in summer which make the irreplaceable Marlborough collections very vulnerable.

Participants included staff and volunteers from the Marlborough Museum, Nelson Provincial Museum, Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre, the Edwin Fox Maritime Museum and Rai Valley.



Bev Webb attacks the inferno

In conjunction with the RNZAF Fire Service, a mock collection storage area was prepared in a shipping container, set on fire and extinguished with water. Workshop participants set about

salvaging burnt and wet material, using latest methods supervised by expert conservator Lynn Campbell. Lynn has just returned from the Getty Conservation Institute in Los Angeles, where she has been researching preventive methods to protect museum collections from earthquakes.



Woodbourne Fireman saves the archives

SPECIAL THANKS to Marlborough Lines, Marlborough Civil Defence and Deans Lifting Services, who provided essential Health & Safety clothing for the workshop, including 20 sets of Hi-Vis vests, hard hats, and safety glasses. And a special mention of Couplands Bakery for the loan of plastic bread baskets, invaluable for collecting and sorting salvaged objects over the two days of this invaluable Workshop.

SUNDAY SERIES

The popular Winter Series starts this month and continues on the last Sunday of every month.

30 June

Dr Janet Davidson
Aspects of the Wairau Bar

28 July

To be confirmed

25 August

Pam Saunders
Dressmakers and Hat Makers of Blenheim

29 September

To be confirmed

Each Sunday Series presentation starts at 2pm sharp in the Davidson Theatre at Marlborough Museum.

Seating is limited so it is best to call the Office on 578 1712 and they will guarantee your seat.

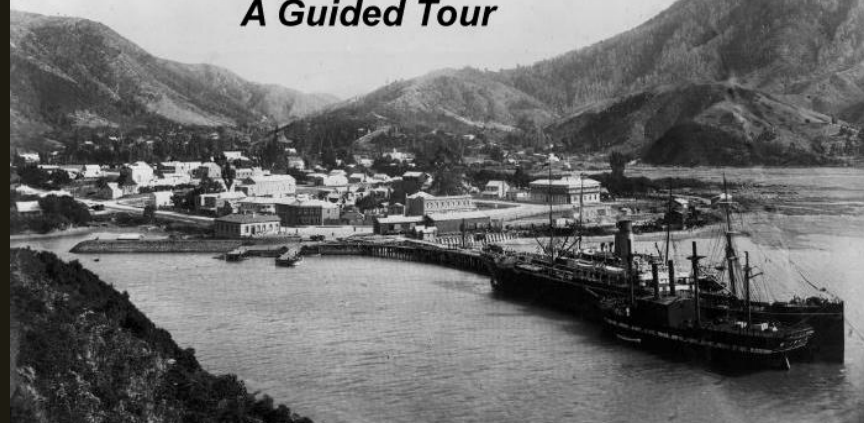
FREE ENTRY

Gold Coin Donation appreciated

MARK THE DATES !

HISTORIC PICTON

A Guided Tour



SUNDAY 9 JUNE

Join us for a tour of significant sites in Picton.

Meet at 10am in the Brayshaw Car Park to arrange car-pooling and travel to Picton. Or meet at the Edwin Fox 10.45am

Discounted entry to the Edwin Fox and Picton Museum. After visiting the above two sites John Orchard will guide us through historic features and attractions of the township of Picton, once the capital of Marlborough.

The EDWIN FOX is recognised as the 9th oldest ship in the world and some experts consider it as the oldest merchant ship in the world. It was built in India, Carried troops to Crimea, transported convicts to Australia and settlers to New Zealand. It is a unique experience is to go down into the dry dock and walk under and alongside the hull, some of it still lined with copper, a defence against the seaworm that destroyed wooden ships. Upstairs in the information centre are displays showing the life of the vessel, including audio visual displays showing various stages of this internationally recognised ship's life.

PICTON MUSEUM has a great collection of local material, much with a whaling theme. Many objects from the Perano Whaling Station, the last whaling site to operate in New Zealand, are stored and displayed here. Much information about the early Sounds families is also to be found here. A recent addition is the replica whale boat *Swiftsure* that recently went to London and rowed down the Thames.

For further information - Robin Cox
Telephone 578 4115 evenings

Please also call Robin if you require transport, or are able to help with car-pooling from Brayshaw Park to Picton



Captured together on Heritage Day, Chief Executive Steve Austin with Park pioneer Bev Brayshaw. How far we have come!