

Antique Washbowl and Pitcher



The first thing many people do when they wake up is wash their face, hands, and mouth in the bathroom. But long before running water or in-house plumbing became a thing, this simple task wasn't so easy. People had to make do with a washstand and washbowls with pitchers (large jugs). The invention of indoor plumbing in the 1900s greatly reduced the use of these sets.

However, the wash bowl and pitcher remained popular all through the better part of the 19th century and into the 20th century. Even today, they still see use in some parts of the world.

The pitcher is usually filled with clean water and used to wash the face and hands, and even brush the teeth. The used water is tipped from the basin into the gutter or any outlet.

Both are used in the bathroom, placed on a piece of furniture known as the washstand. The washstand usually had a marble top, and there may be a small cloth hanging behind the stand to protect the wall from water splashes.

They exist in various colours and materials, from plain white ironstone to decorative hand-painted China sets. Some are made from sterling silver and cut glass; solid gold sets also exist.

These two sets from our collection are currently on display. The upper pair were donated by Margo Mitchell and the lower pitcher and washbowl by Suo Emirali. There are no maker's names on any of the items and we are unsure of their ages, although the lower items could be from late 19th century and the blue jugs probably somewhat later. Any information would be welcomed.

R. Maurice Conly, MBE

A new display installed late last year features the work of the late Maurice Conly, MBE. Maurice was a Waikanae resident from 1982 until his death in 1995. He was the official artist to the RNZAF and a prolific designer of stamps and coins for New Zealand and some Pacific Island nations.

Our display includes examples of his work for NZ Post (some of his stamp designs from the 1980s are beautiful works of art in miniature), including blocks of stamps from the bottom of a sheet showing his name as the designer. There are also two official coin packs on display. Did you know that our \$1 and \$2 coins were designed by this man?

His first design for NZ Post was the 2d 'Maori Messenger' stamp, one of the issue made on 18 July 1955 to commemorate 100 years since the first postage stamps of New Zealand.

You can learn more about this great artist in the museum.



The 45 cent value from the 'Vintage Trams' set, 6 March 1985 (a Wellington Electric from 1904)

From the Chairman's Notepad

As you may know your Committee has a monthly meeting held at the Museum on the third Friday of each month at 11:00am. The formal meeting held in January was much shorter than usual. Most of the time was set aside for discussion and debate on the content and wording of new, simpler KCM Strategic Objectives plus the finalisation of our 2022/2023 Annual Plan. For those interested (!) strategic objectives are high-level goals outlining what an organisation wants to achieve over time, with the annual plan setting out what we will do in the next year towards achieving those goals.

The occasion was also used to consider a range of ideas and future directions for the Museum received from two of our thoughtful volunteers last year. Some were incorporated into the documentation.

So now we have a refreshed set of 6 Strategic Objectives covering continuous improvement, increasing public awareness of the Museum, regional collaboration, filling gaps in Māori resources, having an annual display plan and looking after our volunteers. We also concluded our Annual Plan, setting out what we will do this year to support the Museum Objectives.

This year we have Service and Performance targets agreed with our major funder the Kapiti Coast District Council, and we have done our best to align our activities in order to meet these targets. We have a busy year ahead of us, so we welcome with open arms any volunteers who can provide a little of their time and expertise to help get the job done.

Finally, if you wish to receive a copy of our Strategic Objectives or the Annual Plan don't hesitate to ask any Committee Member.

Neville Queree

Wellington Anniversary Weekend 2023 Special Event



Kapiti Coast Heritage Group put a lot of effort into organising this event, involving 8 museums on the Kapiti Coast. Each museum had a question to be answered and there were 4 excellent prizes to be won (thanks are due to many organisations for their donations). Visitors left their entry forms in a box in one of the museums. There could have been up to 8 entries from a person if all museums were visited.

We at Kapiti Coast Museum were thrilled to see many visitors during the weekend—

overall, we had 134 adults and 62 children come in. It would have been more except for the fact that the volunteers on duty on the Saturday (yes, Scott and Joan) closed at 2.00PM instead of the stated time of 4.00PM. Many apologies for that blunder!

This three day event was planned with input from the museums on the Kapiti Coast and Kapiti Coast District Council, under the management of Allan Carley and Melissa Patterson. Something similar next year? I hope so.

Scott Stevenson

MUSEUM HOURS: FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY 1-4PM

PRIVATE & GROUP VISITS BY ARRANGEMENT

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Our Annual General Meeting

Our AGM on Saturday 5th of November was a smoothly run affair with no contentious issues. Elected unopposed were:

Chairman	Neville Queree
Secretary	Myra Kunowski
Treasurer	Gillies Cornelius
Committee	Carolyn Krebs, Anne Thompson, Scott Stevenson, Robert Adams

New Display Proposed

In the Greenaway Room at the rear of the museum our current displays are based on World War II scenarios—the radio operator's position in a Lancaster bomber and a group of soldiers on a Pacific Island, highlighting their use of communications equipment. These displays have proved to be popular, although not Kapiti Coast related. We thank Museum member Brent Bevan for his dedication in setting them up. After nearly a year in place, these displays are scheduled to be taken down at the end of February.

Replacing them will be something quite different—a number of display panels from the Kapiti Philatelic Society showing stamps from New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. It is expected that this display will be in place for 4 months. This will complement our Maurice Conly display.

Improvements within the Museum

1. A new poster is now displayed in the front window of the museum.
2. A new 'Open' flag is now in use..
3. New Accounting & Financial Reporting System—we have upgraded our accounting and financial reporting system from a spreadsheet based system to the Cashbook Complete Home Accounting software package. The software is very simple to use and navigate. It has a comprehensive range of reporting tools and reports to meet our ongoing accounting and financial reporting requirements.

Volunteer Receptionists

When the museum is open we prefer to have 2 people on duty. The committee is finding that each month an extra volunteer or two would be desirable. If you could offer assistance on a once a month basis, please email manager@kapiticoastmuseum.org.nz, and we will discuss how you could help.