

Kapiti Coast MUSEUM

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2023

New Display in the Greenaway Room

The military display that was present over the last year has now been removed and a new display is now in place. The Kapiti Philatelic Society was invited to put together a few panels showing some of its members' collections. The Society secretary Ian Burtt was instrumental in preparing the site and putting together 4 large frames (that's eight sides) on which to mount the exhibits. These include an amazing collection of postcards related to New Zealand hospitals (including in Great Britain) and hospital ships during WW I. I encourage you to come and see this exhibit, with stamps dating from 1855 to the 2000s. —you will see that many of our stamps are miniature works of art.



Here are two stamps included in the display: the 3/- Mt Egmont stamp is from the 1935 Pictorials set and is one of the many stamps designed by L C Mitchell (1901—1971). The 70c Franz Josef Glacier stamp is from the 2013 'Classic Travel Posters' set and is copied from a poster designed by Marcus King in 1955 for our Tourist and Publicity Dept..

Scott Stevenson

Volunteers' Outing to Foxton

At the end of March a group of 14 of our volunteers drove up to Foxton to be hosted by members of the Foxton Historical Society, especially Jim and Sarah Harper. We were welcomed into the MAVtech building (the old Coronation Hall, home of the Museum of Audio Visual Technology). We were shown the 1969 movie that was used to promote NZ at Expo 70 in Japan (3 big screens originally, but cleverly shown on the one screen at MAVtech). This is a fascinating look at how we were, 53 years ago (no mention of vineyards or wine, no Japanese cars).

After a good look at much of the audio and visual equipment displayed we were invited to their film and record storage area—cans and cans of movie film (5 cans for a full length film) and many racks of all sorts of records. Amazing!

From there we followed Jim and Sarah over the road to their collection of musical items from bygone eras, such as the beautiful Chordophone and the miniature band playing an old Johnny Tillotson number. There were other lovely reminders of the past, like radios, clocks, telephones, printing equipment and a barrel organ, with the piece de resistance being a full-sized, mobile Dutch fairground organ—very loud!

After lunch in the cafe in Foxton's Municipal building (Sweet Dreams in Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, the library and museum), we walked to Sunnyside Cottage, built in the 1860s and moved by the Harpers to its current site about 4 years ago. They have done a huge amount of work to return this old home to its former glory, although they have left the upstairs rooms pretty much as they were, complete with scrim and newspaper wall linings.

We volunteers were privileged to be able to see the Harpers' collection and their cottage. Jim and Sarah were great hosts and we thank them and MAVtech members very much for giving us this opportunity.

Scott Stevenson

Here are some of us at 'Sunnyside' with Sarah & Jim Harper



< Marsha Donaldson, has a go at feeding the card through Jim's amazing music device. The trick is to maintain the correct speed as you wind the handle!

From the Chairman's Notepad

We are very fortunate to have the historic Waikanae Post Office building as the premises of the Kāpiti Coast Museum. As we are focusing more and more on the social history of the Kāpiti area, having access to this heritage building to display our collection is an excellent fit.

You probably know that we lease the building and its extension from the Kāpiti Coast District Council (KCDC) who also support us financially every year. As our landlord, KCDC is responsible for the maintenance of the exterior of the building and some of the utilities and infrastructure that we rely on. KCDC also responds promptly when new graffiti appears on the Museum and needs to be removed.

Last year we experienced a couple of instances of rainwater leaks that affected a small number of the collection items in storage. Both leaks were addressed immediately by KCDC and we were very grateful for the rapid response. These instances lead to the Council's Building Group undertaking an external inspection of the premises as a whole joined by their project manager Focus Projects Limited (FPL) plus Rob Adams and myself. This inspection identified a number of maintenance issues with the exterior of the building such as overhanging trees and bushes, rotting fence palings, blocked guttering, disconnected downpipes etc some of which could lead to water ingress and high internal humidity levels.

The Building Group together with FPL put together a list of remedial actions that they are now working their way through. While we may wish that things happen more quickly, especially in relation to the Museum building's weather tightness, we are certainly appreciative of KCDC's support of our Museum in many areas. Without their direct support we would certainly struggle to achieve our prime objective which is to receive and care for taonga associated with the social history of the Kāpiti Coast and to present the stories behind.

Neville Queree



A recent photo of our cherished museum

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

PRIVATE & GROUP VISITS BY ARRANGEMENT

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INSTAGRAM: www.instagram.com/museumonkapiticoast/

New Displays Proposed

A sub-committee has worked on a plan for up-coming displays in the Greenaway Room in the museum. After the Philatelic Society display, the following is the tentative plan (note, tentative—things could change)

In 2023: Home Entertainment, ie, music, domestic radio, tape recorders, radiograms, record players, cylinders, discs.

In 2024: History of Kapiti Island, ie, whaling, Maori history, ecological reserve. This topic will require research—assistance from anyone interested welcome. .

Also in 2024: Fire and Search and Rescue, ie, firefighting materials, uniforms, search and rescue radio equipment.

2024 to 2025: Camera and Video, ie, cameras, slide projectors, video cameras, associated equipment and the results from using them.

Discover Kapiti Heritage—Anniversary Weekend

These 3 days in January were most successful. Over the 8 museums taking part, the number of visitors noted was 8,229, but around 6,100 were counted at Steam Incorporated, so that's 2,129 between the rest of us, a much improved result compared to the same event in 2022. Altogether, there were 829 entries into the Clue Hunt.

Our museum recorded 196 visitors and 94 Clue Hunt entries. 7 of the entries failed to pick that the running shoes on display used to be John Walker's. The planning for a similar event in 2024 is underway!

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.