

Kapiti Coast MUSEUM

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2023

New Displays

Our stamp-based displays (Maurice Conly stamps and the Kapiti Philatelic Society display) have now finished. In their places are **a display based on the Greenaway family** (Frank Greenaway left a bequest to the museum, which was used to construct the extension at the rear) **and a display we are calling 'Home Entertainment in the 20th Century'**. This display will be in the Greenaway Room.

The Home Entertainment display ranges from the 1900s, with a stereoscopic card viewer and the Edison Cartridge player, to the 1990s, with a functioning battery or mains powered radio/cassette player. Also, from the 1950s, families' visual entertainment was often provided by colour slides being projected onto a screen. We have a functioning slide projector complete with rotary magazine to highlight this.



Kapiti Coast District Council contractors, Focus Projects Ltd, have been doing a great job fixing the eastern side of our museum. The original totara piles have been subject to ground water for many years and were badly rotted and no longer doing the job. These have now been replaced, and installation of better drainage along both sides of the building is now underway.

We have a new fence and gate and the camellia tree that was by the front door has been removed, so no more flower drop to be swept away.



Museum External Maintenance is well under way

Here, contractor Joel is smoothing the newly laid concrete adjoining the footpath. Since this photo was taken the old rickety picket fence has been replaced.



From the Chairman's Notepad.....

Well, winter is upon us and it makes the objective of keeping our Museum warm and inviting for visitors just that little bit more challenging. But even on cold and wet days we still seem to be a desirable place to visit especially for those with young families.

There has been a lot maintenance activity happening on the eastern side of the old Waikanae Post Office part of our Museum. Kāpiti Coast District Council contractors have cleared out vegetation, replaced rotten tōtara piles as well as the familiar but teetering picket fence at the front. The ground is now being prepared for installation of soak pits on both sides of the building which is expected to direct the storm water away from the building. We are excited to see this work done and look forward to its completion.

Our current inside project is to complete the freeing up of space in the old "Radio Shack" room at the back of the Museum. We successfully applied to Te Papa for a Helping Hands grant which we have put towards the purchase of solid Hydestor shelving to be erected in this room. It will provide much better storage space and conditions for many items from our radio and communications collection.

In the pipeline and with KCDC support is a multifaceted project to improve the Museum's visibility to passers-by and out of towners. More on this in the next newsletter.

The Museum has acquired a digitised copy of 30 glass coloured advertising slides for Kapiti businesses circa 1950's and last seen prior to the "shorts" in the days when people went to the "flicks" (movies!). Next time you drop by the Museum it should be showing in the Greenaway Room as part of the new Home Entertainment display.

Finally, once again I would like to acknowledge all the ongoing support of Committee members and volunteers that enables the Museum to do our bit towards keeping our local heritage alive and accessible.

Neville Queree

The Wellington & Manawatu Railway Company

We have on loan a very good video about the completion and operation of the railway line between these two areas (actually Thorndon and Longburn), with the first complete train journey being in 1886. The work involved took just 4 years and 2 months.

The railway line, its operational assets and most of its staff were taken over by the government in 1908 and integrated into the New Zealand Railways Department.

Visitors to the museum can view this video on a TV screen under our 1886 photo of the rail bridge over the Waikanae River.



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

PRIVATE & GROUP VISITS BY ARRANGEMENT

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Heritage Events

Our museum is taking part again in two special Heritage events.

The first is the Wellington Heritage Weeks, organised from Wellington, for the period 23 October to 5 November. We have agreed to take part, but we will have no new displays in place between now and then, and we will open at our normal times of 1.00 to 4.00 on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Members may be interested in what other museums in the area are promoting—their website wellingtonheritageweek.co.nz will have details in a month or two.

The second event will be promoted by the Discover Kapiti Heritage Group and, like this year, will take place on Wellington Anniversary weekend. In 2024 this will be 19—22 January. This year's event was very successful, due primarily to the 'Clue Hunt'. A similar activity is planned for the 2024 event and will involve all museums and heritage sites on the Kapiti Coast.



**2023 Regional
Community
Awards**
Kapiti Region
Finalist

Kapiti Coast Museum, being part of the Discover Kapiti Heritage Group, shares in this achievement—a **finalist in the annual Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards**. Selection of the winners and runners up will take place at a function on 30th August. The Discover Kapiti Heritage Group's main achievement over the last year was the Wellington Anniversary weekend 'Clue Hunt' promotion, which led a big increase in the number of visitors to the museums on the Kapiti Coast.

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.