

Kapiti Coast MUSEUM

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2023-2024



OUR WINDOWS

As advised in the Spring newsletter, large black and white photos have been applied to some of the museum's windows. The committee is pleased with the results that have been achieved by Speedy Signs Ltd. Although applied to the outside of the windows, they have a protective coating, so they should look good for many years. On the front window the 1908 image of the building with a horse and dray is an evocative photo, but it is somewhat grainy—viewed from the edge of the footpath, it looks great!

In the photo at right you can also see the new sign for the museum— it's similar to our regular logo—more interesting than the plain old one.

Finally, we will shortly have another image in a small window by the radio mast This one will promote some of our exhibits.



Heat Pumps

The museum has had 4 heat pumps in place, one of which was faulty and not used. Due to the work KCDC has had done to our roof the heat pump compressors on the roof had to be removed. They were quite old, so KCDC agreed that new ones were required. We now have 3 nice new Gree units in place with their compressors located under protection at the side of the building. It was decided that the old unit above the safe in the museum was not required. The three new units will be synchronised so that the temperature inside the museum will be equalised as much as possible.

Volunteers and visitors can now look forward to more comfort within the museum.

RCA Radiola 104 - 1925

The Radiola 104 was the first Electro-dynamic cone loudspeaker, developed by General Electric engineers Chester W. Rice and Edward W. Kellogg in 1925.

We have one of these very early radio speakers in storage in the museum. As you can see from the photo, the speaker fabric is torn, but there is a swatch of fabric in the speaker which could be used to replace it. Any volunteers? Please email me, dsskaka27@gmail.com, if you'd like to carry out this repair. This attractive old unit could then go on display.



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.

From the Chair's Notepad

Well, another year ticks over and we have hit the ground running, carrying on with the work streams begun in 2023. Importantly we have signed a new 10 year lease of the old Waikanae Post Office and extension with the Kāpiti Coast District Council. This gives us confidence to carry on with our plans and ideas to improve the presentation of our Museum and quality of displays over the Medium - long term.

It's great to have the new window photos installed and updated signage at the front. We are looking forward to a new heritage notice board being organized by KCDC for the entrance just to the right of the steps. Thanks to Scott Stevenson for his work with Speedy Signs to organize printing and installation. There are more steps involved in getting these things underway than most of us would anticipate.

Talking of a long and winding road, the 3 new heat pumps have finally been installed so we can now look forward to a more welcoming environment when open to the public, particularly during winter months. Combined with the now completed maintenance on the roof, spouting and drains we should now experience less dampness and humidity internally, giving improved storage conditions for our collection.

Some of you will be aware that there are plans to have a mural installed on the west facing grey, concrete wall of the extension building at the rear. We are working with KCDC to bring about a colourful artwork that will hopefully draw attention to the Museum and discourage the graffiti that appears periodically on that wall.

Finally, a word of thanks to Marsha Donaldson who has compiled a comprehensive index of local Kāpiti newspaper items of historical interest covering 1950 – 1994. Look for the links on the Our Collections page of our website – some of you may even find your own name mentioned in the odd article or two!

Neville Queree

Snippets

1. There has been a clear-out of unwanted detritus from the back room (ex Ham Radio room). This has enabled a start to be made on installing new shelving for organised storage of items not currently required for public display.
2. A planned display featuring the Wellington to Manawatu railway is being prepared, but installation is not expected before May 2024.
3. Chairperson Neville has met with a museum consultant and put together a list outlining some things we can focus on to improve the look of, and ease of navigation around, our exhibits. The committee will work to implement much of what is listed, eg., revamp the entry, declutter some displays, label displays better and provide a pathway to circulate among them.
4. After listening to some younger visitors viewing our 'Home Entertainment in the 1900s' exhibit it is apparent that they are not familiar with some items we have not included, such as CD players, cathode ray tube TVs, early computers and early computer games. Any help in providing such items to expand our display would be gratefully received.

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

PRIVATE & GROUP VISITS BY ARRANGEMENT

PHONE: 04 905-6313
ADDRESS: 9 Elizabeth St, Waikanae
WEBSITE: www.kapiticoastmuseum.org.nz
EMAIL: manager@kapiticoastmuseum.org.nz
FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/kapiticoastmuseum
INSTAGRAM: www.instagram.com/museumonkapiticoast/

Discover Kapiti Heritage Event

The Clue Hunt, organised by Allan Carley and the Discover Kapiti Heritage Group, took place on Wellington Anniversary weekend. **20—22 January**. We extended our opening hours to 10.00—4.00 on each day, with volunteers on duty in 3 hour shifts.

This was a very successful 3 days, in terms of visitor numbers. For us, we had the following:

Saturday—68 adults, 36 children = 104
Sunday - 63 adults, 31 children = 94
Monday - 30 adults, 25 children = 56,
giving a total of 253 visitors

(In 2023, when the first Clue Hunt was held, our museum had 134 adults and 62 children (196 in total) for the same event).

The four prizes were won by visitors from Raumati South, Seatoun and Paraparaumu (2)



This event involves all the museums/heritage sites on the Kapiti Coast, including the recently opened 'Kilns at Te Horo'. However, not taking part this year, due to traffic management issues, was Steam Incorporated at Paekakariki.

Here is Amanda and her nephews in Kapiti Coast Museum, looking for the answer to our question, which was 'Where did the wood on the top of our big table come from?' Answer: the floor of the Midland Hotel, Wellington (demolished in 1982).