Kapiti Coast MUSEUM

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2025

CLUE HUNT 2025

Wellington Anniversary Weekend was also Kāpiti Clue Hunt weekend, organised as usual by the Discover Kāpiti Heritage Group to which our Museum belongs. There were 8 heritage sites on the Kapiti Coast taking part. Unfortunately Steam Incorporated at Paekakariki was not able to take part due to the high cost of traffic management there (their popularity 2 years ago when they did take part caused some serious traffic issues).

Our volunteers happily enabled us to be open from 10.00 until 4.00 on the three days of the weekend—it's a pleasure to be there and see up to 80 visitors through in a single day.

Allan Carley, the Chair of DKHG, provided the following assessment of the weekend's success:

Total number of visitors: 2311 (up 8% on 2024)
Clue Hunt entries: 1707 (up 11% on 2024)

Prize winners came from Raumati, Ōtaki, Waikanae and Hastings.

Interestingly, our Museum was the only one visited by all four prize winners.

However, it wasn't surprising, given the brilliantly fine weather over the long weekend, that the Wellington Tramway Museum at Paekakariki had the largest number of visitors, who made the most of the tram rides, blue skies and calm seas on offer.

Pictured are 3 visitors from Otaki in our museum. After us, they were heading south to visit more museums.

From the Chair's Notepad – Summer 2025

Greetings to all members of the Kāpiti Coast Museum. The holiday season is coming to an end for another year, but summer lingers on. I hope everyone managed a relaxing break and caught up with friends and family as the annual opportunity presented itself.

Firstly, if you didn't get around to reading the minutes of November's AGM, I am pleased to advise that there was only one change in the make-up of your 8-member Committee with Dee Halliday joining and Scott Stevenson leaving after a long period of dedicated service. If you would like to find out who is on the Committee this year and what is happening (or not!) please note there is a copy of Committee Meeting minutes in a folder on the desk at Reception for the convenience of Museum volunteers and other members only.

Those members who have visited the Museum recently will have noticed several new and refreshed displays finalised since the Spring Newsletter. The Port Family display now features a new, dedicated display cabinet and large, colourful, printed storyboards. They relate the challenges of emigration and settling in a new country half a world away from their Irish homeland.

The big storyboard featuring a montage of photos of the Wellington Manawatu Railway bridge over the Waikanae River and surrounding landscape is now in place and receiving many favourable comments from old and new visitors alike (photo, next page).

The dolls in the Museum's collection and on display or in the school classroom area have received a "Repair Shop" makeover and now look very smart. We thank all those volunteers who have undertaken these projects which have certainly supported the Museum's efforts to update displays and improve our story telling for visitors.

Our website development led by Committee member Dee continues apace but as always with these things the amount of work involved is magnified the further one proceeds. But progress is being made, and we hope you will be pleased with the eventual outcome.

As mentioned in the Stop Press in the last newsletter, we were successful in being granted funds from KCDC's Museum and Heritage Development Fund. The work being supported by this money will be undertaken over the next 2-3 years, but it is planned that the biggest project involved will be commenced in the next month or two subject to availability of the contractor. This project involves a major revamp of the rear extension building that we know as the Greenaway Room. It is planned to install a suspended ceiling, enclose the loft stairs and rearrange shelving and display cabinets so that we can increase the volume of our collection items on display and improve the visitor experience overall. Clearly, this will involve a significant rearrangement of items stored in the area and may require use of temporary external storage to free up space to allow the work to proceed. Temporary closure of the Greenaway Room for public access for several weeks is also envisaged. We will keep you up to date as the project proceeds.

Finally, if you are enjoying being a member of or volunteering for our Kāpiti Coast Museum don't forget to encourage friends, relations, neighbours and any interested party that you come across to become a member or volunteer and join the team.

Neville Queree
Chair

Christmas Time! Yes, our chairman ensured that we brought a little festive cheer into the museum. Here's volunteer Joan 'dressing' the tree.

The Waikanae River Bridges

As mentioned in the Spring Newsletter, our big poster bringing together our photos of the river crossing covering 138 years of progress have now been brought together in this impressive montage. You need to see the real thing in the museum to appreciate it properly—it's very big!

The Waikanae Railway Crossing, 1905

This view shows Reikorangi Road (later, Elizabeth St) leading up to the railway crossing. On the other side is the store of Ernest Brown (the Browns were prominent families in the area in the early 1900s).

This postcard is just one of many photographs in the museum's collection, which are available for visitors to browse.

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

PRIVATE & GROUP VISITS BY ARRANGEMENT

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FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/kapiticoastmuseum
INSTAGRAM: www.instagram.com/museumonkapiticoast/

Metlife Care Residents Visit Us

The museum hosted visitors from Metlife Care Kapiti on Thursday February 12.

Scott and Joan Stevenson were on hand to receive them and give them some insight into the establishment of the museum and our local history.

The group, including centenarian Russell, appeared to really enjoy hearing about and seeing what we have on display.

Their carer Bronwyn Romain and her helper Bruce provided a nice afternoon tea and did a wonderful job in getting the four men and one lady out of the especially-equipped vehicle, into the museum via the back door and up the internal ramp.

The photo shows 100-year-old Russell, reminiscing about the old telephone systems.

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.