Kapiti Coast MUSEUM

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2022

OUR GREENAWAY ROOM

The back room of our museum has always been a bit of an eyesore, unless you were really interested in old electronic equipment—we had racks of it. Over the last few months the committee has determined what the museum should retain and what could be passed on to other interested parties. As well, through the efforts of Neville Queree, the concrete floor and a wall have been repainted.

An enthusiast telecommunications man, Brent Bevan, has now done a great job in putting up new doors on some newish shelving and, in front of them, he has created a wonderful display, which we plan to keep in place until February 2023. This display is of military communications equipment which has been in the museum's collection for many years. There are two parts to it: the wireless operator's position in a WW II Lancaster Bomber, and a diorama of soldiers on a Pacific Island with portable communications equipment. The display was in place just before ANZAC weekend, and proved very popular—around 70 people visited over the 3 days (we especially opened on ANZAC Day)

We encourage you to visit the museum to see this display. There is also information about Frank Greenaway. A generous bequest from him after his death in 1986 enabled the Greenaway Room to be added to the back of the museum. Frank was awarded the MBE (Member of the British Empire) for his exploits flying for the RAF in WW II, which you can read about in the Greenaway Room.

< Committee member Scott Stevenson, wearing his dad's medals on ANZAC Day

More on the Greenaway Room Display

The photo below shows part of the Pacific Islands diorama in the Greenaway Room. The unit on the left is a portable (albeit quite heavy!) telephone exchange. Operations centred on and around the Solomon Islands, combining forces from USA, Australia and New Zealand, were successful in stemming the drive of the Japanese further into the South Pacific.

TWIN LENS REFLEX CAMERAS

These two cameras were recently retrieved from storage and will now be added to our Camera Display. The Rolleiflex was favoured by news photographers back in the 1930s, and it is the type of camera used by Ans Westra, CNZM, famous for her depiction of life in New Zealand, especially Maori life.

Rolleiflex 2.8C Model K7C

80mm F2.8 Planar Lens Shutter speeds to 1/500th second Uses 120 roll film (contact print = 2 1/4" square)
This example, circa 1954
Rolleiflex is a series of medium format 120 roll film cameras manufactured by Franke & Heidecke, in Braunschweig, Lower Saxony, Germany. The first versions of this camera were manufactured in 1927.

Voigtlander Brillant

75mm F4.5 Voigtar Lens
Shutter speeds to 1/175th second
Accessory compartment on the side
Uses 120 roll film
This example, circa 1948

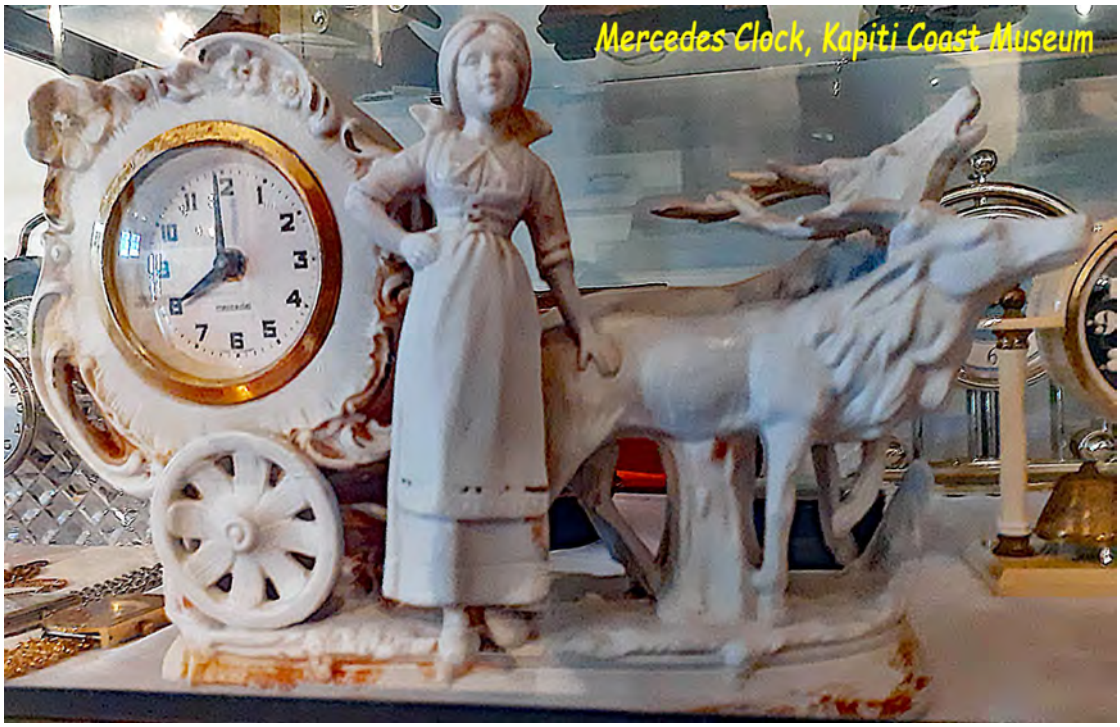
Voigtländer was founded in Vienna, in 1756, by Johann Christoph Voigtländer. Voigtländer produced mathematical instruments, precision mechanical products, optical instruments, including optical measuring instruments and opera glasses, and is the oldest name in cameras
From 1839, the year when the invention of photography was being published, came objective optics and from 1840 complete cameras for photography.

The Mercedes Clock

In our museum we have 2 clocks with the brand name ‘Mercedes’. I’ve been on to the internet and found that they were made by a German company, probably in the 1950s to 1970s, but there was no link to the Mercedes-Benz car company. I wonder how the makers were able to get away with this? (According to the Interweb, on 23 June 1902, DMG (one half of the company that became Mercedes-Benz in 1926) applied to have the name "Mércèdes" registered as a trademark, the brand becoming protected by law on 26 September of that year).

Here’s some information from the web site *antiquevintageclock.com:*

Mercedes makes a great car. Do they make clocks? No! Is this Mercedes novelty timepiece a great clock? It is a time-only alarm clock movement made by Gebrüder Hauser and marketed under several names, one of which is Mercedes. Ceramic clocks on eBay or any other auction sites will reveal the Mercedes name as well as other retail names on similar-looking clocks. But are they worth anything? Not a lot. The Gebrüder Hauser clock factory was founded in 1923 by Otto and Josef Hauser in Weigheim, Germany. Josef Hauser resigned in 1926 and moved on to form his own company. The company name Gebrüder Hauser then received an additional owner, Otto Hauser. Aside from alarm clocks, clocks with pendulums and chess clocks were produced.
*(A **chess clock** consists of two adjacent clocks with buttons to stop one clock while starting the other, so that the two clocks never run simultaneously. Chess clocks are used in chess and other two-player games where the players move in turn, and in some legal settings where each side is allotted a specific amount of time for arguments).*



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

NB—while life in NZ is disrupted by Govt restrictions as we deal with Covid-19 our opening hours will be restricted. **Currently we are closed on Fridays**. Check our web-site for the latest information. Masks must be worn if over the age of 12 (unless an exemption is applicable).

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/

Committee Member's Selection

We have a new cabinet near the Reception counter in which the committee plans to have an eclectic display of items chosen by a committee member or two. The photo below shows the current selection of items, most off which would have been commonplace a few decades ago. We expect this display to be changed every two or three months.

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.