Kapiti Coast MUSEUM

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2023

OUR WINDOWS

The museum committee is working with a sign writing company so that we can place some old photographs in some of the museum's windows on a (hopefully) permanent basis. A selection of images has been made and these will soon appear on the windows (one at the front, 3 on the side, 2 of which are double-paned, so 6 photos will be used). One of the photos is of the old Port home in Te Maku Grove, Waikanae—see below.

As you may know, the Port family were early settlers in Waikanae and our museum has a good collection of artefacts and photos from them. As mentioned in our Chairman's notes (page 3), Port family memorabilia is currently on loan to Toi Mahara Gallery in Waikanae.

Left:

The Port home, photographed in 1905

Below:

Upstairs at Toi Mahara Gallery—items from the Museum's Port collection on show

Arthur Webley

Recently, our museum had a visit from a father and his 2 teenage sons. They reside in Upper Hutt and had stopped at Relish Cafe for one of their custard squares, when they saw that the museum was open.

While in the museum they spotted a photograph in the kitchen area of a WWI soldier. The father said “that looks like my great great uncle Arthur Webley, who died in WWI”. We located the same photo in the military display section of the museum with details stating it was Arthur Webley, his regiment, age and where he was killed. They commented it was such an amazing coincidence.

The father has since returned to provide us with correcting details about the place of his death, where he is buried, and to show us other memorabilia that the family has, relating to Arthur Webley. As a result of this visit we have updated the details accompanying our photograph. Polygon Wood in West Flanders, where Arthur died, was the location of some fierce battles with the enemy.

Arthur Webley

Rifleman, 1st Battalion, NZ Rifle Brigade, Reinforcements, G Company

Killed in action, Polygon Wood, about 3 miles from Ypres, Belgium,

7 Dec. 1917, aged 28

Before the war he was a farmer in Waikanae

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 the end of the year is fast approaching! Looking back it has been a busy year for the Kapiti Coast Museum as those of you who attended the recent Annual General Meeting on 18 November or read the Chair's Report for 2022/2023 will appreciate.

While we have more plans in the works for 2024 it would be remiss of us not to pause and acknowledge what has been achieved by the Museum's volunteers this year. So I would like to express on behalf of myself and the Committee our sincere appreciation once more and hope we can count on it again next year.

On October 28th the smart, new Toi Mahara Gallery was opened under sunny skies by the Mayor, Janet Holborow, with attendance by a large crowd. On having a chance to investigate the new display areas, I was pleased to come across a familiar display in the middle of the Treasures of Kapiti exhibition upstairs. This exhibition features items on loan from Kapiti Coast Museum's own Port Family collection and runs until April 2024. So do take a chance to view our Museum's taonga beautifully displayed at Toi Mahara.

Finally, may I wish everyone an enjoyable Festive Season and a safe and relaxing holiday however you spend it. And don't forget to come back refreshed and energized for another interesting and fruitful year at our own Kapiti Coast Museum.

Neville Queree

HOME ENTERTAINMENT—HOW IT USED TO BE

If you haven't already been in to the museum and seen our 'Home Entertainment in the 20th Century' display, I urge you to drop by—you'll either enjoy a good old reminiscence if you are 'of an age', or be amazed at how we coped in the olden days!

Philips 'Carnegie Hall' Radiogram

This impressive radiogram is part of our 'Home Entertainment in the 1900s' exhibit. It is a Philips Hi-fidelity Radiogram, model FZ967A, 'Carnegie Hall', and it includes a reel-to-reel tape recorder in the centre cabinet. The tuning window includes station names from throughout New Zealand, eg, 1YA, 4ZB. It dates from about 1957.

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/

Our AGM

Our Annual General Meeting on Saturday the 18th of November was a brisk affair, with no issues arising. There was no change to chairman, secretary, treasurer or members of the committee, but a new member, Judy Edwards, has been nominated and accepted onto the committee. It was agreed that the museum membership fee for the year to 30 September 2024 will remain at $15 per person.

Discover Kapiti Heritage Event

Our museum has taken part in the Wellington Heritage Festival (October 28 to November 5). It was really just 'business as usual' for us, with our recently installed 'Home Entertainment in the 1900s' being our newest display.

The next event, promoted by the Discover Kapiti Heritage Group will take place on Wellington Anniversary weekend. In 2024 this will be **19—22 January**. This year's event was very successful (*see below*), 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 except for Steam Incorporated in Paekakariki—some of their rolling stock will be in the South Island, and traffic management, which is a requirement from NZ Transport, is too expensive (it would be necessary, based on the large number of visitors in January 2023). Work on this event is currently in progress and there will be another clue hunt with the chance to win good prizes donated by local businesses..

WELLINGTON AIRPORT

2023 Regional Community Awards
Kāpiti Region
Finalist

Our museum is part of Discover Kapiti Heritage Group, and the main event for this group over the last year was the very successful Wellington Anniversary Weekend Clue Hunt. DKHG was a finalist in the annual Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards. On the night we were awarded runner-up in the 'Heritage and Environment' section, being pipped at the post by Whareroa Guardians Community Trust. This was a commendable outcome, a fitting reward for the DKHG members who put in a lot of work to ensure the success of the weekend.

The Festive Season

Please note that the museum will be closed from Friday, 22 December until Thursday , 4th January—ie, we re-open on Friday the 5th of January 2024.

The committee trust that you have an enjoyable Christmas and New Year—best wishes to all!.