Kapiti Coast MUSEUM

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2026

The Discover Kapiti Heritage Group Clue Hunt

A summary from Allan Carley, the event co-ordinator, of the Anniversary Weekend event:

"The event attracted a total of 2005 visits to the 9 museums over the 3 days of Wellington Anniversary Weekend. This represents a 7% drop from last year, this being mainly due to Tramways receiving 444 visitors this year compared to 822 in 2025. Southward Car Museum also opted not to participate at all this year.

There were increases in visitors at Otaki Rotunda, Toi Mahara Gallery, Kapiti Coast Museum and the Te Horo Kilns. A very small combined total drop of 40 visitors was experienced at Otaki Heritage Museum, Aviation Museum, Kapiti US Marines and Paekakariki Station Museum. Everyone spoken to thought the Clue Hunt was a great idea and several people said they have done it before and wanted more!

The draw for the four prizes, carried out by Deputy Mayor Martin Halliday, resulted in wins for visitors from Waikanae, Levin, Dunedin and Te Horo.

Of visitors recorded, a total of 43% were locals, 55% from outside of our region (mainly from Wellington, Porirua, Lower and Upper Hutt and Palmerston North) and 2% from overseas (10 people).

When visitors were asked how they knew about the Clue Hunt, Facebook and Community Billboards accounted for 48% and friends and family 26%, so the advertising of the event was successful: in fact there were several reports of people turning up 20 minutes before opening time, wanting to get underway".

Our museum was open on the three days of the anniversary weekend, from 10.00 until 4.00 each day. Our volunteers worked 3 hour shifts. With 2 present on each shift that was 12 periods of duty, so 'hats off' to all those who helped!

	ADULTS	**CHILDREN**	**TOTALS**
Saturday 17th	48	32	80
Sunday 18th	54	41	95
Monday 19th	46	31	77
TOTALS	**148**	**104**	**252**

This table shows how many visitors came through our door each day—great to see many children interested in the Clue Hunt.

More Clue Hunt info, next page

CLUE HUNT 2026

For comparison, here are details for Kapiti Coast Museum for Clue Hunt visitors over the last four years:

YEAR	ADULTS	CHILDREN	TOTALS
2023	134	62	196
2024	161	92	253
2025	146	65	211
2026	148	104	252

Keen visitors:
Above: Olive with her brother and her teddy.

Right: Claire, Simon and baby Kaitlyn

Home Entertainment in the newly revamped Greenaway Room

A view of part of our 'Home Entertainment' display, with items dating from circa 1905 (Edison Cartridge player) to the 1970s (black & white cathode ray tube TV (not visible in this photo)).

Volunteer Karin Anderson did a wonderful job in bringing the trumpet on the Edison player up to an 'as new'' condition.

From the Chair's Notepad – Summer 2026

Greetings to our new members and a Happy New Year and best wishes for the coming year to all members of the Kāpiti Coast Museum. We are now finishing the Chinese Year of the Wood Snake and the Chinese Lunar New Year of the Fire Horse commences on February 17. This coming year is viewed as a year of optimism and opportunity as the Horse is associated with success and good fortune in the oriental world. Let's hope some of that good fortune rubs off on our Museum and its volunteers and members this year!

Before we forget about 2025 altogether, I would like to reflect on the progress the Museum made last year which was not insubstantial. First and foremost, the clearing out and makeover of the Greenaway Room finally got underway. It took longer than anticipated to find new homes for a significant number of collection items that no longer fitted with the Museum's kaupapa of telling the stories of the social history of the Kāpiti Coast. Then, the floor area was mostly cleared to allow the installation of the new ceiling plus a new handrail on the loft stairs to improve safety. This was followed by a fair bit of elbow grease required to clear the dirt, dust, mould etc accumulated over many years to allow painting of the east and south walls. More recently, the carpeting of the floor commenced which enabled the setting up of the new Home Entertainment display in time for the 2026 Clue Hunt. The aim is to carry on the development of the Greenaway Room so that it becomes a flexible display space in line with our intention to adopt a "less is more" approach to new display development.

I sincerely thank all the volunteers who have contributed their time and effort to clean and maintain the Museum and who bring new display ideas to fruition and create new research resources. You should all take credit for the progress being made.

Last newsletter I touched on the subject of health and safety and during 2026 we hope to have some focus on this important area. We treasure our volunteers and want to ensure not only that they enjoy volunteering but also make sure that we are doing our best to provide a safe environment for them to contribute and work in.

Wellington Anniversary Weekend saw the return of the popular Kāpiti District Clue Hunt organised by the Discover Kāpiti Heritage Group in which our Museum is an active participant. Blessed with 3 days of fine if somewhat windy weather at times plus longer opening hours it would be fair to say this was our most successful Clue Hunt to date. (More about Clue Hunt elsewhere in this Newsletter).

Finally, don't forget if you have an idea or two about how we could improve the Kāpiti Coast Museum experience for our visitors please let myself or a Committee Member know.

Best wishes,

Neville Queree
Chair

What's Going on in the Back Room?

Well, we made it! Our new 'Home Entertainment' display was ready for viewing on the Friday afternoon, just in time for the first day of the Clue Hunt weekend. The left side of the room was still not carpeted and had to be used to temporarily store (under cover) items not required at the time.

Now, early in February, the entire Greenaway Room is carpeted. The next mission for the committee and volunteers is to set up a new display in that area.

Using our Manual Telephone Switchboard

Clue Hunt Visitors familiarise themselves with the time when making a phone call involved calling an operator to connect you to the desired person.

1. Daughter called the telephone exchange to be connected to her mother
2. Her sister on the switch board connected the call
3. Mother gives her daughter a list of groceries to buy

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/

More on the Clue Hunt

The Clue Hunt asks visitors to answer a question in each museum if they wish to enter the draw for the four prizes. Our museum asked the question 'How many bellows are there in the kitchen area?' (Some young folk had to see a photo of a bellows to know what to look for). The answer was 3 (see photo) .

I was recently in Havelock, Marlborough and visited their impressive little museum. They have a bellows on display—with a little more puff than our examples! It was used many years ago in a forge.

New Members Welcome!

Our members and volunteers are the lifeblood of our Museum. Members mostly start their Museum experience when they visit us and decide to sign up on the spot or are introduced by an existing member. For a voluntary society such as ours the more members the better. Membership can lead to an active contribution such as joining the duty roster or helping with display set up.

All current members are asked to encourage family, friends, acquaintances or even strangers (!) to sign up or just come for a visit to measure interest. Duty volunteers can suggest that visitors sign the Comments book and if the feedback is positive make sure they walk away with a membership application form in their hands.