Kapiti Coast MUSEUM

# WINTER NEWSLETTER 2026

## Our Search & Rescue Transceiver

The museum had a group of visitors on Saturday, 8th of August who came with a mission. They were Anne Rowe (nee Morganti) and her sister Catherine Morganti (up from Christchurch), Philippa Dowling (the sisters' aunt) and Ella Borich (friend of Catherine's son).

Catherine had been searching online for any reference to a Search & Rescue transceiver that her father Louis Robert Morganti had designed. She was very pleased to see that our museum actually had one in our collection—it had been donated by Don Jeffs who was a search leader in the Land Search and Rescue team. He was chief guide for Wellington Tramping and Mountaineering Club for three years. Initially all the equipment they had was a ZC1 radio transmitter which was very heavy and only used as a base station operated by car batteries. This transceiver was much more useful in contacting base when parties were on a mission in remote, mountainous country.

Our transceiver is currently not on display, but I was able to locate in our safe. The pack includes a battery box (sans battery now of course), a microphone and aerial wires. The ladies were delighted to see it, as you can tell from the photo (from the left, Anne, Philippa, Catherine and Ella).

We suggested to the ladies that they might like to visit Don Jeffs at Waikanae Beach. This they did, but unfortunately he was not at home.

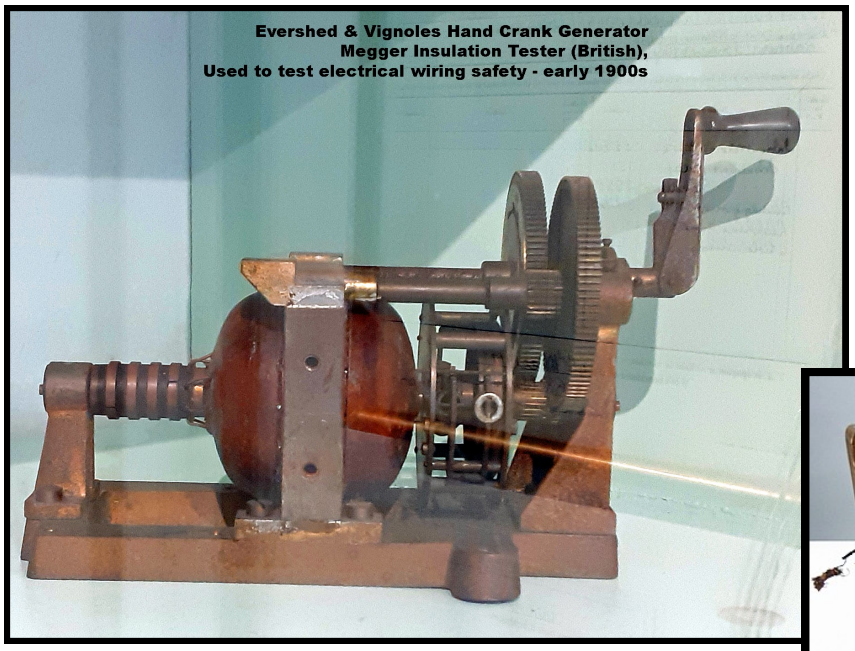
The transceiver is catalogued as 2022.373.001.

# An Unidentified Object

We've had  a strange-looking item sharing  a display cabinet with a range of telephones for some time. It had gone pretty-much unnoticed until a museum visitor asked a volunteer what it was.

On the day, it was not possible to work out what it was for, but of course Google had the answer. It turns out that it is an Evershed & Vignoles 'Megger' hand-cranked generator. Evershed & Vignoles manufactured various items of electrical equipment, including the 'Megger' range of electrical testing apparatus.

In 1889 Sydney Evershed invented the 'Megger' insulation tester and made possible the safe installation and working of electrical distribution systems. He applied for several patents for various electric devices. One of them was for a "hand dynamo",[1] which allowed the generation of voltages high enough to measure resistance in the megohm range and facilitated the construction of the first portable insulation tester. The Megaohm Meter was then named the Megger, and the word became a trademark name, registered on 25 May 1903. The invention became a popular method of insulation testing and, by the 1920s, it was in regular use by electrical engineers.




Our Megger generator (photographed through the Perspex panel covering it and some of the telephone collection) dates from around 1910 and would originally have been in a wooden case, as in the second photo, via Google.

## And Now for Something Completely Different -

This group of dolls is in the Children's section of the museum. Children love them.

# From the Chair's Notepad – Winter 2026

.Greetings to all Kāpiti Coast Museum members.

It's time for another update of the comings and goings at our wonderful local museum. First though – given we are still in the middle of winter – I understand it is obligatory to have a grumble about the cold and sometimes wet weather we have been experiencing. From inside the Museum building perspective, it can get jolly cold in winter especially down in the Greenaway Room at the back. Even the Committee has learned to turn the heat pumps on at least a half an hour before the meeting starts.

That said, volunteers have been making good use of the heat pumps and on several occasions, I have dropped into the Museum during opening hours and have been very impressed with how warm and inviting the inside environment was, even on cold and gloomy days. Of course, the sunny disposition of the volunteers on duty helped massively too!

Many of you will know that Committee member Gillies Cornelius is the Museum's Treasurer. Gillies also looks after the membership records so if you are concerned you might miss out on something, please make sure that Gillies has your up to date details such as email address, phone numbers and emergency contact information.

Gillies keeps an eye on the public donations we receive from delighted visitors. He has noted that the cash donations via the koha box on the Reception counter are on the decline. It is thought that this is because people overall are carrying less cash on their person and preferring cashless transactions.

To address this, we have now introduced a Museum specific Giv2- QR code next to the koha box. Giv2 is a QR code-based donation software platform that allows anyone to make an instant and cashless donation to any fundraising group in New Zealand. Anyone with a mobile phone can now set up their donor profile with the Giv2 app and then quickly make a donation within seconds to any New Zealand group with their own Giv2- QR Code. The Giv2- QR Code can be displayed on flyers, posters, websites, Facebook pages etc. so the donor need not be in the Museum to donate. Claiming donation tax rebates is easier because the donor's Giv2 account tracks all your giving and stores it in one place.

Well, that's what the promotors claim! So, we have decided to run a 6-month trial to see if the claimed advantages do eventuate. Of course, the alternative cashless donation process involves the visitor taking a photo of the Museum's bank account details which are also next to the koha box, and donating directly via bank transfer when convenient.

While I am reporting on finance matters, I am pleased to report that we expect to receive our annual operating grant from the Kāpiti Coast District Council shortly. We are very grateful for this support each year and it enables us to pay all the operating expenses that we incur in keeping the Museum open – electricity, heating, phone and internet, cleaning materials etc, etc.

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On a slightly less cheerful note, I must advise that the Council has had to cancel the plan to build a disability access ramp alongside the eastern side of the old Post Office building. We had been looking forward to having this ramp given the difficulty less mobile and disabled visitors have in entering the Museum. We have increasing numbers of elderly visitors from retirement homes and villages who really enjoy their outing to our Museum. I understand the ramp has been a victim of budgetary constraints that affect many public bodies these days. However, we have not given up hope that we will be able to have a disability ramp and given the general support for it, will see what options we may have available to make it happen sooner rather than later.

Next newsletter, I hope to be able to report on some exciting changes that are underfoot and that will enable some exciting new displays.
Roll on Spring!

Best wishes,

***Neville Queree***
***Chair***

***More on the donations via QR Code initiative, from Gillies Cornelius***

## A New Way to Increase Donations from Museum Visitors

With fewer people carrying cash these days, we have noticed a steady decline in the amount of money being placed in the museum's donation box by visitors.

To make donating easier, we have arranged to use the Giv2 donation platform and have placed a QR code below the donation box. Visitors can simply scan the QR code with their phone and, in just three clicks, make a donation to the museum. A tax donation receipt is provided for all donations $5 and over by Giv2 on our behalf.

The platform costs $9.00 plus GST per month. Transaction fees are 4.6% plus 49 cents per donation. For example, on a $10 donation, the museum receives $9.05 after fees.

We will initially trial the programme for six months and then review its effectiveness.

***Kapiti Coast Museum Welcomes New Members!***
***Please encourage family, friends, acquaintances or even strangers (!) to sign up or just come for a visit to measure interest. Let a committee member help via email.***

**MUSEUM HOURS: FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY 12-3PM**
**(opening hours subject to change—check website if in doubt)**

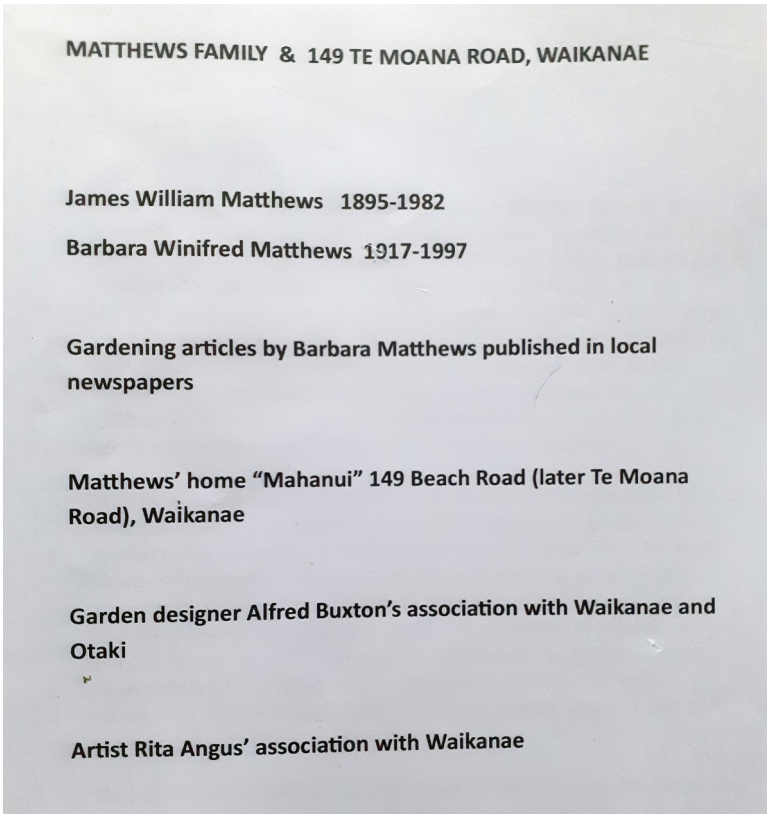
PRIVATE & GROUP VISITS BY ARRANGEMENT

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/

## The Matthews Family of Te Moana Road

A recent item donated to the museum and currently going through the acquisitions process is a document about the Matthews family and their property at 149 Te Moana Road, Waikanae. We are grateful for the work done by member Marsha Donaldson, who has put a lot of time into researching and preparing the information, the main focus being Barbara Matthews (for many years, editor of the NZ Gardener magazine) and her garden, designed by Alfred Buxton.

This document will be available for perusal in our library, which is now located in the Greenaway Room, with more space for sitting and relaxing.



MATTHEWS FAMILY & 149 TE MOANA ROAD, WAIKANAE

James William Matthews 1895-1982

Barbara Winifred Matthews 1917-1997

Gardening articles by Barbara Matthews published in local newspapers

Matthews' home "Mahanui" 149 Beach Road (later Te Moana Road), Waikanae

Garden designer Alfred Buxton's association with Waikanae and Otaki

Artist Rita Angus' association with Waikanae

Above:
List of contents

▲ *Untitled* [Garden at Waikanae], Rita Angus.
COLLECTION OF CHRISTCHURCH ART GALLERY TE PUNA O WAIWHETŪ; LAWRENCE BAINGENT/ROBERT ERWIN BEQUEST, 2003

▲ *Rutu*, 1951, Christchurch, Rita Angus.
PURCHASED 1992 WITH NEW ZEALAND LOTTERY GRANTS BOARD FUNDS. © REPRODUCED COURTESY OF THE ESTATE OF RITA ANGUS. TE PAPA (1992-0025-1)

Left:
Rita Angus art