

HISTORIC PLACES MANAWATU-HOROWHENUA INC

NEWSLETTER SIX, SEPTEMBER 2014

HISTORIC PLACES MANAWATU-HOROWHENUA

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 21 September 2014 at 2pm in the Awhina Room at Caccia Birch House, Caccia Birch Lane, Palmerston North.

The meeting will be preceded by the Annual General Meeting of the Te Manawa Museum Society at 1.30pm.

Speaker: you are invited to hear David Dell as he takes us for

A Fascinating Tiki-Tour through Kiwi Songs of Yesteryear

David is a New Zealand music historian and entertainer from Wellington.

Followed by a stylish afternoon tea.

There will be a charge of \$10 for afternoon tea and related expenses.

*Apologies and RSVPs for catering purposes
To Cushla & Pat Scrivens ph 06 3591308
Or email scrivens@ihug.co.nz*

David Dell is the founder and curator of the Sheet Music Archive of New Zealand. He is bringing his keyboard and microphone so we anticipate an entertaining presentation. David says that he is always looking for music, from New Zealand and overseas, and you are welcome to bring any that you have to discuss with him.

Nicky Birch, the manager of Caccia Birch, informs us that the Awhina Room has had an upgrade. Walls have been removed to give an easier space for meetings and presentations and the room has been redecorated. It is a much more user-friendly space; come and see it!

Membership subscriptions are now due. The membership form is attached to this newsletter. You can pay at the AGM, by cheque or online.

FROM THE CHAIR

It's official. As of May this year, the Heritage NZ Act was finally passed into law, and local branch committees of the Historic Places Trust were formally disestablished. Most committees such as ourselves had already parted company, and this year's Annual General Meeting will be our second as Historic Places Manawatu-Horowhenua Inc. The transition sees us in good order with some 90 members, and a larger than expected financial grant from the Historic Places Trust, now Heritage New Zealand, to help us on our way. The new Act requires Heritage NZ to give all possible assistance to their former committees in the first few years, and we will continue to liaise with this new government organization. May we thank you, our members, for your on-going support over these past two years of transition.

We look forward to seeing you this month at our Annual General Meeting. We will be hosting it again in combination with the Te Manawa Museum Society and our speaker will be David Dell, Curator of the New Zealand Sheet Music Archive. David is dedicated to saving New Zealand-written sheet music as a reflection of our culture, and promises to give a lively performance of some Kiwiana classics. This should be an excellent Sunday afternoon out.

With it just starting to feel like spring at last, our committee has been turning our thoughts to possible activities for summer. At this point we are liaising with the Hawkes Bay Historic Places, on the possibility of visiting a grand homestead and other heritage buildings in the Waipukurau area. I personally am interested in organizing an evening of agricultural films early next year, similar to screenings held recently in Hawkes Bay in heritage woolsheds. What better place to hold such an event than at the Akers woolshed at Opiki where Godfrey Bowen set a world shearing record? We promise to keep you posted through our newsletters and website.

*Cindy Lilburn
Chairwoman*

HISTORIC PLACES MANAWATU-HOROWHENUA COMMITTEE

Chair: Cindy Lilburn, cindy.lilburn@temanawa.co.nz, phone 06 3555000

Secretary: Cushla Scrivens, scrivens@ihug.co.nz, phone 06 3591308,

Treasurer: Bill Bendall.

Committee: Pamela Benson, David Chapple, Bryan Ibell, Don Irvine, John Logan, Pat Scrivens, Margaret Tate, Margaret Tennant.

EVENTS AND NEWS

Visit to Archives NZ

The Palmerston North Heritage Trust is planning another bus trip to Wellington to introduce local historians and others to Archives New Zealand and the National Library. As on previous trips, those on the bus will be split into two groups for the tours, and numbers will be limited. Details and costs are still to be finalised, but the projected date is Thursday 30 October 2014, with the bus likely to be leaving around 8am in the morning.

For further details, or to book a place, please leave your contact details and email with Maria Shiva at the Palmerston North City Library's NZ Pacific section, maria.shiva@pncc.govt.nz.

Local History Week 3-8 November

This is always an interesting week for those with an interest in local history, with talks, films and walks scheduled. We will email you the programme when it comes out.

The Mina McKenzie Lecture will be given by Catherine Knight Wednesday 5 November, 6.30pm for a 7pm start, in the Education Centre, Te Manawa. Title: *Ravaged Beauty: An Environmental History of the Manawatu*.

Research & Archives Digitilisation Station

Research and Archives in the PNCC Library now have a digitilisation station. You can take in your old photographs, slides and negatives, digitilise them and save them on a USB stick or email them to yourself. This is a wonderful free service, very useful for all of us who have deteriorating images filed away. On the NZ Pacific Section, Floor Two.

World War 1 Archives

Among a raft of resources to do with World War 1, Archives New Zealand has recently released over 141,000 World War 1 files. They can be accessed at <http://www.archives.govt.nz/world-war-one>.

Another interesting release is the Official War Art Collection, available at <http://warart.archives.govt.nz/>. Included are images of more than 1,500 artworks, the works of about forty artists, some of them official artists but many of them people whose families have donated their works to the collection. The collection originates in World War One but goes up to the present day.

The official war artists for World War 1 were Nugent Welsh, G E Butler and the English artist Alfred Pearse. Welsh and Butler are well represented in the collection and there are many heart-rending depictions of the war. There are also some very cutting cartoons and a wonderful World War II portrait by Peter McIntyre of Churchill in a siren suit with a cigar in one hand and an umbrella in the other. The site is well worth browsing through.

Manawatu Journal of History

Have you seen Issue Ten? If so, you may be walking down George Street looking for evidence of the picture theatres that were there, or looking at the Feilding Clocktower in a new light.

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Massey becoming a university, the journal has also published a Massey Issue which gathers together the articles that Lucy Marsden has written about Massey over the last ten years. An excellent present for Massey grads and ex staff members.

Both available from some booksellers and manawatujournalssales@inspire.net.nz

AWAPUNI MEDICAL MEMORIAL RESTORATION PROJECT



The memorial at present

New Zealand's involvement in World War 1 saw a number of large training camps established around the country. One of the largest was at the Awapuni Racecourse. While the Officers and soldiers of a number of corps trained here, this was the only training ground ahead of deployment for the Medical Services.

The Awapuni racecourse hides a little-known memorial to this. Tucked in behind the public stands you can find a tall stone cairn set in a large cross-shaped pool. It commemorates the Medical Corps who trained at the racecourse from 1915 to 1919. The cairn is now almost hidden behind overgrown vegetation and fencing, but bears two plaques in remembrance of the men who served for the Corps. It was unveiled in 1929 by the Governor-General Sir Charles Fergusson.

The Corps worked as stretcher-bearers, hospital orderlies and as medical crew on hospital ships. At any one time there were 350 men in the camp in its three and a half years of operation. After

the armistice it remained open to handle the return of wounded men. Hosting the Corps was possibly Palmerston North's most significant contribution to the First World War effort.

With the centenary of this war, the Army propose to refurbish the Memorial and make it more accessible to the public. Lt Col Darren Beck is chairing a committee consisting of representatives from the RNZAMC, the City Council and the Manawatu Racing Club to revamp the memorial. It is also envisaged that the names of medical personnel who have lost their lives in more recent conflicts will be added.



The plaque on the memorial

Keep an eye open for newspaper reports as the first planned action is a community site clearance on the 15th /16th September to which all are invited – the army will be bringing troops, the spades and wheelbarrows. The army hope to restore the cairn and plant the area so that the memorial will be ready for commemorations on Remembrance Day, 11 November 2015.



Should the Old Police Station be Saved?

The former Police Station in Church Street was completed in 1939 and was registered in 2010 by Heritage New Zealand (then the N.Z Historic Places Trust) as a Category II building. Its future has been the subject of several submissions to the recent hearings on the Palmerston North Proposed Plan Change 13. It was land-banked in 2011 for potential Treaty of Waitangi settlements but the building meets only 11% of the new building code, with an E rating. Because of the likelihood of further restrictive covenants if it were included in the District Plan and because of its poor condition after being empty for 9 years, the property is regarded as undesirable by Treaty claimants. Any future owner would face considerable costs and long delays before it could be sold on the open market.

Does the building then have any heritage value that warrants preservation? In 1939 it was considered a model police station and its plans attracted the attention of the Australian Police. However 65 years later it no longer met modern requirements and it was vacated in 2005. It is also notable for its early use of reinforced concrete and prefabricated metal joinery. The use of reinforced concrete in New Zealand was given impetus by the Napier Earthquake of 1931 and unreinforced masonry was banned under the new 1935 design code but in this respect also it now no longer meets modern requirements. The building has moreover been considerably modified though a number of original internal walls and some original joinery have been retained.

There is probably a stronger argument for the retention of the facade. The building was designed by the office of the Government Architect under the leadership of John Thomas Mair who strongly promoted modernist architecture. The design of the facade is termed Stripped Classical and is characterised by the restrained use of classical elements such as columns and pediments. Notable features are the recessed windows set in an Art Deco design, the distinctive hand-modelled Royal Coat of Arms and the kowhaiwhai parapet design. The use of Maori design elements was rare for public buildings at that time though is also a feature of the Geoffrey Peren Building (Old Main Building) at Massey University.

If you would like more detailed information see the *Manawatu Standard*, August 22, p.3, visit the Historic Places Manawatu-Horowhenua website under *Find A Place* or contact Matthew Mackay, PNCC Planner.

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MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions and renewals for 2014/15 are due. We value your membership and look forward to further communication with you.

To become a member or to re-register, please return this form to PO Box 732 Palmerston North.

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Individual membership	\$10	_____
Family membership	\$15	_____
Organisation/Corporate	\$30	_____
Donation		_____
TOTAL		_____

Historic Places Manawatu-Horowhenua is registered with the Charities Commission.

Deposit: Taranaki Savings Bank: TSB 15-3977-0028377-00 (Your name as reference)

Or cheque payable to Historic Places Manawatu-Horowhenua Inc.

THANK YOU!