

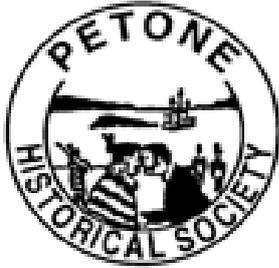


# PETONE HISTORICAL SOCIETY inc.

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## Chronicle June 2016



### 2016 Committee

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Stop Out Football Club Hutt Park



Greetings all. We recently held our A.G.M. which was well attended. Our guest speaker Jenny Sands spoke of a collaborative Islington Borough Council and the success it had achieved alongside a huge scale urban re-development.

We welcome new Committee members Cathie Dickson, who will assist her mother Ruth with the treasurer work and Beryl Harris; a long time society member who lives in Upper Hutt but is a Petone girl from way back attending both Petone West and H.V.M.C ( Petone Tech). Both are welcome additions.

Our very successful publications "Discover Petone" and "Sun, Sand and Sweat" have sold extremely well and are both undergoing re-print. Anyone wanting copies of either of these please email [petonehistories@gmail.com](mailto:petonehistories@gmail.com).

**Settlers Museum.** This is to be reopened after its \$250,000 refurbishment, on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This will house new exhibitions, has had huge windows put in the southerly wall and visitors will have the opportunity of climbing in to the prow of the boat to experience life on the long voyage to Aotearoa. The original southern facing door leaked badly in a storm and some of the exhibits were affected, this re-instated feature will certainly provide a great view of the harbour.

**Petone the Cradle of Champions.** I have been writing a book on the development of the various sporting clubs in Petone and I am at the stage of finding photographs for some of the sports clubs early beginnings. If anyone has a home photo of any of these clubs I would be most grateful if I could scan it for my book. Railway Softball Club; the Old Petone Rugby gym in Tory Street; Marching girls on Petone Recreation Ground, Archery on the old Petone College ground, the Somes Island Swim, Athletics prior to 1972 on the recreation ground. A boxing club in Petone; or any other early club in Petone would help me greatly. Ross de Rouffinac has photographed all the existing sports grounds and clubs for me and they make a great show but I would like to contrast them with earlier photos if available. I hope to have the book completed before Christmas. We have a great sporting history in Petone with at least 25 different clubs operating and their beginnings show why we are really the Cradle of Champions. I am also including Hutt Park as it was administered by a joint committee from Petone Council; Lower Hutt Council and Eastbourne Council prior to amalgamation in 1989. Send to Roy Hewson 5686449 or to [roy.hewson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:roy.hewson@xtra.co.nz) if you have a scanned copy.

**Petone Railway ANZAC parade** at the Flagpole by the railway station evidently proved to be a great success. Unfortunately I had family visitors and could not attend. I would like to congratulate Gerald Davidson, one of our members for the great work he and the railway committee put in to organising the event. While there was a service in Wairarapa was the first, (by four hours) in New Zealand, Petone was the second and the first public service at 3p.m. on April 25 1916. It shared its history with Hornsby railway in N.S.W. and the two swapped flags. Both flagpoles were half Australian hardwood and half NZ kauri. The railways had a large number of their employees joining the forces in WW1. I understand that the NZ Railways had the most employees in New Zealand.

.LOWER HUTT HISTORICAL SOCIETY will be holding their next meeting on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June in St Mark's Church Woburn Road starting at 7.30 p.m. Their speaker for the evening will be Des Schollum who will present part of his magnificent collection of framed photographs, stories and signatures of famous people ranging from Queen Elizabeth 1 to Karl Marx and many other famous people. Des is a great story teller, You will enjoy his presentation if you make the effort to go. It is very different to normal. Cost \$2 for supper and hall hire.

**NEXT General Meeting** of Petone H.S. and Lower Hutt H.S. is to be held in Petone on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July starting at 7.30. The speaker will be David Watt (still to be confirmed) from the Historical Places Trust Gold Coin donation Bring your friends.

There has been a positive response to the quiz.

#### Answers to the quiz set last bulletin

1. Where did Wilford School get its name from? ***Sir Thomas Wilford the first MP of the new Hutt Electorate in 1903.***
2. What was the name of the ice cream factory in Peel Street? ***Artic (not Arctic) started by Mr Waddington.***
3. Where did the name STOP OUT, as in the Stop Out Football Club, come from? ***In the early 1900's the Wellington City Missioner was concerned about the number young boys roaming Te Aro area at night. They were give the name "Stop Outs". The Missioner started a sports club for these boys in 1919 and called it STOP OUT Club. Football Cricket and other sports were played. Dick Dunn the well respected boxing coach brought the STOPOUT club to Moera about 1927 and various sports from boxing to football and basketball and cricket were formed. Most have lasted under other names but the STOP OUT football club has thrived on Hutt Park.***
4. Who sold council the land where Petone Recreation Ground is? ***Mr Buick, one of the early settlers.***
5. Hutt Park was originally a swamp - True or False? ***True. It was raised about 2 metres by the 1855 earthquake.***
6. Why was the Hutt Park railway spur line built? ***To take patrons to the Hutt Park Races and serve the Gear co.***
7. When was the Pipe Bridge built and why was it called Pipe Bridge? ***1909 .It carried the water pipes to Wellington from Wainuiomata.***
8. Where was the first Petone Fire station built? ***Sydney Street.***
9. Why was the building on the corner of Nelson Street, ie the Drill Hall, built? ***It was built by the Naval Voluntary Reserve to train in. This was in case of a Russian Fleet invasion which was a rumour of the time. It was not long, about 20 odd years) after the Crimean War which was never really resolved.***
10. Who was the first Mayor of Petone? ***Mr Johnson, not Mr Jackson as shown in the Petone history book.***

If you got them all correct you earn a blue star!!

Now Try These..

1. Where was the first school in Petone in 1882?
2. When did Petone become a borough?
3. When was Britannia House established as a Home for the Elderly?

4. Approximately how much land was raised during the 1855 earthquake What was the first car factory built in Petone in 1926? A bonus point if you can name the car factory that was built at 35 Jackson Street in 1932. It only lasted one year because of the depression.
5. When did George Gee become Mayor of Petone? What was notable about that?
6. Who was our second Member of Parliament for Hutt after Sir Thomas Wilford?
7. Where was the gas works built in Petone?
8. What was the name of the lady from Buick Street, who was called the "Fireworks Lady" throughout New Zealand because of her campaign against fireworks?
9. When was the courthouse built in Petone?

Our story about Petone this issue is a copy of an article telling us what Petone was like in 1884. You can learn a lot by reading it.

## **PETONE PAST AND PRESENT**

(By our special reporter) *Evening Post 6 March 1884.*

Everybody knows that what has since grown to be the thriving township of Petone was the site originally selected by our Pilgrim Fathers forty-four years ago upon which to plant a settlement in New Zealand. For various reasons the site was abandoned soon after arrival of the pioneer settlers in favour of the spot now occupied by the City of Wellington seven miles distant. It was not till recent years that jilted Petone completely recovered from the slight passed upon it and made a determined and distinctive move in the march of progress. Consisting originally of a few houses widely scattered over a swampy district, the settlement has since attained the dimensions of a colonial township, governed by a Town District Board, now in its second year of its existence. Indeed the progress since achieved by the district appears quite remarkable. Some ideas of its rapid strides may be gathered from the fact that during the past year as many as forty new buildings, comprising a church and private residences of a substantial and, in many instances, exceedingly handsome character, have risen from the ground, and signs of building are still apparent in different parts of the township. The total number of houses at present is about 200, and the population is about 500. Jackson Street is the principle thoroughfare, and off this highway, which runs east and west, and is well metalled, though the sideways require to be cleared of gorse, are Victoria Street, Sydney Street, Nelson Street, Britannia Street and Richmond Street. Udy Street is another important thoroughfare, while the Esplanade, which in years to come will probably form a splendid promenade, runs along the beach from Korokoro Stream to the opposite end of the township. Most of the streets have been metalled, and a contract for metalling of 28 chains on White's Line has just been commenced. It is now proposed further to improve the streets by the removal of growing gorse and rushes and the clearing of rubbish from the drains. Recognising the pressing necessity of an effective system of drainage, the Town Board is devoting special attention to this work, and traders have recently been invited for the construction of a drain which is calculated to carry off the whole of the surface water from the eastern portion of the township, and is a work the necessity for which has been greatly felt in the past. The time for receiving those tenders closes on the 11<sup>th</sup> inst., and the proposed drain will be about 50 chains in length running from the junction of Udy Street, through Britannia and Beach Streets and out to sea for a distance of 17 or 18 chains, a 12 inch pipes will be used, while a few more chains will consist of boxing and the remainder will be open. There are two places of worship in the township the English Church, where the services are conducted by Mr Ashcroft, manager of the Wellington railways, who resides in a large house adjoining the Government railway workshops, and a Wesleyan Church just completed which is capable of accommodating a large number of worshippers, and in which services are held by Mr Garlick. The Marine Retreat, kept by Mr Nathaniel Valentine, is a handsome and commodious hotel facing the sea on the Hutt Road and there are a few shops in the locality. Viz. General stores kept by Mr Johnson (where the Post Office is also conducted) and Mr. A. Moss and two bootmakers' shops carried on by Mr Trueman and Mr W. Morris. The Petone Institute is described as being in a flourishing condition A large new public school also adorns the neighbourhood. Mr. George Carter, contractor, is about building a Town Hall in Jackson Street and when finished

the hall will be used for the meetings of the Board, public meetings and other purposes. The Town Board consist of seven members, viz., Messrs. H, Udy; D.Buick, J.S.Manning; W.G.Kirk, Haines, Brown and Collett, and Mr Thomas Gibson fills the post of Town Clerk, whose duties of course, become more and more onerous with the growth of the district. Slaughtering fees form the principal revenue of the Board, these amounting to £250 or £300 per annum. The rates bring up the total income to about £500. The Petone Licensing Committee has just been constituted and the first quarterly meeting was held today. The Petone Institute is described as being in a flourishing condition and there is a lodge of Odd Fellows established in the neighbourhood. Already several industries have been set on foot. Of these the chief is carried on by the Gear Meat, Preserving and Refrigerating Company. These works are deserving more than a passing notice and a description of them is reserved for another occasion. The Government workshops, perhaps, can scarcely be termed a "local industry", but they nevertheless constitute a very important factor in forwarding the prosperity of the town and afford employment for many hands. Extensive improvements have lately been made to the workshops, including the erection of a blacksmith's shop and the works at present appear to be in a state of unusual activity. Mr. P.Brown is the proprietor of a rope walk situated between Nelson and Richmond Streets and here several hands are kept constantly employed. The Petone Brewery, situated on the Hutt Road is conducted by Mr. C. Edwards, who arrived from the old country four years ago. Here four workmen are employed, and six brews are turned out every month. The brewery appears to be supplied in a complete manner with mechanical contrivances for the successful carrying on of the business. A new patent corking-machine, bottle washer, a refrigerator and washing machine are worthy of special mention. Both ale and stout are brewed on the premises, and Dr Hector, reporting on a sample of stout, described is as a "sound, well flavoured and ripened sample," with a good head and "unadulterated in any way." Just off the Hutt Road, and on the banks of the Korokoro Stream, is a large flourmill carried on by Mr Woollend. A proposal has been made to convert the property into a factory for the Wellington Woollen Manufacturing Company, for which purpose the owners contend that it is eminently adapted, it being situated close to the railway, surrounded by an ample area of level ground, commanding a large body of water, and within a reasonable distance of the city. The lease of the property has it is understood, still ten years to run, and the owners, who are Maoris, have met together within the past few days and are stated to be willing to come to terms with the Woollen Company, should the lessees prove agreeable to forgo upon being adequately recompensed, the remainder of his lease. This matter however, has not advanced beyond the preliminary stage, and, as is well known the Woollen Company have a large variety of sites offered for selection. With a few industries of this class and magnitude established in the vicinity, Petone ought to have a very prosperous future before it.

(According to this account the Percy Flour Mill at Korokoro was being worked in 1884)

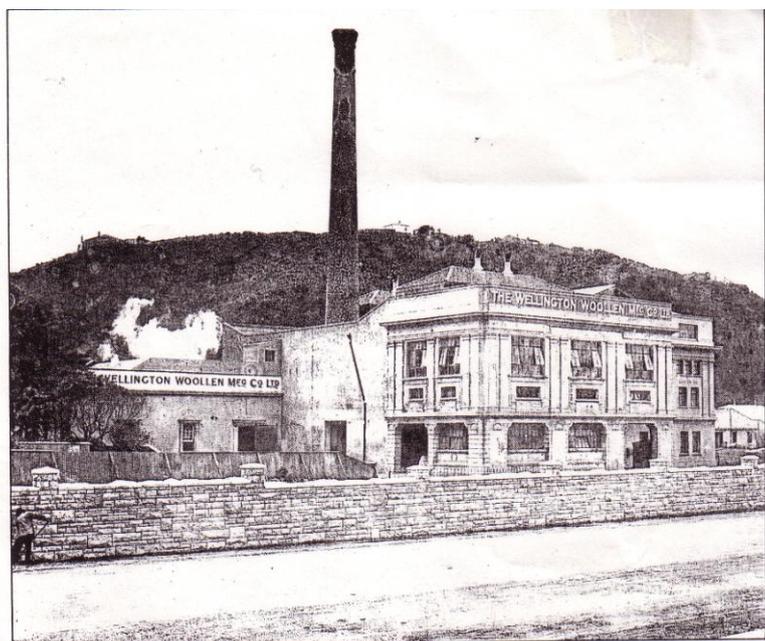


Photo of the Petone Woollen Mill (correct name is the Wellington Woollen Mill. Please note the fence which still exists. This built out of the left over marble from building the Parliament buildings (or the Government House) I do not remember clearly which one. The building is only the front of a larger building that went far back into the valley. The mill needed a huge water supply and got this from their own dam on Korokoro Stream The mill had a major strike in 1990. The women demanding better pay and conditions. It lasted about 5 months.

