



# Preservation Post

## Newsletter of the Christ Church Preservation Society (Inc.)

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## **“Looking to the future to preserve our past”** **Christ Church Taita**

### **Annual Service – Sunday 14 May**

Members of the Hooper family, together with other early settler descendants gathered for our annual service on 14 May. Greg Hooper (who has been a member of the CCPS since he was a young boy), spoke about the formation of the Preservation Society under the chairmanship of Sir Wilfrid Sim QC. His father, George Hooper and Mona Ronning were among Christ Church’s most valiant defenders in the fight to keep the church on its present site – Mona cycling around the Hutt Valley distributing leaflets urging the public to support the retaining of the church. Our President, Rev John Daysh, used St George as the theme for the service, including draping the altar with the Cross of St George flag



**Greg Hooper and granddaughter  
Sienna**

## Annual General Meeting

The current committee were elected unopposed at the AGM held on 3 May.

**President:** Rev John Daysh

**Treasurer:** John Stevens

**Secretary:** Janice Henson

**Committee:** Mary Stevens, Ian McCulloch, Greg Hooper, Chris Pynenburg, Bruce Hutton, Elsa Kelly, Wendy Routley.

This small team works extremely hard to keep Christ Church in good order and condition. Thank you all.

## Cushions

We now have a good number of tapestries ready to be made into cushions. While making enquiries for quotes to have the cushions professionally made, Mary Stevens met Lynne Cole, a director of The Workroom Ltd Petone. Lynne has family (Lucy and Selwyn Cole) buried in the graveyard; so while The Workroom was not able to do the work, she has kindly arranged for Nancy's Stitch Studio to undertake the work as a gift to the church. We are delighted and happy to make another connection to the family of Christ Church Taita – thank you Lynne

## Plates on Altar

The three brass plates on the altar, used for the offertory have an inscription on them: "**Henry George Brooks, died 10 December 1948**". Does anyone know the background of these?

## Gardens

Mary and John Stevens have been busy out in the garden recently. They met with Gwyneth and John Scott and planted four camellias – 'Mansize', 'Debbie', 'Festival of Lights' and 'Nicky' in memory of Gwyneth's parents James and Dorothy Hansen, interred in our Ashes Wall. James and Dorothy

were Patrons of the Kapiti Coast Camellia Club and James a past President of the National Camellia Society. A very fitting tribute indeed.

They also planted two kauri trees donated by committee member Bruce Hutton as well as the last five heritage roses donated by Elizabeth Bargh. These are all climbers and have been planted on the fence around the new paved area by the utility block.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Harris Reunion Committee we will be laying new pea metal on the path as well as compost on the gardens and some coarse metal on the older graves.

We are also engaging an arborist to professionally dead wood, thin and weight reduce the Ash and Oak trees in the front lawn as well as the Silver Birch beside the utility block.

## Proposed Heritage Visitor Centre/Cottage Museum

The Cottage Museum Trust is working hard to secure funds to realise a visitor centre on the land adjacent to Christ Church. Attached to this newsletter is a brochure introducing the Heritage Museum Trust. Donations should be made to the separate bank account set up for the Trust.

## Looking back . . .

**Norman Daysh (grandfather of our current President, John Daysh)**

*The New Zealand dairy industry has changed a lot in the last 100 years, in a large part due to the mechanisation of milking that freed farmers and their families from their milking stools and allowed the exponential growth of cow numbers on each farm.*

*NZ played a major role in the development of milking machines and the journey started on the Wairarapa*

*kitchen table of a Kiwi dairy farmer and inveterate tinkerer, Norman John Daysh, more than 100 years ago.*

*Norman was born in 1882 and grew up hand-milking cows on his grandfather's Taita dairy farm and later his father's Wairarapa farm, near Dyerville, Martinborough. By the age of 18 at the turn of the century, the mechanically minded youngster had built his first mechanical milking apparatus and was selling it to neighbouring farmers.*

*His inventing career went on hold when the Boer War broke out in South Africa and he enlisted with his horse and went off to fight. Fortunately for the dairy industry, he returned home and by 1912, realising the enormous possibilities for mechanised milking across the world, Norman had registered 23 patents for products under his Zealandia brand.*

*Early efforts to liberate farm workers from the 'white whip' (where farm labourers in Sweden had to agree to a special "wife clause", committing their wives to milking the farmers' cows twice a day, 365 days of the year for no payment) had thrown up machines as early as the mid-1800's, but the early methods were painful, unreliable and largely unsuccessful.*

*More than 100 patents were registered in the second half of the 1800s, including one for the Laktator, by Swedish inventor Gustaf de Laval, but the mechanical massaging machine did not milk efficiently and the company failed.*

*The concept Norman worked on was simulating the effect of a suckling calf and he approached it from the viewpoint of the cow – it had to be both comfortable and efficient for the cow to let down her milk effectively.*

*Employing the help of a docile cow called Daisy and his brother-in-law Pringle Davey, Norman eventually solved the problem of uncomfortable*

*pulsation and ineffective teat cups by designing a double-pipeline system with controlled pulsations and developing an india-rubber lining for the teat cup.*

*Norman was said to be the first designer who considered the effect on the cow – maybe because Daisy was in the kitchen with him – bellowing or perhaps making her displeasure known on the kitchen floor when she was uncomfortable.*

*It's a great story of ingenuity – and a source of pride to the Daysh family and the industry that a Kiwi farmer was considered the greatest expert in the mechanical milking of a cow 100 years ago.*

*"It took an actual farmer who knew cows to come up with the concept that was the world's first successful milking machine".*

*Despite setting up the Zealandia Company and marketing the machine, Norman was forced to look further afield to find investment and capital to grow his company. In 1913 he shifted with his young family and 23 patents to the United States where he approached the Swedish De Laval Company, whose cream separator he was familiar with.*

*The company quickly recognised the superiority of his inventions and offered him a design job, working at Poughkeepsie with their engineers over five years to improve and develop his machine.*

*The team built and tested more than 100 prototype machines, resulting in the launch of the De Laval Milker in 1917. Of the first 100 machines sold on sale or return if unsatisfied, not one was returned and the De Laval Milker was sold unaltered for the following 10 years before design enhancements were made.*

*During his time in the US Norman also visited the Swedish head offices of the Alfa De Laval company and was*

*presented with a medallion struck in honour of his milking machine, along with a later 1922 commendation from the Chicago De Laval Travellers Convention, recognising a “man of superior ability and accomplishments, who has a perfect knowledge and understanding of our Milker, largely a product of his own mind” . . . and which “appreciated him for his human attributes and general all-round good-fellowship that has endeared him to all of us who have had the pleasure of meeting him.”\*

*The Daysh family came home from the US in 1918 once world patents had been secured and Norman travelled the country working for De Laval marketing the De Laval Milker.*

*Sadly, he died suddenly at Palmerston North showgrounds aged only 42 after demonstrating the technology.*

## **Bequests for Christ Church Taita**

Including a bequest for The Christ Church Preservation Society is a wonderful way to honour those who have gone before us and to ensure that we can continue to preserve and develop Christ Church.

## **Ashes Wall**

A niche in our Ashes Wall costs just \$750.00 plus GST. Contact Janice Henson, Secretary, for further details.

[Janice-klaw@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Janice-klaw@xtra.co.nz)



## **Email addresses**

If you currently receive this newsletter by 'snail mail', have an email address and would be happy to receive by email to save the Society postage, please email the Secretary at [janice-klaw@xtra.co.nz](mailto:janice-klaw@xtra.co.nz).



## **Weddings**

**22 April**

**Ariane Tejones to Daniel Ah Wong**

**7 July**

**Courtney Boreham to Jarrod Fale**

## **Ashes Interments**

**James (Jim) Anders Hansen**

**Geoffrey William Carter**

*The Society is grateful to Brother International (NZ) Limited for printing this newsletter*

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