



# Keeping in Touch

Newsletter for NZ Federation of Historical Societies

Volume 5 Issue 3 July 2011

[www.nzhistoricalsocieties.org.nz](http://www.nzhistoricalsocieties.org.nz)

## Hockin House, Hamilton, Damaged by Arson

The Waikato Historical Society's base, Hockin House, was damaged by an arson attack in late May. According to the Waikato Times (24 May 2011):

"A back room of the 1893 house, which had been set up as a period kitchen, was gutted and the dining room furniture and a high chair left smouldering. Cutlery was also damaged. The blackened wallpaper curled off the walls and the pungent smell of smoke today hung around the charred remains. The rest of the house was undamaged.

Waikato Historical Society treasurer John Bridgman said the society's older members would be devastated when they arrived to see the damage to the museum.

"My initial reaction was it wasn't too bad – it could have been a lot worse," Mr Bridgman said ... Mr Bridgman said it looked like someone had broken a window ... Waikato Historical Society had recently reinsured the building."

*From the Society's June newsletter::*

"On Monday 23rd May at approximately 10.20pm, one of the 2 windows of the 'old' kitchen at the back of Hockin House was broken and a fire started, causing extensive damage to the kitchen and water and smoke damage in the office. We have a robust security system, the Fire Service were there in minutes and were very professional in every respect. Our Treasurer, John Bridgman, has been appointed as Project Restoration Manager and all is in hand with the Insurance, cleaning etc. Archivist Betty Smith, along with Noeline

Lofthouse, Dorothy Thomas and John Sinclair worked hard, with guidance from the Insurance Assessor, to sort the recoverable items from the un-recoverable. The recoverable are safely stored in the House for the moment.

"Rest assured Hockin House will be back to its original or near-original state as soon as possible. As a No. 2 listed house with the NZ Historic Places Trust there are restoration criteria that will need to be worked through."

### Society webpages on the Federation website

Interested in having a web page on the Federation's site? Contact **Wynne HaySmith** ([cwhaysmith@clear.net.nz](mailto:cwhaysmith@clear.net.nz)) or the Editor for more details.

### SHARE THE MESSAGE

If this issue of *Keeping in Touch* came to your society by **email**, why not forward it to others in your society so they can read it too?

**Do YOU have an important event coming up in the next 12 months (or longer)???**

**Let us know, so we can include YOUR EVENT on the newsletter calendar.**

## Calendar 2011

**29 March – 18 November** Moa "*Evolution, Life & Extinction*" What happen to New Zealand's unique wonder? Come to the Waimate Museum to find out. Tue – Fri 1pm – 4pm, Sunday 1-3pm. 28 Shearman Street, Waimate

**28 August** Auckland Regional Gathering at Avondale

**September-October** Auckland Heritage Festival

**September** Wellington Region Heritage Month. Theme: sport & recreation

Next issue due out October 2011

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*Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the NZ Federation of Historical Societies Inc.*

## Society News & Views

### Epsom & Eden Districts

Cecil Edward Keith Fuller, known to those of us in the Auckland heritage community as Keith (1927-2011) died in June. He was a member of the Epsom & Eden District Society almost from its start in 2000, and was involved in the writing and compilation of the recent history of Epsom book.

I became acquainted with him only a matter of a few years ago, when he was putting together a history of the Three Kings Quarries, and sought my help with land information. We have lost a good friend for Auckland's history, and a dogged researcher. I will miss calling him on the phone, and hearing his greeting "Are you there?" To which I'd answer, "I hope so, Keith. I was, last time I looked." First time I knew he'd died was by reading the Society's newsletter.

My sympathies to his home Society of Epsom & Eden Districts, and to his family. — Lisa Truttman

### Papatoetoe

An email received recently from Jenny Clark:

"We celebrate 150 years next year (since Papatoetoe became an entity in local body terms). We are looking at publishing a children's book incorporating Papatoetoe's history. Do you know of any other historical society that may have done something similar? If so which Society and what are the names of the books

Thanks, Jenny.

Contact Jenny, phone (09) 266-0194,  
email [jennya.clark@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jennya.clark@xtra.co.nz)

### Parnell

From their newsletter, June 2011:

"Planning is underway for our first journal – the first publication with information on the people and places of Parnell since "Stories of Parnell" in 1990. The inaugural issue of the annual Journal will include a range of commissioned articles on aspects of Parnell's heritage, items from the Parnell Heritage archives, and a foreword by the well known writer and literary critic C. K. Stead, a long time Parnell resident.

We are seeking support from members/benefactors/companies or organisations to help underwrite the large design and printing costs to ensure the journal is of a high quality and affordable. If you are able to assist with such a donation contribution (\$500) can you please contact Rendell McIntosh, ph (09) 3020405 or email

[Rendell@parnellheritage.com](mailto:Rendell@parnellheritage.com). In return for such support, recognition will be provided on the back cover (or under anonymous if you wish) and a number of complimentary copies.

Thanks in anticipation of your help in this important project. "

### Postal History Society of NZ

This society, who have a very strong publishing record, recently released a further monograph in a series by retired NZ Post Office and NZ Post Ltd Properties manager Ivan Clulee on Post Office buildings. For most of the 19th century post offices in New Zealand operated as agencies from settlers' homes or stores. Buildings were sometimes shared with customs and the judiciary but outside the cities and larger towns there were few buildings erected by the Post & Telegraph Department for the purpose of transacting postal and telegraph business. With the dawn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century this all changed with a veritable explosion in the establishment and replacement of accommodation owned by the Department.

In two earlier companion works, published by the Society in 2008 and 2009, the author traced the provision of buildings by the New Zealand Post Office in the South Island and lower North Island. In the current work he continues the journey taking the reader on a tour of the cities, suburbs and towns in the old postal districts of Thames, Tauranga, Rotorua and Hamilton stopping to record the buildings constructed by the Post Office. The style of each structure provided is described, together with construction details and the subsequent history of the building. With the corporatisation of New Zealand's postal system in 1987 there was a major sell-off of these properties. Most still exist but many have been relocated, while others are becoming increasingly 'invisible', so it is timely that the details of their history be documented.

The structures range from small, simple timber buildings in towns and rural locations to the multi-storey, brick or reinforced concrete edifices provided in the larger towns and cities.

The text of this A4, vertical format, 84 page work, is accompanied by many half and full plate photographs, and postcards from the early years of the 20th century.

Post-paid copies are available from P.O. Box 77-050, Mt Albert, Auckland 1350 for \$27.

### Silverdale

*From the President's Annual Report, presented in May, 2011:*

"Our biggest event since last year's AGM was the official opening of the old Upper Waiwera School

building last weekend with a display celebrating 100 years since the name of the township was changed from “Wade” to Silverdale”. Robin Grover spent many hours setting up the display with a timeline of photos and information. She also set up an Upper Waiwera display and thanks to Judy McErlich’s networking skills this turned into an Upper Waiwera school reunion with dozens of chattering people happily catching up on their past. Eventually the building will house displays relating to the history of local organisations.”

## Tauranga

*From a media release by NZ Historic Places Trust, date 7 June 2011:*

“A leading supporter of heritage in Tauranga, the late Rosa Lynette Harpham, has provided heritage legacies in her estate through a bequest to the New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT). Mrs Harpham was a member of the NZHPT for nearly 25 years and served on the Bay of Plenty Branch Committee of volunteers for many years.

“The NZ Historic Places Trust’s Lower Northern Area Manager, Gail Henry, is very grateful for Mrs Harpham’s generosity.

“The Historic Places Trust is greatly appreciative of the generous bequest that will benefit two very deserving local historic places – the Brain Watkins House and The Elms. Lyn always gave so generously of her time and we always found her input to our work so helpful and constructive. She will be remembered very fondly.”

“Jinty Rorke, Chair of the Board of Directors for The Elms, is also delighted. “We are grateful for the support from someone who had a lot of emotional attachment to the history of Tauranga. We are all very moved that she has chosen to demonstrate this by helping the Elms. Lyn was always ready to give of her time and I recall how much time she gave to work on the conservation of the textile collections.”

Shirley Arabin, Chair of the Tauranga Historical Society, says committee members are also very touched by Lyn’s generosity, which provides recognition for places like Brain Watkins House which contribute to preserving, protecting and promoting our local history. “Lyn was a life member of the Tauranga Historical Society who owned Brain Watkins House. She was a committee member for many years and was also a fund of knowledge about Tauranga and the Brain Family who lived in the house,” she says. “Very careful thought will be

going in to which of the many projects needing funding will be undertaken with the help of the bequest.”

Responsible guardianship of such iconic historic places, which also have extensive and precious collections to be conserved, does not come cheap according to Gail Henry.

“I am very aware of just how much of their time has to be spent on fund raising. Bequests for heritage, like Lyn Harpham’s, provide much-needed funds, but also a huge boost to the volunteers responsible for such places, both here and across New Zealand,” she says.

## Auckland Regional Gathering of Historical Societies

Hosted by  
Avondale-Waterview Historical Society  
St Ninians Church, St Georges Road,  
Avondale  
28 August 2011, 9.00 am

First presentation: the authors of *Legacy of Occupation* explain their book, how it was compiled, and how they have arranged archiving of the material.

Second presentation: Auckland Council and local heritage

Gail Fotheringham - Community Services Adviser, will present on three Council led projects that have set out to promote historical knowledge and increase a positive sense of identity within the community.

The presentation will include sharing some of the material created through the projects and give the opportunity to meet some of the participants.

### The Living History Project

Older residents of Blockhouse Bay share their memories through digital story-telling techniques.

### Days of Future Past

An intergenerational project passing on the wisdom and knowledge of older people as they are interviewed by younger relatives.

### Kuia and Kaumatua Oral History Project

Workshops designed to enhance identity and pride in Maori identity, local history and connections across the generations.

Light lunch provided: \$8 per head.

### For more details contact

Lisa Truttman

Phone (09) 8288494

Email: waitemata@gmail.com

**NZ Federation  
of Historical Societies  
Publication Loans Scheme**

Don't forget: if your Society needs that extra bit of help in ensuring your research book makes it out there before the public, the Federation does have a loans scheme to assist. Contact our Secretary **Neil Curgenvan**, PO Box 1625, Paraparaumu Beach 5252, or email: [ncurgenvan@gmail.com](mailto:ncurgenvan@gmail.com)

***Want to swap, give away, buy or sell something?***

Feel free to contact the Editor. I'm happy to put up notices for members for anything you would like the rest of the Federation to know about.

**NEW ZEALAND FOUNDERS' SOCIETY INC.**

**ANNUAL RESEARCH AWARD**

The New Zealand Founders Society is made up of descendants of immigrants who arrived before 31st December 1865. There are Branches in Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Wanganui, Hawkes Bay, New Plymouth, Wairarapa, Canterbury and Wellington. The Branches hold regular meetings which may include a speaker or an outing to places of historical interest.

In addition New Zealand Founders Society operates a Trust Fund to encourage research into the history and development of New Zealand, with the aim of assisting researchers intending to publish original historic research. It is not aimed at genealogists. In recent years the grant has been \$1,500.00, payable in instalments with the final payment being made on publication. The sum may be varied on merit. Applicants for the grant send a detailed outline of the research and a completion date to the Secretary of the Society.

You can also contact the Society at::

**The Secretary**

**PO Box 17-126, Karori,, Wellington 6147. Tel: 04/472-4282. Email: [nzfounders@paradise.net.nz](mailto:nzfounders@paradise.net.nz)**

**Glass plate negatives  
in your society collections**

Hi Robin

Re Glass Plates. We have an Epson Perfection 4180 Photo Scanner which has a lighted lid which when used travels through the negative and a positive image is made for processing in either mono or colour. I had two slides which had been under exposed and were barely recognisable and by scanning at 4800 the images emerged. It took ages but was worth it. There were two other higher settings which I did not need to use.

The scanner was expensive when we purchased it but gives very high definition when scanning.

Kind regards

Garry O'Neill

Palmerston North 4414

Hi Robin,

I did some more research on scanners and suggest

that Perfection V700 Photo is more suitable as it can scan negatives up to 8" by 10" which is closer to a glass plate size. (Go on line to Epson Scanners).The 4180 model is more suited to slides and smaller film.

Regards

Garry

Hi Robin

I read your query in KIT. A scanner that does negatives/transparencies should do a very adequate job. There may need to be some tonal adjustment to the scan, but most home computers have the software for this.

Cheers

Grant Cole

[pelago@ihug.co.nz](mailto:pelago@ihug.co.nz)