

# Heritage Today

JUNE / JULY 2014 issue  
of the Wellington Region  
Heritage Promotion  
Council (WRHPC)  
newsletter

Detail from a photo by Bev Short

One of the portraits in a new WWI exhibition - historian Jane Tollerton holds a photograph of Ettie Rout and her New Zealand Volunteer Sisterhood, (see story pg2).



As most of us hunker down for the winter, my friend Nicki Stewart is in full production mode, knitting khaki wool socks, hats, gloves, and scarves as the women 'at home' did for their men on the Front one hundred years ago. It's all part of her exhibition

*Remember to Remember* which opens at

Aratoi - Wairarapa Museum of Art & History, Masterton on 8 August. The Featherston-based artist has connected with others keen to make woollen items via her Facebook page 'Call to Arms!' and there is now a sizeable band

involved. All the items will be displayed on a wall in the gallery, each with information and an image of a man of the maker's choosing who was affected by the war. The items will be donated to charity after the show.

Nicki's exhibition is just one of many projects happening around the country to mark the

Centenary. Another is the New Zealand Portrait Gallery's upcoming exhibition, featured here, and I know other WRHPC members have projects in the pipeline.

The first item Nicki knitted was a sock made to remember her Great Uncle - Pvt. Eric Trevor Logier Walker who died of wounds on the Somme in March 1918. I have been struggling with a crocheted hat following the original French pattern she posted online. It's not coming out quite right, but then I guess not all the women back then were experts, and perfection of stitches was the last thing on the men's minds. I feel that the more diverse voices we have around the Wars, the truer picture we will have of these momentous events and their continuing impact.

I'm always happy to receive your feedback Keep warm out there.

**Anne Taylor, Editor.**

E: [editor@wrhpc.org.nz](mailto:editor@wrhpc.org.nz).



## Museum proposed at Christ Church, Taita

The Christ Church Preservation Society has big plans to mark 2014, which is the 160th anniversary of Rev Bidulf Hutton's first service there on New Year's Day 1854. The Society is keen to purchase additional land adjoining the historic church, with the aim of acquiring an historic cottage for an early settler museum.

There are already four existing garages which could be used to display farm machinery of the type used around the Hutt Valley, and the society is interested in hearing from anybody who might be interested in this project. They are also seeking a small colonial cottage which could be moved from its present site, machinery and other historic items which might be displayed.

At right, Janice Henson, secretary of the Christ Church Preservation Society, shows a concept drawing of the proposed colonial heritage museum, in front of the recently cleared site next to the church.

If you have any suggestions for this project, please contact Mary Stevens T: 04 476 6247 E: [j.m.stevens@xtra.co.nz](mailto:j.m.stevens@xtra.co.nz).



Photo: Hutt News

## Calling budding artists and writers

Do you know of any young people - perhaps family friends or grandchildren who would like to explore a war story in writing or a poster? The NZ Society of Genealogists is running a competition for New Zealand students (Years 1 to 13) to create either a poster or a written account of the story of an ancestor, relative or someone known to them (of either gender) who served in any branch of the forces of any country, at home or overseas. The competition closes on 11 November (Armistice Day) 2015. For more information, go to [www.genealogy.org.nz/Competition\\_604.aspx](http://www.genealogy.org.nz/Competition_604.aspx) or contact Lyn Whelan E: [lynwhelan@gmail.com](mailto:lynwhelan@gmail.com).

The Wellington Region Heritage Promotion Council (WRHPC) consists of groups and organisations engaged in promoting our region's heritage. Visit [www.wrhpc.org.nz](http://www.wrhpc.org.nz). Contacts: Webmaster T: 04 972 2876 E: [don@milnes.co.nz](mailto:don@milnes.co.nz) / Phil Parnell T: 04 479 2239 E: [landy@xtra.co.nz](mailto:landy@xtra.co.nz). WRHPC, P.O.Box 2280, Wellington 6140. Contributions always welcome for *Heritage Today* E: [editor@wrhpc.org.nz](mailto:editor@wrhpc.org.nz).

# Our Taonga: 'Facing the Front' at the NZ Portrait Gallery

This month sees a new exhibition on the country's WWI commemoration calendar. 'Facing the Front: New Zealand's Enduring First World War' (12 June - 24 August) will feature around 70 paintings and other items depicting New Zealanders who experienced the First World War directly - from generals to nurses and conscientious objectors - along with those who have shaped our understanding of that war, including contemporary historians such as Jane Tollerton, pictured on our front cover.



"Every generation writes its own history, as more letters, diaries, photos, oral histories and so on come to light," says exhibition curator Gavin McLean. "Our views on the war are always changing." As a devoted member of the British Empire, New Zealand sent more than 102,000 men and women to the war and Dr McLean, a senior historian at the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, says the consequences linger today. By also including people such as war memorial architects, official WWI historians, and writers such as John A Lee, Robin Hyde and Maurice Shadbolt, (who wrote the play *Once on Chunuk Bair*), he says we can explore "how the war continues to exert an influence on New Zealanders and their sense of identity".

Dr McLean admits that the ordinary soldier or sailor is under-represented in the exhibition, but points out the show includes civilians, whose contribution is often undervalued. "The authorities commissioned few portraits of privates or seafarers, though families did, and their work will be featured in exhibitions by Te Papa and others," he says. "By its very nature, portraiture is biased, and it was not the age of the selfie."

The first exhibit is a 1500mm by 500mm cross of Flanders poppies laid by the Queen at the Wellington Cenotaph on January 11 1954 during the first visit to New Zealand by a reigning

monarch. As part of the project, the NZPG is also commissioning images of living historians such as Jock Phillips, Ian McGibbon and Chris Pugsley, which will become part of the national collection.

Gavin McLean is well placed to curate the exhibition, having been a member of the Portrait Gallery's programme committee for several years. He curated 'The Cabinetmakers', an NZPG exhibition on New Zealand's premiers and prime ministers in 2009, and his book 'The White Ships: New Zealand's First World War Hospital Ships', was published this year. [www.nzportraitgallery.org.nz](http://www.nzportraitgallery.org.nz).

**Alfred de Bathe Brandon** (1883-1974) came from an elite Wellington family and was called to the bar at London's Middle Temple in 1906. When war broke out he returned to England and paid to qualify as a pilot. As a Second Lieutenant, he joined the Royal Flying Corps in 1916 and made a name for himself in 1916 by attacking German Zeppelins raiding eastern England. Aviation historians still dispute whether he or anti-aircraft fire downed Zeppelin L-15 on the night of 31 March 1916. Six months later he brought down another huge airship, the L-33. By the end of the war Major de Bathe Brandon had been awarded the Military Cross and the DSO and been mentioned in despatches. Alfred returned to the law, never again commanding an aircraft. He enjoyed a long retirement.



Journalist and sex hygiene reformer **Ettie Rout** pictured centre (hatless).



"It's a mixed blessing to be born so soon", **Ettie Rout** (1877-1936) confided to H.G. Wells in 1922. Seven years earlier, this energetic trade unionist and journalist had formed the New Zealand Volunteer Sisterhood to send members to Egypt, where she saw

the harmful effects of VD. Ostrich-like, the army penalised VD sufferers and advised abstinence, but by 1917 it knew that 7600 soldiers a year were being infected. The more realistic generals quietly accepted her advice to treat it as a medical rather than a moral matter. Prophylactic kits

and supervised brothels slashed infection rates, though politicians such as Massey banned New Zealand newspapers from reporting Ettie Rout's work, and that of the Volunteer Sisterhood who wore a uniform of long blue-print dresses with white aprons and panama hats. Ettie was born in Tasmania but had lived in New Zealand since 1884. Tall, fit and inquisitive, she took to physical culture, vegetarianism, free thinking and socialism and remained a campaigner all her life. After the war she spent virtually all her time away from New Zealand. She had married her lover, Fred Hornibrook in 1920, but she was single when she took a fatal overdose in Rarotonga in 1936. Read more at: [www.teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/3r31/rout-ettie-annie](http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/3r31/rout-ettie-annie).

## Update on Hutt Civic Centre debate

As we went to press, submissions on Hutt City Council's Draft Annual Plan were being held, and Ruth Mansell (Petone Historical Society & Historic Places Wellington) said it looked likely that the Modernist Town Hall would be saved from demolition, though the fate of the Horticultural Hall was still precarious (see story HT, April / May 2014). There had been a record number of 1800 submissions as the public engaged with both this and the Petone Arena debate (see story pg 4). But Ruth said she was "dismayed" with the Annual Plan questionnaire, whose wording was "confusing and limited, offering only two alternatives: 3E+ to demolish both halls, or 3F to demolish the Horticultural Hall and retain and upgrade the Town Hall". Heart of the Hutt had presented a petition with over 2000 signatures to Council to save both halls, but no mention was made of this at the hearings, she said. Peter Glen's survey was currently being reviewed by Deputy Mayor David Bassett. Hutt City Council will be making decisions on the Annual Plan issues at its meeting at Wainuiomata Chambers, Wainui Library, Weds 11 June, 9.30am.

## Doors opening soon at Cobblestones Museum

Cobblestones' million dollar makeover will see the new building completed this month and doors open to the public soon after. A recent grant of \$20,000 from Eastern & Central Trust will help fund the interior fit-out, which includes a retail space, exhibition area and a climate-controlled collection store. More money is needed to complete the interior, anticipated to take another three months, and fundraising events are being planned. The Cobblestones park is home to Wairarapa's first public hospital, the first Methodist Church, a colonial cottage and shearing shed. Originally on the site was a Cobb & Co stables, which ran a mail and passenger service between Wairarapa and Wellington in the late 1800s. Last year, visitor numbers trebled to 3000 per year and the makeover is expected to "greatly enhance" that number. Cobblestones will be working with regional tourism organisation Destination Wairarapa to achieve their targets.

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

## Insight into architectural photography

Have you ever wanted to take better photos of historic architecture at home or abroad? Historic Places Wellington is hosting an evening with Jim Simmons, an internationally experienced architectural photographer and teacher, who will share some of the stand out buildings he has captured. Then there will be a chance for hands on learning at a workshop at the Old Public Trust Building, Lambton Quay. Jim will explain his process, then participants will have the chance to experiment yourself, under his expert guidance. Those interested need to bring a digital camera and warm, comfortable clothing. See Calendar pg 4 for full details. Booking essential for workshop: E: [wgtn@historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz](mailto:wgtn@historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz)



Photo: The McCarthy Building, Wellington by Jim Simmons

## From the archives: A forgotten view of Tuhitarati



Photo: Adele Pentony-Graham

It's amazing what can be hiding behind an old picture. This watercolour was found in such a way by a friend of Adele Pentony-Graham, the researcher and taphophile we featured in the Feb/March 2014 issue. Adele duly investigated and discovered that it's a view of 'Old Tuhitarati Homestead', South Wairarapa, painted in 1906 by Mary Alean Stevens, (1882-1952). Mary was the daughter of John Stevens and Mary nee McMaster. John Stevens was MP for Rangitikei and Manawatu, and Mary McMaster was the daughter of Angus Mc Master, an early settler to Lower Valley. She also had the distinction of being the 'first white child' born in Wairarapa (16 December 1847). The house that now stands there is two storied and the grounds have a private burial site where Angus and family are buried, along with some Maori identities including the Chief Hikoia, his wife and daughter, buried there at their own request. "It's lovely to think that a Maori chief is buried with a family of Pakeha," says Adele. Angus McMaster, was the Founder of Gladstone, north east of Carterton. The name Gladstone came from William Ewart Gladstone, Prime Minister of England. Gladstone has no township, just a pub, farms, church, and sports complex. Angus McMaster was born in Strontian, Argyllshire, Scotland in 1800, and arrived in New Zealand 1840 aboard the ship Blenheim. He settled at Tuhitarati in 1847 and died in 1888. *Thanks to Adele Pentony-Graham for this story.*

**The Book Corner:** *Secrets & Treasures* by Ray Waru. Published Random House NZ, 2012. Reviewed by Anne Taylor.

*Secrets & Treasures* ranges along the 100 km of holdings managed by NZ Archives. Author Ray Waru has divided the book into five richly illustrated chapters in which seemingly inconsequential objects - like the divorce papers of an unhappy couple in the 1930s - are given equal attention alongside those of national significance such as the Treaty of Waitangi. The 1957 Archives Act means that every embarrassing note and email from public offices eventually ends up in an acid free box for

posterity, which explains the signed photo of a beauty queen, once cherished by Norman Kirk, now cherished by the nation! Ghoulish objects abound in the 'The Black Museum' chapter like the evidence from the Crewe murders, once again being picked over as vital information in the reopened case. Then there's the diagrams for constructing a scaffold, one of which stood 20 feet tall and weighed 4.5 tons. As Chief Archivist Greg Goulding notes: "The record of how we behaved as a

nation and as a society may surprise and in some cases sadden some" but helping us learn from both our successes and mistakes is a key role of the Archive - and by extension this book. A richly illustrated, compelling read. *If you have a book on history that you'd like to review, please contact E: [editor@wrhpc.org.nz](mailto:editor@wrhpc.org.nz).*





**Roy Hewson (Petone Historical Soc.) tells why he opposes plans to carve up Petone's Sports Ground...**

The Petone Rec is an important part of the fabric that makes Petone a special place, and it's been our local village green and local sports ground since 1897. It has a real place in our history and is the one area in central Petone that can be used for celebrations and special events. It was a major site for the 1939/40 centennial and has hosted many big events like international boxing and major rugby matches, giving the Petone Club a world wide reputation.

Early this year, the Hutt City Council received a proposal from the Phoenix Football Club to build a boutique stadium on the recreation ground. The Westpac Stadium is apparently too big for their needs and does not have a special training area. The new stadium would take up to 75% of the whole area and probably force the other users to find another home ground, including Petone Rugby Club and Petone Cricket Club - not to mention the hundreds of children and locals who use the park daily. The part that interests council is the offer of approximately half of the estimated cost of \$45 million, leaving council to find the remainder from ratepayers. By far the majority of the Petone community is against the proposal as Petone Rec is seen as the local greenspace and a place for local amateur sport to flourish.

The grounds are believed to be some of the best in the country because, the sandy base meaning it dries out very quickly. Hundreds of children from local schools use the grounds regularly during the school week, and Petone Rugby Club has some 400 children in their junior section, and play on Saturday mornings. There have been national Rugby league championships here, and many other groups are frequent users. Petone already has two very good football facilities in Hutt Park and also Memorial Park. Hutt Park attracted large attendances to their trotting matches and it has easy access and plenty of parking. Even the Petone Football Club is opposed as it does not want to see community sport weakened by the stadium. A cluster of many groups is voicing opposition, the most community oriented being Petone Planning Action Group, chaired by Pam Hanna. Submissions closed in mid May and hearings have been taking place as we go to press. E: [roy.hewson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:roy.hewson@xtra.co.nz).

**A history of community participation**

In 1897, the then Petone Borough Councillors identified the need for a recreation area for Petone and negotiated a 10 year lease with the Wellington Gas Company to acquire the 7.5 hectare piece of land, now known as Petone Recreation Ground. Since then, the Rec has proved to be one of the most popular grounds in the region for sporting and cultural events, and general use by the local community. From 1898 to 1919 the Wellington Trotting Club held races there and they built the first grandstand. During the winter rugby, football, hockey and league each had a ground and in summer cricket, athletics and cycling shared the ground. Boxing fights on Saturdays also attracted large crowds. The Rec was Petone Technical College's playing fields. Nearby primary schools have always used the ground and individual and combined school athletic meetings are still held each summer. Add to all that touch rugby, harriers, dog walking, fitness training, playground and open space use, and it is easy to see why it is known as Petone's 'village green'.

**Harris rose bolting ahead**

Mary Stevens of Christ Church Preservation Society has recently planted a cutting of the prized 'Harris Rose', but says "we may regret its presence, as a month on, it is already extending shoots about half a metre long!" The cutting came from the garden of the Harris family, and Mary decided to plant it by the grave of Sophia and Abraham Harris, buried at Christ Church. It was Sophia who originally brought the rose from England to New Zealand in 1840 on 'The Bolton'. Judy Bale of the Heritage Rose Society has just written about it in the Society's newsletter and a Harris Rose will be planted outside the Bolton Hotel on 19 July.



**JUNE / JULY CALENDAR**

3 Jun	AGM of Karori Historical Society followed by Priscilla Williams, president of Bolton Street Cemetery, on <i>Caring for Wellington's Early Heritage</i> . St Ninnian's Church, Newcombe Cres, 7.45pm. Light refreshments.
8 Jun	AGM of Golder Homestead, with Glenda Kicks, Chair, Upper Hutt School's 150th Reunion (17-19 Oct). 707 Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt, 2pm.
10 Jun-31 July	Photo display: Upper Hutt in WWI. Upper Hutt City Library.
12 Jun - 24 Aug	<i>Facing the Front: New Zealand's Enduring First World War</i> . New Zealand Portrait Gallery, Queen's Wharf.
15 Jun	<i>We Come in Peace</i> : Redmer Yska & Chris Bourke on the 1964 Beatles tour. Museum of Wellington City & Sea, Queens Wharf, 2pm. \$5.
19 Jun	Wellington Historical & Early Settlers Association AGM, followed by David Dell from the Sheet Music Archive. Wgtn Museum of City & Sea, 11.45am. \$15.
19 Jun	Friends of Turnbull Library free lecture: <i>Looking down the barrel of history: tragedy and heroism at Te Ranga, 21 June 1864</i> by Prof.Charlotte Macdonald, VUW on 150th anniversary Tauranga battle. Adam Auditorium, City Gallery, Wellington, 6pm. Light refreshments. RSVP E: <a href="mailto:fotl@paradise.net.nz">fotl@paradise.net.nz</a> or T: 04 479 5580.
21 Jun	Talk by author Jane Tollerton on NZ soldiers during WWI, with audio extracts. Upper Hutt Library, 2pm.
27 Jun	How to research WWI soldiers by Trentham archivist Christine Edney. Upper Hutt City Library, 2pm.
29 Jun	1952 Diesel Electric loco De 505 built 1952 hauling carriages. Silverstream Railway, 11am-4pm.
6 July	The Great Strike of 1913 by Peter Clayworth, Labour History Project. Pataka, Porirua, 3.30pm.
10 July	Architectural Photography by Jim Simmons, Lecture Theatre I, Schools of Arch. & Design, 139 Vivian St, 7pm.
12 July	Check out figure of eight steeplechase race from top stand at Trentham. For more details T: 04 528 9611.
20 July	Workshop on Architectural Photography with Jim Simmons, Old Public Trust Building, Lambton Quay, 1-4pm.

Petone photos courtesy Petone Library, from left: Racing (date unknown); the first Grandstand (date unknown); Petone jubilee religious service, 1939; Grandstand (date unknown).