



Keeping in Touch

Newsletter for New Zealand History Federation Inc

Te Kotahitanga o nga Hitori o Aotearoa

KIT Editor: Lisa Truttman

nzhistoryfederation@gmail.com

www.nzhistoryfederation.org.nz

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Barbara and Bill Ellis — stalwarts of Torbay Historical Society



Photo by Frank Sun, courtesy Focus on Community

Bill Ellis with his wife Barbara has spent decades documenting not only the changing North Shore but also swathes of the rest of Auckland and elsewhere with his cameras and his skilled eye. In the 2000s, he produced a series of three booklets called *I Remember That*, some copies still available by contacting the Torbay Historical Society.

Both Bill and Barbara have attended NZHF conferences and Auckland Regional Gatherings over the years — one held at their home turf in Long Bay's Vaughan Homestead (administered by Torbay HS) is where I first met them in 2002. As soon as I spotted this image, I knew it belonged on the cover here.

Incorporated Societies: revising your constitutions

T'is the season — for biting the bullet and heading over to the Companies Office website if you haven't done so already to take a look at the promised template for new constitutions under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

<https://isb.companiesoffice.govt.nz/constitutionbuilder/startscreen/>

Welcome to the Constitution Builder

This tool can help you draft a constitution that complies with the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 (the 2022 Act) if your society is —

- Registering for the first time on or after 5 October 2023, or
- Reregistering as a 2022 Act society.

Important note — We offer this tool to help you produce a draft constitution that complies with the 2022 Act but it should not be considered a substitute for expert legal advice. You may choose to seek external advice to help you finalise your constitution. For example, there may be community legal services available to you.

Please save your draft if you can't complete it in one session

I found their template that was released last month very useful for preparing draft constitutions for discussion for societies with which I'm associated. It clearly points out the **Mandatory** [red] sections ("Required by legislation or necessary to ensure this tool functions as it has been designed"), the **Recommended** [green] sections, ("Suggested inclusions to make a constitution more comprehensive") and the **Optional** [black] sections ("Commonly found in constitutions adapted to suit the nature of the society") as it goes through each part of the draft set of rules:

- * Introductory Rules
- * Members
- * General Meetings
- * Committee Meetings
- * Officers
- * Records
- * Finances
- * Dispute Resolution
- * Liquidation and removal from the register
- * Alterations to the constitution
- * Other

Always bear in mind that your current rules may have clauses and sections that define how your particular organisation functions (number of general meetings a year, how many committee members etc) but aren't included on the template's checklist — so, once the template draft you've completed online is sent to you by email, compare it with your existing rules and insert whatever you feel best suits the nature of your organisation. Just

make sure you don't delete mandatory sections required under the Act. Another link you may find useful is the Act itself.

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2022/0012/latest/LMS100809.html>

As the website advises, you may wish to have a solicitor check your draft constitution prior to submission for re-registration.

All of the above commentary is entirely just my personal opinion as to the procedure, but as a constitution preparer for my home societies — I was impressed with how smooth and painless it was to have a Word document sent by email that I could then compare and amalgamate with existing rule sections to produce a draft to forward for committee discussion. Give it a go.

Lisa J Truttman



**NZ History
Federation Inc
Annual General Meeting
and
Conference
20 April 2024**

*to be hosted by the
Taumarunui
Historical Society*



At the moment, the Taumarunui Historical Society and the Federation Committee are finalising details as to programme and events, but the date has been set: 20 April 2024.

As soon as further details are available, these will be forwarded on.

A history of New Zealand armed forces: a lecture given by Graeme Wilson to the Onehunga Fencible & Historical Society, September 2023

Republished from the Society's October newsletter by kind courtesy of the OF&HS secretary, Cyril Skilton. Notes based on the lecture.

The first introduction of an armed forces in New Zealand was the odd British navy ship passing by along with a motley crew of sealers and whalers over 200 years ago. There was no mention in the Treaty of Waitangi for any provision for any armed forces. Up until 1841 NZ was a dependency of New South Wales from a protection perspective.

The need for a territorial armed forces was becoming more apparent as the 1840s went on such as the Wairau incident near Blenheim with four Māori and 22 Europeans killed in June 1843. Hone Heke and his flagstaff in Russell incident in 1845 had two Māori killed.

This incident earlier in March 1845 kicked off the Militia Ordinance of 25th March 1845 which required for all able bodied men between the ages of 18 and 65 to hold themselves in readiness for service combined with a period of 28 days Annual Training. Battalions were thus established in Auckland, Wellington and Nelson with a Company at Russell. There were back then four companies each with 80 men. The next few battles as a result of being prepared for further troubles were mostly in Northland such as Ruapekapeka, Puketutu and Ōhaeawai.

In the 1850s, New Zealand was being pressed to be responsible for its own protection. That started in the late 1840s with the formation of the Fencibles to protect the then capital city of Auckland from further potential trouble from Māori further south. As most of our membership know, there were more than 700 men many ex Chelsea soldiers that had served all over the world, mostly of Irish or British stock, that came about in the late 1840s to early 1850s to settle the modern day Ōtāhuhu, Howick, Panmure and Onehunga.

A defence system remaining to this day was put in place in the Auckland region with Redoubts south of Auckland along the military Great South Road concept. All of the Redoubts could see each other on their other side. Albert Park Barracks with its fortified wall goes through Auckland University campus which is still there to this day as it is heritage protected and can't be modified. Ironically Māori had to be involved to make the fortified wall due to labour shortages.

The Militia Act 1858 – the origin of the volunteer system, was enacted in response to the King Movement in the Waikāto becoming stronger. Once the Fencible system was disbanded and surplus to requirements by the 1860s, many of the Fencible pensioners and their leaders were quite active and involved in this period of warfare.

A quote ... that sums up of the change to the Volunteers Act in 1865 is as follows “... *self governing units of about 60 men, each electing their own Officers and making their own*

Regulations, owning their own uniforms and generally managing their own affairs, accepting neither direction, order nor advice, except when on service. Some companies were in for smart uniforms, others for comfortable club rooms. Some built up big balances, others were bankrupt. Each did exactly as it pleased.” (Colonel C T Major CBE, DSO, MA)

One interesting anomaly in NZ’s armed forces is the 3rd Auckland Regiment (Countess of Ranfurly’s own’). This regiment was named after the wife of Governor General Earl Ranfurly at the turn of the 20th century. It is the only female-named regiment still in existence today. Simultaneously this is also how nearby Ranfurly Veterans Home came about as a result of Earl Ranfurly being concerned at a lack of a care facility for older high health care needs veterans.

Individual volunteers served as Mounted Infantry with the ten contingents that left New Zealand for the Boer War. Volunteers had to provide their own horse, equipment, and be a good shot and rider. There was no unit identity but volunteers were banded together to form “New Zealand Mounted Rifle Contingents”. The New Zealanders were brigaded with other forces throughout the war and were not employed operationally as a national entity but as part of the British Cavalry Division.

During the Boer War, there was the death of Queen Victoria, the reigning monarch. So there are two medals awarded to servicemen to acknowledge if they served the whole period of warfare or not, to reflect the change in monarchy. In this war, New Zealand servicemen had a great reputation:

“It would hardly be an exaggeration to say of the New Zealanders that after they had a little experience they were by general consent, regarded on average, the best Mounted Troops in South Africa.” (The Times newspaper)

“I have been a soldier a long time now but I have never in my life met men I would sooner soldier with than New Zealanders. I feel the greatest affection for them, and I shall never forget the work that they did in South Africa.” (General Sir Ian Hamilton)

In 1907, the Defence Act was radically changed as we were completely cut from the umbilical cord with England for management of not just the military, but everything as we were now our own Dominion. We developed as our own independent nation an enhancement of the 1886 Act changes and provided for a Permanent Force, Territorials, Cadets and Special Service.

Defence Act 1909 changes meant that volunteers were replaced by compulsory training conducted in the recruits own town or territory, giving rise to the new name “Territorial Force”.

Compulsory military training was introduced in 1911 which was just as well as the cadets saw New Zealand troops well prepared at the outbreak of the Great War soon after.

There were four military districts in both islands by 1911 divided in the middle of each island. There were major military units evenly spread out across New Zealand. The start of World War One radically changed the numbers in the ranks as follows:

1911

Permanent Staff: 375 (including 7 in the 'Electric Light Section')

Volunteers: 22,500 (Wellington 7,000, Auckland 5,000, Canterbury 4,000, Otago 4,000, Nelson 2,000)

August 1914

Permanent Staff: 600

Territorials: 29,500

Reservists: 10,000

Senior Cadets: 26,500

The occupation of Samoa in 1914 shortly after WW1 broke out was recommended to seize German controlled Samoa, with the following telegram:

"If your Ministers desire and feel themselves able to seize the German wireless station at Samoa we should feel that this was a great and urgent Imperial service..." (Cable from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, 6 Aug 1914)

An Expeditionary Force of around 1400 including six nurses, with 1,000 infantrymen, made up of the complete 5th Wellington Regiment, supplemented by 300 men from the 3rd Auckland Regiment departed New Zealand on 11 August. This was just one week after WW1 was declared. They had seized German controlled Samoa later that month with a strong naval presence, yielded without a single shot.

Other parts New Zealand soldiers served in briefly during WW1 were at Dardanelles, Armentières, Flanders, the Somme; just some of the many campaigns during this time.

The military waned in the 1920s and combined with the Depression, saw the military not feature in national priorities. Auckland however had enough numbers to maintain its own battalion but other regions did not fare as well.

With the advent of WW2, New Zealand was reduced to three Military Districts with subsequent reduction of Units (17 Infantry Regiments (1914) reduced to 13 (1939), Mounted Rifles reduced from 12 [1914] to nine [1939]). Ironically the NZ Navy only came about during the WW2 period, launching in 1941.

The 2nd NZ Expeditionary Force came in two different sub categories. New Zealanders served in Greece, Crete, North Africa and Italy. The later iteration (3rd) had IP which was for service in the Pacific region. Graeme's own father served in the 2 NZEF (IP), 3rd Division, 8th Brigade in 1942, the first cab of this rank so to speak. They served in the Solomon Islands and in Fiji.

From 1945 until 1959, there was compulsory military training. Territorial training didn't initiate as a separate scheme until 1949. It happened under Navy, Army and Air Force. 63,000 19 year olds went through the compulsory military training scheme until 1960 with a different conscription scheme.

1962 – 1972 was the period of The National Service. It was a selective ballot of 20 year olds in training which provided a continuing supply of soldiers to maintain the Territorial Force and New Zealand at its operational strength of one Division (three Brigades). It was 14 weeks of basic training, followed by three years of part time service (20 days per year) including 14 days at Annual Camp. There were three intakes per year at both Waiouru and Burnham Camps which saw close to 30,000 men trained during the life of this scheme. Graeme obviously was involved in this National Service Scheme in his youth. In 1973 The Territorial Force Volunteers replaced the National Service scheme and is the system that exists today.

Graeme concluded the lecture with a brief update on the structure of the regiments still in active in NZ in the modern age followed by some questions and answers, including answering how NZ would respond to another war.

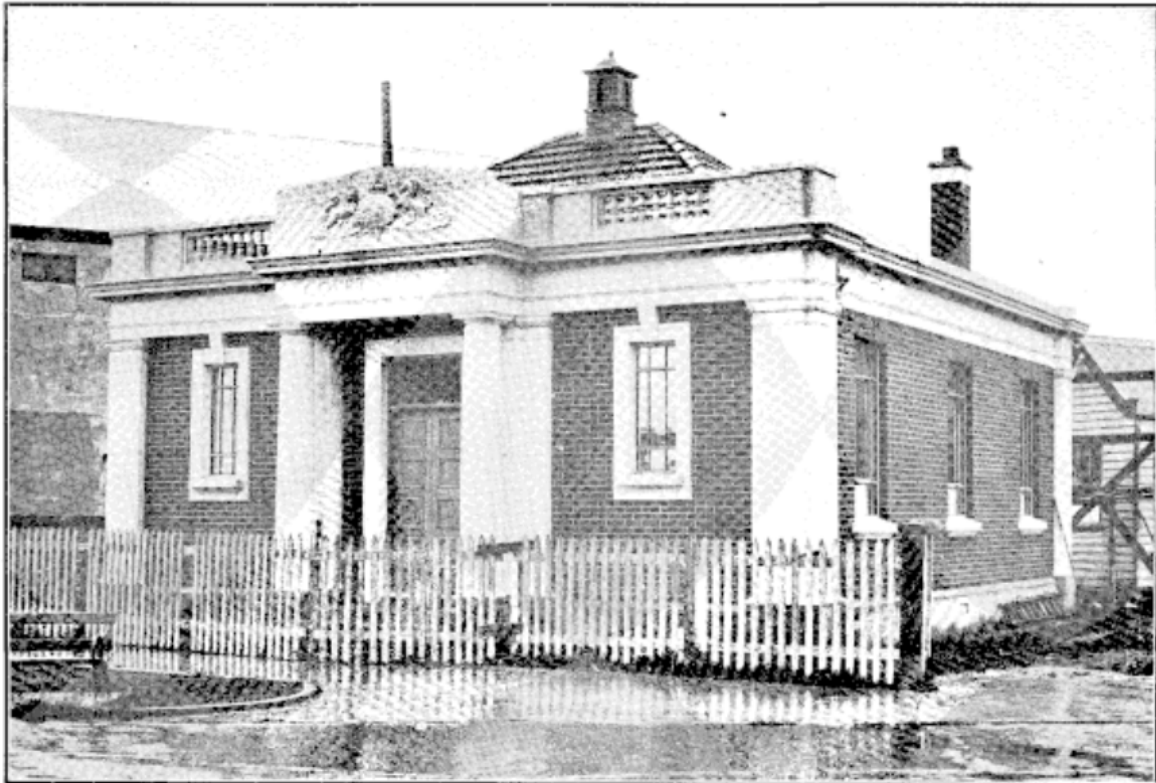
The future of the armed forces in NZ in this day and age, just like in the past, is a future global effort to help out in such wars and situations.

Saving “Te Whare Kooti o Te Awahou” — the former Foxton Court House

If you visit the Facebook page for the Foxton Historical Society these days, there is a clear atmosphere of enthusiasm and excitement in recent posts, as this five-decades old heritage organisation assists as consultants with the preparation by Miyamoto International NZ and the Horowhenua District Council of a restoration plan for the historic former Foxton Court House, which had served as the site of the society’s museum for 34 years.

Thanks to an article by Val Burr published in the *Manawatū Standard* on 1 July this year, we do have a good summary of the history of this important building. Its predecessor, described in 1906 as “an absolute disgrace” due to its poor condition, was replaced in 1929 by a new brick building built by Thomas William Hunt of Foxton, the construction supervised by L G West & Son of Palmerston North. Materials came in by rail via the Foxton-Palmerston North railway, among them bricks from Brick & Pipes Ltd, also based in Palmerston North.

The origins of the bricks may have been confirmed recently when the historical society’s co-chair Jim Harper removed a section of a kitchen sink bench to reveal a hatch which allowed access to a sub-floor — to find half a brick that clearly showed it had come from Brick & Pipes Ltd. According to the society’s Facebook post about the find, “given the timing of the courthouse’s construction (1929), the bricks will have been ‘cooked’ in the firm’s Hoffman kiln, which is now a preserved heritage building in Featherston Street, Roslyn. The clay used will have come from what is now Edwards Pit Park.”



Foxton Court House, from the Public Works Department report, AJHR, 1929.

Back in 1929, the Foxton Chamber of Commerce sought an official opening, recognising that this was a moment of real note for the township and district, but the Justice Department said no. Val Burr wrote that the Justice Department didn't "favour such functions in respect to Justice Department buildings".

The article goes on:

"The *Manawatū Herald* of September 12, 1929, recorded that: "The new courthouse was used for the first time this morning for the monthly sitting of the court. The building is a very fine structure and contains some excellent workmanship. It is well ventilated while a hot water heating system provides ample warmth throughout the building during the cold weather.

"The building comprises (a) portico, with witnesses' room, public office and Magistrate's room on the south side and the courtroom and public gallery on the north. The furniture of the courtroom comprises a raised bench for the magistrate with desk in front for use of the prosecuting police officer while on either side are witness boxes.

"A long table is located in the centre of the room for the use of the solicitors. The portion of the room for the use of the public is railed off from the rest of the room."

Stories about court houses are often made up of accounts of cases involving everything from mundane civil disputes and historic land cases, through to darker subjects such as

inquests and murders. Foxton's court house, while accommodating these, was also the scene of the case of the stolen cow-bell of 1932.

"A case which caused tremendous interest amongst residents of Manawatū Heads was heard in the Foxton Courthouse yesterday before Mr J L Stout, SM, when J W R Reay, of the Beach, was charged with the theft of a cow-bell and chain, the property of Mrs Aston. The public gallery was filled to overflowing and there were many humorous interludes during the hearing of the evidence, the clerk being compelled to call for silence on several occasions.

"Reay pleaded not guilty and was represented by counsel. Constable Owen, who conducted the prosecution, stated that Reay, who came from a very respectable family, was himself well respected. Mrs Aston, a Beach resident, possessed a cow around the neck of which she had padlocked a cowbell and she had permitted the animal to wander about the beach to the annoyance of residents, who had decided that the bell would have to disappear. Reay and three other lads undertook the task, in which they were successful. The matter was reported to the police and, when interviewed, Reay admitted the act and took all the blame on himself. It was unfortunate that he had taken the task of freeing the cow of the bell on himself as by so doing he had taken the law into his own hands. Nothing was known against him and he was highly respected.

"Annie Emelia Aston, a married woman, residing at the Beach with her husband, stated that she had attached a bell to the cow because it had on one occasion strayed and got lost in the lupins. She caught some boys trying to cut the chain with a knife and warned them that legal proceedings would be taken if they repeated their efforts. On the night of March 11, however, the cow was driven from her quarter-acre section, the chain cut and the bell removed.

"She did not bell the cow to annoy Beach residents, and she muffled it between the hours of 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. She demonstrated this process and produced a petition said to be signed by Beach residents who had never heard the bell by day or night.

"Cross-examined, witness admitted the cow grazed about the Beach, although she said she kept it [in] the paddock at night. She had come into conflict with local residents on various occasions owing to her horse being harassed by boys setting a dog at it and driving a cricket ball against its ribs. She had confiscated the ball. Counsel asked what difference there was between witness confiscating the ball and defendant confiscating the bell, but witness said she had taken the ball in daylight in the presence of others, whereas the bell had been removed at night after her cow had been secretly driven away. Witness said she had not received any complaints from Beach residents about the cow until after the cricket ball incident or similar troubles. She admitted she knew a petition had been signed and sent to the Manawatū County Council concerning her cow, but some of those who had signed it had told her that they did not know what they were signing.

"Constable Lincoln detailed interviewing Reay and read a statement prepared by him in which he stated that the cow and the bell were a nuisance; that his mother was not well and the bell annoyed her and this, together with the fact that Mrs Aston had issued a



Image not related to the court case. Dugmore collection, 1900s/1910s, Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections 1639-10793

challenge to anyone to remove the bell, had been the cause of him doing so. He had been assisted by three boys and it was intended to throw the bell and chain over Mrs Aston's fence, but after showing it to Beach residents he had decided to keep it and see what happened. The act had been perpetrated in devilment. Witness said that he had been a constant visitor to the Beach in recent months and had had a good idea of what was going to happen as it was freely talked about.

"Counsel contended that there was no evidence to disclose that defendant intended to permanently deprive plaintiff of the property and that the case should be treated as trivial. In the opinion of Beach residents the act had been justifiable, as for many months plaintiff had disturbed the residents by day and night with the bell. The beach possessed a "bovine carillonist." Residents had written the Manawatū County Council, the Foxton Harbour Board and the county ranger complaining. They could not impound the beast without driving it 20 miles to the county pound and had been at the mercy of plaintiff's peculiar whims.

"The Magistrate said defendant had no right to take the law into his own hands. He had committed a technical theft but, taking all the circumstances into consideration it seemed that the Beach residents had some justification in objecting to the wanderings of the cow and it was also probable that plaintiff was liable to conviction for disturbing the peace. The bell had not been adequately muffled. He did not think Reay intended to permanently deprive plaintiff of her property and he dismissed the case as trivial. In ordering the bell to be returned to plaintiff, he warned her not to use it again." (*Manawatū Standard*, 13 May 1932)

The Foxton court house closed in 1971. It served as the local police station until 1974, before being handed over to the Department of Lands and Survey. The Foxton Historical Society made enquiries about using the building as their museum in 1975, and once incorporated in 1978, they moved in during February 1979.

August 2013 saw the popular museum close due to the building being found to be earthquake-prone, but, as Val Burr wrote, that didn't mean the end. "Since that time, Foxton Historical Society, Horowhenua District Council and others, have worked to preserve it. Although Crown-owned, its management and administration are vested in Horowhenua District Council. To resolve its lack of protection, in 2020 Heritage NZ listed "Te Whare Kooti o Te Awahou" ("The Foxton Courthouse") as Wahi Tupuna/Tipuna – recognising the land's original gifting by Ihākara Tukumarū.

"In May 2023 the first step occurred toward strengthening and developing the courthouse. The district council issued a "request for proposals" to specialist consultants to prepare a development plan."

So today, work is progressing toward preparing that plan, with the members of Foxton Historical Society keeping the world up to date as to that progress, and the discoveries about a cherished building they are making along the way.

Lisa J Truttman

Other news from the members

Bulls

The Bulls Museum was recently visited by Caitlin Timmer-Arends, the curator of an online e-museum called Our Health Journeys. They describe themselves as "an online platform for the sharing and collecting of stories about New Zealand's healthcare history." You'll find their website here: ourhealthmuseum.org.nz

Caitlin was apparently quite impressed with the collection at Bulls Museum. "Bulls Museum is home to an eclectic collection of local history. Interspersed and hidden within the displays are pieces of the medical and health histories of this small Rangitīkei community ... As a community, Bulls has a history of long-serving town doctors. The collections in the museum reflect that. With previous donations from doctors' relatives, the museum offers glimpses into the home lives of these medical professionals and their places in the community ...

"I'm not saying if you're passing through Bulls to pull into the local medical centre to try and have a look at their collections, but I am saying to stop into the museum. It is on State Highway 1 and across the road from a number of cafes and eateries. Our local museums rely on the donations of visitors so if you live in Bulls or the surrounding area, go and visit! And if

you're passing through on your way north or south, take a rest stop in Bulls and go and visit! I know not everyone in the country are lucky enough to get to go to museums for work but so many are so local to a lot of people and yet have a dearth of visitors and volunteers. Without both of these things, museums like these are in danger of being unable to continue to preserve and educate about our histories. "

You can read the full article here:

www.ourhealthmuseum.org.nz/our-stories/bulls-museum-an-unbelieva-bull-hidden-medical-collection

Cambridge

(From their October newsletter)

"The Museum exterior is looking fantastic with its new roof and freshly painted façade. While inside, a phased programme of reshaping the displays is underway. Going forward there will be two spaces in the Museum – a research area and a main gallery. The first space to open will be the research area.

"Books, articles and press cuttings about the history and archaeology of the area are available and, with prior notice, you can also view the photographs, diaries, letters, and maps in the Museum's archive.

"A digitising service will be available for the first time, thanks to the kind generosity and support of the Cambridge Community Board. The museum team will be available to help with the technology so that you can digitally scan family archives, photos, negatives and documents. The digitised versions can be saved to a USB key or other device and shared with family and friends. "

Franklin Heritage Forum

Chairman's Report—September 2023

"Since our last AGM exactly twelve months ago, the forum has held three meetings; at Tuakau in November, Mercer in March and Pukekawa in May. In March several of our group also attended the annual conference of the NZ History Federation in Morrinsville. It is worth continuing our membership of the Federation as these conferences give us an opportunity to compare notes with like minded people from further afield and share ideas and discuss any issues of concern as well it provides advocacy for the sector as a whole.

"There have been no particularly vexing issues raised with the forum in the last twelve months. Reports from members have indicated a slow but steady return to normal business following a couple of difficult years affected by the covid pandemic. At our May meeting we appointed Jenny Hayman as our representative on the Waikato district Heritage Forum.

"One important issue we will need to address in the coming months is our re-registration as an incorporated society. This will be an opportune time to review our 2013 constitution and rules to ensure that they still suit our needs and some alterations and additions will be needed to comply with the 2022 Incorporated Societies Act."

Member's Reports

Awhitu Peninsula Historical Society

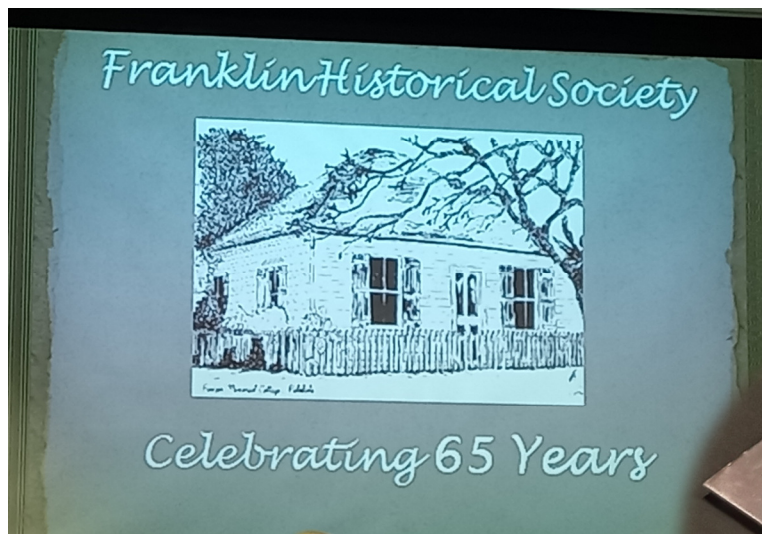
Unfortunately our archivist is resigning due to health issues and he will be shifting from the area. This will affect the storing of information, the setting up of our internet website, and we will not be producing our annual calendar this year. For six years he co-produced the local magazine, the *Peninsularama*, so from now on it will be the responsibility of one person. We did not meet in July as two of our officers were overseas.

It has been decided to have the War Memorial stone (plaque) previously attached to the demolished middle pillar at the entrance to the driveway to our building cleaned and re-attached. The plaque, which has been in storage, relates to adjacent land as reserve for the community for recreation. We are applying to Auckland Council to continue leasing the building. It is an extensive process.

Franklin Historical Society

Cottage report -Has been a slow 3 months for visitors, blame the weather. We have started to get overseas students from the local schools, let's hope they continue.

Other- we have celebrated our 65th anniversary with a luncheon and at this function we launched our booklet on Pukekohe Heritage Walks which was also well received.



Photos:
L Truttman

Papakura & District Historical Society

The Society has continued to hold well supported monthly meetings for members with a variety of guest speakers. There has been a group outing by train to the Papatoetoe Museum and to their photographic exhibition.

In the Museum the Matariki Exhibition is coming to an end. We have just opened a Vietnam War Exhibition in the Military Gallery which is a part of the Auckland Heritage Festival theme of Peace. Love and Protest. This coming Saturday there is a presentation and talk at the Museum from three local Vietnam Veterans.

The proposed permanent exhibition regarding Rings Redoubt is well underway with much research having been done and with exhibits, both physical and electronic, under preparation.

Our schools programme has been busy with visits to schools and class visits to the Museum. Our bi-monthly programme of evening talks is continuing and have been reasonably well supported. The final one for the year will be in November with Curator Alan Knowles talking about Rings Redoubt.

Patumahoe History Group

Over the last month we have been sadly posting tributes and obituaries of three long-time residents of the district namely Nigel Harvey, Judy Gallagher/Holmes and Bob Egelton. These three were very community minded and involved in mainly the various sports clubs administration roles. Apart from that not a lot has been happening in the Patumahoe area. Our Facebook page continues to grow with nearly 2000 followers.

Pukekohe East Church Preservation Society

We are celebrating 160 years of activity – the opening of the School, building the Church and the engagement in the Land Wars. Justin Scott, our secretary served 17 years and resigned at the AGM.

Queen's Redoubt Trust

Work on the blockhouse on the SE bastion of the redoubt has picked up speed since the leader of the project Dr Neville Ritchie returned from Taiwan in early August. Since then the work has almost been completed.

He has also completed the publication of his book *The role of blockhouses during the New Zealand Wars and afterwards*. This is the first in a series of bulletins by the Trust. It will be followed soon by *Diary of an Anonymous soldier in New Zealand; 7 July 1863 to 6 April 1867*. Hopefully this will be printed before Christmas. Both these books will be sold from the Education Centre and through our website. Sales of our book on the Redoubt are also steady.

The plan change which the Waikato District Council have proposed, which would allow the erection of housing up to three stories tall on our north boundary along Selby Street, was heard in July. The bulk of the work on this was done by Jennie Hayman and Neville. We are yet to be informed of the outcomes.

Ōtāhuhu

(From the Society's Facebook page, 14 October 2023)

The Ōtāhuhu Historical Society with great sadness announces the sudden death of Elaine Read only a few weeks after she gave her talk about the excursion around the Hauraki Gulf in the family yacht in the 1960s.

Elaine was born Elaine Oliver in Ōtāhuhu and grew up in Curlew Bay Road before the motorway was built on land her grandfather, Charles Spearpoint, had purchased in what was once Water Street, after the war. We can thank her father Ron Oliver for the existence of Trenwith St without which people would have to walk all the way up to Princes St. We can thank her mother Beryl Oliver, a long time society member, for organising the local community to oppose the outlandish plans for a Tāmaki river crossing and support the more benign Otara Creek Bridge. Through her mother, Elaine has been active in the society from a young age and recently took up the role of Archivist. Elaine will be sadly missed, our sincere condolences to her family.

(Elaine was also a member of the Pt Chevalier Historical Society, and of the Pt Chevalier Sailing Club. Elaine and her mother Beryl attended a number of NZHF conferences on behalf of Ōtāhuhu. Elaine will be missed by many in the greater Auckland heritage community.— Ed.)

Parnell Heritage

(From their September newsletter)

We are delighted to confirm that Parnell Heritage has finalised the hire agreement with Parnell Cricket Club [for the Bloodworth Pavilion] and so we now have somewhere to store archives and documents, as well as a venue for meetings. A large amount of archiving and cataloguing work has been undertaken at the Pavilion by Executive members Carolyn Cameron and Lynne Abram, and we are most grateful for the extensive work they have done. In time this will enable Parnell Heritage to offer a limited research service.

West Auckland

June Effie Virginia Raw (1931-2023)

(From the West Auckland Historical Society newsletter, courtesy Robyn Mason)

I met June Raw through my work at Waitakere Libraries due to her husband Bob's extensive photographic archive. Bob recorded their domestic life together, particularly while living on Golf Road with their five children, Lyn, Di, Rob, Ian and Annie. Some of these photos were taken by June who had a keen interest in photography, both taking photographs and developing the film. Neither were practices hugely common for women born in the 1930s, especially in New Lynn, and neither was making your way to the University of Auckland to study chemistry, which she did after finishing high school. Later, once her children were grown, June landed what she referred to as her dream job as the Science Technician at Kelston Girls' High School.

June was multitalented: a nurse, a painter, a potter (attending night classes along with her mother Effie and some of New Zealand's future pottery greats), a pottery teacher, a writer and a devoted wife and mother.

June Gordon was born in Stratford, Taranaki and lived on what is now the 'Forgotten Highway'; her father Frank was a railwayman and they moved frequently. Some places she describes as so remote they lived off the grid, hunting for food and relying on their garden. She learned to bake on a coal-range making 'brown billy bread' and so started her love of cooking.

When June was nine the family moved to the New Lynn railwayman's house on Totara Avenue, which bordered the old post office, currently home to the Wise Fox Café. New Lynn of the 1940s seemed to her like the big city, with its 'whole row of shops', but it was still largely rural.

In June's book *Rail Tracks and Chimney Stacks*, published by the West Auckland Historical Society, she wrote:

"Where LynnMall stands today, there was nothing but a large paddock, where rabbits, quail and pheasants lived... A row of tall, sombre trees... grew in the centre of this wild paddock and beneath them Dad kept ten or fifteen beehives."

As a teenager June assisted studio potter Briar Gardner, decorating pots and loading her kiln, and later, like many local women, June did a stint at Crown Lynn Potteries grading bisqueware; she said it paid better than nursing.

Socialising was equally important to June, and much revolved around the Presbyterian Church, and the St Andrew's Sunday School Hall on Margan Avenue, where at a Highland dance evening, she met a shy boy who would become her husband and soulmate, Bob Raw.

In 'retirement' June ran an after-school arts and crafts kids' club and took up writing a regular column in *The Roundabout*, one of the country's oldest community magazines.

After Bob's retirement they moved from Golf Road to Cornwallis, and a while after Bob passed away, June moved with son Ian to Waihi. True to form June became a well-loved figure in her local church.

To quote a friend of hers June was 'a lady with a heart of gold' and her long life was underpinned by her strong Christian faith. She had infectious joie de vivre, you could not be with her and not feel the power of her love of life, and her belief in the goodness of people. June's funeral notice read she had been 'promoted to glory'. If anyone deserved that promotion it was certainly June.

Robyn Mason