



The
Devonport Historical & Museum Society
Cambria Park, 33a Vauxhall Road, Devonport. P.O. Box 32 044, Devonport 0744, Auckland.

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2018

Greetings members and friends

It's time for our annual general meeting so please mark your diaries for **Sunday 29 April 3 pm** for a catch up on what's what at the museum. Roger Giles will talk on the Devonport Folk Club and The Bunker and there will be the usual delicious afternoon tea!

The last year has been a busy and exciting one at 33a Vauxhall Road. Shortly after last year's AGM we had the team from the Choice TV's programme Heritage Rescue to revitalise the displays and brighten the museum's interior. This involved many hours of painting and shifting items in the collection to make a more cohesive and visitor-friendly museum. If you missed the on-air programmes featuring our museum you may view them on Choice-on-demand at www.choicetv.co.nz/#!/browse/tv/350/season/2/heritage-rescue. We are programmes 7 and 8.



The museum's satellite display of WW1 at 3 Victoria Road has now been moved downstairs in the I-Site office.



Visitor numbers have risen with the publicity of the TV programmes with people coming from all over Auckland and further afield to see the results. We have been open longer hours over the summer (from 12 – 4 pm) so many thanks to those loyal volunteers who are on the roster. Do contact Coralie (445 1900) if you or your friends could spare two hours every couple of months in the weekend to open the museum.

Here's a group of happy Keas and their leaders who visited the museum last month:



A Word from the Engine-room.....

2018 has got off to a very busy start for the crew (myself, Boyd, Helen, Coralie Gail L , Jeremy and Julie) who work in the office during the weekdays. The requests for house information have certainly increased along with plaque requests. These of course go hand in hand with our genealogy division and Boyd is continuing to add more Devonport families on to our Legacy database. We now have over 27,000 names in our system.

Gail and I have also been assisting the newly formed Heritage group with creating spreadsheets showing dates and house numbers for Allenby Avenue and Buchanan Street. These are beneficial with regards to the movements, occupations and the history of families from the early 1900's to late 1930's. We are hoping to continue adding streets to our database- it really is like a huge jigsaw being pieced to together and it offers an invaluable insight with regards to occupations and social comment on the people who made up our community over those years.

We are also amidst a computer upgrade. This will enable more than one system to be used in the office thankfully, as at times our work area resembles grand central station and the lines of customers has been known to queue out the office door!

A reminder that if you or your family/friends have old photographic history of the Devonport houses they lived in, we would love to see them in the office with the view of scanning them onsite and adding them to our ever-increasing house files.

The Heritage Trail this year was based on a games theme. The group lead by Dave Veart, our toys and games expert, devised a route from the Library to the Museum, which included a series of games experiences along the way. Pétanque and hockey skills were supplied by local clubs, and the old saying "step on a crack and marry a rat" was included. A crowd of around two hundred happy families arrived at the museum. Some played skittles, marbles, quoits, make four or Kubb, while others lounged under the trees to hear stories from our regular local librarian.

Thanks to Maria and Peninsula Trust team, Auckland Transport for feeding us, and our Museum supporters. A great day, and worthy of more input each year.

Heritage Week last year was made very special by the production of the map of known sites of boat building in Devonport. This, with the accompanying display on local transport history, has given us a better picture of horse trams, steam trams and ferries.

From Alastair Fletcher and the museum committee