

# DEVONPORT HISTORICAL & MUSEUM SOCIETY



AUGUST 2011 NEWSLETTER

Hello everyone,

You will notice a new format to this newsletter which we hope you will enjoy. There are notes from people who are busy in various capacities around the museum. Look forward to a summer and our annual get-together barbecue at the beginning of December. We are in the process of getting the kitchen floor sanded and polyurethaned.



**FROM CELIA WALKER :**

**Accessioning:** I have continued scanning and accessioning the photographs, including those that have been looked at in relation to research enquiries—some rowing photographs in particular, also some relating to Devonport School and the Devonport Borough Council. More boxes of textiles have been found which Helen and Coralie have now accessioned.

**Conservation:** I have put all the World War 1 and 2 portrait photographs that originally were from Devonport School, into individual archival envelopes and an acid-free box. The Devonport School plans have been put into a large box, and contents put on the database so that they are a bit more accessible..

**Research:** Several research enquiries have been completed—in relation to Church Street, Stanley Point Road and Anne Street.

**Displays:** I have started putting together a list of what we have that can be used for the Devonport Firsts exhibition that we received funding for from the Council. This will go at one end of the temporary gallery, when the World War 1 and 2 displays have been shifted to the small room at the I-site.



**“TAKAPUNA” built by WARREN WILCOX:**

FIDDLESTICKS1 No, not nonsense, but a good name for historical model making—always fiddling with intricate little sticks of wood to make miniature bits to represent something much bigger.

The steam ferry ‘Takapuna’ which I am working on at present has been the most fiddly to date. I think the real one was probably built faster than my model—13 months of spare time so far and about 500 hours to date.

The Museum had plans showing the lower deck plan and a side elevation, I visited the Toroa restoration project out west to get an idea of the underwater hull form and the rest has been gleaned from hours with a magnifying glass going over old ferry photos and often using dividers to scale various bits and finally a lot of guesswork.

The model shows the ferry in its later modified form when under the Devonport Steam Ferry Company flag, rather than its original form as depicted by the model of it in the Maritime Museum.

**FROM ROD CORNELIUS & PETER WEEKS :**

Rod and Peter have been making progress with recording the postcard images into the database on the computer.

The museum had been loaned a collection of 500 cards of Devonport by a dealer and collector about 3 years ago. This collection contained about 350 different images. These we scanned at high resolution into the computer including messages written on the cards. The collection had to be returned to the owner who later passed away and they have now all been sold off as separate cards. So we have saved them in digital form and are now putting them into the data base with details of what can be seen in the images including who was living in the houses when the photograph was taken. As this is now all searchable it is providing the museum with an enormous amount of research data especially for enquiries about people, houses and businesses in Devonport.

**FROM BOYD MILLER (Genealogy)**

I am organising and filing family history notes that have been given to the museum into separate folders and extracting what I can in the way of genealogical information (births, marriages, deaths, occupation, residence, general notes) from these notes. Some additional information may then be added from other data sources.

This data is entered in the Legacy Family Tree program, and then combined with data from all the other Devonport families we have recorded.

This enables us to show connections between families, and to provide a reference index to the information in all the family folders. We welcome people to look at what we have, and some family history reports can be produced, however no birth date data relating to living people will be printed out.

For privacy reasons it is not intended that any of this data from Museum records will be put on the web.

**FROM KEITH EAGLESOME:**

Work is progressing on restoring the “Coal Shed” now the vegetation has been removed and the next job is to repair the roof, paint exterior and re-organise the storage space. The painting of the display boards is underway and looking extremely smart.

**HERITAGE OPEN DAY:**

**25th September 10am—4pm**

**Morning and afternoon tea provided— gold coin donation.**

**Donations of food for the teas would be appreciated.**

Alister will have models for the children to put together.

Fun for all.

**FROM ALASTAIR FLETCHER (President)**

It is good to be back after time in the USA where we saw many museums and historic sites. Our Museum stands up well as a community collection of heritage information and artefacts. We continue to improve the range and detail of the many stories we share about people and events in this community. The growing involvement of local people, and especially of families, in Museum activities is exciting, and bodes well for our continuing success.

Current projects are the changing displays in our side room, the redevelopment of our i-site display, the opportunity to develop a large panel display on the ferry wharf, and working towards the next heritage week in September. Applying for funding for administration and development continues. Working through modified processes with the new City structure, and seeking support in a rather austere economic climate is challenging. We continue to work towards strengthening our back wall and developing it as an enhanced display area. Being involved in new City moves to preserve and enhance Devonport as a heritage destination is a valuable opportunity to use our skills and knowledge base. Thank you for what you are contributing in many ways.

*A note:*

We continue to seek outdoor heritage games such as rope quoits, and skittles. These are so much fun at open days! Any information and heritage photos of sports in old Devonport are welcome too!

**NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS THIS YEAR:**

Alastair Fletcher (President)

Tom Smith (Treasurer)

Helen Cornelius (Secretary)

Jennifer Barton

Allister Campbell

Rod Cornelius

Keith Eaglesome

Coralie Luffman\

Philip Luffman

Boyd Miller

Bill Rayner

Warren Wilcox

**Devonport Museum**

Open weekends 2 — 4 pm.

33A Vauxhall Rd Ph: 445 2661 Postal address: P.O. Box 32 044, Devonport

<http://www.devonportmuseum.org.nz> Website kindly hosted by iSERVE

