

Albertland Heritage Museum Inc



Harold Marsh #
2004.2.96.442
The Old Boarding House
at Port Albert



Newsletter March 2024

Open Hours

Monday, Tuesday - Closed
Wednesday - Saturday - 11am to 3pm
Sunday - 1pm to 3pm
The Museum is open for visitors

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Coming Up in April

14th April - Port Albert Church Service (bring a plate for afternoon tea) 1.30pm

Editors Message

Wishing everyone a joyous Easter! I hope you have had a rejuvenating break over the Easter holiday, as we prepare to embrace the cooler months ahead. At the museum, things are gaining momentum as we approach Anzac Day, a time to honour the courage of our local heroes who fought bravely in World War I and II.

Just as we have done for the past three years, we will be welcoming visitors immediately after the Dawn Parade. Join us for a warm drink and homemade Anzac Biscuits, prepared by our volunteers. Take a leisurely stroll through the museum and explore our current exhibit, 'Mission on the Kaipara' – a fascinating glimpse into the lives of William and Marianne Gittos. Don't hesitate to strike up a conversation with our volunteers.

Additionally, the museum will open later in the day starting from 12 pm so if you don't get to visit after the Dawn Parade we hope to see you later in the day. Stay tuned for updates in next month's newsletter and on our Facebook page regarding our upcoming 29th of May Celebrations, scheduled for the weekend of the 25th and 26th of May.

This year has been marked by growth and discovery for our volunteers, as we have embraced new opportunities for learning. Thanks to the Northland Museums Association, we have participated in enriching workshops, received personal training, and engaged in weekly exchanges with fellow museums in the North. Museums need your support! Make sure you come and visit us to see the work we are doing to keep our local history alive.

Chronicles of a Close-Knit Community at the A&P Show

In the heart of the rugged landscapes of 19th-century New Zealand, nestled within the vibrant community of Albertland, another chapter of pioneering spirit unfolded, when Mr. Pettet, a figure of humble yet steadfast leadership, extended his hospitality to the Albertland settlers in 1864, beckoning them to gather at his modest abode.

As the settlers assembled at Mr. Pettet's home, the air was filled with anticipation, amidst the warmth of shared tea and friendship, Mr. Pettet took the reins and steered the discussion toward a vision for the formation of the Port Albert Agricultural Union, dedicated to fostering agricultural knowledge and pursuits among its members.

With meticulous planning and preparation, the framework of the union took shape. Annual subscriptions were set, officers appointed, and a roadmap for future endeavours meticulously charted. Mr. Pettet, with his quiet yet commanding presence, assumed the mantle of president, his commitment unwavering, while Mr. Shepherd and Mr. Samuel Johnson took up the positions of treasurer and secretary, respectively, their dedication matching his own.

Among the resolutions that found favour was the proposal for an agricultural show—a grand event that would not merely display the fruits of labour but also ignite a spark of healthy competition and camaraderie among the settlers. Yet, even amidst the enthusiasm, a voice of dissent arose, as Mr. Edger voiced concerns about the potential for rivalry and jealousy inherent in competitive displays. His pragmatic suggestion to commence with a preliminary exhibition before delving into full-fledged competition resonated with the assembly, and plans were set into motion accordingly.

The inaugural show, held in March of the following year, was a testament to the collective spirit and steadfast resolve of the settlers. Despite initial scepticism, the event blossomed into a jubilant celebration of community pride, with entries spanning a diverse array of produce and livestock. As the sun dipped beneath the horizon, casting a golden hue upon the rolling hills of Albertland, prizes were awarded, not merely as tokens of recognition but as tributes to the toil, dedication, and ingenuity of the settlers.

Over the years, the annual show evolved into a cornerstone of Albertland's social calendar. Despite the occasional setback, like the weather-beaten show of 1883 or the logistical hiccups of 1894, the spirit of the show endured with unfaltering determination shown by the settlers.

As the years rolled by and the calendar flipped to 1912, the Port Albert Agricultural Union still remained a beacon of community spirit and the indomitable spirit of those early settlers who, over a cup of tea, dared to dream of a better tomorrow.



2004-2-2007-1175 Port Albert Show 08th March 1906

Community Spirit - Port Albert Church

Maintaining buildings across the district has always been quite the challenge for their governing committees. Especially now, with our country facing tough economic times, every penny counts more than ever.

Let me share a heartwarming story from 1922! An article in the Auckland Star on March 13th titled 'A Helping Hand' recounted a wonderful example of community spirit in Port Albert. More than 20 dedicated individuals, mostly men from different parts of the Methodist church circuit, gathered on a Friday for a productive working bee.



Their mission? To give the church, its hall, and kitchen a fresh new look with a coat of paint. Under the capable leadership of Mr. M. Souster, the project was completed swiftly and efficiently.

The effort was truly remarkable, especially considering the financial pressure the church committee was under at the time. The women of the congregation ensured everyone stayed energised with refreshments throughout the day. And as the day came to a close, Reverend H. Orchard, a respected figure in the district, expressed profound gratitude on behalf of the trustees.



Mr Souster's leadership didn't stop there. He had already had an impact in Glenfield with his involvement in the construction of a Glenfield church by a "one-day" team. Port Albert trustees, V. Grant and H. Legge were among those who deeply appreciated his contributions, highlighting the lasting legacy of community and proactive leadership in their speeches given at the end of the day.

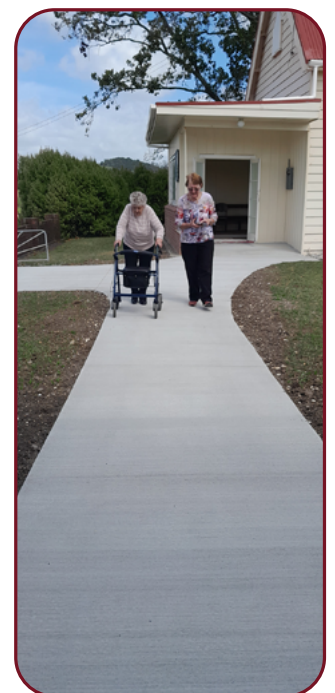
Now, as we skip forward 102 years into the future, the enduring spirit of community remains deeply embedded in Port Albert. The industrious efforts of Sean Lambert, armed with his digger, undertook the task of clearing away the worn-out paths to prepare the ground for the skilled hands of McMassive Concrete who laid down fresh foundations.

Once again, this has helped to ensure the preservation and enhancement of one of our most cherished landmarks and now members of this congregation, young and old, can safely negotiate the new path to enjoy a cup of tea after the service which is held at 1.30pm on the second Sunday of each month.

Everyone welcome!

Bring a plate to share for afternoon tea.

Next service will be held on Sunday 14th April at 1.30pm.



Flashback to 1978

In the backdrop of our daily routines is the subtle but vital message that echoes the imperative need to recycle our waste. But was this notion merely a modern-day trend, or did the roots of recycling run deeper into history? An article in the 'Press' on March 29th, 1978, suggests the latter, as it highlighted the proactive recycling efforts of 'Pacific Scrap Limited,' at that time, the largest scrap company in New Zealand.

Recognised with a Conservation Award from the Government, Pacific Scrap Limited had meticulously engineered a comprehensive scrap collection system spanning from Kaitaia to the Bluff. Derelict buses, household appliances, farm machinery, and even the remnants of ill-fated vessels found refuge in the company's expansive scrap yard in Otahuhu. Among them lay the poignant remnants of the Capitaine Bougainville, a stark reminder of its tragic shipwreck in 1975, alongside HMNZS Inverell, an obsolete Navy mine-sweeper that once patrolled our 'Coastal Waters.'

The significance of recycling was accompanied by staggering statistics: while it consumed 4200 kilowatt hours of electricity to produce a tonne of iron and steel from raw materials, recycling demanded only 1600 kilowatt hours, marking a 61% reduction in energy expenditure. This efficiency translated into substantial energy savings for New Zealand, equivalent to three million barrels of crude oil annually.

Pacific Scrap's vision extended to tapping the abundant reservoirs of metal strewn across backyards, in basements and buildings throughout the country. Mr. J. Brady, the company's manager, engaged with schools, the Defence Force, and community organisations such as Lions and Rotary Clubs, urging them to join the scrap recovery crusade. He promised significant savings in overseas funds and the creation of more employment opportunities for workers involved in the recycling process.

The company's ambitions stretched even further, contemplating innovative techniques like tin can 'detinning' to reclaim valuable resources. Tin imports, a significant expense for New Zealand, became a focal point for conservation efforts. However, the success of such endeavours relied heavily on public co-operation reminiscent of wartime solidarity when housewives banded together to recycle resources for the greater good.

Looking ahead, Pacific Scrap envisioned a future where households meticulously sorted their waste, segregating metals, plastics, glass, paper, and food leftovers for streamlining recycling processes at various processing plants. They say dreams do come true, and the legacy of Pacific Scrap's pioneering efforts in recycling stands as a testament to the enduring value of resource conservation and its message for future generations.

This photo was found recently in the museum and appears to be a scrap metal drive in Wellsford. There is no date or details of the men working in the picture but we would like to know more! If you remember this day or any of the men in the photo let us know.

albertlandmuseum@gmail.com



Janis Childs (18th October 1935 to 25th February 2024)

Sadly, we share the news of the recent passing of Janis Childs, beloved wife of Colin Childs and a respected member of the Wellsford Community for many years. Colin's talents as a skilled maker of model boats have left an indelible mark, with four exquisite replicas of the early sailing vessels that brought the Albertland Settlers to New Zealand proudly showcased in our main gallery.

Janis's life journey was nothing short of remarkable. Growing up as a young child in East London just before the outbreak of World War II, she witnessed the harrowing realities of war firsthand, from the menacing presence of dogfights overhead to seeking refuge in Anderson Bomb Shelters amidst the destruction wrought upon homes and communities.

Seventy years ago, Colin and Janis's paths crossed when Janis was walking her dog with some friends and a dashing Junior Cadet Sailor caught her eye. When on leave Colin would continue his courtship of the young Janis resulting in their marriage in 1953.

Their decision to emigrate to a new life in New Zealand in 1966 caused upset particularly with Janis's mother, who vowed never to talk to Colin again, however, this was quickly resolved upon their first return to England for a visit. With two young children in tow, they set sail for New Zealand witnessing many sights along the way.

Their life was filled with promise and adventure, finally finding themselves in Port Albert upon their retirement. From bustling Auckland to the serene shores of Port Albert, Colin lent his hand to help daughter Yvonne with her home, before eventually taking up residence at the Masonic Village in Wellsford.

Our deepest condolences extend to Janis's grieving family: her husband Colin; their children Kevin and Valerie, Yvonne and Ross, and granddaughter Natalie. May Janis's memory be a beacon of love and strength, forever cherished in the hearts of those who knew her.



WHAT'S ON

Wednesday April 10th - Port Albert Hall - 6:30pm BBQ -7:30pm Comedy Show - 'The Bitches' Box - see advert in this newsletter

Saturday April 13th - Genealogy Lock In - Wellsford Library - 1 to 4pm - see advert in this newsletter

Saturday April 13th -Seniors Expo 10 - 2pm at wellsford District Community Centre

Sunday April 14th - Port Albert Church Service 1.30 pm

Thursday April 25th - Museum will be open after the Anzac Morning Service

Also don't forget that the museum has a new exhibition 'A Mission on the Kaipara'

Stitching History: Reviving Tradition at the A & P Lifestyle Show

After a considerable hiatus from attending A & P shows, the Albertland Heritage Museum proudly participated in the esteemed A & P Lifestyle Show at Warkworth on March 16th. Marking the 156th year of this cherished tradition, our museum collaborated with the Warkworth Embroiders Guild, uniting under the expansive shelter of our gazebo.

Thinking of what we could take along to unite us with our new neighbours, we showcased an antique sampler predating the arrival of the Albertland Settlers in 1862, only to be completely captivated by the exquisite craftsmanship of contemporary embroiderers.

The event was a resounding success, bustling with activity and drawing a diverse crowd. Throughout the day, our dedicated volunteers passionately engaged with an attentive audience, imparting the rich story of the Albertland Settlement.



For those who missed us at the show, we will be soon attending the Seniors Expo in Wellsford on Saturday, 13th April, however, we also extend a heartfelt invitation to visit our museum. Our doors are open,

Wednesday to Saturday 11 – 3pm and Sunday 1 – 3 pm, and we eagerly await the opportunity to personally guide you through our exhibits and share the captivating story of Albertland.

Please do not hesitate to join us at the museum, we will be delighted to offer you a warm welcome and a firsthand glimpse into our heritage.

Check out our website for more information at <https://albertlandmuseum.co.nz>



Winner of the 'Memory Game'
- Jim from Warkworth with 14
out of 18 correct



Winner of 'Guess the Marbles' competition -
Jane from Warkworth with 166 marbles
Prize presented by Rose, Secretary, AHM

Historical Birthdays

10th March 1891



Verena Emmaline Becroft was born in Port Albert, New Zealand to Albertland settlers David and Florence Mary Becroft (nee Bradbury). In 1913, Verena married Henry Wymark Busbridge at the home of her parents in Port Albert. Verena died on 29th October 1973 in Port Albert.

2004.2.94.35 Verena Becroft



19th March 1831 Thomas Inger picture from within a picture of his 100th birthday (First policeman in Port Albert)

BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH

With many of our committee members and community members born in March, I wanted to learn more about March babies. Here is what I found:

March babies often do well in life, with many becoming CEOs or airplane pilots. They are usually positive and have traits like joy, ambition, and good luck. They are also smart, intuitive, and creative.

Pisces (February 19 to March 20) are dreamers and empathetic, while Aries (March 21 to April 20) are confident leaders. Pisces' birth flower is the daffodil, symbolising hope, and Aries' is honeysuckle. Overall, March babies are considered lucky, with special qualities linked to their birth month and zodiac sign.

Happy Birthday

10th March – Peter Buckton and Rob Lennon

14th March – Mikayla Journee

16th March – Grahame Henderson

19th March – Kevin Gallagher

26th March – Claire Peake

Friends of the Museum

12th March – Val Partridge

15th March – Owen Treadwell

23rd March – Julie Cotton

Don't forget to inform us if you or a family member is celebrating a birthday! We'd love to include it in our newsletter.





Genealogy Lock In

Saturday 13 April 2024, 1-4pm – Wellsford Library

Come and join us for a fun filled afternoon dedicated to researching genealogy with fellow genealogists and knowledgeable library staff. Learn and discover new and exciting things about genealogy, or come along and share your research.

The Genealogy Lock-in is being run by the Wellsford Genealogy Group and Wellsford Library. Afternoon tea is available. Attendance is free.

For more information, speak to library staff or email Wellsford.library@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz or warklib@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Photograph: Albertland Heritage Museum Harold Marsh Collection 97-765.

Find out more



Wednesday 10th April 2024

A FARMSTRONG EVENT FOR PORT ALBERT

THE BITCHES' BOX: EPISODE 4

Wednesday 10 April
BBQ Starts 6:30pm
Show Starts 7:30pm

Port Albert

Port Albert Hall
980 Port Albert Rd,
Wellsford

NEW SHOW!

BYO
Adult themes
Tickets:
\$15
Includes
BBQ

Tickets: trybooking.com/nz/RFA
More info: farmstrong.co.nz/events

FARMSTRONG
Live Well Farm Well

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



RuralSupport



A MISSION ON THE KAIPARA:

William and Marianne Gittos



George Dilly, Camp at Albertland, Nth Auckland
Watercolour, 254 x 825mm
Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki, Purchased 1970

New EXHIBITION

A Mission on the Kaipara is a new exhibition telling the story of Reverend William Gittos and his Wife, Marianne Gittos (née Hobbs).

Opens 14 Feb 2024

Albertland Heritage Museum

Library Plaza

15 Port Albert Road Wellsford

Mon-Tues: Closed

Wed - Sat: 11am-3pm

Sun: 1pm-3pm

Regular entry fees apply

