

School holidays at last!

TAINUI TRADING POST

JULY 2017



ST PETER'S BY THE SEA

"God has not given us the spirit of fear but the power of love and of a sound mind"
ii Timothy 1:7

July 7th Communion service 2 p.m. Rev. Singh
July 16th Family Service 2 p.m. Pastor Tutty

All welcome to the services and afternoon tea to follow.

Any prayer requests contact D Lowry

Enquiries to D Lowry 752 9123

NURSE'S NOTICE

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Christy Lowry 7529 132

All copy for the Tainui Trading Post due by 20th of the month.
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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE MUSEUM?

There are loads of reasons to pop in to Mokau Museum and Gallery this month. Come and keep nice and warm on these cold winter days – our heat pump stays on 24/7 so that temperature and humidity levels stay absolutely constant for the preservation of artefacts in our care.

Firstly, our new exhibition in the gallery begins on Friday 07 July. This is a combined effort showing the works of two local and extremely talented artists – Peter Holbrook from Pio Pio and Dennis Walton from Awakino. Their art is both affordable and relevant to the Tainui region.

Secondly, Mokau Museum and Gallery has received a very special and long-awaited addition to the collection – our very own kiwi. He (or she) is a ‘North Island brown kiwi’ complete with egg plus buddy the ‘banded rail’ and a nest belonging to unknown species, possibly grey warbler.

NAME THE KIWI

Bring the children in to the museum during the school holidays to see the new kiwi.

It needs a name – can you help us to name our kiwi?

Don't forget that Choice TV is replaying its first series of ‘Heritage Rescue’ on Saturday evenings at 6.30pm or TV On Demand. The brand new second series will be screening soon and one of the episodes features the lovely Eketahuna Mellemkov Museum which is situated in a town roughly the same size as Mokau. You will see some similarities between this museum and ours.

Most importantly, Mokau Museum and Gallery is hosting an event on Friday 14 July at 1pm. This event is open to the entire community – come and have afternoon tea with Waitomo District councillor Phil Brodie and our local MP Barbara Kuriger.

OPEN INVITATION

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO MOKAU MUSEUM ON FRIDAY 14th JULY AT 1PM TO CELEBRATE THE NATIONAL AWARD FOR VISITOR EXPERIENCE.

PLEASE COME ALONG AND HEAR ABOUT THE NEW COMMUNITY FOCUSED DIRECTION OF THE MUSEUM.

AFTERNOON TEA WILL BE PROVIDED

Finally, we are so happy to welcome Paul Jones onto the museum team. Paul is duty volunteer on Tuesday afternoons so pop in and have a chat about whether you could also give an afternoon to the museum and gallery. An afternoon shift is only 1 – 4pm, you meet loads of interesting people and learn heaps yourself about the history of this fascinating area of Aotearoa NZ.

Jan Brown, secretary
Mokau Museum and Gallery, open seven days, 10am – 4pm

TAINUI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LOCAL SHIPWRECKS

The Steamer DOUGLAS

In August 1883, the Northern Steamship Company added a new steamer to their fleet and the 1 year old ketch-rigged S.S. Douglas of 60 tons, left Auckland on Thursday, 16th under Captain Winks, for Waitara direct. She was of light draft and well adapted to the carrying of stock and was to join the McGregor as a regular trader between Waitara and Onehunga. She arrived at Waitara on her maiden voyage on Monday, 20th August with 40 tons of general cargo after battling strong weather all the way down.

On her next trip down, when she left Manukau with the S.S. Hauraki and the S.S. Hannah Mokau, she again met strong gales and heavy seas and was forced to put into Kawhia for shelter. During the next 2 months Capt. McArthur took over command of the Douglas.

6th of November 1883- on her way from Onehunga to Waitara when nearing her destination she struck lightly on the Airedale Reef, causing a disc or counter-balance, which had been recently fitted, to be carried away. At about 2 a.m. on the 7th she was towed in by the S.S. Moturoa. On this occasion she was under the temporary charge of Capt. Charles Bonner. The official inquiry was held at Auckland in January 1884 and the court found that although evidence showed a slight amount of carelessness by him but taking into account the slight damage done, the assessors would not interfere with his certificate. However, costs of \$8.9.0d were ordered against him.

Captained by Henry Arthur Day, she grounded on the south bank of the Waitara River on 2nd February 1884 with 13 passengers aboard, taking the bar before the signal to do so was given. However, she floated off undamaged on the evening tide.

By 1884 coal was being mined at the Mokau and samples were being tested in the steamers on the river. Local Maori were suspicious of the Europeans and their motives in taking the coal away and selling it for profit. Joshua “Mokau” Jones, who had acquired extensive tracts of land about the Mokau River, also had a lease of land on which one of the mines was located. A dispute arose with Chief Heremaia Te Aria and his men. They turned the mine workers off the land and canoed them and their baggage down to the mouth of the river and threw the coal into the river. A week later they were allowed to return only to be evicted again a month later. When news of the trouble reached Auckland a party of 6men, shareholders connected with the disputed lease of Jones, came down on the steamer Douglas, crossed the bar on 6th April and anchored off the settlement. Disappointed to hear that the coal had been thrown into the river, they went up the river at 4 a.m. the next morning to get a few tons before Haeremai knew about it.

29th August - the Argyle with the Douglas, captained by Walter Francis Norbury, met heavy seas coming down the Waitara and went ashore on North Spit. The Douglas came off the Spit on the morning tide and steamed up to the railway wharf, leaving on the evening tide on 1st September. The cause of the accident was “the current running out of the river slewed the vessel to northward”. Slight damage was done.

13th December 1844 - the Douglas arrived from Onehunga with 2 pieces of machinery for the Waitara Freezing Company's new works.

Ngā Hapū o Poutama – Pānui (newsletter)

Tēnā ra koutou katoa

Poutama will be publishing a monthly article in the Trading Post to keep the community updated with Iwi news and happenings from around the rohe. We're looking forward to bringing you these regular updates.

To kick us off, it was another tough season for beekeepers. A cold wet summer with only three fine days in a row meant the bees didn't make much honey. They also needed feeding earlier in the year than usual. Our honey has been harvested and extracted, and we're waiting on results and payment to wind up the season.

In positive honey news, Shandy, Marty and two partners are busy revolutionizing the beekeeping industry with their wax drawn honey frames. Their product is in testing stage, and they're seeing great results so far.

You might have caught the visit from the Coast crew and presenter, Neil Oliver, on TV 1 in May. We all had a great day talking about the history, geology and geography at Tongaporutu, and the crew loved the local whitebait fritters for lunch!

Ahititi School enjoyed another noho marae at Tongaporutu Pā at the beginning of June. The tamariki helped with hangi preparation, built drift wood huts at Three Sisters beach, roasting marshmallows, and participated in waiata and korero. The weather was great, it was well supported by the school and community and we all look forward to the next one.

Over the Christmas break we held a tangi for Uncle Koni Te Ahuru at Tongaporutu Pā. The weather was lovely and it made for a beautiful send off. He now rests with his brother and moko in the Tongaporutu Urupa.

We've been involved in several meetings on the proposed SH3 roading projects. Our focus is on ensuring work be made available for local workers and contractors, and that environmental and cultural damage is minimised. There seems to be a lot of contradictions within the project. We have been told there are actually over 22 different roading options for Mt Messenger on the table.

We have also been busy with meetings and discussions with NPDC over the District Plan Review (still in early stages), and we've just been notified about three large 1080 drops in the Whitecliffs, Hutiwai and Waitaanga.

Fishing Permits - both Tongaporutu Pā (Russell Gibbs) and Te Kawau Pā (Haumoana White), have Customary Authorisation Permits available to anyone wanting a permit for a significant or specific local event. Feel free to call if you need a permit.

Finally, our bearded readers might like to visit award winning Barber, Ngahina at Jet Charm in New Plymouth. Ngahina recently won Best Beard Trim at the national BeardCraft Competition in Auckland. We're assured a trim from her will leave you looking more distinguished woodsman than latte drinking hipster – your beard is in safe hands!

Ko te whenua ko au, ko au te whenua.

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TAINUI HISTORICAL SOCIETY - CONTINUED

6th February 1899 - the Douglas under Capt Alfred Jonas and laden with a cargo of coal, attempted to leave the Mokau but went ashore on the north side of the entrance. As the tide made she was brought further over the spit, causing the deck to become strained and a slight leak developed. A portion of the cargo was jettisoned. Over the next 3-4 days attempts were made to get her back into the river without success. Finally returning to the river a day later being literally "hailed over dry land", during which the hawse pipes were broken. Rough repairs were made at Mokau and she steamed to Waitara for further repair. She was then sent to Kaipara for an overhaul. The Court of Enquiry found the casualty was the result of the sand bar shifting.

30th July 1900 - the Douglas left the Mokau wharf at high tide with 70 tons of coal, 4 passengers and a crew of 5, drawing 7ft 4in and there was 9ft 6in to 10ft of water on the bar. It took 8-9min to get to the bar, with a 40ft channel to go through. While approaching the bar a large roller struck the vessel, followed by a second. The seaman called that the vessel was not going ahead but the engines continued at full speed and the vessel seemed to answer. More breakers struck and she touched the bottom briefly. The captain tried several manoeuvres but she drifted towards the rocks. He decided to return, going full speed until he got the beacons well to the north. He then stopped the engines and ordered full steam astern, repeating the procedure again. The engineer reported that he could not turn the engines ahead or astern with the pinch bar.

Nonplussed, the Captain glanced behind him and saw bits of a 6-inch hawser over the rail aft. He ordered the aft sail to be rigged but was washed overboard when going to assist with it. The next sea washed him back and he climbed on deck by the coir hawser. The wind was too light to have any effect on the sails and the seas drove her on to the north beach. When she grounded the captain kept the foresail on to steady her. 25 tons of coal were taken out to lighten her. At first it was anticipated there would be little difficulty in getting her off the sandbank and several unsuccessful attempts were made to drag her off. By the time the spring tides came on August 12th all hopes of getting her off had been abandoned.

14th August - Mr Newton King advertised the Douglas 'as she now lies stranded at Mokau' would be sold by auction at his mart on 16th on "a/c of whom it may concern". Her purchaser was Mr A.W. Ogle of Waitara and he paid £18.10.0d for her. She was insured for £750.

Source M. deJardines "Shipwrecks on and off the Taranaki Coast

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