

February 2010 Quarterly Newsletter

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SUE & CLAIRE

I'm sure you'll all agree that this summer is one for the books! We had an increase in visitor numbers in November and December, but January's were down on last year. Maybe that's because of the beautiful, hot weather – I know I just wanted to go swimming as often as possible, and perhaps the locals and visitors did the same.

You may have noticed the new name and logo on this newsletter. Some months ago I was lucky enough to win a \$10,000 marketing and design package from Identity Developments, or "ID". It was perfect timing, as we needed a new logo in time for when the new nocturnal kiwi house opens. Pip and Nat have done a stunning job, presenting us with many logo designs to choose from – and out of them all came our little kiwi icon. We will start designing a new website in the coming weeks and following that we'll update our brochure. Included in the prize was a \$500 printing package from Design and Print Direct and \$500 sign writing from Fastsignz.

The Labour Weekend *Best of British Live Day* was a huge success. Special thanks to Lyn Wrack and the Vintage Car Club Members who, together with Allie, organized a great day. The *Celebrating Summer Live Day* was also a



great day, with a huge number of volunteers mucking in – including Claire's parents on holiday from England! All those people who give their time to help our Trust raise funds and entertain our community are absolute gems. Thank you! We've got two more exciting events to look forward to:– *Emergency Services Live Day* on the

28th of March and the *Heritage Park Motor Show* on the 10th and 11th of April.

2010 will see the new nocturnal kiwi house finally completed. I'm sure people will be totally

"wowed" by the modern and engaging displays that will be part of this fit-out. Our new gift shop will be stocked with as many local and NZ made products as we can source, and we'll be looking for volunteers to drive a golf cart type buggy to ferry visitors up and down the hill. The connecting link between the two buildings is a very expensive project, which we don't quite have enough funds for yet – but we're working on it!

And finally, we said goodbye to Claire during February. She will be greatly missed by us all but we wish her all the best in her new adventure.

Sue Walters

As many of you will know by now, I am moving to Dunedin at the beginning of March to take up the role of Collections Team Leader at the Otago Settlers Museum. I am very sad to be leaving Heritage Park at such an exciting time, however job opportunities such as this do not come up very often. I am very grateful to all the people who have made my three years here so enjoyable and especially to the staff and volunteers whose enthusiasm and passion ensure Heritage Park goes from strength to strength. I must also acknowledge the wonderful camaraderie shown by members of the Northland Museums Association. The NMA is a really special organization which is held up as a model of good practice by the rest of the country. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the members and visiting many of the NMA museums. I will certainly miss the warmth of both the people and weather of Northland!

As well as the NMA, Te Komiti Maori have given me huge support, and I feel a better person for working with them.

Thank you to everyone who sponsored me on my 80km bike ride round the first part of Lake Taupo back in November. I'm glad to report that I did survive despite the many hills seemingly looming out of nowhere – knowing people had supported me definitely kept me going! And through everybody's generosity I was able to raise \$1000 toward the Kiwi North Project. Talking of which Stage 1 of the Kiwi North project is on track with the building contract out to tender. We hope to have the new Kiwi House and shop area up and running by July. While the economic climate has meant that we have had to reduce the scope of the project, both the Board and staff still have the bigger vision to work towards.

In mid May 2010 we will be hosting the international touring exhibition on *Anne Frank*. The



exhibition has been adapted for New Zealand to include interviews with New Zealand Holocaust survivors. We are pleased to be hosting it at the museum to enable Northlanders to view this fascinating exhibition.

On 17th and 18th February we were lucky enough to host a National Services Te Paerangi workshop on 'The conservation of large metal objects displayed outdoors' presented by Conservator George Bailey from the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The workshop was attended by many representatives from museums in the North as well as a couple of members of the restoration clubs on the Heritage Park. George gave us all a good insight into the issues and problems faced when considering how to look after different types of historical industrial and agricultural machinery. The Heritage Park provided prime examples for George to use for the practical element of the course. By the end of the two days all the participants had picked up new



Workshop participants watch while conservator George Bailey applies a tannin mixture to machinery on site

ideas and we will now be able to create plans as to how we will be conserving the objects we care for. Curator Lou and Rob from the Stationary Engine Club will soon be holding a session for members of the other clubs at Heritage Park to disseminate the information they learnt at the workshop. A Fond Farewell

Claire

THE KIWI HOUSE

February is here! Take a moment to look into our gift shop, we're open 7 days and there's lots of neat gift ideas. The kids might like a pocket kite - the wind keeps the kite open and it folds to fit in your pocket - always ready for that gust of wind wherever you might be. For the budding cooks out there, check out the cookie cutters in the shape of a kiwi and one in the shape of New Zealand, great for those biscuits you make for special friends. How about an emergency rain coat - just the thing to put in your bag. We're open daily, 10am - 4pm - at the Kiwi House.



Kiwi cookie cutter

Kevin

EDUCATION

The last quarter of 2010 was a very busy time for the Education Centre with 1267 students and visitors passing through our doors. Feedback from the visitor questionnaire has been overwhelmingly positive, with typical comments being "Staff and students had a great day" and "Perfect. The activities and shared stories, resources and activities fitted our



Children looking at the Moa bones from the collection

objectives. Thank you for your communication, organisation and willingness."

Many visitors have enjoyed the experience of the Riponui Pah Schoolroom and "doing education old-school", complete with rote-learning, the dunce's cap and dip-pens! Many schools have asked for more hands-on experiences and so for 2010 the Education Centre will be offering five different role-playing activities. Three of these will be based in and around the Clarke Homestead, using objects from the handling collection and set in the life and times of the Early Settlers. The Riponui Pah Schoolroom experience is already successful in its own right and will be expanded to be a stand-alone activity. The final role-play will be about evacuees, and the effects of WWII on local lives, and is designed to complement the forthcoming *Anne Frank* exhibition.

Find me!
Where in the museum can you see me?

What am I? What is interesting about me?

The success of activities such as the Museum detective trail means that there are now five *explore, discover and learn* programmes specifically based in and around the Museum collections. The junior detective trail is now a free self-guided activity for tourist families to engage in. Claire and I have talked

about creating a resource trolley containing many different educational activities for children to be able to do whilst visiting the Museum. I hope to be able to action this after attending the MEANZ conference in Wellington in February, and am anticipating that I will come back bursting with ideas!



Children enjoy dressing up in costume to show the different adaptations seen in native

It's still proving difficult to engage with the secondary schools and so I have created a whole new selection of Maths, Science and Technology workshops to try to encourage uptake. These workshops are not solely confined to the Museum at Heritage Park and are in collaboration with other Museums such as Northlands' Medical Museum and Clapham's Clocks. I have also contacted all the clubs and societies that have a presence on the Park in an endeavour to be more inclusive in the range of extra activities which can be presented to schools. Most have been enthusiastic and supportive and I look forward to working with their education liaisons in the coming year.

I have designed a new information format for the educational material and 50 schools have received data on a CD-ROM rather than the traditional paper folder. The CD contains details of all the educational programmes together with booking forms, OSH information and a handy desk-top calendar useful for planning visits, beautifully crafted by Irene Hamlin. The information will also be available to download from the website in due course.

As 2009 drew to a close, I organized a series of Christmas workshops for children. These were popular and enjoyable and feedback from parents has encouraged me to think that it might be a good idea to offer holiday activities on a regular basis.

I was sad to lose Colin at the end of Term 4 but

wish him every success in his new job and hope he will be happy (and not too exhausted) by returning to full-time classroom teaching. He will be very hard to replace and we will all miss his stories!

The New Year sees me packing up the Education Centre in preparation for re-locating. It's going to be a very exciting year.

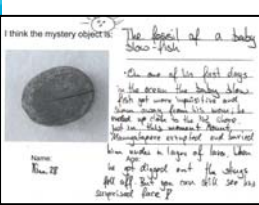
Pippa Lawlor

COLLECTIONS

Visitors certainly enjoyed the stunning photographs on display in 'The Eye of the Universe' exhibition which was on loan from Southland Museum and Art Gallery. We are also grateful to local astrophotographer Tony Kwak who lent us some of his amazing images and to Helen Curreen

The Collections department has been short staffed since the beginning of the financial year, when funding cuts meant we lost our part time Registrar. Now Claire has gone, it just leaves Lou working part time. However, we endeavor to respond to the public's enquiries as quickly as possible.

Feedback from the small *Weird and Wonderful* display has been so great that we've decided to turn it in to a bigger temporary exhibition up on the mezzanine. From the beginning of March to mid May visitors will be able to take a closer look at some of the more unusual objects from the collections. Visitors have also enjoyed guessing the mystery object and there have been some wild and whacky suggestions at to what the various objects might have been! Below



is one visitor's suggestion for February's Mystery Object
"I think the mystery object is the fossil of a baby blow-fish. On one of his first days in the ocean the baby blow fish got more inquisitive and swam away from his mom; he ended up close to the NZ shore.

Just in this moment Mount Maungatapere erupted and buried him under a layer of lava. When he got dug out the stings fell off. But you can still see his surprised face!"

And what is it really??? **a fossilized coconut shell!**

GREETINGS FROM THE FRONT DESK

November and December have been very busy with venue hire of the Park for end-of-year parties. 15 kohangas, pre-schools and business firms held their Christmas parties here for students, staff and families. Out of these five were new clients. The NZ Refinery Co was back again. They had a fabulous day with approximately 400 people. Webb Ross & Johnson was a business new to the Park this year. My thanks to the Whangarei Model Engineering Club, Whangarei Steam & Model Train Club, and The Vintage Farm Machinery Club for providing all those rides, sometimes several days in a row. It is certainly worthwhile fundraising for their clubs and gives pleasure to so many.

The mini horse and cart are a



new addition to our rides and are proving very popular. They are owned and run by a delightful couple from Paparoa who when they come on Live Days, donate to the Museum 2/3rds of their takings.



Allie

HERITAGE PARK CLUBS

THE ROCK AND GEM STONE CLUB

Our clubrooms are now looking quite presentable both inside and out, but we still have a long way to go before we can set our workshop up and start running some demonstrations. We seem to be getting more people coming along to visit us on open days, this is quite

encouraging as I felt we were a bit out of sight but we are getting quite good attendances. I am very pleased with the support we have received from other clubs on the Park and also the help and support from the Museum staff. Thanks everyone for making us welcome, I am really pleased that at long last we have our own permanent home for our club.

Rob Carver *President.*

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

2010 Dates for Viewing -weather permitting
 Come and view the night sky, viewing starts when it gets dark on clear nights

Saturday Feb March 20th Saturday April 24th
 Saturday May 22nd Saturday June 19th
 Saturday July 17th Saturday August 21st

Phone **Maureen** 09 437 0719 or **Maree** 09 435 0818

KIWI CAFÉ

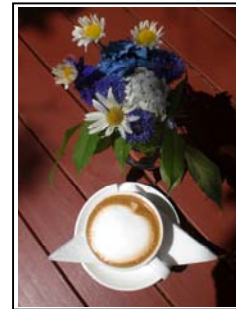
The café opened its doors on 21st December 2009 and business over the holiday period has been brisk. Locals and tourists from far afield have commented how nice it is to have somewhere to sit down and enjoy a cream tea.



The café is located at the Clarke Homestead, making use of the small kitchen extension to serve a range of delicious sandwiches, salads, scones and home-baking. Everything is freshly prepared with daily specials on the menu. The café also serves teas, coffees and cold drinks.

The chef is John Lawlor, husband of Pippa who works as the Educator. Although the Board has graciously allowed a trial period of 4 months, it is hoped that the venture will be successful to warrant looking at long-term provision.

Word-of-mouth is helping to spread the good reputation quickly and we already have bookings for wedding and funeral catering. The café is open seven days a week from 8.00am. to 6.00pm.



buy a
KIWI ROCK
and your name or business will be recorded in history forever!

KIWI NORTH

is unique to Northland, providing a

- New Nocturnal Kiwi House
- Walk through Aviary
- Modernised Museum

All with full disabled persons access and a range of visitor facilities, including a cafe.

All donor's names will appear on a special plaque attached to one of the Museum's giant boulders and will be celebrated at the official opening of Kiwi North.

Become a Friend of the Museum & Kiwi House

By joining Friends of the Museum & Kiwi House at Heritage Park you will not only help us preserve our District's heritage for future generations but, receive this quarterly newsletter, enjoy free access to the Museum & Kiwi House, receive invitations to exhibition openings, have opportunities to see behind the scenes in the collection stores and get notification of special events.

Membership forms are available from the Museum, Phone, email or write and we'll send you one out.

We will need the following details:

Name, Address, Phone No., and Email if you have one.

Annual membership (1 year from joining)	
Annual member Individual	\$25.00
Annual Member Couple	\$40.00
Family Membership	
2 Adults, 3 Children	\$55.00

Upcoming exhibitions & events

Anne Frank touring Exhibition - 19th May – 23rd June

Emergency Services - Live Day - 28th March 2010

Heritage Park Motor Show - Live Day - 11th April 2010

NZQA Top Art Exhibition - 31st May - 4th June 2010

On Now

WEIRD & WONDERFUL

See the 8 legged puppy, exotic animals, NZ's heaviest insect, an electric shock machine, great grandma's bloomers and much more...

27 February - 9 May 2010

Museum & Kiwi House
State Highway 14, Maunu
www.whangareimuseum.co.nz
Our place
Our stories

WEDDINGS AND VENUE HIRE

The magnificent grounds, historic buildings and unique photographic opportunities of Heritage Park provide the perfect venue.

We offer a stunning wedding venue with mature parkland, gardens and a village green. Distant views of Whangarei Heads and heritage buildings provide extraordinary photo opportunities - The Clarke Homestead, an octagonal kauri chapel, school house, rustic blacksmiths shop, railways and even a jail house are a photographers dream.



Our marquee is available for hire with plenty of off road parking. We invite you to discuss your wedding and venue hire requirements with Allie on 09 438 9630.



PARK OVER PROPERTY

We welcome members of the POP organisation for a maximum of three nights - \$10 per night. Dogs are welcome but must be kept on a leash. Gates are locked between 4.30 pm and 9am. Toilets and showers are available.

For more information and enquires about booking Contact Allie. Phone 09 438 9630

Comments From Our Visitors Book

- 14th February 2010 *Thankyou for the timeless knowledge, information and wonderful viewing.*
Ryler/Smith/Conway Families
- 15th February 2010 *Thankyou for keeping this a beautiful place to visit.*
Steven, Texas USA.

Comments from Clarke Homestead Book

- 18th February 2010 *"Made my soul soar"*
Jo Harvey, Auckland
- 4th February 2010 *Unique insight into New Zealand Heritage*
J. Morris, England
- 27th February 2010 *"Hurry up and invent a time machine!"*
A Prowse, Onerahi

Designed by Irene Hamlin

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