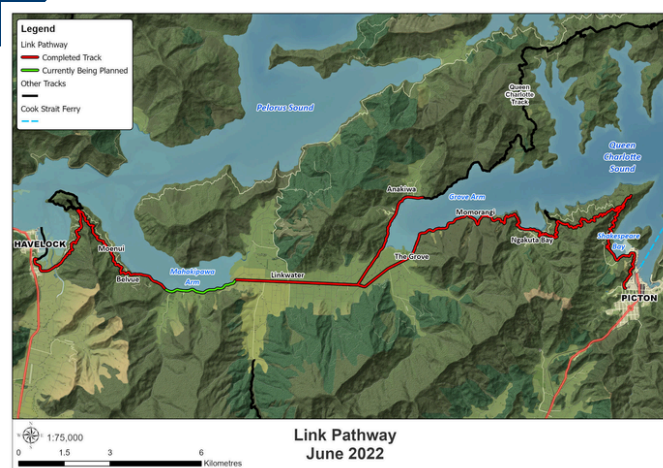




The AGM of the Picton Museum and Historical Society was held at The Pavilion on 31 August at 1.30 pm. Our committee was confirmed as:

President - Beryl Bowers; Secretary - Diane St Clair; Treasurer - David Craig  
Committee Members: Mary Cooper, Tina Looms, Wayne Pearce, Craig Perano and Mike Sullivan.

Our guest speaker was Rick Edmonds who inspired the building of The Link Pathway. Rick spoke of following the original bridle path as far as possible and adding historical points of interest such as jetty piles from a late 1850s Wellington jetty and parts of the pathway where you can still see signs of the original bridle path. He also cleared a pathway to the Signal Post at the end of the Wedge. His artistic bent is shown in the number of interesting bridges. He abhors a straight bridge! Rick and his team of volunteers are adding information panels starting from the Havelock end of the 42 kilometre pathway.



Have you noticed the façade of 4 High Street – a beautifully detailed sign for the Union Steamship Company - uncovered and repainted in 2016? This was the company that operated the port of Waitohi/Picton until the early 1960s.

Ships known as “home boats” would export meat, apples and other produce to the UK – hence “home” boats as in the 1940s/50s Britain was still described as home.

Wharfies would be employed to load the ships and if you were looking for work you would hang around the wharf and hope your name was called for what would now be called a “casual” work. Once the ship was loaded and sailed you were sacked and had to then keep an eye out for another ship to come in to be loaded or unloaded. The wharfies had a union and for men seeking work it was often a case of “who you knew”.

The Union Steamship Company also operated the early interisland ferries, the Tamahine and the Rangitira. The Company closed down when the railways took over the sailings in 1962.



I'm sure you all watched the Olympics in Paris. Did you know that for the Amsterdam Olympics Team of 1928 Vic Olsson of Picton was selected as a rower in the four but was unable to attend as the rowing federation did not have enough funds to send them to Europe. When he was selected again in 1932 for the Los Angeles Olympics he could not raise the required ten pounds (during the depression) to travel.

Another Picton Olympian was Len Moorhouse who was a swimmer and competed in the backstroke in the 1928 games in Amsterdam. Almost a 100 years later High Performance New Zealand grants \$60,000 NZD to gold medalists and \$55,000 NZD to silver and bronze medalists.



Vic Olsson



Len Moorhouse



Huia e! Huia tangata kotahi. He totara kua hinga.

The feather of the huia, for someone special. One dearly departed.

September 27 is the day police personnel remember the 33 policemen who lost their lives while serving in NZ Police as well as those in other parts of the world doing the same work. It includes those retired officers who have passed on over the year.

You may have noticed that a number of officers being interviewed for television have on their left hand lapel, above any medals, a pin in the shape of a huia feather. The tail plumage of the now lost Huia bird is something rare and special. Considered 'tapu' or sacred by Māori, it is an immense honour to wear a Huia tail feather as ornamentation. In the design, the incorporation of the NZ Police chevron into the Huia tail feather, with the nick at the top signifying loss, symbolises the great honour and loss of someone special to Police.