



Pictou Historical Society (Inc.)

ESTABLISHED 1956

Newsletter – November 2020

President's Message

It has been a busy four months. The Annual General Meeting was well attended under the Level 2 Covid 19 restrictions, with 26 members present. The new committee elected are as follows:

Beryl Bowers – President, John Welch – Vice Chair & Maintenance, Mary Cooper – Secretary, Valerie Kenny – Treasurer (co-opted at August meeting), Committee - Jill Aldridge – Schools, Carol Dawber, Stuart Eyes, Bosun Huntley and Dianne Smith.

We have steam cleaned the museum as suggested by Te Papa. This was a big job as we removed all photos and wiped them down before putting them back up. A special thanks to the helpers, Kim Gabara, Mary Cooper, Stuart Eyes, Lauraine Young, John Welch and the guidance of Philippa Turley our Curator.

The job applicants were of very high calibre and after three days of interviews the subcommittee offered the jobs to Philippa Turley (Curator), Jenny Cheesman (Finance), Nina Kay and Odelia van Leeuwen (Front of House). The new staff started their positions in August. They are all finding their way around the computer systems, research requests, library and the finance etc. Please read on as Mary has written a profile on each of them.

We have discovered several leaks in the roof and the north walls which are being repaired so we have a safe and secure building for our treasures/artefacts. The maintenance is on going with a new locking system also being installed for safety reasons.

Te Papa expert Jake Yocum's visit was so positive and rewarding and he will be visiting again soon. Jake reported on how we can make changes to the layout of the museum at minimal cost. Philippa has re-arranged the Maori room and it looks great. Please pop in and have a look. Other ideas of Jake's will be instigated over the next few months.

At the last committee meeting, it was agreed that we would look into the financial viability of opening the museum longer hours over the summer school holidays.

I would also like to acknowledge the volunteers who have been very patient with the changes - key codes, EFTPOS, and the new till. The till will be very helpful when stocktaking the books, t-shirts, caps, and jewellery sales etc.

I am looking forward to catching up with you at the Christmas party on Sunday 13th December 2020 at 2.00pm.

Beryl Bowers QSM

Introducing our new Staff

Philippa Turley is our new Curator and will look after the day to day running of the Museum. Philippa holds a Bachelor of Management Studies with emphasis on cross-cultural Marketing. Her previous work experience has been with large corporations working on product management. For 20 years she was self-employed in marketing and contracting at the same time running an accommodation business.

Jenny Cheesman, who has a background in finance, will take oversight of the Museum's finances and report to the Treasurer. Jenny previously worked for a Software Support Company as a Systems Consultant specialising in Payroll and Accounts. Jenny is looking forward to learning more about the history of Picton.



Jenny Cheesman (left) and Philippa Turley

Odelia van Leeuwen and Nina Kay are our front of house staff welcoming all visitors to the Museum.

Odelia moved to Picton earlier this year and is interested in history and research. She has worked as a legal executive. Odealia is managing the volunteer roster and working with the archives.

Nina worked as a Town Planner for a private company doing Resource Management. She has a degree in Oceanography and Environmental Science and a Masters in City Planning. Nina is working on our social media and website.



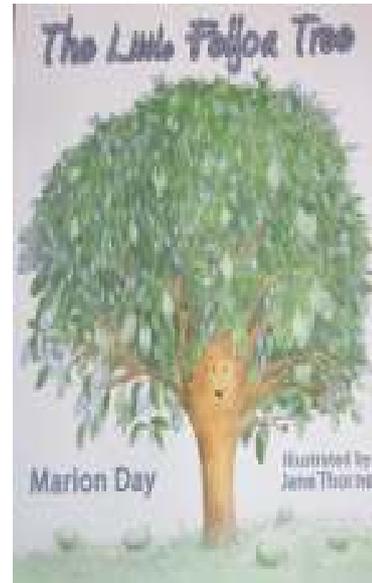
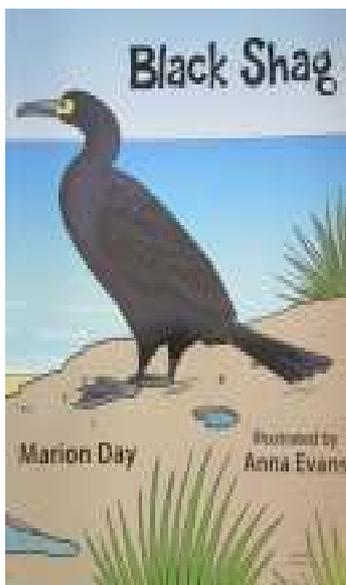
Odelia van Leeuwen (left) and Nina Kay

All our staff will also chip in and help when and if required during their working days.

Visitors to the Museum

Jake Yocum from Te Papa visited the Museum in July to advise us on how we can upgrade the displays and the Museum. He was very impressed with our collection and said that we had some rare and some valuable artefacts. He had never seen such a large whale jawbone as was in our Museum! Jake has left us a report with a variety of suggestions that we are working on. The first of these has been the Maori Section. If you visit you will see that it is more open and has been displayed in a more attractive way. The large carved seat is now in the main part of the Museum and the intricate carvings can be seen in a 360 degree view. Our Bellinghausen display is a work in progress and we will incorporate some of Jake's suggestions into that.

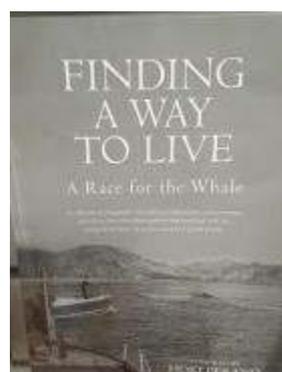
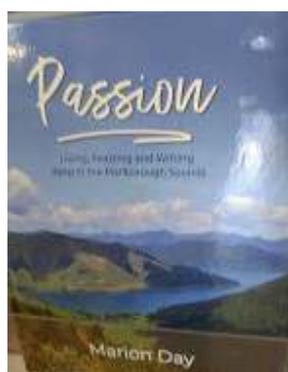
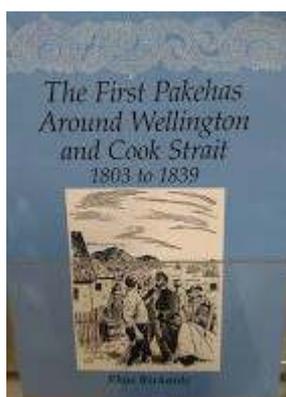
Marion Day, a writer from Clova Bay, spoke at the AGM about her life in the Kenepuru and her various books. She has written several books about helicopter work including deer culling and fire fighting. Her children's books are delightful and cover topics relating to NZ nature. They would make good Christmas presents!



Marion has also written a book about her life in Manaroa Bay; *Passion – Living, Feasting and Writing deep in the Marlborough Sounds* and the changes she had to adapt to after life in the busier Bay of Plenty. She also spoke about her interest in the Manaroa Cemetery and the stories of the people buried there. She is recording as much as she can and will be giving the Museum a copy of her research. Marion's books are available at the museum.

Rhys Richardson, the author of *The First Pakehas in Wellington and Cook Strait between 1803 and 1839* visited, along with his wife, on 11 September. Rhys had requested a meeting with some ex-whalers and the Museum organised for Jon Perano, Jonny Norton as well as Mike Taylor to meet with him. Rhys's book is also available at the Museum.

Books



Thinking about books – the Museum is hoping to add more books to our sales rack, especially now that the bookshop in Picton has closed. If you know of any book, which has links to Picton, which might be of interest to the Museum, please do let us know.

I can recommend *Where the Rēkohu Bone Sings* by Tina Makereti. The story starts in the Queen Charlotte Sound and returns later to the Waikawa Marae. It is essentially a story about modern day people managing their Moriori, Māori and Pākehā backgrounds. The story spans the Wairarapa earthquake (that formed the Basin Reserve in Wellington) to the Chatham Islands and its history and of course the Queen Charlotte Sound and Picton.

Family History

The Museum is able to assist anyone who is researching their family history as it relates to the whole Marlborough Sounds. Mike Taylor is an excellent researcher and is currently compiling history extracts from Picton's old paper and the *Marlborough Press*. He is also working on a list of births, deaths and marriages and already has over 40 pages!

The Museum has an excellent reference library with Mike's research (to date) on births, deaths and marriages; copies of the *Picton Paper* and the *Seaport News* and a number of family histories.

Committee Member Bosun Huntley

An article on Bosun was posted by Make it Marlborough and shared on our Picton Heritage and Whaling Museum Facebook page. Bosun is a committee member and long term volunteer at the museum.



Bosun Huntley is perhaps best known for playing more than 100 games of rugby for the region - most notably as prop in Marlborough's legendary 1973 Ranfurly Shield victory over Canterbury.

These days he holds many voluntary roles in Marlborough. Read on to hear his beliefs on how the Māori concept of whakapapa helps strengthen communities.

When I was growing up in Waitohi/Picton, my father worked at the Perano Whaling Station at Fishing Bay in Kura Te Au/Tory Channel.

During winter, the whaling season, my whole family would pack up and head out to the Sounds with all the other whaling families. We loved it out there, had lots of fun exploring the place and going to school.

My family were whalers in the Marlborough Sounds for generations, so I have a personal interest in preserving the region's whaling heritage and passing my knowledge and stories on to others.

I've been a volunteer at the Picton Heritage and Whaling Museum for about 10 years, and during that time have loved showing people around, giving them a guided tour of our collection and sharing some of my family's stories with them.

I'm also a trustee of Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō, a teacher aide at Picton School and am continuing my lifelong involvement with the Waitohi Rugby Football Club, coaching the under-13 team.

Local kids in particular get a real buzz out of learning their tīpuna/ancestors were whalers - many of the old whaling families are still living in town and our linked histories go way back. It's neat seeing the kids' eyes light up when they realise they have those connections too.

That's one of the reasons why I volunteer at the museum - to make sure our stories aren't lost and that the next generation will continue to tell the stories of our people.

Another reason is ahi-kā-roa, which means to keep the home fire burning. It's about understanding that before we were here, there were others before us.

The depth and strength of a community comes from understanding its past. Knowing we are tangata whenua creates a strong sense of belonging and mana. Knowing our tīpuna walked upon this land before us, gives us confidence as we embark on our own journeys in life.

Understanding our whakapapa/genealogy gives young kids a good foundation. Suddenly they realise they are not alone, they are representing their people, they are connected to everyone.

That's where community spirit and strength comes from. We don't even have to be related - we all live in the same place, so we are all connected.

A Facebook posting from: Make it Marlborough

#supportlocal #makeitmarlborough

Bellinghausen

There has been much interest in the 200th anniversary of Bellinghausen's visit to the Marlborough Sounds. We had our Bellinghausen Talk earlier this year when we showed a documentary made about the visit. You can now listen to a podcast in which Russian researcher, Olga Suvorova, speaks about the items that Bellinghausen took back to Russia with him and are now stored in Russian Museums.

https://podcast.radionz.co.nz/aft/aft-20200922-1340-two_hundred_years_since_russian_expedition_to_aotearoa-128.mp3

The Museum has had good connections with Sergei Glagolev from the Russian Embassy in Wellington and with Olga and they are available to assist us with setting up the Bellinghausen display.

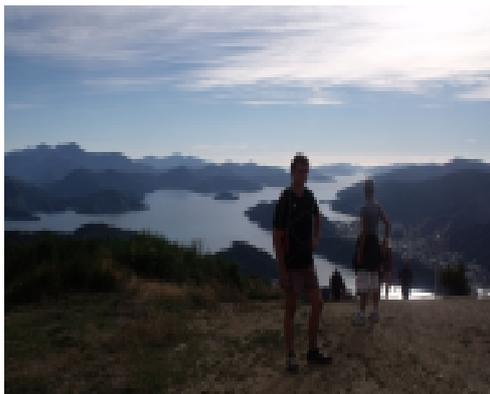
Olga's research paper can be found here:

<https://www.tekaharoa.com/index.php/tekaharoa/article/view/295>

You just need to find her article in PDF form if you click on Volume 15. There are photos of some of the 'Forgotten Taonga' as well as sketches taken at the time of the visit.

Te-Tara-o-Te-Marama

Do you know where this is? It is what Europeans called Mt Freeth (after a family of Freeths who lived at its foot). For many years the Rotary Club organised an Annual Climb to raise funds for Children's Cancer. However, as can be seen by the stunning views from up there, it has always been a popular climb.

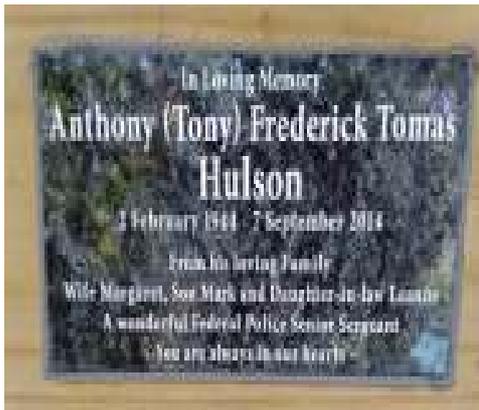


Mike Taylor was able to tell me more about the background to the Māori name given to Mt Freeth.

Known as Mount Freeth, this mountain is situated to the west of Waitohi, which, according to some, is the mountain of the moon. It should also be noted here that the sun rises from the east and sets over Ko Tara o Te Marama, as does the moon.

Have you seen?

These benches on the Bob's Bay Walk.



The bench, in memory of Anthony (Tony) Frederick Thomas Hulson, attracted my attention. Why was an (Australian) Federal Police Sergeant remembered on a bench in Picton? Research done by a friend found the following:

Born Anthony Frederick Thomas HULSON in Shropshire, England, on 1 February 1944, Mr HULSON passed away in New Zealand aged 70 years. Mr HULSON, under his birth name migrated to Australia in 1973. He is recorded on Electoral Rolls and a family tree under his birth name however; for unknown reasons his name is recorded as being Frederick Anthony Thomas HULSON on his police service history. Mr HULSON began his policing career with Commonwealth Police on 19 May 1975. and he transitioned to the AFP on Foundation Day 19 October 1979. He was deployed to various teams throughout his career including the Airport, Cyprus (22nd and 27th contingents), and Intelligence, within Southern Region. Mr HULSON retired from the AFP on 11 April 1990.

Ian Bing

The bust is to commemorate Ian Bing who purchased the Clarendon Hotel in September 1951 (re-named the Crow Tavern by Terry McCashin in November 1974.)

Knowing that it was on the verge of being condemned, had the courage to face all challenges and completed his dream to rebuild by 1957 as it stands today.

The two palm trees behind were planted by Ian in the 1950s.

New Acquisitions

Many thanks to Loreen and Bill Brehaut (Life Members of the Museum) for their generous donation of items which the Museum held but were still owned by the Brehauts. They have now gifted a number of books and the waka paddle and patu that decorate the entrance to the Meteria Room.

Beryl Bowers received a number of slides of whaling activities from the Lock family. These have been scanned and are available at the Museum on request.

Recently we had a couple of photo albums found in a dumpster handed in. The photos are over at least the last 60-80 years with a number of black and white snaps as well as newspaper cuttings. Odelia has managed to identify possible family names of Sydney Arthur Wingate and his wife Flora May Wingate (known as Maisie). If this is your family can you please contact Odelia.

We have also have a teapot which was presented to Mrs Peek from St Paul's Church and friends. Can you help with identifying Mrs Peek?

The Meteria Room

After recommendations from Jake Yocum changes have been made to the artefacts in this room. The exhibits have been placed in more secured cabinets and set out to the best effect. Some items have been rested and will be exhibited again at a later date. Come in and have a look at this room which appears so much brighter.



Lewis Lewis

The indefatigable coachman

By Mike Taylor 1991



Lewis Lewis with his whip.

Lewis Lewis was born in Chatham, Kent, England in 1808. Lewis was sent to Australia as a Remittance Man with all fares paid. He travelled from England on the ship *Salimar* in June 1856. He also built the Lyceum Theatre in Collins Street, Melbourne, as he was a Professor of Dancing. He later travelled to New Zealand. He commenced driving a trap to Nelson, and began Mail Contracting in the Nelson district in succession to Joseph Taylor, Blacksmith who had the first contract in 1854.

On August 8 1863, Lewis Lewis married Miss Hester Hoskins.

In August 1865 Lewis Lewis took over the Picton Blenheim Mail contract, as the Marlborough Press reported:-

*"The contract for conveying a mail daily between Picton and Blenheim, has been transferred from Mr William Henderson to Mr L. Lewis. No contractor for the conveyance of mails between the two towns has never given so much satisfaction as when under the management of Mr Lewis, who has frequently performed gratuitous services in carrying through the English and Provincial Mails when there has been no other means of forwarding them on with immediate dispatch. The spirit of competition has hitherto prevented the successful tenderers from making any profit in conveying the letter bags, but it is to be hoped that a matter so unsatisfactory will not in future have to be complained of."*¹

In that same issue was the following two reports:-

"V. R. Telegraph Coaches Royal Mail between Picton and Blenheim. The undersigned, having taken the Mail Contract for the above towns, announces that his Coaches will run Daily from Picton to Blenheim and from Blenheim to Picton. Parties intending to travel by the above conveyances are informed that the time of departure from the Booking Offices must be punctual, as follows:- From the Rainbow Hotel, Blenheim, at 10 o'clock a. m., sharp. From the Steam Packet Hotel, Picton, at 10 o'clock a.m., sharp. Parcels delivered on the line of road with the greatest of care; for town and country they will be left at the Booking Offices, unless definite instructions are given Fares each way 10s.6d (10 shillings & sixpence) L. Lewis, Mail Contractor. Vivat Regina."

¹ Marlborough Press Saturday August 5 1865.

*“L. Lewis begs to inform his friends and the public generally that in consequence of having taken the Contract for the Picton and Blenheim Mail, the Afternoon Coach will cease to run until further notice. Picton August 4 1865.”*²

On Friday July 25 1866, Lewis Lewis was assisted as Master of Ceremonies at the opening of the Mahakipawa School.³

The Whangamoā/Rai Valley route was surveyed for a road in 1867, and that same year on September, the pioneer coachman, *“The Indefatigable Coachman,”* drove the first wheeled vehicle, a coach and four from Blenheim to Havelock, a journey taking thirteen hours, and he returned the next day in ten hours.

Mrs Lucy Hart of Picton Road, Koromiko had a Kaka that she had taught to speak, and in spite of the amusement that Kaka gave them, he also caused plenty of trouble. His favourite trick was to watch for the old mailman who held the contract for deliveries along Picton Road, and who everyone called ‘Darkie Lewis.’ When he got about twenty metres past the Hart house Lucy’s voice would call, “Coo-ee, coo-ee.” But when Mr Lewis stopped his cart and looked back he would not see anybody there. After a while he learnt to ignore the call of that trickster, but there was always that element of doubt. What if it really had been Lucy calling? This did not suit his two sad horses because, as everyone knew, they were always hoping for an excuse to stop and rest.⁴

Lewis Lewis wrote in the Marlborough Times in July 5 1876, thanking people for extensive patronage during the past fifteen years. He sold saddlery, fancy goods, stationary, paintings, and other items, and his address was then High Street and Market Square, Blenheim.

Lewis Lewis died at Blenheim on June 16 1881 aged 67. His obituary follows:-

The somewhat sudden death of Mr. Lewis came like shock to many who knew him so well in Picton. In 1860, Mr. Lewis conducted a dancing class in Picton, and drove the *“Saucy Lass”* coach between Picton and Blenheim, until the ironhorse superseded him. The experiences of travellers in those old pioneer days of settlement, whilst travelling with Mr. Lewis, were quite astonishing.

Nothing daunted by floods or morasses, *“The Indefatigable,”* as he was called, sturdily pushed his way onwards, and no sort of weather or danger ever retarded him. He was the first man who drove a coach through the Blenheim - Havelock road, and had many a narrow escape of life and limb. In these days of progression, whilst enjoying the benefits of advanced civilisation, we are apt to forget that we owe it to those who fought the battle of life bravely and truly in the olden days, and whilst we pen these few lines in tribute to the memory of Mr. Lewis, we cannot help thinking that many of those who have paved the way for the present generation, have found little sympathy or consideration from them.

² Marlborough Press Saturday August 5 1865.

³ Marlborough Press Wednesday July 30 1866.

⁴ Abraham & Lucy Hart, Their Lives by Joyce Neill

No one was so successful in getting up a pleasant dance as Mr. Lewis, and he spared no expense to make his guests comfortable. In Picton he will be greatly missed, for he has conducted balls and held dancing classes during many years. His erect carriage and quick step were well known to all, and it is with sincere and heartfelt regret that we have to chronicle his exit from our midst. We believe that Miss Lewis will conduct the dancing classes in future, and we hope that the public will think of the rough path, in all weather, so steadily kept to by her father, and afford her their support by liberal patronage.⁵

Thanks to Mike Taylor for this article on a man of many talents.

Subscriptions

Your subscriptions are now due and can be paid by EFTPOS or cash at the Museum and through our website. We request that if paying on line that you put your name in the Reference box so we know who the payee is! Subscriptions have remained the same for a number of years, \$15 for single membership and \$20 for a family. Your membership card can be collected from the Museum office. Can you also try and encourage your family, friends and neighbours to become members? Free entry to the Museum is available to all members and free use of the previously mentioned Reference Library.

Media

The Picton Heritage and Whaling Museum now has a Facebook page. We also have a website which is being worked on, but you can contact us through that or by email. Links shown below.

<https://pictonmuseum-newzealand.com/>

or email us at pictonmuseum@xtra.co.nz

⁵The Marlborough Press Friday 24 June 1881

BRAIN TEASERS

Now something for you to think about in relation to the history of Picton.

1. Where would you find a plaque regarding the Queen Charlotte Survey Party?
2. Can you name five vessels which have plied between Picton and Wellington carrying passengers?
3. Where is 'The Tongue' situated?
4. What year did Queen Charlotte College open?
5. When was the Coathanger Bridge built?

Finally can you tell us what the Mystery Object is and what it does?



Answers will be posted on our Facebook page at the end of November.

Please put in your diaries our Christmas Party which will be held at the Museum on Sunday 13 December at 2.00 pm. We will be presenting Jon and Glynne Perano with their Life Membership Certificates at this time. We look forward to seeing you there, and pick up your membership card from the office if you have not already done so.