

# Devonport Historical & Museum Society



APRIL 2011 NEWSLETTER

**END OF YEAR XMAS PARTY** with Keith & Philip cooking sausages. Warren & Gail serving drinks.



It was exciting to see so many families and local groups converging on our Museum recently. We were asked to be a part of the Devonport Treasure Hunt, developed by Maire Vieth, Community Co-ordinator, and her team, for International Children's Day. It was decided to make the Museum the final point of the Treasure Hunt. This was very successful and it should be considered again. People of all ages arrived on foot and on bicycles, and stayed to enjoy the environment and Museum, to check in with the organisers, eat sausages and apples, buy a tea and home cooking from the Museum kitchen, or to make a biplane with our committee's model designer Allister. Outside there were people playing Victorian games, rolling hoops, and throwing bean bags, batters, horse shoes and quoits in a variety of activities. Inside, others were watching spinners, playing the ukulele, catching up with friends, and with their local history. Thanks to all who contributed to bringing so many enthusiastic locals to our corner of Devonport.

## TREASURE HUNT BAR-B-Q GAMES AFTERNOON



Allister making biplanes from plastic with Christian & George

Maire Vieth giving out apples and cooking sausages with parent helpers

Raewyn teaching Kathryn, Simon & Patience to play 'Wimoweh' on the ukeles

Research and collection continue to be a major part of the role of our Museum. We not only try to collect information and items which help to tell our district's unique story, but we process this in many ways. Without the depth of knowledge and specific skills amongst the group we could do little more than collect and store material. Celia Walker is contracted to support the many roles people undertake in this area, co-ordinating collecting and accessioning, and developing improved storage, conservation and access to items and information

The ivy is almost gone from the shed roof and we will soon be looking at repairs. Planting in the garden is changing with the season.

We have a continuing project to place new pictures in the I-site display upstairs in the old council chambers.

Warren is working on a model ferry boat to add to the maritime collection. We would love to find funding to extend the main building at the rear for a bigger library and display area. If anyone can add to our games collection with items such as rope quoits or cane rolling hoops, we would be happy to receive them.

Our public displays will always be the tip of the iceberg of our collection. Images, and documents associated with Devonport families, groups, individuals, and places, are constantly being stored, cross referenced and accessed. Thanks to those who quietly work to collect and process this easily lost or overlooked material. Our recent linking of our researchers to internet access at the Museum supports this work.

Funding is a vital question for Devonport Museum. We are a voluntary community organisation, relying on goodwill and Community funding for our existence. We have applied for money from other fund holders in the past and have brought our building up to a very good standard, both inside and out. We use some of our funding to pay for several hours a week of expert support. However, we live in changing times. Decisions regarding any Council funding going to small Museums is now made across the Auckland City, and not locally. We continue to work to sustain progress we have made, however our plans need to be conservative in this environment. This makes the work each of you do as volunteers even more important.

Thanks for the great job you do for the Museum,

Alastair Fletcher.

### Curatorial comments:

With teams hard at work on documenting what is in the collections it is getting easier to locate what is in storage, and to make connections between the objects, the photograph collections, and the archives.

What I had at first glance thought was just a pile of old tools turns out to be a huge collection of beautifully crafted woodworking implements associated with some of Devonport's earliest built history. The Museum has a large tool chest that belonged to a Mr William Pitts, who came to New Zealand in the 1860s, and was (presumably, although this is proving hard to verify) related to Henry Pitts who built Holy Trinity Church and a number of Devonport houses in the 1880s. The next step will be to verify William Pitts' background, and make some new labels for the tools.

Sorting through some of the boxes in storage we have also found a beautiful monogrammed pipe, an array of hats, and an interesting collection of signage from the old Devonport Borough Council.

Celia Walker



**AGM .** Sunday 1st May 3pm. Speaker will be Mike Pritchard talking about Fort Takapuna.

Museum e-mail address: [info@devonportmuseum.org.nz](mailto:info@devonportmuseum.org.nz)

### Devonport Museum

Open weekends 2 — 4 pm.

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<http://www.devonportmuseum.org.nz> Website kindly hosted by iSERVE



