

# DEVONPORT HISTORICAL & MUSEUM SOCIETY



November 2011 NEWSLETTER

Hello everyone,

A reminder about our annual Bar-B-Q on Sunday 4 December at 4pm. We look forward to seeing you all again and joining us for a sausage and a glass of bubbly to celebrate another successful year at our Museum.

## Garden:



Gail Carran has made a wonderful job of our garden by the front door with heritage flowers and in the side garden Celia has planted two Heritage apple trees in the herb garden.

## What's been happening behind the scenes:

If you keep your eye on the Museum over the next few months you will notice a lot of changes as we gradually fill up all our fantastic new display cases—we are planning to showcase the Devonport Steam Ferry Company amongst other things, with a display that can now incorporate some of our most treasured objects. This includes a recently donated badge and certificate from the descendant of a ferry engineer. We are also planning new displays of archaeological material, handcrafts, and a revamped church area.

We have also been continuing to work away at cataloguing the collections—the latest focus has been the material we have relating to Devonport School—we have plans, drawings, old school records and very early minute books, which contain a wealth of information relating not only to the buildings but the earliest pupils. Belmont Primary School photographs are next on the list for cataloguing onto our database.

We are also trying to catalogue any new donations as soon as they come in—the latest objects have been a few items from St Paul's Presbyterian Church—including communion glasses, brass memorial plaques a pew, and World War One Roll of Honour.

### DEVONPORT WHARF:



As part of the upgrade of the wharf prior to the Rugby World Cup the council asked us to put up a display featuring an historical aspect to Devonport.

We were given a grant, along with the North Shore Rugby Club to carry out this job. Three photographs from our collection were selected from around the turn of the last century, we enlarged them and mounted them on to big display boards, together with detailed captions. They were all taken more or less from the same spot at the foot of the wharf not far from the site of the display itself and I find it remarkable how little Devonport has changed in the hundred or so intervening years. The display is proving popular and will remain for the foreseeable future.

Tom Smith.

**FROM ALASTAIR FLETCHER (President)**

The Museum has kept the doors open from 12 to 4 at weekends during the times of high visitor numbers in the city. This has been worthwhile and we have certainly seen extra people through the doors. Thanks to the volunteers who have worked extra times to make this possible. We continue to receive requests for information about properties in Devonport. Thanks to all who seize the opportunities to collect information and items when they see them. Notable is the large collection of pharmacy records, some dating back a hundred years, which we have just received. Thanks to *Vistalinda*, the property owners, and to Ted Hill and the Rees-George family for their support in this acquisition. They contain names of families and addresses in the district and help with research.

We have received a welcome operational grant from Auckland City Local Board. This allows us to continue our current operations and to extend our contractor's hours. We are grateful for this support. The Wharf display has been well received, as has the Devonport Firsts display, and it is worth an extra visit to the Museum to sit and watch old news reels on the new flat screen.

Thanks for all that you do,

Opening hours next year will be longer on Sundays from 12—4pm. Also three weekday mornings.

**Heritage Open Day:**

Unfortunately it was a wet day which meant people stayed indoors. The children who came had lots of fun with games and toys, making model aeroplanes and trying out the spinning wheel.

A couple played the piano and Alastair (president) was very happily singing along.

Thank you to the people who brought along food. It was all very scrumptious.

We hope to have another family games evening later in the summer.

We continue to seek outdoor heritage games such as skittles. These are so much fun at open days! Any information and heritage photos of sports in old Devonport are welcome too! We are also in need of some folding tables to use for projects when children visit.

**Devonport Museum**

Open Saturday 2 — 4 pm.

Sunday 12—4pm

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<http://www.devonportmuseum.org.nz>



