Spring is just around the

corner!

TAINUI TRADING POST **AUGUST 2016**

ST PETER'S BY THE SEA

"God made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God" 2 Corinthians 4:6

August 7th Family Communion, 2pm Rev Pere Pou August 21st Family Service, 2pm Terry Tutty

All welcome to join us for services and afternoon tea. Enquiries: D. Lowry 752 9123

AWAKINO CHRISTIAN CHURCH MEETINGS

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LADIES BIBLE STUDY Every 1st and 3rd Friday, 328 Mohakatino Rd, 2.00pm

ENQUIRIES PHONE 06 7529124

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Awakino Library Contact JENNY LEWIS: PH 7529 838 Mokau Library Contact ALLISON HAMILTON: PH 7529 855

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All copy for the Tainui Trading Post due by 20th of the month. E-mail: tainuitradingpost@gmail.com - or post to Tainui Trading Post, PO Box 9, Mokau 4350

BARBARA KURIGER MP FOR TARANAKI-KING COUNTRY

INVITES YOU TO AN EVENING COMMUNITY MEETING IN

AWAKINO

7.30pm Monday 1 August Awakino Hotel, Awakino

Share your reaction and questions: Kuriger.Inglewood@parliament.govt.nz 06 756 6032

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DOCTOR VISITS IN MOKAU

The Waitara Health Centre holds **monthly** Doctor Clinics at ST JOHN STATION, MOKAU

Tuesday 6th September 9am - 11.15am

Dr Chris Morrison will be in attendance. For Appointments please Phone Waitara Health Centre 06 754 8119 Please state that you would like an appointment at Mokau. For Registered patients of Waitara Health Centre

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TAINUI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMORIES OF DROVING DAYS

I have been sitting here thinking of the days gone past. I am sitting in the Museum surrounded by photos of the past. We, my Dad (Bob Gibbs) and the rest of the family lived at the end of Clifton Road and used to help the Drovers in that rather hard area (the White Cliffs). The great mobs of sheep and cattle used to come this way because it was a lot shorter to the Waitara Works (Borthwicks) as there was no traffic. The road was very rough to the Te Horo tunnel and it was absolutely necessary to be off the beach at least two hours before the next tide. We never got caught but we had some pretty close calls.

The cattle coming over Mohakatino all had to be dipped for cattle tick before they were allowed over the river but we never had anything to do with that. I suppose the remains of the old dip are still there. Next the mobs of whatever were driven to Gordon Henderson's (Brian Cummings lives there now) for the night. Next day they would come to our accommodation paddock down near the tunnel where we used to collect 2/6d per hundred for sheep and a little more for cattle. The drovers stayed at our place for the princely sum of 2/6d for bed and breakfast. There always seemed to be a lot of dogs and extra horses and that, to me, was very exciting. At the night's stay, depending on the state of the tides, it would be all on.

Some mornings the tide would be fairly early and we would go about four in the morning and be down at the paddock and have the mob at the tunnel about day break. I loved those days working with my Dad, the Drovers and my beloved horse Goldie (who incidentally lived till she was 35 years old). Dad would take a cut down the Stoney Gully as we called it in those days, and then on to the steep grade of the tunnel and started stringing them on to the beach. The Drovers would take another lot and hopefully they would follow the others. We kept behind to stop the animals from dashing off side-tracks or into the bush. There would be dogs barking, whips, loud voices (some of them swearing) but that was all part of the scene. Once we had them through the tunnel it all started. Dogs would run off into the sea chasing seagulls up the beach. Jimmy would gallop up the beach after them with his stock-whip and they soon came back.

If the beach was good with just a few boulders, the going was reasonably easy, but if the beach was bad, the whole way to Waipingau would be covered with huge boulders and in most places there was no shingle or sand at all and the animals had to clamber over a trail of huge rocks. I used to be terrified that my precious, beautiful golden horse would break a leg or something equally disastrous. I was truly grateful she never came to any harm. One day a huge steer broke his leg, so we had to leave him. Some Maori from Pukearuhe came and got him and took him for meat for which I was truly grateful as it would have been an awful way to die. I came back earlier that time and the steer was just standing there and looked really miserable so I was pleased to know he was soon to be put down.

If the beach was really good it would be sand and shingle all the way. Sometimes if we were really lucky, we could use Rigby's Point to come back home but that was very rare and quite a bonus (if we didn't have to come up through the tunnel) as Rigby's Point made it a lot shorter, especially at night. If the beach was good, someone, mostly Dad, would take a cut and the rest would follow the broken sand, but if it was boulders, they had to be punched all the way to the Waipingau. After we got them over the Waipingau we would have a bit of a spell and perhaps a mug of billy tea. We always put the animals over the stream first because if it was raining back in the hills, the stream could be a raging torrent in a few minutes and we would have the animals on the wrong side but we made sure we never were.

After that it was quite easy to the Pukearuhe Road. Sometimes there would be a deep lagoon blocking the way to the road that we had to swim the mobs through. A Drover would put a dog chain around the sheep's neck and drag it through. After a lot of frustration the rest would follow. Cattle were easier because they didn't mind the water. The lagoon was right at the end of the road. Once we had the mob or herd on the tar-sealed road we mostly turned around and shot home. Frequently bits of papa would fall off the cliffs and it was really dangerous but we were careful and kept well out so it only scared the horses. Occasionally to catch the tide we would leave later in the day and then we had to come home in the dark. You could see sparks coming off the ironclad shoes of the horses striking the cobblestone floor. It was quite eerie.

The sheep coming from the north fed on ragwort and by the time they arrived they were very yellow. A lot of them died on the way, and some sheep died in the paddocks

The Drovers in the main were very nice. Some of the names I can remember were Charlie Handley Snr. and Jnr. Charlie Snr. and Dad would play Crib all night. (I still have the old Crib board). There was Charlie Gardiner, Kruger Clark, Andy and Bill McDonald (they lost a lot of wethers through the tunnel). They both had the 'flu and the weather and the sea were shocking. We didn't want them to go but they did. Manning King, Andy Austin, Bill Fulcher, Bob Gordon, Charlie Coffin. Some of the local Mahoenui boys would do an odd run but they were never regular.

Bob Calvert left his white horse for me to ride and I thought that was really fabulous. He took off ine day and I couldn't stop him. I rode for quite some distance, then gave up the ghost and fell off. If I'd had a saddle it may have been different but I was never allowed a saddle in those days.

There was Laurie Cotter (he was a real gentleman and a great horseman), Ray Russell, Don Drummond, Ben Lawson, someone called Kelly (I can't remember if it was his Christian name or surname), Dick Lethbridge, Jimmy D'Arth, (he reckoned that was his real name) but everyone called him Jimmy Death. Jimmy D'Arth was the Drover who brought the Bullrun down through the Waikato. He would collect the cast-off bulls and culls and take them to Borthwicks. Farmers along the way would bring their old, old bulls and culls and they being crotchety would fight and bellow. Jimmy with his stock-whip would soon settle them down. By

TAINUI HISTORICAL SOCIETY—CONTINUED

the time he got them here they were not too bad. His dogs were awful. They would run out to sea, chase seagulls and anything else they could do - anything else but what they were supposed to do,

One day he bashed one up with a batten and thought he had killed it so threw it over the cliff but it came back up to the house. My mother fed it and got it in good health thinking she had really done wonders. When Jimmy came next time she proudly showed the dog to him. He promptly took Dad's gun and shot it. Apart from that he was quite a good old guy. He always cut himself lunch when he went along the beach. I can remember it plainly - two slices of bread about two inches thick sloshed with a great deal of butter, then a huge slashing of blackberry jam clamped together and wrapped in the Daily News. He would stick it in his saddle bag and at lunch time or whenever, he'd take this soggy mess out and eat with great gusto. It looked awful but he obviously enjoyed it. Bill Fulcher always brought us a huge bag of lollies so he was always welcome. On the whole we were always pleased to see them and the little bit of cash, wages for a day for Dad, and "board" etc., was always acceptable.

The last Drover along the beach was Ray Russell. My sister and I went with him that day as Dad was very ill and no one else would go. We got the cattle through in good time and Ray said he would employ us any day but that was the last mob of cattle or sheep. We also got a cheque each from Borthwicks for a day's droving and THAT was a real thrill. The Drovers always got a big sack of dog's meat (mainly offal and tripe) sent here whenever a mob was on its way. It was awful. If the dog man saw it now he would have a "fit". The bag would look wet and be covered with flies eggs and allsorts. It gave us the shudders but the dogs loved it.

The stories those Drovers told were absolutely incredible and we used to sit up very late listening to them. They talked all about dogs and horses and people and I used to wonder where all the stories came from.

The trips along the beach were never work to me because I just loved everything about it. Sometimes if the tide was right we'd take our saddle blankets (usually a clean sack) and go collect a few pauas from a pool just through the tunnel and cook them when we got home. It's no use going there now because there are very few left. When the Gas Pipeline came through that let people through and the paua really got thrashed. Now very seldom can anyone get paua from that pool.

I remember the time one of the kids got chicken pox and we were not allowed to go to school. I went along the beach for two weeks. I never got the chicken pox. To me it was a wonderful world. Thanks to my Dad and all those good (sometimes crotchety) Drovers, and my lovely Goldie I had a pretty wonderful childhood.

Carol McKenzie, 1997

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE MUSEUM?

The incredibly successful Dale Copeland assemblage art exhibition has now concluded and we welcome Barbara Clegg and her art to Mokau for the months of August and September. Do pop in – Barbara is another artist with an extensive fan base – her exhibition began on Sat 30 July.

The two new interior wall murals are in position and look absolutely fantastic. We couldn't be happier with the result. Many thanks to Greg from SureSigns NP. Our next step is to signpost as many points of interest on the murals as we can. Do you have any old photos of the area? We are always open to your suggestions and would love community input.

Speaking of community input – have you noticed the amazing wooden seat at the front entrance? This is a significant gift from local Colin Payne, great grandson of old Mokau sea-dog Captain Martyn Jensen, whose portrait is at the museum, painted by Awakino artist Dennis Walton. Colin is also preparing to donate a further two pieces of Jensen history – a Danish concrete bird-bath and basket with a charming story which I will tell in next month's column.

As for nowHave you considered joining in the fun at Mokau Museum and Art Gallery? Phone Jan, our secretary on 7525 995 to see how you can become part of this vibrant community service.

We need you to be here for a morning or an afternoon shift. You can choose what to do in that 3 hour slot – such as:

sit at the computer and answer your emails meet and greet visitors

look up interesting information about your history vacuum and dust

drink coffee and read a book/knit/chat

come up with fresh display ideas

work on research for Amanda, our collections manager

It's entirely over to you. You definitely do not need any prior historical knowledge or museum experience. The main thing is – the museum is able to be open because you are willing to be there as caretaker.

NOTE: TOP SHELF PRODUCTIONS "Heritage Rescue", the TV programme featuring the Mokau Museum makeover will screen on Choice TV, Sunday 14th August at either 7.30 or 8.30pm.

The museum is open 10am – 4pm every day. Phone: 7529 072

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Local Body Elections

Local Body election time has come around again and I am putting my name forward for re-election as a Rural Ward Councillor for the Waitomo District Council.

It has been a privilege for me to represent your interests for the last six years, ensuring that Council doesn't forget about your little community in the south western corner of our District.

The efforts of your volunteers who have worked hard to keep the Mokau Community spirit alive have been most impressive, and now well rewarded, with the opening of the new St Johns base, and it's recent featuring on national TV advertising, as well as the transformation of the Museum, with the resulting huge increase in visitor numbers, and it's impending appearance on Choice TV.

For this election, our Chief Executive is required to produce a Pre Election Report which 'portrays a clear and concise picture of the financial road already travelled by Council and what the future plans are for the three financial years post election'. It is due for release on 28 July on the Council website, but I'll try to get some hard copies down to the Museum for you.

The postal voting period is 16 September to 8 October, and I would very much appreciate your endorsement for a further three years. If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me.

Phil Brodie Ph 07 8778033 Email <u>brodieauahi@xtra.co.nz</u>



MOKAU RIVER TOURS SAILING AUGUST 2016 PHONE 067529036					
Date	Day	High	Size	Low	size
1	Mo	8.15am	3.2	2.35pm	0.5
2	Ju	9.10am	3.3	3.20pm	0.5
3	We	10am	3.4	4.05pm	0.4
4	Th	10.40am	3.4	4.50pm	0.4
5	Fr	11.20am	3.4	5.30pm	0.4
6	Sa	12pm	3.3	6.05pm	0.5
7	Su	12.30pm	3.2	6.30am	0.6
8	Mo	1.10pm	3.1	7.10am	0.7
9	Ju	1.50pm	3.0	7.50am	0.8
10	We	2.35pm	2.8	8.30am	1.0
11	Th	3.35pm	2.7	9.20am	1.1
12	Fr	4.40pm	2.7	10.20am	1.1
13	Sa	5.50pm	2.7	11.30am	1.1
14	Su	6.10am	2.8	12.30pm	1.1
15	Mo	7.10am	2.9	1.30pm	0.9
16	Ju	8.am	3.0	2.15pm	0.7
17	We	8.50am	3.2	3.pm	0.5
18	Th	9.30am	3.4	3.40pm	0.4
19	Fr	10.12am	3.5	4.25pm	0.2
20	Sa	10.55am	3.6	5.05pm	0.2
21	Su	11.40am	3.6	5.50pm	0.2
22	Mo	12.20pm	3.5	6.15am	0.2
23	Tu	1.10pm	3.4	7.05am	0.4
24	We	2.pm	3.3	7.55 am	0.5
25	Th	3.05pm	3.1	8.50am	0.7
26	Fr	4.15pm	3.0	9.55am	0.8
27	Sa	5.30pm	3.0	11.10am	0.9
28	Su	6.am	2.9	12.20pm	0.9
29	Mo	7.10am	3.0	1.30pm	0.8
30	Tu	8.05am	3.2	2.20pm	0.6
β1	We	8.55am	3.3	3.05pm	0.5

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