



August 2019  
Volume 3, Issue 2

Gore District Historical Society

# The Bulletin

Welcome to our biannual newsletter.

Because the first meeting of the Gore District Historical Society was held in November 1969, we will hold an afternoon function on Sunday 17th November this year to celebrate our 50th anniversary. The venue is yet to be confirmed due to the unavailability of the James Cumming Wing. Past and present members and supporters will receive invitations and we look forward to seeing you there. This will replace our usual November Room Meeting.

Gore District Historical Society members are such an interesting group of individuals from diverse backgrounds and it is a pleasure to get together to share our common interest - *History*. This makes for a really special time during the "Down Memory Lane" segment when members are invited to recall memories from early days, or tell about aspects of history. These stories often have humour and sometimes pathos. The shared knowledge is valuable, impressive and enjoyable. Thanks everyone.

Our Room Meetings provide opportunities to not only hear speakers, who give so generously of their time and knowledge, but also to enjoy talking together during afternoon tea afterwards. Thankyou to members for bringing plates of goodies and to committee members for hosting so well.

Our December meeting will provide an opportunity to learn more about plans for the museum redevelopment with a presentation by Jim Geddes.

*People are trapped in history  
And history is trapped in them  
- Anonymous*

Helen Seaton  
*President*



We've titled Elaine Rae's 1988 entry into the inaugural Wearable Arts section of the Hokonui Fashion Awards, 'the Iconic Jacket'. It features in our latest exhibition, *Eclectic Gold, Celebrating 50 years of collecting*. Come in to the museum to discover why we've titled it and look inside to find out more about the exhibition and some exciting news for impending redevelopment of the Arts & Heritage Precinct.

**HOKONUI HERITAGE  
RESEARCH CENTRE**

Tuesday from 1.30-5pm  
Sunday 1-3pm  
Closed Public Holidays

[heritage@goredc.govt.nz](mailto:heritage@goredc.govt.nz)



## ECLECTIC GOLD

### Celebrating 50 years of collecting

Reaching 50 years is a significant milestone for any organisation and the exhibition *Eclectic Gold* celebrates the many achievements of the Historical Society as well as highlighting some of the objects that have been collected along the way. Many of these treasures have been shared online at NZ Museums [<https://www.nzmuseums.co.nz/collections/3043/gore-historical-museum>] as part of Project Ark. Designer Jacqui Byars has created a rich backdrop for the Society to share its history while John Dennison has offered invaluable structural support.



Janet McNab's mourning brooch  
c1870s  
GO2016.36.1

The Society formed as part of a national wave of historical societies were established in the late 1960s and collecting became a natural sideline of the Society. Collections grow, as they do, and by the 1980s an exclusive space was needed to share the collection publicly. And so the Society opened the town's first Museum at the old Fire Station. As the Society celebrated its 30th anniversary the collection was shifted across the road and stories were expanded upon as well the establishing a significant relationship with the local Genealogical Society which resulted in the Hokonui Research Centre which has been a boon for local and family history researchers alike.

With 20 years in our current space we are looking forward to further developments with the Maruawai Centre Project as described by District Curator, Jim Geddes, over page.

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*The best prophet of the future is the past.* Lord Byron

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## GENEALOGY REPORT

Last month Jill Graeve spoke on the difficulties of Prussian research. With shifting boundaries as principalities and countries were annexed and the added challenge of the Germanic alphabet, it made Irish research suddenly appear easy in comparison.

Two visitors from Salt Lake City, Utah USA will speak on Thursday, 15 August 2019 at James Cumming Wing and a door charge of \$5. There will be a pot luck finger tea from 6.30pm with the presentation by Raymond Nesbet starting at 7.30pm. If you are coming to the Pot luck finger tea, please bring a plate. Everyone is most welcome.

Forthcoming speakers and subjects include DNA boot camp, how to create a family history scrapbook, Southland orphanages, Christmas dinner at RSA, and a research night.

Meetings: First Tuesday/month 7pm @ Gore Visitor Centre [Speaker/demonstration begins at 8pm] All welcome.

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY BUS TOUR

March 2019

The trip began in enjoyable fashion with Rosalie McLean telling us, as we travelled across the Gore Bridge, that a ferry capable of holding a wagon and six horses, was established in that area in 1864. The ferry lasted for only one day and carried just one passenger - the Rev Jas Uric on his horse. He had a terrifying ride with swift flowing and rapidly rising water causing him to fear he would drown. He was so thankful when he disembarked on the far side of the river. The water continued to rise, the posts gave way and the whole structure washed downstream to the reef below the abattoirs, where the wreck remained for several years.

Rosalie provided folders filled with historical information pertaining to our trip. They formed a wonderful adjunct to the places we saw. Our journey continued through Tapanui with a talk by Charlie Davis at Whiskey Gully, a stop at the moon rock memorial to the famous Dr Snow, and we viewed the mural of early Tapanui. Next stop was Blue Mountain College where principal Lindy Cavanagh Monaghan and her PA boarded the bus to tell us about their College. The last Tapanui stop was Ribbonwood Rest Home & Medical Centre, which is a credit to the community whose hard work brought it to fruition.

We travelled on past Rae's Junction, over the famous Millers Flat Bridge and into the township. A visit to the recently restored Historic Bakehouse accompanied by commentary preceded lunch at Faigan's cafe next door. This building was once owned by four generations of the Faigan family who sold



Photo by Bob Hollows

food to gold miners. It is now community owned and contains a restaurant as well as a shop and a display of historic food items. We saw the beginning of the bike trail before going back over the Millers Flat Bridge, south to Beaumont Bridge, then travelled alongside the Clutha River until we reached the punt at Tuapeka Mouth. Perhaps the highlight of the day was the ride on the punt with commentary by the operator.

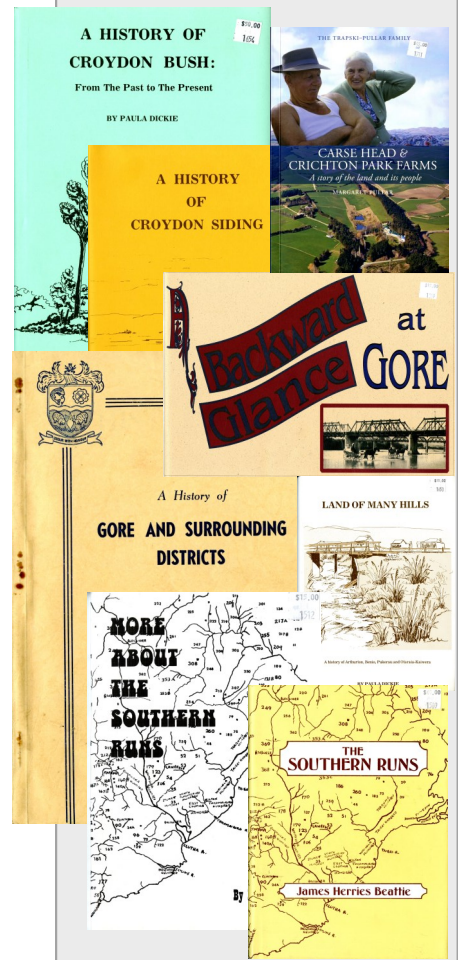
A topical quiz was enjoyed on the home journey. Back through Waipahi, and our travelling circle was completed when we crossed the Gore Bridge again.



On the Tuapeka Mouth punt—Photo by Bob Hollows

## MUSEUM SHOP OFFERINGS

The museum shop has a variety of offerings for sale from gifts to a treasure for the bookshelf. Many of the books and all Sgt Dan memorabilia help to fund ongoing work at the Museum.



## DIARY DATES

### Room Meetings

12 August 2019

AGM & George Taylor—  
Wyndham Museum

9 September 2019

Speaker TBC

14 October 2019

Speaker TBC

17 November 2019\*

50th Anniversary  
Celebratory Afternoon Tea  
*\*Please note this is a Sunday*

9 December 2019

Jim Geddes—Maruawai  
Centre Development

## MARUAWAI CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

*Jim Geddes, District Curator, Arts & Heritage for the Gore District Council reports on exciting funding developments for Gore's Arts & Heritage Precinct.*

We have been accorded two grants from Provincial Growth Fund. \$729,000 to undertake a redevelopment of the Hokonui Moonshine Museum, and \$919,000 to develop the Maruawai Centre - which will house our new district museum. Community Trust South have additionally granted \$250,000 towards the first one, and have accepted an expression of interest for the second one. I am currently working on a formal \$250,000 application for the Maruawai Centre project. Matura Licensing Trust have agreed in principle to support both projects, so I am currently working with them as well. In the interim, we are utilising the recently vacated Maruawai Centre building as a work area and display development space.



Left—Celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Gore District Historical Society and the 1999 move of the Museum to the current building are from left, Cath Geddes, Win Hamilton (founding President), and Shirley Falconer (founding Secretary).

Image by Gore Publishing Co.

*Gore Historical Museum #C118*

## ABOUT US

Would you like to learn more about our past?  
Visit historical sites in Southland & Otago?

Join us for our monthly Room Meetings where:

- Guest speakers regularly join us to share their historical knowledge
- We share our own local historical knowledge
- We explore the district on guided bus trips
- We visit historical sites and related events
- We close with a traditional cup of tea and a natter

**Meetings**

**All Welcome**

2pm - second Monday of the Month

St Andrews Church Hall

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