



February 2020

Volume 1, Issue 1

Gore District Historical Society

# The Bulletin

## WELCOME

Welcome to our first Bulletin of the year, and indeed a new decade. We also embark on our 51st year as an organisation and inside you can find details of the wonderful celebration that we held **in honour of the Historical Society's 50th anniversary**.

We start this year with an annual highlight, the bus tour. Not a world away, we explore Wyndham and surrounds. We will visit the Glenham rail and learn of the busy railway hub that it once was. A stop at the local school will give us a youthful perspective on this history too. We will go behind the scenes at the currently closed Wyndham Museum to see how they are cataloguing their collection. This is something that we will be tackling in Gore, so it offers a preview of what we have to come.

The Wyndham Historical Society will also host us for lunch and it will be a pleasure to help support their fundraising. The district was once home to a thriving flax industry and our Avis McDonald will share her personal experiences of growing up in the industry at Redan. Wyndham shares with us the Mataura River and we will also visit their historic Angling Club. The day will conclude with a visit to the award winning Mataura Museum where we will be hosted by members of the Mataura Historical Society.

We hope that you can join us. Registration details can be found on the back page of The Bulletin.

*Learning about history is like using an old camera—you focus on what's important, capture the good times, develop from the negative and if things don't work out, take another shot!*

Helen Seaton

President

NEW HOURS FOR THE HOKONUI HERITAGE RESEARCH CENTRE

Tuesday from 1.30-5pm and Sunday 1-3pm



Following the floods of last week we would like to acknowledge with great thanks the hard work of Jim and Marcella Geddes, John Dennison and David Luoni in ensuring the collection was out of harms way. We are relieved that no flood water entered the Arts and Heritage Precinct and the Museum is operating as usual.

*Image from the Otago Daily Times, dated 5 Feb 2020 and retrieved 7 Feb 2020.*



One of the images that features in the exhibition *Eclectic Gold*, that highlight some of the district's past. This image is of the March 1913 flood, prior to building of the flood-banks [A6.13c]

## FROM THE MUSEUM

**Don't forget to see the Eclectic Gold**—the exhibition that celebrates the GDHS's collection with a wide variety of taonga and objects from the collection. Discover stories of those who have shared our district in the past and on occasion have had a direct hand in creating our district such as former mayor, DL Popplewell with his connections to business, Dolamore Park, and various projects he oversaw in his long tenure.

*"Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it"* George Santayana



## ACQUISITION HIGHLIGHTS

On Saturday, 21 April 1956, the Southland provincial centennial was celebrated at Gore. **The Ensign** advertised a 'Monster Procession' to parade through the Main Street arriving at the showgrounds for a 'full afternoon of first-class entertainment and fun' including Highland dancing, archery, quickstep and fire brigade demonstrations, women's hockey, marching girls and 'hunt the needle in the haystack—for married women' as well as merry-go-rounds and Punch and Judy shows.

Fiona McLennan donated a collection of photographs taken by her late father, Jim McLennan, who was a local accountant and heavily involved with service groups including Rotary. They highlight the great deal of work that so many organisations put into floats for the procession. There were around 80 in the procession with the **Gore Wholesale and Retail Fruiterers' Assn** winning first prize.

This selection of images shows a light hearted approach by one group, a gathering of local students in the second and the last is by NZ Railways.

## NZ SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS—GORE

The NZSG Gore monthly meetings include a speaker or a demonstration relating to family history / genealogical research. Visits to other repositories are a frequent highlight. The group welcomes those working on a genealogical / family history project, offering their support and assistance. Meetings: First Tuesday/month 7pm @ Gore Visitor Centre [Speaker/demonstration begins at 8pm]





## GORE DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

On a sunny Sunday afternoon members of the Gore District Historical Society and invited guests joined together to celebrate the Society's 50th anniversary at the Maruawai Centre which is part of Museum redevelopments.

**Lindsay Wright MC'd the afternoon and President, Helen Seaton, welcomed guests that included Mayor, Tracy Hicks, former President, Nancy Morgan, Jo Brand, Hokonui Rūnanga, and Honorary Textile Curator, Muriel Pullar** as well as representatives of the various district museums and Project Ark team members. She also spoke about the activities of the Society.

Mayor Tracy Hicks gave a mayoral welcome and congratulated the Society on its 50 year milestone.

Curator, Stephanie Herring, read the minutes of the first meeting and acknowledging those who began the Society: Patron, JC McLeod, President, Win Hamilton, Vice President, Martin Thyne, Secretary, Shirley Falconer, Treasurer Peter Lewis, Committee members Cath Geddes, Catherine Smith, Natalie Dolamore, Watt Copland, Neil Hamilton and Mr Cantrick. She also read a detailed tribute to the hard work and dedication of founding President, Win Hamilton.



Speaking on his whakapapa, Lindsay Wright wove in his historical links to the district and his connection to many of the members who founded the Historical Society— several were teachers and had an impact on many students. He also spoke of his involvement in Community Trust South and its support of the pending development of the Maruawai Centre.

District Curator and head of the Gore District Council Arts & Heritage Precinct, Jim Geddes, spoke of his long connection to the Society. The first meeting was in his parents lounge! With his first hand involvement, he **spoke of Win Hamilton's foresight and the driving force that she had brought to the development of the Museum.** He also highlighted future developments for the Museum.

Stephanie spoke on the food stations about the room, acknowledging the **contributions of the Rūnanga in providing kai moana, Stir Tea, Jude Taylor and the Gore River Valley Lions for preparation of what she said was a 'celebration of our historical and gastronomic Southern hospitality'.**

A surprised Shirley Falconer received a life membership with the Historical Society and she spoke of the opportunities that lay ahead for the organisation, especially focussed on technology.

The afternoon was concluded over a very leisurely and sumptuous afternoon tea filled with animated conversation.



GDHS President, Helen Seaton, along with newly presented life member of the GDHS, Shirley Falconer cut the cake created by local artist, Jude Taylor.



The Gore Garden Club is hosting their annual Harvest Show with a theme of "Glory of the Garden". Entry is \$5. They are also hosting Margaret Barker of Larnach Castle who will speak on Friday at 7.30pm and Saturday at 10.30am, entry for each is \$5. Margaret will speak on the restoration of the Castle gardens to a tourist attraction. Her plant knowledge is invaluable.

Enquiries for entries or the show to Noreen on 208 8191

[see *Diary Dates* over the page for more information]







*Images by Bruce Cavanagh*

## DIARY DATES

**Gore District Historical  
Society Room Meeting**  
9 Mar – Annual bus trip

### Other dates:

Gore Garden Club's—Gore  
Harvest Show "Glory of the  
Garden" & Margaret Barker  
on Lanarch Castle

Fri 21 Feb 10am-5pm

Sat 22 Feb 10am-3pm

(see inside for more detail)

## BUS TOUR

Wyndham—Glenham—Redan—Mataura

Monday 9 March 9.30am—4.30pm(approx)

Meet From 9.15am  
The Maruawai Centre (the former Salvation Army shop,  
next to the Moonshine and Gore Historical Museum)

Cost \$40  
Includes lunch and museum entries

Highlights include a rare behind the scenes look at the collection activities of the currently closed Wyndham Museum, the Glenham rail line, history of the flax industry, Angling Club historic building, and a visit to the Mataura Museum.

## From the Ensign files

**28 March 1890**

It deserves to be chronicled that Gore is now connected with Invercargill by means of the telephone. The exchange is now established and we spoke from our offices yesterday with offices in Invercargill.

Other business people in Gore can now go to their instrument and talk with people in Invercargill and learn in a few minutes as much as they could by a personal conversation. Anyone can see the benefit there is to be derived by this direct

communication. The people in Gore who benefit first by the establishment of this exchange are the grain merchants.

News in these times must be made to fly.

[Abridged]

## Gore District Historical Society

Phone: 03 208 7032

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

Editor: Stephanie Herring  
Curator—Gore Historical Museum

## 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

Contact: Helen Seaton 208 1379  
Research Centre 208 7032