

# ALBERTLAND HERITAGE CENTRE

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## NEWSLETTER - MAY 2017

### From the Chairperson.....

Recently the Northland Museums Association, of which I am also the chairperson, held our usual 6 monthly meeting at Maungatapere. These occasions, to which all are welcome, are a forum where the 32 museums north of Auckland get together to swap ideas and discuss areas of mutual interest. Each meeting we have guest speakers to address current issues. At Maungatapere we were lucky to have Henry Broughton from the Auditor General's office talk with us. Henry is in charge of auditing all the museums, and all the meeting houses in NZ, and recited some interesting stories to us. When we [ie the committee] are involved with managing what is essentially someone else's money [the museum's in this case] we have to make sure rigid financial policies are in place. There are numerous incidents popping up all over the place where this does not seem to happen. The recent court case in Auckland with 2 people associated with the Rodney area spending the ratepayers' money, and being jailed for their actions, is a good example.

I am very pleased that in our museum we have extremely rigid financial processes in place, well controlled by a programme set up by Rob Lennon, that ensure our financial systems are among the best. We have excellent controls in place which can stand up to any assault, and I can honestly say are amongst the best I have seen in a long involvement in many organizations.

There were other issues we discussed including setting up a hazards analysis report, obligatory under new law, which was started a few years ago by our then committee. It is an area that we as your committee will have to formalise in the near future.

We are also very pleased that Peter Marsh is now back with us as our Curator-Manager. The committee can focus on the governance role it is legally in place for, and can step back a little from the daily management side. Although all of us are still acting as volunteers as well!!! In small organisations the two functions are mixed (governance and daily management) but the separation is now more formally in place.

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will read about our "magic lantern" day. We hope to see you all there on May 28.

Please do keep popping into our museum. It is an asset we can all be proud of.

### Museum Opening Hours

Hours of operation are as follows:

Monday to Saturday	11.00am to 3.00pm
Sunday	1.00pm to 3.00pm

It is anticipated that once we can engage the services of more volunteers for the weekend shifts the weekend hours will be extended.

**Note: the Museum will not be open on 28<sup>th</sup> May due to the Magic Lantern show happening that day.**

**Paul Allen, Chairperson**

## Curator's Corner

### *Did you know .....?*

The Albertland Heritage Centre has a wealth of information available for you to view online from the comfort of your home.

From our Facebook page to our Collections online website.

You can search for objects and view family photos quite simply by visiting our website [www.albertland.co.nz](http://www.albertland.co.nz) then selecting **View our collections online**. (Top right of home page)



This will open a page with instructions how to search the data base. By simply typing in a word like say, house, you will be presented with 191 records that contain the word house. Each of these records will include a photo. Copies of photos can be ordered direct from this site.

**Facebook.** Each week we put some photos up on our Facebook page. Comments from viewers include. "Awesome photos" "Lovely photos" "such a tragic day ...." "Oh yes there's some memories" "Was great to go to the flicks there. Remember rolling jaffas down the aisle".

From your Facebook page, search for **Albertland Heritage Centre**.

**Shawn Stevens photographs.** Following on from our successful gallery exhibition of Shawn's photographs we are happy to now feature a selection available to view and purchase through our website. On the home page click on "Shop With Us" scroll down and select "Photographs" then scroll down till you find the coloured photo selection. Examples include Minniesdale Chapel, other buildings and various Kaipara harbour shots.

**Volunteers.** "I need help" with various projects. Some ongoing, some more like handy man things. We have a set of bellows on a pianola that need repairing. Over 200 pianola rolls to play and record. A couple of original Edison wax cylinder phonographs to be restored and sound recordings made. Again several hundred wax cylinders in our collection. A pianist to help with playing some old time tunes for recording work. Have an interest in historical things? Then maybe transcribing unpublished manuscripts from the 1800's could appeal. Or if you and a friend would just like to come along and man the front desk for a couple of hours a month that would be really really appreciated. Give me a call. I'd love to work with you.

**Till next time, Peter.**

## **29<sup>th</sup> May 1887 - ALBERTLANDERS 25<sup>th</sup> JUBILEE**

From the first years of settlement, Albertland pioneers have celebrated the 29<sup>th</sup> May, when their ships left the East India Docks for New Zealand. 1887 marked the Albertlanders' 25<sup>th</sup> Jubilee and the opening of the new Port Albert Temperance Hall. Everyone was determined the double celebration would be a huge success.

Settlers living in Auckland formed a committee to arrange transport north for as many as possible. The 'SS Durham' was booked, leaving Helensville on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> to return the following Monday or Tuesday. She arrived in Port Albert, flags flying, at 4 pm Saturday with 50 passengers who were greeted with cheers from people waiting on the wharf.

Many other visitors came from Whangarei, Matakohe, Paparoa and Maungatoroto. One gentleman from Thames couldn't make it – his daughter wrote to a friend; 'Today papa received a letter from Auckland re the gathering of which you wrote but does not think he will be able to be there. We have had a dreadful flood since this was written.' In Port Albert however, the weather was perfect.

On Sunday morning a Thanksgiving service was held in the Temperance Hall, Mr James Coupland presiding. William Armitage conducted several musical items with Mrs Cutforth, Mrs David Becroft and Mr George Nicholson on piano and harmonium. The Reverends Gittos and Barley officiated at special afternoon service and in the evening Edward Browne chaired a political meeting.

Newspapers reported that 400-500 people filled the Temperance Hall for a traditional old-fashioned tea on Monday. Afterwards Mr Coupland presided over 'one of the most enthusiastic meetings ever held in Albertland'. Esteemed Missionary Rev William Gittos briefly addressed the meeting saying that he had done his best to encourage local Maori Chiefs to sell the Oruawharo Block to the government for settlement. He added that there was a Maori proverb which could be applied to them; 'No weeping or sighing for the past, no complaining or discontent for the present; but joy, prosperity and success for the future.' Rev Gittos added that he had every confidence in the future prosperity of the district.

**Albertland's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – The New Hall  
– May 29<sup>th</sup> 1887**



**ALBERTLAND'S 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY. THE NEW HALL. MAY 29<sup>th</sup> 1887**

2017 marks the 155th Albertlanders Anniversary and celebrations will be held at the Port Albert Hall commencing 2.00 pm Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May. A varied programme will include items from the 1999 Albertland Dinner and Concert, a pictorial history of Wharehine's Minniesdale Chapel which celebrates its 150th Anniversary in December 2017 and an Old Time Magic Lantern Show of images many of which have not been shown before. Afternoon tea provided.

**(Prepared by Lyn Johnston – for the Mahurangi Matters history column)**



*Albertland Heritage Centre*

# Join us for our 155th Albertland May Celebration

*Sunday 28th May - 2 pm - Port Albert Hall, Port Albert*

*Programme includes:*

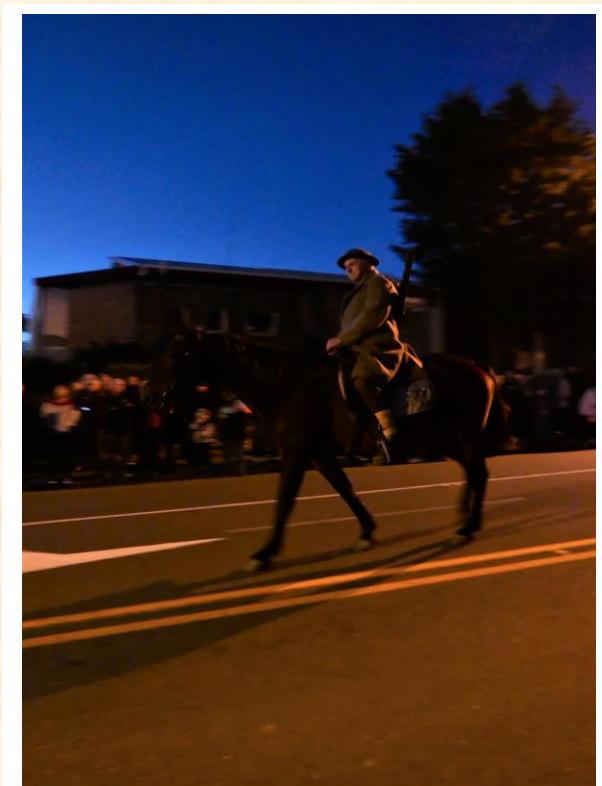
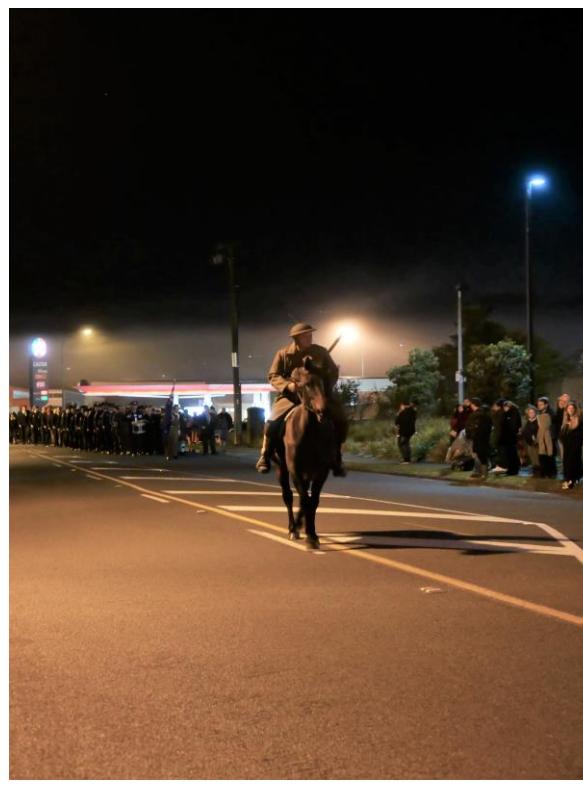
- *DVD of the 1999 dinner and concert*
- *Minniesdale Chapel 150th birthday promotion*
- *An old time Magic Lantern show from the W H Marsh collection*
  - *Afternoon tea - ladies a plate appreciated*
  - *Trading Table - Raffles - Shawn Stevens canvasses*
  - *Entry Adults \$5 Children free*

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## WELLSFORD – ANZAC Dawn Parade



There was a smaller turnout this year to the ANZAC parade, nevertheless, a moving tribute took place honouring the ANZAC's. The march was led by Roger Farr on horseback signifying the role of the mounted troops in battle. The New Zealand Government acquired more than 10,000 horses for the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. These horses served where most of the New Zealanders served ie at Gallipoli, in German Samoa, in the Middle East and on the Western Front. It was awesome to see the large number of young children in attendance at the Parade and to listen to the poignant poems that a number of children from Wellsford School had prepared. A large number of wreaths, including one from the Albertland Heritage Centre, were laid at the Memorial Gates.



## **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.....**

The 150<sup>th</sup> Minniesdale Chapel Anniversary celebration will be taking place later this year, on **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December**. More specific details to come, but book this date in your calendar.

The framework and stained glass for the windows for the chapel were brought out to New Zealand by Reverend Stanley Brookes in 1865. The chapel was erected and was opened and dedicated on Sunday 29 December 1867. Twenty years later, in June 1887, the chapel and the grounds (Reverend Brookes' son, George Brookes, had donated the land) were given initially to the Baptist Union and then to the local Wharehine district residents to be used as an interdenominational chapel. Since that time a commemorative service has taken place annually.



The current Board of Trustees: Tony Hayward (Chair), Lyn Johnston (Secretary), Jill Jackson (Treasurer), Pauline Stables, Barbara Lane, Sue Andrew, Runa Halfpenny, Linda Casci and Liz Sanders are preparing for the 150<sup>th</sup> commemorative event – with a special service to be undertaken by a Brookes' descendant, Peter Brookes.

**Watch this space for more details closer to the time but also check out the  
Minniesdale Chapel and Cemetery website at**

**[www.minniesdale.com](http://www.minniesdale.com)**

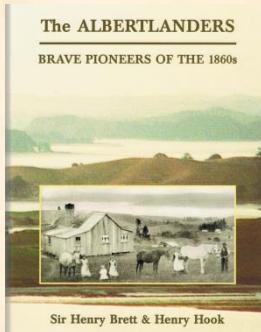
# SOME GREAT DEALS ARE ON OFFER

## FOR MAY 2017

**Purchase from the Museum or order online [www.albertland.co.nz](http://www.albertland.co.nz)**

**NOTE: PRICES BELOW INCLUDE GST AND  
POSTAGE AND PACKAGING WITHIN NEW ZEALAND**

**Limited stock at these prices – be in quick!!**



### **THE ALBERTLANDERS – Brave Pioneers of The 1860's**

(by Sir Henry Brett & Henry Hook) Reprint of the 1926 edition

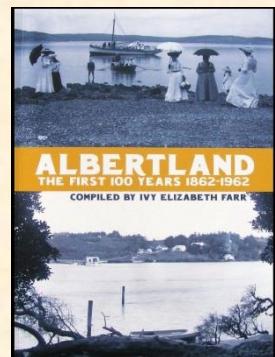
This is a special edition of the classic story of the Albertland settlement in Northland. It tells of the pioneering days of that Non-Conformist settlement, beginning with the migrant ships from England during the 1860's. It is a story of hardship and reward as the settlers built a new life on the shores of the Kaipara Harbour, north of Auckland. This new edition has been reset from the original text (originally published in 1927). Only 100 copies have been printed.

**Price: \$97.50 incl. #B16**

### **ALBERTLAND - The First 100 Years 1862-1962**

(Compiled by IE Farr - republished in 2012 – reprinted for the Albertlanders' 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration)

This book, originally published in 1962 to celebrate the centennial of Albertland, has been reissued in this new illustrated edition to celebrate 150 years since the founding of the Nonconformist settlement led by William Rawson Brame. It tells the stories of the first pioneers, their journey to New Zealand and their arrival and settlement of the Kaipara. This story is both a celebration of the pioneering spirit and an important record of the first hundred hard but rewarding years of settlement.



**Price: \$47.50 incl. #B31**



### **IMAGES FROM ALBERTLAND (Silver Edition)**

(by Paul Campbell)

The pictures in this book are rare illustrations of a pioneering life, a gentler time and also a time of trial. They are a record of a people, their discoveries and how they made their lives to fit a new and developing land. In researching the text, the author discovered that Harold Marsh used his pen equally as well as his camera. He described a journey of exploration in words that are as evocative as his pictures.

**Price: \$33.50 incl. #B28**