

Waimate Historical Society Incorporated

Issue 94— May 2023

As winter slides in we are gearing up for yearly maintenance and cleaning. The Machinery is all safely undercover back in the Ron Hut Machinery Hall out of the elements.

We have recently installed Fibre into the Dempsey Complex and Courthouse buildings. What a pleasant surprise to see how tidy Chorus left the grounds—you can hardly tell where they dug up the lawn outside the offices. This is going to be a most welcome asset to the team as we have been plagued with slow internet speeds.

You may or may not have heard that a local builder Robert Wilson will be making a model of the Waimate Railway for the Museum .We will be raising funds to help cover Robert's costs. If you are interested in donating to this project please let Tracy know in the office.

The oak trees at the Museum were looking rather pretty with their colourful leaves until last week when they all blew away. The grounds are looking lovely thanks to the wonderful ladies from the Green fingers garden Clubs supreme efforts in keeping them under control. A special thanks must go to Roger and Margaret Meyer for their donation , once again of pea straw.



Jim Smith has recently finished making us a new garden seat to replace our old one that rotted away—The seat bears a plaque to honour Jane Hart who was a member of the Green Fingers Garden Club. Jane spent many hours ensuring our grounds were kept tidy. Jane is sadly missed but she is fondly remembered for her efforts.

Office Hours

Tuesday through Friday 10:00am until 3:30pm

admin@waimatemuseumandarchives.org.nz

Waimate Historical Society AGM

WHEN: Friday August 4th Time: 6:30PM

Where: Douglas School Building, 28 Shearman Street

Please note that your membership needs to be paid in order to vote at the AGM

Refreshments will be available

Waimate Family History Hub

The Waimate Family History Hub (formerly Waimate branch of NZSG) Is a great asset to the Historical Society and it is a pleasure to work alongside them to provide greater access to our districts history. The Hub will be running workshops on where and how to start searching your family history. Edwina Swingler and John Foley have also been involved running Cemetery Tours looking at our past citizens. These tours are very informative and are being well received.

If you are interested in becoming part of the Waimate Family History Hub or making a start on your family history but don't know how or where to start ..

Please email Edwina and the team on : wfh@wimate museumandarchives.org.nz

Water , Water , Everywhere

TEN YEARS' RAINFALL IN WAIMATE.

AN INTERESTING RECORD.

JANUARY THE WETTEST MONTH

Interesting comparisons may be made in the record of the rainfall in Waimate for the past ten years, which has been supplied to us by Mr T. S. Medlicott, South Road. The record shows that the total rainfall for that period was 229.11, which shows an annual average rainfall of nearly 23 inches. Contrary to what might be expected, it is clearly shown that January is easily the wettest month of the year, the winter months showing much less rain.

| Year | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | April | May | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Total |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| 1911 | 2.10 | 0.97 | 0.46 | 2.20 | 0.83 | 2.55 | 2.70 | 0.23 | 2.18 | 0.70 | 2.10 | 5.52 | 22.54 |
| 1912 | 3.37 | 1.62 | 2.90 | 1.57 | 0.83 | 3.22 | 5.05 | 0.65 | 1.42 | 4.01 | 2.83 | 1.44 | 28.91 |
| 1913 | 3.00 | 2.13 | 1.75 | 3.05 | 0.83 | 0.76 | 1.85 | 3.31 | 0.48 | 1.01 | 4.64 | 3.83 | 26.64 |
| 1914 | 2.60 | 2.35 | 3.06 | 1.92 | 1.02 | 0.85 | 0.35 | 0.40 | 0.33 | 0.78 | 1.56 | 2.02 | 17.24 |
| 1915 | 2.58 | 2.12 | 0.80 | 0.37 | 0.76 | 1.20 | 0.55 | 0.29 | 0.18 | 1.73 | 2.23 | 0.77 | 13.58 |
| 1916 | 1.25 | 1.14 | 2.38 | 2.56 | 2.63 | 4.61 | 2.04 | 1.25 | 0.48 | 0.60 | 1.67 | 0.34 | 20.95 |
| 1917 | 3.10 | 1.40 | 1.12 | 1.80 | 5.82 | 0.64 | 2.11 | 0.45 | 4.66 | 3.09 | 0.41 | 2.60 | 27.20 |
| 1918 | 2.36 | 1.53 | 1.81 | 0.25 | 0.70 | 1.26 | 0.46 | 2.30 | 1.61 | 0.46 | 3.32 | 1.59 | 17.65 |
| 1919 | 3.83 | 0.57 | 0.69 | 2.29 | 0.15 | 1.60 | 2.18 | 3.66 | 4.58 | 0.93 | 3.20 | 2.44 | 26.12 |
| 1920 | 2.50 | 3.00 | 1.36 | 1.05 | 0.81 | 1.50 | 1.37 | 4.04 | 6.58 | 1.38 | 2.32 | 2.37 | 28.28 |
| | 26.69 | 16.83 | 16.33 | 17.06 | 14.38 | 18.19 | 18.66 | 16.58 | 22.50 | 14.69 | 24.28 | 22.92 | 229.11 |

Funding

We have been extremely lucky to once again be awarded a \$25,000 hardship grant from National Services Te Paerangi which is to be spent towards operational costs as well as the purchase of a generator to run the Chair O Plane when we take it off site and into the Community. Funding like this enables us to concentrate on moving forward.

Past happenings in Waimate

MAY

1865, 11th: Mr Woollcombe appointed Magistrate for Waimate, holding first court a month later. [*The Book of Waimate: Jubilee year 1879-1929*]

1866: Refusal of Government grant supplies to Waimate Road Board for bridges or culverts in the Waimate district. [*Lyttleton Times, 5 March 1866, pg 1*]

1870, 16th: Return of Agricultural Statistics for Waimate for 62 holdings. [AJHR]
Land broken not cropped 2,225 acres, under crop 3,744
Cropped Wheat: 922½ acres 29,183 bushels
Cropped Oats: 113 acres for feed 873 for grain 30,370 bushels
Cropped Barley: 69 acres 1,750 bushels
Cropped Grasses: 58½ acres 66 tons hay, 1,450½ permanent
Cropped Potatoes: 40¾ acres 284 tons
Cropped Other: 275 acres

1877, 19th: Railway opened to Waimate. [*The Book of Waimate: Jubilee year 1879-1929*]

JUNE

1865 Naturalisation of some German settlers residing in Waimate held at Timaru Court ,included Morris ARSHT, Friedrich. BRINKMAN, bushman; Hermann MEYER, Carpenter; Elbert ABBENDSETH, bushman and Fritz Johan WERGER, bushman. [*Lyttleton Times, 30 March 1865, pg 5*]

1882, 10th The New Zealand Exhibition is officially opened at Christchurch. Privately funded, a 14-week show drawing 225,000 visitors. People from Waimate took the train to attend during the week-long exhibition

1872, 20th Board of Education: Included in the list of scholars to whom prizes have been awarded for good conduct and diligence was Minnie BOWLES, Waimate school.

1911, 24 The Rotunda in Seddon Square in memory of King Edward was officially opened under trying weather of southerlies and rain. The Brass Band played under the baton of Mr W J Wills. [*The Waimate Advertiser*]

JULY

1901, 16th FIRE IN WAIMATE. The Waimate Hotel and four shops, an old landmark – GONE. At 5.55am the fire-bell rang waking all from their beds to witness a fire of the Waimate Hotel with the adjoining shops. A stream of water continued on the windows and verandah of Manchester Bros stone store across the road. There were willing helper trying to remove stock from the shops Stationer – Messrs Franklin, Butchers – Meyers and Jones, Bootmaker – J Williams and Tobacconist - A Inkster. [*Waimate Advertiser*]

Current Displays



When was the last time you visited the Museum? You may notice some changes. In the Judges room there is a display of Savoy items that are part of our collection and some other items kindly on loan from Trevor Joyce and Russell Wallace. There is also a lovely display by Rotary celebrating their 65th year in Waimate. The Rotary group used to hold their meetings at the Savoy so this fits in nicely. Thank you to Sharyn Cain and Jim Rayner for all the work they have put in sorting through photos. Come and have a look and see who you recognise. A real walk down memory lane.

What do you remember from the Savoy?

Kings Coronation



Left Top: A display of royal items from our collection currently in the Courthouse. Spanning different eras in time. We had a lovely high tea in June, with the residents from Lister Home joining us to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles.



Bottom Left: A beautiful display of Royal items which are kindly on loan from John and Sandra Coles personal collection. Including a lovely signed letter from Queen Elizabeth herself.

These items will soon be taken out for a new display.