



## THE EPSOM & EDEN DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

President: Christine Black, 11 Epsom Ave, Epsom (630 5554)

Vice-President: Helen Laurenson, 14 Corbett Scott Ave, Epsom (630 3850)

Secretary: Natalie Taplin, 52 Margot St, Epsom (524 9249)

Treasurer/Membership Secretary: Jeanette Grant, 662A Mt Eden Rd, Mt Eden (638 8566)

Patron: Her Excellency Susan Satyanand

Website: [www.epsom-eden.org.nz](http://www.epsom-eden.org.nz)

### NEWSLETTER : AUGUST 2007

The next meeting of the Society will be the

#### Annual General Meeting

**Monday 6 August 2007 at 7:30 pm**

held in the *Epsom/Eden Room*, Epsom Community Centre, 202 Gillies Ave, Epsom  
(cnr Gillies Ave/Kimberley Rd)

Light refreshments served before meeting.

Ample parking is available from either the Gillies Ave or Kimberley Rd entrances.

Jeanette Grant will have receipt book available if you would like to pay your subscription at the AGM.

**Election of Officers:** If you are interested in standing for the committee please complete and return the attached nomination form to the Secretary, c/- 14 Corbett Scott Ave, Epsom.

**Guest Speaker:**

**Dr Basil Hutchinson** (Retired former Anaesthetist and Head of Department, Auckland & Green Lane Hospital). Also has an interest in the history of ships, railways and medical.

**Topic: New Zealand Hospital Ships of WWI and WWII.**

#### **PROSPECT : The Journal of the Epsom & Eden District Historical Society Inc.**

The 6<sup>th</sup> issue of *Prospect* is now ready and will be handed out to financial members at the AGM. Additional copies are available at \$8.00 each. If you would like to complete the series, I have copies of earlier issues available. Please start thinking about your contribution for next year. If you do not like writing, give me a ring and I will be only too pleased to come and assist you to organise memories and memorabilia into an article which will help preserve the past for the future. An article does not have to be lengthy. Even one photo or one paragraph may add something of interest to others. **Jeanette Grant – ph 638 8566.**

**LIBRARY** – All books available for loan have been transferred to Jeanette Grant's home, 662A Mt Eden Rd. Please contact her (638 8566) if you have any queries.

## JULY OUTING : Visit to *Marivare*, 60 Ranfurly Rd West, Epsom



An unexpectedly large group of Society members braved a cold and wet winter's afternoon to visit this wonderful all-kauri Victorian house hidden in central Epsom. We were warmly welcomed by our hosts, John and Margot Andrew, who with their three children are the current residents of this historic property.

A right-of-way driveway at No. 60 Ranfurly Rd leads to the house where a small formal garden, in turn, leads to the front door.

John Andrew began a most interesting tour on the ground floor with the hall, sitting-room (with original English fireplace with black marble horseshoe register, and dining-room (with board and batten ceiling) decorated to reflect the original feel of the house. The group was shown the early kitchen area with coal-range and the housekeeper's room. We then went upstairs - the large gold-and-turquoise paned-window on the staircase (with original stair-rods) reflecting the favourite colours of Queen Victoria. We viewed the bedrooms and stepped out on the elegant second-floor veranda that must have had a very impressive view of the 9-acre property in the early years.

Our tour concluded with members gathering in the ground-floor ballroom and attached conservatory where we were offered wine and cheese and the opportunity to return to other parts of the house.

The 48ft ballroom, which is under restoration at the moment, was a later addition to the house by its owner James Benjamin Russell as a social venue to launch his five daughters into Auckland society. John has a very interesting collection of photographs of the Russell family at the house which are enjoyed by those attending various functions held in the ballroom. We were then able to view the foundations of original totara log piles at the back of the house and also the 6 chimneys. It is a delightful house, resonant with its Victorian past while remaining a comfortable family home in 2007. It was a privilege for the Society to visit this beautiful house and we extend grateful appreciation to the Andrew family for their welcome.

The factual history of *Marivare* can be found on page 411 of *The History of Epsom*. (Contributed by Christine Black).



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**Epsom Baptist Church**  
**The Small Church in the Avenue**  
**Serving the Epsom Community since 1907**  
**Centennial Weekend 3-5 August 2007**

If you have had links in the past with Epsom Baptist Church and are interested in finding out more about their centennial programme please contact

**Andrew & Caroline Gamman, Bethel Hui**

**Tel: 630 6010**

(The factual history of Epsom Baptist Church can be found on pages 177-178 of *The History of Epsom*).