



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

NEWSLETTER : NOVEMBER 2007

(Note: This is the last newsletter for the year.)

Our final outing for the year is a guided tour of

**Onehunga Community House, 83 Selwyn Street, Onehunga on Sunday 4
November 2007 at 2pm.**

We meet at the Carpark at 83 Selwyn Street with Bridget Graham (Chairman of the Friends of Onehunga Community House, Audrey Ritchie (Onehunga Archivist) and Colin Tunnicliffe (Project Manager) who will guide us through the restoration process of the former **105-yr-old Onehunga Primary School** involving all of the exterior and part of the interior, providing a good comparison of "before" and "after".

The tour will conclude with the serving of afternoon-tea.

Welcome to New Member: Jenny Maidment, 24 Prospect Tce, Mt Eden.

Apology - Correction: New members Malcolm & Barbara Waller (not Walker), 8 Hiriri Ave, Remuera.

Change of Address: Miss A M Kirkness, S305 Edmund Hillary Retirement Village, 221 Abbots Way, Remuera. Tel: 574 5546 (From 1.08.07).

Congratulations to Bridget Graham: re-elected to the Maungakiekie Community Board (Auckland City Council 2007 Elections).

LOOKING AHEAD

The next meeting of the Society will be held **Monday 4 February 2008 at 7:30 pm.**

Full details in next Newsletter posted January '08

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

Please start thinking about your contribution for next year - it need not be lengthy. **Jeanette Grant (638 8566)** will be only too pleased to assist you with organising your memories and memorabilia that will help preserve the past for the future. Deadline: 31 March 2008.

War Memorials in the Epsom and Eden areas: Jeanette Grant is listing these and would appreciate any information of memorials (big or small) in these areas - photos would also be appreciated. Thank you.

"THE HISTORY OF EPSOM" - REPRINT

Available for sale at TimeOut Bookstore,
 cnr Stokes Rd/Mt Eden Rd, or their website www.timeout.co.nz @ \$65 per copy.

LOOKING BACK : OUR OCTOBER MEETING

Guest Speaker **Davina Johnston** on her "**Memories of *Marivare* after World War II**"

(Note: *Marivare* is pronounced "Ma-riv-ah-ree")

Davina Johnston, nee Lusk, (known to the family as Pippa), was the younger twin-daughter of Margaret Mary Carr b. 1918 and Harold Stewart Lusk. Davina spoke on the history of *Marivare* (the large 2-storied house and 5 acres of land in what was Brown St and is now Ranfurly Rd); and her life at *Marivare* after 1945 when her mother, who had spent the war-years in England, returned with one daughter aged 3yrs and pregnant with twins. They all lived at *Marivare* with Granny and Grandpop (Barbara Sibyl Greig who had married Stanley Austin Carr).

Some of Davina's happiest memories are:

The kitchen with the big marble slab on which they made fudge and where Granny did lots of bottling and made pickle; the large vegetable garden which ran from the rear of the house to Inverary Ave where they lived when her father returned from the war after finishing his legal studies at Middle Temple; their home was a 3-storey house built directly behind *Marivare* where the children could run to see Granny anytime they wanted; between the houses were the extensive vegetable gardens, the tennis courts and the chicken-run. Also, the reading parties held by her grandmother every Monday afternoon in the drawing room (adjacent to the ballroom), the ladies all taking turns to read; the twins were dressed up as showpieces and allowed to hand around the afternoon-tea under the strict guidance of their mother – Davina well remembers the beautiful sandwiches and Granny's beautiful lemon-cake with the crunchy outside.

Marivare was a children's paradise with trees made for climbing, i.e. the big Weeping Willow immediately in front of the front door, the Puriri at the front gate, the large Horse Chestnut with white candle-flowers, the Kauri getting bigger and bigger and the bamboo planted to the left facing the road was a fantastic place for building huts. The trouble with lots of trees, particularly deciduous ones, being lots of leaves to rake-up in Autumn – the children spent hours helping Granny raking and making large piles of leaves – then rolling in the piles of leaves! The Cellars were also made for playing hide-and-seek where the children got very dirty exploring all the connecting tunnels under the house and finding secret hiding places among the wood. The Billiard and Dining Rooms were also fun to play in – although they were not allowed to touch the score-boards or markers. In the Dining room they would press the bell to summon a maid to clear the dinner-plates then run as fast they could to the kitchen to try to catch the flap dropping to summon assistance – but never did get there in time. Playing in the Billiard room meant hiding under the table, then in the big velvet curtains, then sitting in the middle of the Persian rugs pretending it was magic. The Bedrooms upstairs were small by today's standards, the little room Davina slept in was called the Maid's room. The rooms opening onto the balcony had very large dressers with secret panels—the children dressed-up in Granny's furs and hid in the glory boxes—the smell of moth-balls is a lasting memory. The banisters were great to slide down. The twins did everything together and were left to their own entertainment for hours on end – they do not remember being supervised. Granny was a great matriarch and the children's stability.

Over time, the grounds were sold-off and the town-houses built and, later, the front house built for Granny to live in until she died in 1970. When *Marivare* was eventually sold, the Goldie from the top of the stairs went to Uncle Richard's home and many of the beautiful cabinets and dressers sold or given away. The antiques in all their homes have lasted the test of time, the cabinet in Davina's lounge (a copy Hepplewhite) still has the beautiful china and the family medals of her great-aunt Elsie who never married, served in Gallipoli and was noted as twice receiving the Royal Red Cross Second-Class in the First World War; and some of the pieces of china Davina remembers admiring as a child are now hers to preserve for the next generation.

**The Executive Committee wish all members a
 Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

