



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, 6662A Mt Eden Rd, Mt Eden (638 8566)

Patron: Her Excellency Susan Satyanand

Website: www.epsom-eden.org.nz

NEWSLETTER : MAY 2008

Our next meeting - Monday evening 2 June 2008 at 7.30pm

John Adam will talk on

‘True Stories from the Gardens of Eden’.

John Adam is a Landscape Historian with a particular interest in ‘Endangered Gardens’. He will describe the professional nurserymen and gardeners who were associated with the planting of some of the key private gardens and public parks of the Mt Eden/Roskill/Newmarket areas.

They include John Edgerley, John Blackmore, David Hay and Fife Carnegie.

Please check in at door as you enter where you will be welcomed and entered in the attendance book. This is a new system that is proving most successful.

Sue Duncan, a member of the Lady Cobham Kindergarten Committee is trying to trace any **descendants** of **Mrs Gladys E. Batten**, then vice-president of the Auckland Free Kindergarten Association and **Mrs R. Hosken**, both of whom accompanied Lady Cobham in the official opening and re-naming of the kindergarten in April 1958.

The Mayor Sir John Allum, president of the AFKA, and Mrs Allum welcomed the guests, and Archdeacon N.E. Winhall dedicated the building.

The kindergarten is celebrating its half-century later this year and the Committee would like to include relatives of that original official party if at all possible.

If anyone can supply information about either:

Mrs Gladys E. Batten or Mrs R. Hosken



Please phone Sue at 09 638 4618.

Prospect 2008 will be available for members at our August AGM.

Jeanette Grant ph.638 8566 welcomes contributions for our next issue.

Members of the Society can purchase copies of ***The History of Epsom*** at the special price of \$60.00. Contact Bryan Boon, ph. 625 6465, or Christine Black ph. 630 5554. The book will be available at our meetings.

INVITATION

Members of our society are warmly invited by the Anglican Historical Society to attend their next meeting, which will be held at St Alban's Church, 443 Dominion Road, Balmoral on Sunday 15 June at 2.30pm. This will be an opportunity to visit the church, begun in the 19th century, and hear something of its history. It owns the second oldest tracker action organ in the country; in 1873 it was bought by Bishop Selwyn for St Mary's in Parnell, and dates back to 1860.

Faye Angelo's book *The Changing Face of Mount Eden*, published in 1989 by the Mt Eden Borough Council has material on the history of St Alban's Church on p.43. The Society's own library has copies of this book if anyone would like to borrow one. Please contact Jeanette Grant ph.638 8566.

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Christine Black, our stalwart President, was the only representative of our society who arrived at MOTAT on that very wet Sunday afternoon arranged for our May outing. It literally was a 'wash out'! Well done Christine! Instead of a report of her rain-drenched experience, we bring you her summary of another more successful society outing on very wet Sunday last November.

Visit to the Onehunga Community Centre

In November the Society was invited by Bridget Graham to visit the restoration project in progress at the original Onehunga School in Selwyn St, which has been the Community Centre since the early 1980s. It was an excellent visit for a torrentially wet Sunday afternoon!

The school was planned in 1899 and construction began in 1901, with five large and three small classrooms, a teachers' room and a headmaster's room opened by the mayor on November 20th 1901. The last remaining building left built in Auckland in the 1892-1907 style, it was distinguished by large windows, a ventilation system, separate entrances for boys and girls, and stoves for heating. It ceased to be required by the Ministry of Education in 1992 and the aim is to restore the building for the use of the whole community.

We began by hearing from the project manager, Colin Tunicliffe, who outlined the scope and funding plan. The project began in 2005 with the exterior of the building repaired and repainted in original colours. The bell tower, including the bell, (which had been dismantled during WWII) was rebuilt from photographs. This was accomplished with grants from the Maungakiekie Community Board, the Lottery Board and local fund raising. Further grants allowed for the interior renovations to begin and work is at various stages of completion throughout.

We saw the classrooms with repolished floors and repairs and painting in progress. Original mouldings and detail will be restored and replaced where possible. An up-graded electrical system, new heating and a sprinkler system are also underway.

We concluded with afternoon tea and an opportunity to view the photograph collections and talk to some of the volunteers.

Next Outing:

Sunday 13 July 2008

The World War II Historical Re-enactment Society

Cornwall Park was utilised for the defence effort in WW2 by a wide variety of military services including an HQ for the Home Guard and Quarter Masters of the 21st Battalion, or the 39th US General Army Hospital formerly in the Park. This Society is dedicated to preserving and presenting New Zealanders' contribution to the Second World War. Further details of the outing will be given in our next newsletter.