



EPSOM & EDEN DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

President: Eric Laurenson, 14 Corbett Scott Ave, Epsom (630 3850)

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

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

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Patron: Her Excellency Lady Satyanand

Website: www.epsom-eden.org.nz

NEWSLETTER : AUGUST 2010

It's our 10th birthday

Join us at a Luncheon @

Eden Gardens Café, Omana Ave, Epsom

Sunday 19 September 2010 at 12 noon for 12.30 pm

3-Course Menu

Smoked Fish Pate served with Melba Toast

Glazed Ham on the bone served with Cumberland Sauce

Slow-cooked Leg of Lamb with Rosemary, Mint and Capers

Roasted Root Vegetables and Spring Greens

Trifle & Meringues

Tea and Coffee

Please note there will be a \$3 per glass BYO levy

Seating capacity - Limit of 60

Members \$20

Non-members \$35

Tickets available from

David Pittman

39 Mt St John Ave, Epsom

Tel: 520 2859

Email: daja@xtra.co.nz

Following the Luncheon Jack Baker's book, *A Baker's Dozen* will be launched at 2pm. Jack is a long-time Epsom resident and historian.

Appreciation

Natalie Taplin wishes to thank the Society for the lovely Get-Well card and kind messages received from members at the AGM.

Condolence

We extend sympathy to the family of Kathleen Christine (Chris) Sparling, long-standing member who died 23 August 2010.

AUGUST MEETING – The Society was privileged to have as guest speaker, Professor Ian E H Smith of the School for the Environment at the University of Auckland. Following are some notes from his presentation which was entitled *Recent Research on Auckland's Volcanoes*.

Despite the fact that Auckland city, one of New Zealand's major commercial regions, is nestled in a volcanic field, few of the residents consider, or are prepared for, the likelihood of an eruption. Volcanic activity from an eruption at an Auckland site could produce serious problems for those who live in the region. The degree of destruction will depend on the size and location of the eruption, the type of activity, the warning time and planning for preparedness.

Auckland's volcanoes are small on a world scale. Eruptions are measured on the volume erupted during their active life. The total volume of volcanic deposits in the Auckland field is only about the size of an average eruption such as the 1960 St Helen's eruption in the United States.

The volcanic activity in Auckland is classed as monogenetic, i.e. each time there has been eruption, it has been at a new location and has originated from a single batch of magma which rose from its source about 100kms beneath the city.

Auckland's volcanoes differ from other New Zealand volcanoes. The central North Island and Taranaki volcanoes occur when the Pacific Plate and the Australian Plate collide, causing magma to erupt. In the Auckland field, the temperatures of a hot spot or 'plume' beneath the city rises to a degree where the rock begins to melt. This melted rock (basalt and magma) separates from the solid residue and rises towards the surface. It flows easily, forcing its way through the overlying crust at a speed of up to 5ks per hour.

The lack of surface activity gives the mistaken impression of an extinct field. Nothing could be further from the truth. Many Auckland volcanoes are quite small, but five, (Mangere, One Tree Hill, Three Kings, Mt Eden and Mt Wellington) are of medium-size. These last erupted between 10,000 and 20,000 years ago. Rangitoto, the largest, erupted only about 600 years ago. There appears to be an increase in the average size of eruptions. Future eruptions may be even larger. Volcanoes are notoriously unpredictable. An eruption could block roads, destroy housing, as well as cutting water supplies, sewerage reticulation, electricity, telephone and radio services – and other infrastructure. The citizens of Auckland should be well-prepared for emergencies.

Prof Smith's absorbing talk touched on the history of other volcanic eruptions and scientific explanations covering seismic activity, explosions, base surges, fire fountaining, lava effusion and air-fall tephra. Altogether, this was a riveting and informative talk, giving much food for thought. An article on this topic by Prof Ian Smith and Sharon R Allen can be accessed at www.gns.cri.nz (Contributed by Valerie Sherwood).

The Charlotte Museum in Mt Albert is hosting a local history event on Sunday September 12, "Women who love women and Local History". The Charlotte Museum's founder, Miriam Saphira, will describe how this community-based museum was established and what was involved in setting it up. She will describe the search for a venue, compliance issues, funding, and how its collections are catalogued and conserved. Miriam will give sound advice on the practicalities of starting up a museum, making historical societies aware of the challenges they face as well as describing what the museum has achieved.

Jenny Rankine, the museum's co-ordinator and a member of the Mount Albert Historical Society, will describe the differing attitudes to women who loved women in New Zealand since the early 1800s. For example, it is not commonly known that in the 1800s, openly loving relationships between women who lived together were accepted and sometimes widely praised. The event starts at 2pm. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion after both speakers, followed by nibbles and drinks. Entry is by koha.

**Next Meeting: Monday 4 October 2010 - 7.30 pm
at Epsom Community Centre**