

# EPSOM & EDEN DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Registration No. CC44946



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

## NEWSLETTER - MAY - JUNE, 2023

**The next meeting of the Society will be held on  
MONDAY 5 JUNE, 2023, at 2.30 pm (King's Birthday)  
in St Andrews Church Hall, 100 St Andrews Road, Epsom**

**Speaker: Larry Robbins**  
**Topic: "*Pacific Rescue*"**

(See information flier forwarded recently)

Parking is available on the right-hand side of the long driveway  
and there is further right-angle parking near the Hall.

### ***Prospect 2024***

Jeanette is looking for articles for *Prospect* 2024 journal and is happy to talk to you if you have something under way - email: [jeanette.john.grant@gmail.com](mailto:jeanette.john.grant@gmail.com) or phone: 09 6388566

Additional copies of previous editions of *Prospect* are available by contacting Jeanette, cost \$10 each plus any postage.

*Prospect* 22 is being currently being published and is expected to be available for distribution at the August meeting of the Society.

### **MT EDEN HISTORY BOOKS:**

In future, there will be some copies of the *Mt Eden* book available at meetings for purchase by members at a special price of \$40 for meeting attenders.

We are considering furnishing some copies to local Estate Agents to give to successful buyers in Mt Eden.

**TREASURER, MEMBERSHIP:** Brian Allen advises that EEDHS membership forms are available to prospective members on our website. Four new members have recently joined our Society, and we would always welcome more. Nearly all members are now contactable by email.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Those still outstanding can be paid in cash direct to Treasurer Brian Allen at the next meeting or paid into the Society's bank account as follows: **ASB Bank 12-3069-0280083-00.**

**GREENWOODS CORNER BUSINESS ASSOCIATION:** The proposed heritage guided walk based on Greenwood's Corner is projected to be up and running soon. It will cover the walk from the Lido cinema to the Epsom Methodist Church.

**WEBSITE:** Please do visit our website which is now active, and we've had complimentary feedback on the content and layout from several of our members. The address is the same as before, **[www.epsom-eden.org.nz](http://www.epsom-eden.org.nz)**

**EPSOM LIBRARY GATHERING:** Small groups of our members might visit the library in the Winter months for information sharing with people attending the library. New migrants may be particularly interested in learning more about our area. Eric is going to approach the library, suggesting we try a three month pilot run.

We look forward to further cooperation with the library to our mutual benefit.

**EEDHS Library** has now been catalogued by Helen Taber and contains 140 books plus a new acquisition, *The Partingtons and their Mills* which contains considerable information on the Epsom Mill.

### **FUTURE SPEAKERS FOR 2023:**

7 August (AGM) - Greg Smith: Topic: *The value of antiques beyond the dollar*.

Members are asked to bring items of interest for Greg to evaluate.

2 October – John Steele: Topic: Arthur Purchas, *A man of many talents*.

Our secretary is asking for volunteers to take notes and review the talks in future. Email Margaret if you are willing to do this.

**Suggested outing this year:** Glenbrook Vintage Railway. Eric will investigate this with former member, David Black who is involved with the project.

**HERITAGE WEEK 2023:** The focus this year is "*Peace, Love and Protest*" but not limited to this subject. We may look to share something with the Greenwoods Corner Business Association.

### **EEDHS MEETING: Monday, 3 April, 2023**

Speaker: John McAlpine.

Topic: The Churchyard of St Peter's Church, Onehunga.

John and his late wife Jenny were co-Vicars of this parish for some years. Two sets of John's great grandparents came to New Zealand in 1840 – the Kilgours (Scotland) and Raleys (Ireland). There are a number of family graves in St Peter's Churchyard from the 1850s, but unfortunately, large amounts of burial information are missing, and which are needed to prove authenticity.

The first Vicar of St Peter's was Arthur Guyon Purchas, who was the incumbent for 27 years. He was known as a Jack-of-all-trades, was a qualified medical doctor and could put his hand to most things. St Peter's acted as a public cemetery with the last burials being in 1960. There are about one hundred headstones, but around 1000 people were interred there. Other denominations used the cemetery, the Presbyterians had very good records, but some others left little or no information about the people who were buried there.

John set up a website and worked on names – at least one quarter were children, and a number of Fencible settlers were buried there. In 1854 there was a sailing from Australia and on arrival a camp was set up from the ship, which evidently brought sickness with it because many children died and are probably buried in a mass grave. The families initially lived in corrugated iron barns. Some suicides were buried there but this was always a difficult matter because of the doctrine of the Church.

The Chaplain of the "*Orpheus*", wrecked on Manukau Harbour, was the only person from that ship to be buried in St Peter's. A member of the Bray Family killed in the wreck of the "*Wairarapa*" on Great Barrier Island was also buried there.

**President Eric Laurenson** thanked John for his interesting talk and wished him well for his future research. The meeting was closed at 4.10pm, after which refreshments were enjoyed by those present.

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