



# Newsletter

January February  
2024



## Easter Raffle

Tickets on sale at Market Day.

**Be in to win !!**

## What's on

Market Day - Easter Raffle	March 2nd
A & P Show display of the Morrinsville train station in the 1950s	March 2nd
Three Museum's Meeting	March 21st
David Street School visits museum	March 25—27

# What's been happening at the museum

January February 2024



## WAITANGI DAY

Our Waitangi Day Commemoration at the Morrinsville Swim Zone was a great success. Along with Ngāti Haua we hosted 200 people for a free day at the pools. The day was perfect and the water looked inviting. Long lines at the opening time of 11.00 am had eager participants arriving ready with picnic lunches and the things necessary for a great family day of enjoyment.

Free sausage sizzle was very popular keeping our volunteer team of Sue and Tony very busy giving away 300 sausages.



Putting up the Māori Women's Welfare League tent



Help to erect the Gazebos



Children's story book in English and Te Reo about the Treaty of Waitangi supplied by the Morrinsville Library



Panels along the fence offered everyone the opportunity to read about the Treaty of Waitangi. We also had a copy of the panels from the Morrinsville walkway which tell the story of the development of early Morrinsville.

The blessing for the day was conducted by Ngāti Hāua kaumatua Kena Hauraki and Sir David Moxon.

It was the happiest of days for families both Māori and Pākehā enjoying each other's company and a great day of commemoration of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi.



## **Guided tour of the history panels along the Waitakaruru Stream and the Piako River**

A guided tour was advertised for 18th February. This tour gave a back ground to the history on the panels.

Chrissy Gemmell one of our volunteers made some comments about the tour.

“I learned things that I did not know about the history of Morrinsville. It was good to read about the things that had happened in the early days, some things about the settlers and about the Māori iwi who lived close by. It is good to know the places where they lived.

This concrete wall is a bit of a mystery. No one seems to know what it is and why it was built. Who built it is also unknown. Perhaps you know something about it and can shed a light on it.



# Morrinsville Museum

“Protecting your heritage for present and future generations”

## Fundraising target

**\$150,000**

### WHY ARE WE HERE – ASKING YOU FOR MONEY?

We have reached a point where we are ready to revamp our exhibition area, and this is going to cost in the region of \$450,000. Due to grant requirements, we need to raise **\$150,000 from our community.**

To better display our history for visitors, schools and our work with the curriculum, we need to remain current and build on our ability to provide a visual, stimulating, and engaging experience.

We need to present a new and engaging exhibition area that brings this history alive and celebrates the rich heritage in our area. This exhibition will offer an unparalleled opportunity for education, entertainment, and community engagement.



If you can help with a donation to our refurbishment, please go on to our website at [www.morrinsvillemuseum.org.nz](http://www.morrinsvillemuseum.org.nz) and head down to the bottom of the page to the donate button.

Or you can deposit to our Westpac bank account

03 0371 0143211 002

Morrinsville Historical Society

**Every little bit counts.**

You can also drop into the museum and use EFTPOS

Thank You 

# What's on in Morrinsville

For more information on events, please contact the i-SITE

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 2 March         | <b>Market Day and A &amp; P Show</b>  |
| 16 Feb—28 April | <b>Stills</b> exhibition at the Morrinsville Art Gallery                            |
| 17 Feb—17th Mar | <b>The Jolly Girls</b> Fibre and Fabric Exhibition at Morrinsville Art Gallery      |
| 11—20 April     | <b>Stepping Out</b> at Morrinsville Theatre   |
| 7 March         | <b>The Power of Citizens and Communities</b><br>Speaker at the Morrinsville Library |
| 8 March         | <b>Women's Day morning tea</b> at the Morrinsville Library                          |
| 21 March        | <b>Three Museum's</b> meeting at Te Aroha Museum                                    |



**SNIPPETS FROM MORRINSVILLE MEMORIES FACEBOOK PAGE—for those who are not on Facebook so you can enjoy some memories shared by people who post photos and their recollections.**



Do you remember this Ian Martinsen classic painting of the car Black Magic? It was on the wall of Rowlings Service station, what is now the Z Petrol station. The wall was removed to make way for a larger courtyard taking part of the row of shops. Looks like it was a painting from this photograph. Smoking hot .



People on Morrinsville memories mentioned a number of shops in the area. One person wrote about Ron Stewart’s grocery store where you were able to buy sugar and flour by the pound from a calico bag or a bin. No plastic in those days. Other shops mentioned were Kays Home Cookery and a Water Bed shop.

Rick Martinsen, Ian’s son wrote. “Was an awesome painting. Ultimate Signs” I remember watching dad paint it when I was a kid so it must have been a long time ago.

If you are not a member of Morrinsville Memories, Google Morrinsville Memories Facebook page and join up on this private group.

## Quote of the month

**We are not makers of history.  
We are made by history**

Martin Luther King

## From Our Cabinet of Curiosities



See last page for the answer

### Snippets from our history

**TOWN RUBBISH:** In May 1919, the Town Board accepted Mr George Howie's offer of a rubbish tip site on his property at the end of Allen Street at a cost of £5 per annum. This was due to a problem with rubbish being left around the town. The Morrinsville Star issue of 16 January 1920 reported that Mr Howie was withdrawing permission due to small boys scattering rubbish and lighting fires. Compounding this issue was carter's persistence in dumping rubbish on top of the bank instead of over it and into the Piako River. Mr Howie was interviewed as to an alternative site and in May 1920,

**SPEED LIMIT:** March 1913: Maximum speed of motor cars to be limited to 14mph in the town district and five mph going around corners.

**HITCHING POSTS:** 1910 - 1913. Applications for the erection of hitching posts were Messrs Oates (5); J C R Watts (4) and the Bank of New Zealand. Previous years, permits had been issued to Dr Seville, S S Allen (solicitor), F J Marshall (Butcher) and Gummers (Drapery).

**PUBLIC LIBRARY:** January 1920: Membership of the Public Library has increased from 28 to 72 in the period since May 1919 and attendance in the reading room has also shown a marked increase.

On September 5th 1955 Sir Edmund Hillary visited Morrinsville as part of the Ross Sea Committee's mission to raise £100,000 for an Antarctic expedition planned for 1956. Members of the committee set out on a tour of New Zealand to drum up support for the expedition and to dispel any public concerns that this was a Government venture for which the public was expected to subscribe funds to. It was to be stressed this was a Commonwealth venture in which the United Kingdom and New Zealand were under the patronage of Her Majesty the Queen. While there was some Government backing, they needed to fundraise a huge amount to make it happen and in doing so, were asking the country to share in the great adventure.

Over the space of two weeks, the Ross Sea Committee spread out across New Zealand seeking financial support for what was viewed as the last frontier to be conquered by man. Sir Edmund Hillary was to lead the New Zealand expedition which would set out towards the South Pole from the Ross Sea side, in an attempt to cross the continent and meet a British team led by Dr Vivian Fuchs, who would set out from the Weddell Sea side. They would meet at the Polar Plateau on the Scott Base side of the South Pole and then both teams would travel the last leg to McMurdo Sound, completing a trans continental crossing. The New Zealand public were enthusiastic in supporting the venture, off the back of Sir Edmund Hillary's successful summit of Mt Everest.



Famously, they drove three modified Massey Ferguson tractors towing supplies. Also famously the UK party were supposed to reach the pole first and continue on to the Polar Plateau to meet up with the NZ party but Sir Ed had other ideas, and against orders, pressed on to the South Pole and was the first to arrive. On the return trip to McMurdo Sound he was banished to the uninsulated, unheated and windowless sno-cat, only to be called out when Dr Fuchs had lost his way.

It took 99 days and 3473kms to cross the continent and Sir Edmund Hillary cemented his status as an explorer and a maverick New Zealand hero, and Morrinsville played a small part in that.

*Watch out in the Morrinsville News for an article written by Penny Pickett about a Morrinsville man who played an important part in Sir Edmund Hillary's trip to the South Pole.*



## Answer to our Cabinet of Curiosities quiz

The button on a delightful velvet coat. Ask to see this coat when you are next in the museum.

## FUNDING FOR WAITANGI DAY COMMEMORATION (in case you were wondering).

We were successful with an application to the Ministry of Culture and Heritage to fund the our Waitangi Day Commemoration. Below is part of our application with the reasons we were asking for a grant.

### Different Cultures, One Community

A partnership between Ngāti Hauā iwi and the Morrinsville Museum is offering a free programme open to all community members to focus on developing a shared understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and its signing.

Two free workshops will be presented in March following the commemorative day on 6 February 2024.

The first workshop will be presented by the Morrinsville Museum with a Ngāti Hāua speaker where members of the community will hear about the history of the Morrinsville area from pre Te Tiriti o Waitangi through to the development of the town. There will be reference to the impacts that it had on local iwi. The workshop will include a guided tour of the Morrinsville Museum.

This free event will include the following

- The opportunity to hear from Ngāti Hauā alongside one of our museum researchers what Morrinsville was like both prior to and after the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi.
- A culturally safe place for community members where they are enabled and supported to have conversations about the shared history of Morrinsville in times of change.
- A visit to the Morrinsville Museum
- Light refreshments will be served at the museum before the tour.

Stay posted for more information about this workshop in March.

