



Newsletter

March April 2024



Mothers Day Raffle
Tickets available at Market Day

Be in to win !!

What's on

Market Day Raffle	May 4th
Presentation to MPDC	May 8th
Marae Experience	May 11th

What's been happening at the museum



Community Collection

Our latest Community Collection will be on display at the museum for about three months. Come and see the delightful china dishes painted by seven women over several years. The history of this group who supported each other's learning and became good friends is told through their work. Joan Wiseley painted this plate just before she passed away aged nearly 99.



School visits



Tauhei Combined School's Junior Class brightened our day with their visit to the museum! These curious and thoughtful little students were full of questions and comments as they learned about settler life in the early 1900s at the McDonald cottage.

They explored the concept of the use of a waka for food transportation along the river by "paddling" around the skateboard park next to our Maungaturoto waka.



The Morrinsville Historical Society has embarked on a transformative journey to revitalise our exhibition space. This project will not only preserve and showcase our rich history but also create an engaging and educational experience for visitors of all ages, including schools and community groups.

The Need:

- Our current exhibition area on the left hand side of exhibition hall struggles to effectively present the depth and significance of our community's heritage.
- We envision a space that utilises interactive elements, captivating visuals, and engaging narratives to bring history to life.
- This modernised space will enhance learning experiences for schools and serve as a focal point for community engagement.

The big funders such as Lotteries Environment and Heritage look favourably on submissions where there is evidence of support from the local community.



The Investment:

- The goal is to raise \$150,000 from the local community.
- We require a total investment of approximately \$450,000 to complete this project.
- While the initial estimate was lower, unforeseen circumstances and inflation have necessitated a slight increase.



The Impact:

- A revitalised exhibition space will serve as a cornerstone of cultural preservation, fostering a deeper understanding of our heritage for generations to come.
- Enhanced educational experiences for students will spark curiosity and encourage exploration of local history.

The space will serve as a catalyst for community engagement, fostering a sense of pride and connection to our shared past.

We invite you to support us in creating a lasting legacy for our community. Together, we can build a vibrant space that celebrates our past and inspires future generations.

Every little bit counts.

You can bank directly into our bank account Westpac 03-0371-0143211-002

or drop into the museum and use EFTPOS

Thank You ❤️

If you want to help!

No matter how small your donation is, it represents a community member who supports your museum.

PLEASE NOTE

We have built our museum collections on the donations from our community. Without these donations we would have nothing to display in exhibitions and displays or available for people who want to research aspects of local history. We value our community for their generosity over the years the museum has existed.

In accepting donations we have a process to follow

An accessioning committee checks a number of things related to the donation asking.

Does it have relevance to Morrinsville and its district?

Do we already have another object the same as this one?

Does it have a story?

There is paperwork to be completed by the person receiving the object and a signature by the donor of what to do with the object if the accessioning committee decides not to accept it. We also have issues with storage of items waiting to be assessed by the accessioning committee.

While we love receiving donations, we would like to streamline the process and save work for our staff and volunteers. If you have something you would like to donate to the museum could you make sure you do the following

Bring it on Tuesday to Friday so the manager can check the details.

Bring in a photograph rather than the object or archive.

We hope you understand our reason for these changes.

What's on in Morrinsville

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

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
April 2024 – April 2025	Our People Exhibition	Morrinsville Museum
30 April – 30 th July	Porcelain Painters Collection	Morrinsville Museum
1 May	Morrinsville Bridge Club	Morrinsville Bowling Club
4 May	Market stalls	Morrinsville Country Market
4 - 31 May	Autumn Teen Reading Bingo	Morrinsville Library
5 May - 2 June	Jenni Taris: Pottery Making	Morrinsville Art Gallery
7 May	Teen Brain	Morrinsville College
23 May	Morrinsville Indoor Bowling Club	Methodist Church Hall
11-20 July	Annie Jnr	Morrinsville Theatre

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.



Thank you to the contributors on Morrinsville Memories who enabled the compilation of this article.

Dance bands around the town.

Back in the late fifties and sixties, the town throbbed with the beat of rock and roll. Bands like The Rockettes, with their original lineup of Don Witanga, Owen Griffiths, Rex Lingard, Brian Needham, Alan Jones, and Gordon Downey, filled the dance halls with energy. Satellites Show Band was a rock 'n' roll dance band, consisting of siblings Ken and Dawn Wadsworth, friend Paul "Ivor" Fisher, and a drummer. They formed in 1957 as teenagers and played regularly in Morrinsville and at the Starlight Ballroom in Hamilton during the 1960s.

One resident recalled a night etched in their memory – a college social where the students went to the Physical Culture Hall. It wasn't a formal ball, but nonetheless exciting. The Rockettes and The Satellites were often on stage at this venue and even people like Selwyn Toogood with "It's in the bag". Buddy Bodmin, a local legend, kept the dances safe and lively, even installing a phone in his office for a direct line to the police – just in case! Ray Seales also ran dances and Ray Columbus was a guest at a Miss Morrinsville Show organized by Kiwanis Clubs.

Another tale recounted a young starry-eyed encounter with a rising star – Billy T James. Back before his legendary fame, he took the stage at the Miss Morrinsville Show, captivating the audience with his comedy routine and song. The story painted a picture of a simpler time, when local talent shows were a breeding ground for future icons.

The memories went beyond just the music. The Physical Culture Hall transformed into a celebration, hosting a grand cabaret put on by the golf club. Supper was served in stages at the Oddfellows hall across the road. The list of bands that pulsed through Morrinsville was impressive – Larry's Rebels rocking out in the late sixties, The Caledonians bringing their sound, and even Howard Morrison gracing the stage. Local bands like Living Proof, the Hamilton City Bluegrass Band, Val McGregor's band, and Dinah Lee and the Chicks all added their own flavour to the musical talent of the town.

A marathon dance competition was remembered with no knowledge of who won this event. Hopefully they had more than one band on this evening. Even the mention of Checkers, a venue above where Hamilton Hardware used to be, brought back the smoky haze and rhythmic pulse of live music.

These memories of Morrinsville are more than just stories – they were a doorway to a bygone era. They speak of a time when music was the heartbeat of the community, bringing young people together under the same roof, united by the joy of dance and the thrill of live performance.



Quote of the month

Museums are good things, places to look and absorb and learn.

Alan King

From Our Cabinet of Curiosities



See last page for the answer

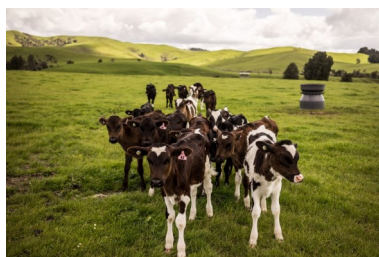
Snippets from our history from the 2008 Pakeke Lions Community Centennial Calendar

Before the introduction of electricity to the milking sheds in the 1930s there wasn't the luxury of electric pumps and water heaters— the cows were leg roped by a hind leg and milked by hand. It was a long and arduous task, milking just 12 cows could take up to three hours!

Milk and acid were poured into small test tubes then placed in a Babcock tester. As the handle was turned, the device spun, separating the fat from the whey to give a measure of milk fat and determine how much the farmer would be paid.

Once the largest in the North Island, sales at the Morrinsville Sale yards still take place today. The animals were herded into town by farmers in those days . Now of course they arrive by truck.

Times have certainly changed .





From our Cabinet of Curiosities we see that the object is a New Zealand Railways cup. A cup of tea was purchased when the train stopped at stations where there were railway refreshment rooms for the passengers. They would line up quickly to buy a cuppa and take it back on the train.

Ways to Celebrate Family History

These are some ideas to help start you off:

1. Research the origin of your surname. Google is a good place to start.
2. Make a favourite family dessert, and share it with your family.
3. Record a story, this could mean talking into your phone for a few minutes and saving the recording.
4. Display a new family photo in your home.
5. Create a digital family tree, If you already have a family tree, add at least one photo or story to the people in your tree.
6. Find a historical record with your ancestor's name on it.
7. Spend 5–10 minutes on Google Maps looking at street views of where one of your ancestors lived.
8. Write in your journal about a relative or family member who has been an important influence in your life.
9. Plan a new family tradition.
10. Look up one of your ancestor's birthplaces on Wikipedia, and learn something new about it.
11. Look through some old family photographs, and share one with someone in your family. Write names on the back of them.
12. Call one or more of the oldest living relatives in your family, and ask them how they are doing. Ask them something about their past.
13. Learn something new about the year you were born.
14. Look for family resemblances in old family photos.
15. Use Billion Graves or Find a Grave websites to find a relative's or ancestor's headstone.
16. Learn more about a relative or ancestor by reading his or her obituary. Papers Past website is an excellent reference.
17. Take a few minutes to enjoy a family heirloom. Tell someone in your family the story of where it came from.
18. Armistice Day. See if you're related to anyone who fought in World War I by searching service records at the Waiouru War Museum and the Auckland Museum website.
19. Try a new recipe for a food item from an ancestor's country. Cook it and see how it tastes.
20. Go on a mini pilgrimage to a place that has special meaning to your family. Be creative. The journey could take 10 minutes or a couple of hours.

Penny Pickett