

MUSEUM MUSINGS

News from the Okains Bay Maori and Colonial Museum

Issue 2 Nov 2012

Education programme proving a hit!

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EDUCATION PROGRAMME

An increasing number of schools are visiting the Museum.

GREAT RESPONSE TO MUSINGS

Lots of positive feedback for Museum Musings.

CHILDREN'S PRODUCTIONS

Do you know about the great efforts of the Okains Bay School pupils?

READER'S CONTRIBUTIONS

A wedding in Okains and some info about WWI soldiers.

REQUEST FOR INFO

Do you know the people shown in these photos or where we can find out who they are?

BOARD CORNER

Here is the current Board with their contact details. Please feel free to contact them.

LITTLE AKALOA CHURCH

A 1906 Weekly News article about the new church at Little Akaloa.

HELP NEEDED

Do you know a blocklayer that can help the museum?

NEW ITEMS

New items recently donated to the Museum.

SCHOOLS VISIT THE MUSEUM



The Museum's Education programme has been proving a hit with classes from many schools visiting the Museum to take part in the Maori and Colonial programmes offered.

Shown above are the children from Okains Bay School welcoming Discovery 1 School from Christchurch. (continued over...)



Children and parents undertaking harakeke (flax) weaving with Custodian Michelle Boardman in the Colonial Hall

SCHOOLS VISIT THE MUSEUM

Highlights of the visit including making Paua shell pendants, harakeke weaving, decorating kete (flax baskets), visiting a grumpy Headmaster in the old school, butter making and baking girdle scones, touch and tell where Charmaine Bradford answered questions and allowed some colonial items to be held, and a finder's trail where the children had to find items and answer questions around the museum. A number of schools have taken part in our programmes including Chisnalwood and Wairakei. There is a full programme of schools coming to the Museum and the Custodians would always be grateful for any extra hands if you think you could help - no particular skills required except enthusiasm - training on the job! Please contact the Museum office if you would like to assist with this programme.



The day concluded with Adrienne Boardman playing a collection of Maori flutes - Koauau, Porititi, Potorino to a very appreciative audience.



Custodian Sharon Henderson shows a group around the Whare Taonga



Sanding the paua for the pendants

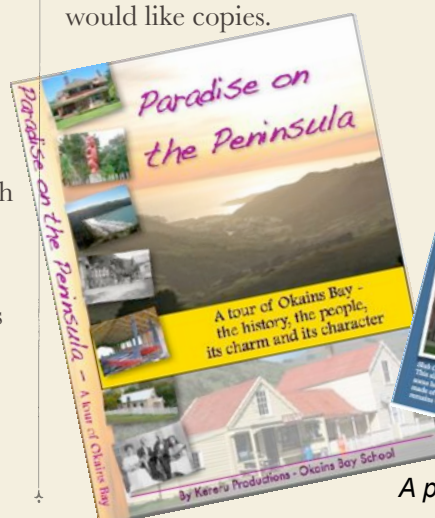
GREAT RESPONSE TO MUSEUM MUSINGS

Thank you very much to the tremendously positive response to Museum Musings. It has been very rewarding to receive your messages of support and for the contributions to this edition. If you have anything of interest, or you would like to see something specific feature in Museum Musings, please let me know (contact details at end).

CHILDREN'S PRODUCTIONS

The children of Okains Bay School have two productions that may be of interest to readers. A few years back, a group of senior children worked with Howard Pettigrew, an educational computing facilitator to produce a DVD on the history of Okains Bay called "Paradise on the Peninsula". This 60 minute DVD looks at the history of Okains Bay including the Museum, School, Church, Shop etc. as well as a wonderful poem by the late June Hartley complete with her great photos, and a slideshow of photos of Okains by the children.

Another group worked this year with Howard on improving their photography skills and produced a 13 page photo booklet called 'Snapshots of the Past'. This has stunning photos of items of interest in the Museum and Okains Bay with a brief history of each item. These have proved incredibly popular with Cruise Ship and other visitors. Please contact the Museum office if you would like copies.



A page from "Snapshots..."

READER'S CONTRIBUTIONS



WEDDING AT OKAINS BAY

From Alf and June Coffin comes this lovely period photo of Vic Pigeon's wedding party outside the Athenaeum Hall in Okains. Judging by the clothing, we would guess the photos was taken late in the 1800s / early 1900s. Like many other Peninsula amenities, the hall is currently closed due to earthquake building code requirements.

WORLD WAR 1 SACRIFICE

And from Sally Brown comes this information relating to those who went to serve in the First World War.

Akaroa Mail 11th September 1914

'Banks Peninsula Parish.....At a few hours notice, and with the kind co-operation of Mrs Simons at the local telephone Exchange, a large congregation was called together at the church at Little Akaloa to commend our members of the Expeditionary Force to the keeping of God. Oscar, Ralph and Garde Waghorn will thus feel assured that they are always being sustained by the prayers of their Church ... We hope to have a week day celebration of the Eucharist in each week both in the Little Akaloa and in Okain's whence Maurice Moore, John Moore and Hector Pidgeon are also going to the front'.

Akaroa Mail 30th April 1920

Okain's Bay Dinner. Welcome to Returned Soldiers - A Brilliant success.

'On Wednesday evening a function was held at the Okain's Bay Hall which was a unique one for Banks Peninsula. In Okain's Bay they decided to wait till all the boys were back and give one big Welcome to all and present them with their medals. All other Peninsula returned soldiers were invited to attend.

Colonel Young then asked them all to drink a silent toast to "The Boys Who Have Gone West." He spoke of the noble sacrifices made by these boys and asked the diggers never to forget their cobbles who had not come back. He then read the names of the Okain's Boys who had made the great sacrifice, Maurice Moore, Hector Pidgeon, David Anderson, Kllen Hunt, Henry Pidgeon, Spencer McKay and Herbert Harris. After the toast had been drunk in silence, Mr C. Hall gave a humorous recitation and Colonel Young told some anecdotes about the front which were much appreciated. The medals were presented and given to the next of kin of those mentioned above'.

DO YOU RECOGNIZE THESE SOLDIERS?

Barbara Lilley of Invercargill who is connected with the Peninsula has been trying to find the identity of these people who are connected to the Pawson family in some way and who could have lived in Akaroa or Christchurch. They could be Hemingways, Reeds or Cossars or ...? Any help greatly appreciated.



Many thanks for these great contributions.

We are always interested in any items of interest for the newsletter. If we can help with any research or help people seeking information, please contact the Editor. Likewise, the Museum is always interested in any historical items or photos you are unsure of what to do with. Please contact the Director or Museum office.



BOARD CORNER

We are very lucky to have a Museum Board with a great range of skills who are committed to ensuring the Museum remains a 'must see' destination in Canterbury. Below is listed the current Board. Please feel free to contact them relating to the Museum.

Murray Thacker - Director - 03 304 8614

William Karaitiana - (Chairperson) Otautahi /
Port Levy Rep

Nigel Hampton - Legal Rep 03 3540135/03 3048649

William Portengen - Okains Bay Rep 03 304 7229

Peter Ramsden - Koukourarata Maori rep
- 03 942 2208

Ruth Walker - Thacker family rep - 03 304 8619

Pam Richardson - Akaroa / Wairewa Community
Board rep - 03 304 6825

Murray Thomas - Akaroa Rep - 03 304 8413

Charles Stuart-Robinson - Pigeon Bay rep
03 304 6838

John Stuart - Le Bons rep - 03 304 8537

Howard Pettigrew - Education rep / Museum
Musings newsletter editor - 03 3134517

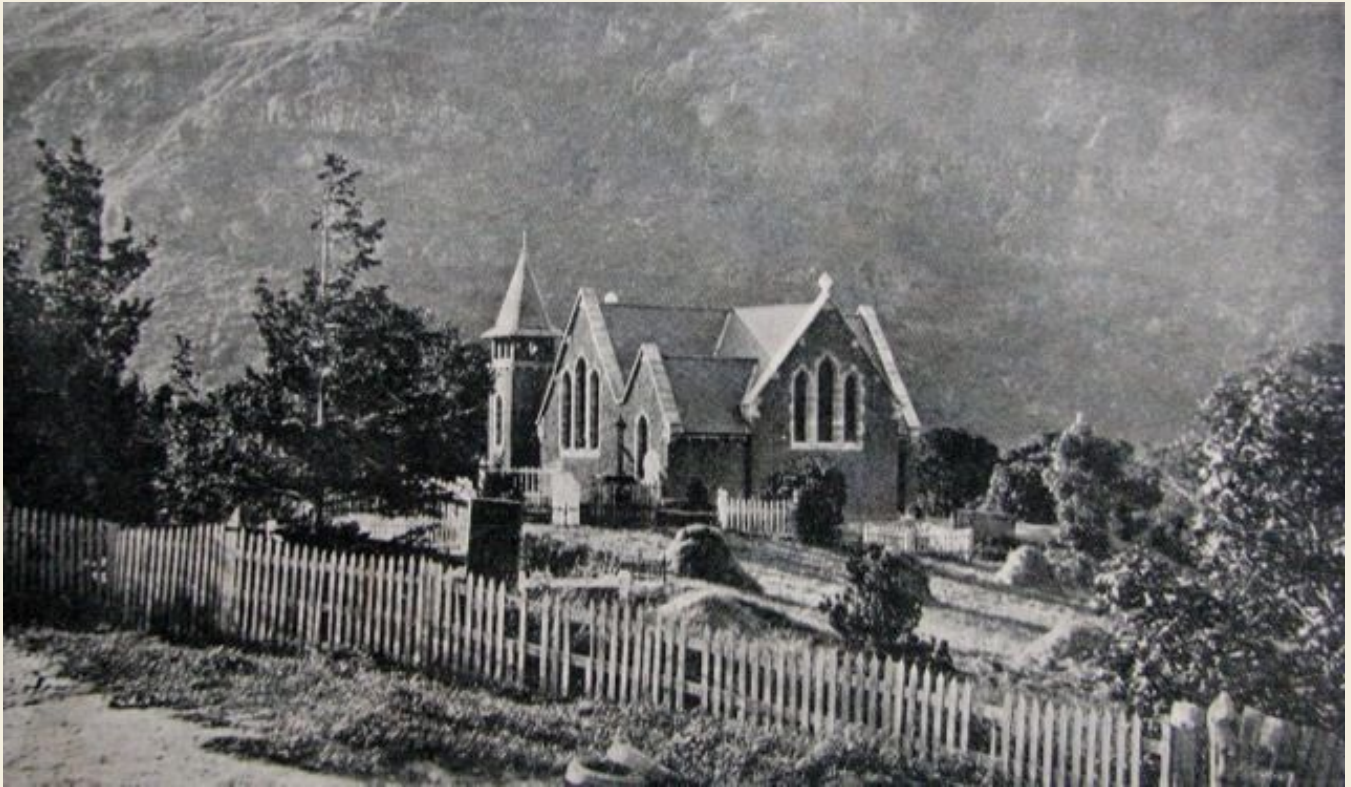
howard.pettigrew@xtra.co.nz

John Thomson - Antique Arms Assoc member

Sec - AAA - irocz28babc@gmail.com

Virginia Mayo - Little Akaloa rep 03 304 8740

LITTLE AKALOA CHURCH



FROM A WEEKLY NEWS - NOVEMBER 28TH 1906

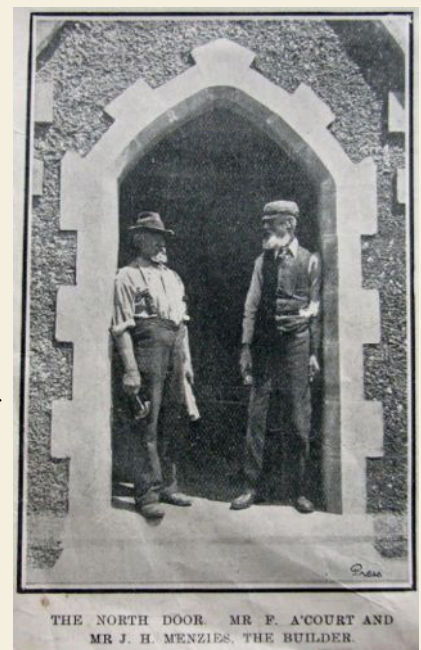
Little Akaloa - Its New English Church.

'Little Akaloa, Banks Peninsula, is the possessor of a new Anglican Church, which is a picturesque feature of a picturesque locality. It was erected at a cost of about £1150 of which Mr J.H.Menzies found £700, besides being the designer, carver and builder, for the interior has many beautiful carvings in the Maori and other styles of art, and when the tenders were called and it was found that £2000 was the lowest estimate, Mr Menzies volunteered to build the edifice himself if he were allowed his own time, a concession that was gratefully accepted by the committee in charge. The church stands on the summit of a small hill in a large reserve, which is prettily clothed with native bush and European trees, and forms a charming picture in one of the most beautiful bays on the Peninsula. It is built of rough concrete faced with pressed concrete, and lined with two inches of Oamaru stone. The shingle used was taken from the local sea beach and gives a fine rich, almost black, tone to the building, and with the pink of the German asbestos tiles of the roof and bell-tower, the building shows to great advantage in the green of the native trees with which it is surrounded.

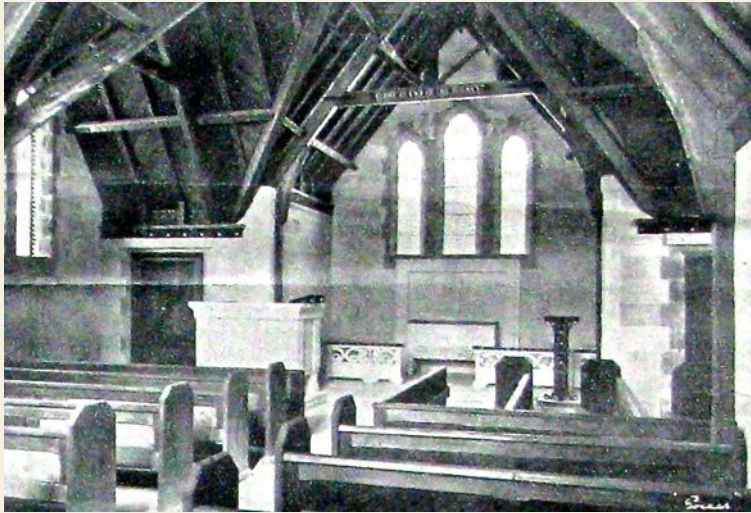


The Pulpit

Great care was exercised in the selection of the stone for the interior, that of the walls being of a richer colour than the facings, while the pulpit, altar and reredos are of Mt Somers stone, giving another contrast to the general effect. On entering the church, one is at once arrested by the beautiful finish and the amount of carving and wood, all the work of Mr Menzies. The church is 40ft long from east to west, 35ft across the transepts, nave 35ft long and 19ft wide, and walls 9ft high in the body of the building and running to 12ft in the chancel. Conspicuous among the many beautiful adornments of the church are the altar, altar rails,

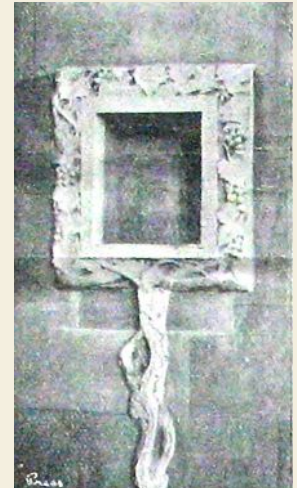


THE NORTH DOOR. MR F. A'COURT AND MR J. H. MENZIES, THE BUILDER.



lectern and pulpit, made and presented by Mr Menzies. The Pulpit is of Mt Somers stone, with richly carved panels of the Mt Cook lily on the front and ferns in the end. The framework and the 6ft on which the pulpit stands are carved in various Maori patterns. The altar and rails are also of Mt Somers stone, and are carved in open-work Maori design, the rails being capped with a kowhai rail beautifully carved and inlaid with paua shells. The font has perhaps the most unique carving of any part of the building, having among other designs,

one copied from an old crosier which originally belonged to the Menzies clan and was carried by one of the clan in the Battle of Bannockburn. This design is repeated on the pedestal of the font, which is presented by Mrs Menzies in memory of her children. The bell, which has not yet arrived, is the gift of Mrs A.M. Menzies in memory of her late husband, the Rev Canon Frederick Menzies, for many years fellow and vice-president of Brasenose College, Oxford. On Friday, November 16th, a vestry meeting was held in the new church, at which the officers took over the building, and recorded their very high appreciation of the excellent and generous work done by Mr Menzies. The work of Mr F. A'Court, the working foreman, is to be very warmly commended. Recorded on a stone tablet on the west wall are the names of the men who were engaged in the erection of the building. The church will be opened free of debt and consecrated by the Bishop of the Diocese on Thursday December 6th'.



The Credence Table

HELP NEEDED!

Does anyone have the skills or know where we may be able to get the assistance of a block layer to help with the Tyre Furnace which was damaged in the earthquakes. It is imperative we have this rebuilt in time for Waitangi Day. Please contact the Director or Museum Office if you, or someone you know, could help.

NEW ITEMS

Here are some new items recently donated to the Museum.



These Attendance Medals were donated by Michelle Boardman from her family. The Attendance Medal scheme was started in England in 1887 and lasted to 1915. The medals were awarded for 100% attendance but also good conduct was also taken into account.



This beautiful spinning wheel was given to the Museum by Brian Fineran of Okains Bay, who is a great supporter of the Museum, also gifting a number of other small items which are very much appreciated.



This lovely little ship's compass with gimbals was donated by Sean Langdale.

More recently donated items in the next issue.

A big thank you to those that have donated items. Please remember the Museum if you are having a clean out or don't know what to do with that family treasure, etc.