



NorWest Heritage Society Inc.



PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF NORTH WEST AUCKLAND

Reg'd Charity # CC552778

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Newsletter No. 9

June 2023

Displays at events so far this year:

- January - Kumeu Classic Car & Hot Rod Festival, 3 days, which included the Very Vintage Day Out. We displayed on four large boards numerous historic photos from the Muriwai Beach car racing events through the 1920s and 30s, celebrating the centenary of the NZ Motor Racing Cup event, first held in March 1921 on Muriwai Beach.



We also displayed a rare 1951 Jowett Jupiter sports car which attracted a lot of interest.

FEBRUARY - Grand Prix 75th Jubilee, Hampton Downs, 3 days. NWH was invited to display our historic Muriwai Beach Motor Racing photos, which were much appreciated. The Cadillac that won the NZ Motor Cup 1921, Muriwai Beach, was also on display.

1921 Winning V8 Cadillac with Howard Natrass, Auckland motoring enthusiast and inventor. Race of 25 miles (40 kms.) Electronically timed for the first time by equipment specially imported from UK.



MOTOR CAR RACING EVENTS at MURIWAI BEACH An Interesting Programme

Some most interesting sport is promised at Muriwai Beach today, when the Auckland Automobile Assoc. will hold motor car races. This is the first meeting of its kind that has been held in the Dominion, though in England and America, motor car racing is a most popular pastime, and with little encouragement, it should soon be firmly established in New Zealand.

The Muriwai Beach is about seven miles from Waimauku. The road is through Henderson, over Don Buck's Hill, or via Lincoln Road to Kumeu, thence through the Huapai Estate, or via Waimauku to the coast. The approach to the beach is through a bush road, which is said to provide a beautiful drive just now. The beach itself is one of the finest in NZ, and it will provide a splendid track at low water, there being practically a straight course for 25 miles. It is quite on the cards that cars will attain speeds from 85 to 90 miles an hour under such conditions.

The principal event will be the NZ Motor Cup, 25 miles. The first prize is a Cup, value of 100 guineas. Thirteen cars will compete.

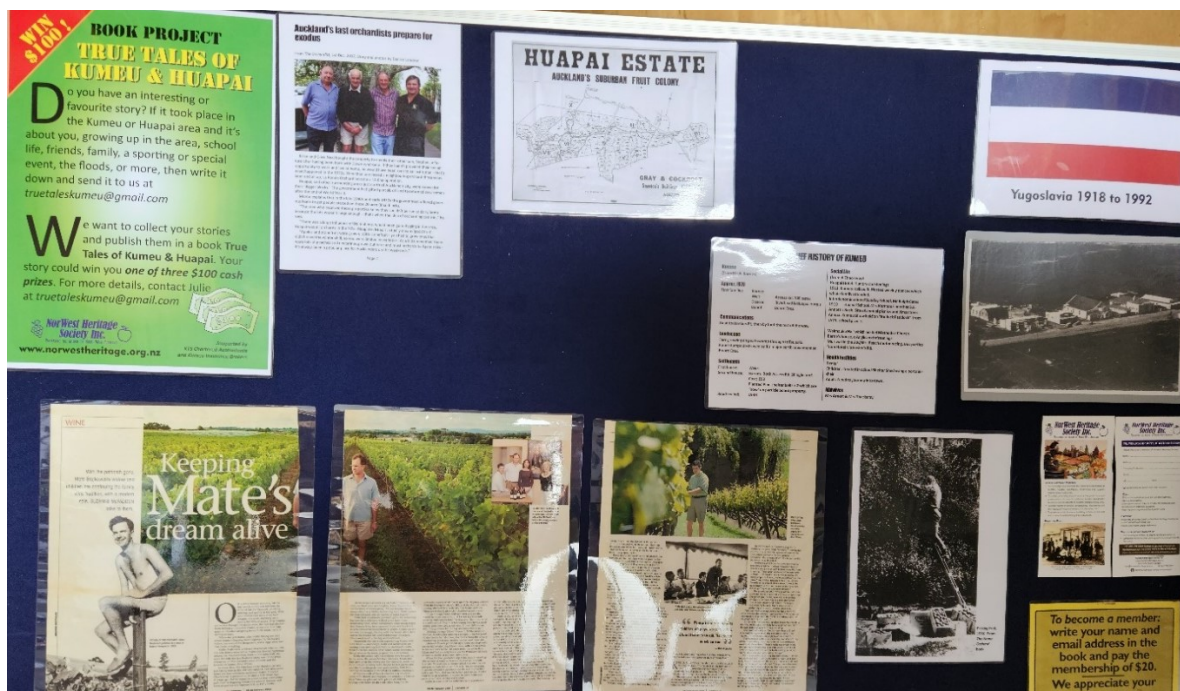
They comprise: 2 Essexes, 2 Hudsons, 2 Cadillacs, a Premier, Chandler, Napier, Pierce Arrow, Lancier, Daimler and Ford. These will all be stripped for racing purposes, and the 25 miles should be covered in very fast time. Most of the cars that compete in the Cup will take part in the sprint race, one mile and a half. The stock car race is a handicap event, in which all the cars must carry the touring equipment. Seven entries have been received for the Ford car race.

And later it was reported:

Between 5,000 and 6,000 spectators attended, with an estimated 1,500 private automobiles along with buses, bringing spectators to the beach.

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- MARCH - Kumeu Show. 2 days. Commemorating the Centenary of the show since 1921. To help celebrate this occasion, NorWest Heritage was given the privilege of displaying its interesting collection of historic photographs from Kumeu and Huapai, including several scenes from past Kumeu Shows. We celebrated the first European settlers to the area and their families with many photos, street maps and information, on our display boards. This was recognized and appreciated by numerous people and some were descendants.



Kumeu Show - celebrating European Settlers and the 1920s era



On display, there was also a large 1970s street map of an area of Kumeu. People took great interest in identifying locations of past properties belonging to grandparents and/or other relatives. This created much discussion and shared memories. Strong use of European street names is very evident, in recognition of early settlers. The excellent weather brought thousands of families out to enjoy the Show.



- **MARCH - HEY ! Hay Baling Happened !** Against all odds of months of rainy weather. The event was held with thanks to Classic Tractors and two wonderful members of our Committee. This was another interesting and enjoyable day. Watching the classic tractors pulling hay balers, baling the hay. (A John Deer 3140 with New Holland 276 baler; and a Ford 3000 with Leyley rake. (Not pictured.) BBQ and drinks were provided under the shade of a marquee and enjoyed by everyone. Plus a very special surprise treat of delicious home-made cupcakes was shared and very much appreciated by all. These were baked and supplied by Georgia Rejoice of "Rise & Rejoice," Waimauku.



The hay bales were sold and picked up, mostly on the day. The rest were stacked with many thanks to some helpful younger folk, covered and collected during the week. A successful way to help raise funds from the cutting, baling and selling of hay grown on the Waimauku land, managed by Philip Parker. And the weather stayed fine all day !

- APRIL - Concourse d'elegance Car Show at Ellerslie Racecourse. NWH was invited again by Historic Motor Racing Club to display historic Muriwai Beach Racing photos with them in celebration of the Centenary of NZ Motor Racing Cup event first held there in 1921. The winning Cadillac in 1921 was also on display. Thanks to Howard Nattrass' grandson who has restored the car. Huge numbers of people enjoyed the display.

Results:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Circuit</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Car</u>
1921	Muriwai	H. Nattrass	Cadillac
1922	Muriwai	S. Craig	Packard
1923	Muriwai	Seabrook Fowlds	Vauxhall



Winning Cadillac in 1921 on display at Ellerslie Car Show



Value 100 guineas - 1921

On the same day as the inaugural Muriwai Beach Car Racing, 5th March 1921, the Council decided to hold a big event in Huapai for the completion of the new road from Auckland to Helensville. This caused major traffic delays with the many hundreds of vehicles headed to Muriwai. Interesting local news article below:

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/imageserver/newspapers/P29pZD1LV0UxOTIxMDMxMC4yLjExJmNvbG91cnM9MzlmZXhOPWdpZiZhcmVhPTEwJndpZHRoPTQyNA==>

KAIPARA AND WAITEMATA ECHO

10 MARCH 1921

AUCKLAND TO HELENSVILLE - LINKING UP THE METAL ROAD

The following account has been kindly contributed by Marcus Wilkins, Esq., a well-known settler who has watched the progress of the district for a good number of years:-

We arrived at Huapai at 7.30 on Saturday morning, March 5th. and found the County Engineer (Mr Gr. A. Jackson) already on the job. Flags were flying across the road, and we went on up to the Council's camp, where the men had the horses feeding. They are a splendid team, and are a credit to the Waitemata C.C. and Mr R. E. Brown, in charge. One horse is a fine upstanding three-year-old colt, bred by Mrs E. T. Bradly of Ohirangihen yoked up, with harness shining, the team is fit for a show ring. A little further up the road was the gap for the metal, and right al onside, under a clump of pinus insignus, a table was placed for refreshments, and again, a little further (near the railway crossing,) a Huapai settler and his wife were doing a thriving trade selling apples.

Returning to the gap in the metal road, Councillor Oliphant, senior member (in the absence of Mr Day, chairman), opened the proceedings, and explained why we were there. Afterwards, the load of metal was tipped, and all the councillors present, each took a shovel and spread the metal in a workmanlike manner. Mrs V. F. Kerr-Taylor and Mrs Dillon were then handed shovels, and they spread the last two shovels-full. All present were invited by the acting-chairman to partake of the good things provided, presided over by the ladies of the district.

Cr. Oliphant proposed the first toast, "The King," and all joined in singing the National Anthem. He then spoke, very feelingly, about the good work done by the former member for the riding (the late Mr V. F. Kerr-Taylor,) for his untiring efforts and his foresight in obtaining the loan by which this same metalled road, and several concrete bridges, were made and built. Cr. Diprose (Kaukapakapa riding,) who spoke briefly, reminded his hearers that the metal road was not only linked up from Auckland to Helensville, but also to Kaukapakapa. Cr. Aitkenhead also spoke a few words. Cr. Dillon, member for the riding, suitably replied. Mr Watts also spoke of the good work of the late Mr Kerr-Taylor, of the adverse criticisms on his loan proposals, and the champions for it.

Mrs Kerr-Taylor then, feelingly, thanked the various speakers for their appreciation of her late husband's work. She had not been a member's wife for 17 years without knowing some of the difficulties under which they worked. When her husband was first elected councillor, the road between Rewiti and Kumeu was only a riding track. Mr Kerr-Taylor took his horses, plough and dray and two men, and worked on the track for a week, opening up a road for vehicles.

Mr Hutchinson (president of the A.A.A.) said he was pleased to see the metal road linked up, and hoped they would not stop at that, but would someday lay it in concrete. Also, he wished to say that the A.A.A. were out for sane driving, and against all road hogs.

Mr Green then proposed, "The Ladies," and all joined in singing: "For they are jolly good fellows," with three cheers.

During all this time and long after the stream of motors of all descriptions were passing along for the inaugural Motor Races at Muriwai beach, and just as we finished, news came of the sad accident at Don Buck's bridge. It's a strange thing that although the Council has made two new roads, people will persist in using that old one, which is only fit for the light traffic to Don Buck's camp. Yet persons with machines, which, when loaded, weigh from eight to fifteen tons, will risk their lives.

The public should understand that the bridge is not on the metalled road we have just linked up.

YOUR HISTORIC PHOTOS

Do you have any historic photos with some description?

Or a memory or story from the early years in these districts? (See True Tales)

Or would you like to share and learn more about the history of the area?

If so, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact the Secretary: Mob: 027 440 0044

Email: info@norwestheritage.org.nz

**WIN
\$100!**

BOOK PROJECT TRUE TALES OF THE NORTHWEST

Do you have an interesting or favourite story? If it took place in the Northwest such as Kumeu, Huapai or beyond, and it's about you, growing up in the area, school life, friends, family, a sporting or special event, the floods, or more, then write it down and send it to Julie at

truetaleskumeu@gmail.com

We want to collect your stories and publish them in a book, and your story could win **one of three \$100 cash prizes.**

*All entries must be received before
5pm Friday 25 August, 2023*



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*Supported by
KTS Chartered Accountants
and Kumeu Insurance*

Norwest Heritage Society Inc.

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