



# Preservation Post

Newsletter of the  
**Christ Church Preservation Society (Inc.)**

P O Box 45 162, Waterloo,  
Lower Hutt  
Phone: 0800 2 TAITA (0800 282 482)  
[www.christ-church.org.nz](http://www.christ-church.org.nz)  
Email: [info@christ-church.org.nz](mailto:info@christ-church.org.nz)

Issue 50 – June 2014

**“Looking to the future to preserve our past”**

## **Christ Church Taita Part of the Hutt Valley for 160 years**

### **160<sup>th</sup> Open Day and Celebratory Service – Sunday 6 April**

The Society was again blessed with fine weather for the 160<sup>th</sup> celebration. Members from as far afield as Auckland, Katikati, Wanganui, Napier made the trip to join this special occasion. Of particular note were the large number of Harris family descendants. It was wonderful to see the Church full for the service and we were delighted to be joined by Rev Charles Noanoa who assisted our President, Rev John Daysh; and to be entertained by the Tofilau triplets from Taita College. As well as the families of early descendants, it is important that the local people of the Hutt Valley know and understand the significance of Christ Church in this community and New Zealand. Our thanks go to everyone who made this day so successful.

### **Annual General Meeting**

John Daysh was re-elected as President of the Society for the 2014 year, with Janice Henson remaining as Secretary. We thank John Stevens for taking over the reins of Treasurer from Rachel McCulloch and welcomed Chris Pynenburg to the Committee. Anna Kemble-Welch, a committee member for many years, has resigned. We thank Anna for her continued support.

### **Harris Rose – planting of two plants at the Bolton Hotel, Wellington.**

The rose originally planted outside the Bolton Hotel turned out not to be the actual Harris Rose. Mary Stevens has been busily striking cuttings of the real Harris Rose and on **Saturday 19 July** two specimens will be planted outside the hotel. The owner of the hotel has invited all Society members to an

afternoon tea at 2.00 pm following a ceremonial planting of the roses. It would be particularly nice to have some Harris descendants there.

If you are interested in joining the ceremony, please advise Mary Stevens on (04) 476 6247 or email [mhrstevens@gmail.com](mailto:mhrstevens@gmail.com) to advise numbers attending for catering purposes. *[Please note Mary's change of email address].*

A Harris rose has also been planted alongside the grave of Abraham and Sophia Harris and a number of family members at the Open Day have requested cuttings from Mary which she is planting in her garden at Golden Bay. A plaque will be erected by the Harris family, alongside the rose.

### **Website**

Thanks to our Webmaster Leon Dalziel, the website has recently been upgraded. Elsa Kelly, our archivist has started entering family details under a new heading called **Genealogy** where all the information will be stored. It will take a while to upload everything - we are very grateful to Elsa for her dedication to this task.

### **Hutton family – Kauri Trees**

Descendants of the Rev Thomas Biddulph Hutton who conducted the first service at Christ Church in 1854, have obtained two professionally grown Kauri trees which they wish to give to Christ Church, to be planted at the rear of the Church, near the back fence. Kauri trees grow steadily over the first 20 years to about 25 feet tall and then the tree growth slows down, taking many years before the trees become large enough to mill.

The deed of gift to the Church with the trees, will state that if in future the Church requires additional funds, the trees may be milled and sold, with the proceeds going into church funds to be

spent as the Preservation Society sees fit and similar natives planted in their place.

The family will have plaques made for the trees and unveil them later in the year. There will also be an additional plaque showing T B Hutton's involvement with the Church inside the Church.

Thank you to the Hutton family for this generous gesture.

### **Headstone Cleaning – training at Bolton Street Cemetery, Wellington, Saturday 14 June 2014**

Mary Stevens has been in touch with Jennifer Robinson who is happy to give Preservation Society members training on cleaning headstones, with a view to us being able to properly care for the older headstones in the Church Graveyard. Arrangements have been made to meet with Jennifer on Saturday 14 June at 10.00 am (weather dependent) for approximately an hour and a half.

If you are interested in forming a team with Mary, please contact her on (04) 476 6247 or email [mhrstevens@gmail.com](mailto:mhrstevens@gmail.com) and she will provide details of where to meet.

### **Immediate Repairs**

Your committee is well aware that urgent repairs need to be carried out prior to our application for repainting the Church. [Application for a grant will be made in August]. We have had a very generous quote to supply scaffolding and replace the barge boards on the front porch to match original as well as repair and paint the north facing windows. We hope this work will take place within the next few weeks.

## **Pew Cushions**

Please contact Mary Stevens if you are keen to do one. 04 4766247; email [mhrstevens@gmail.com](mailto:mhrstevens@gmail.com). We have a number completed or nearing completion. Thank you to all the stitchers.

## **Membership**

We have noted the deaths of **Bill Thompson** and **Gavin Pilkington** both Life Members of the Society. Bill was the St Matthews parish representative on our Committee for a number of years and Gavin is the son of Leila Pilkington who was for many years the Secretary of the Society. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of Bill and Gavin.

Still looking for . . . . .

**Monica Adams**, Island Bay Wellington

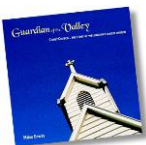
**Bill Triplow**, Ohau, Levin

**Murray Hirst**, Hamilton

**Dale Pullen**, Wellington

**New PO Box** - please note our new PO Box 45 162, Waterloo, Lower Hutt, 5042.

## **Guardian of the Valley - 2nd Edition**



Available to purchase - \$20.00 plus \$6 postage and packing by contacting Mary Stevens (email [mhrstevens@gmail.com](mailto:mhrstevens@gmail.com) or phone (04) 476 6247). Check out our Facebook page and website for more information and photos.

## **Ashes Wall**

A niche in our Ashes Wall costs just \$750.00 incl GST. Contact Janice Henson, Secretary, for further details. [Janice-klaw@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Janice-klaw@xtra.co.nz)

**Weddings** – for the first time in many years, we have no weddings to record in this newsletter. Our income is therefore severely diminished.

## **Christening Oliver Kemp**

*The Society is grateful to Brother International (NZ) Limited for printing this newsletter*

**brother**  
at your side

**160<sup>th</sup> Open Day and Service**  
*(photos courtesy Bruce Hutton)*



**Rev John Daysh and Rev Charles Noanoa (officiating Ministers)**



**Ian McCulloch, resplendent in bowler hat, suit, with antique gold watch and chain and his son Julian. (Avery family)**



**The Harris Family Bible Dated 1839 held by Michelle Morrison**



**The Tofilau triplets from Taita College entertained at the 160<sup>th</sup> Celebratory Service**



**Harris Family descendants gather around the recently refurbished grave of Abraham and Sophia Harris**



**Helen Dillon (a Life Member of the Society) has been playing the organ at Christ Church for many years (Peck Family)**