

**recapture  
the romance**



**the Kāpiti Coast  
museum trail experience**

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Nau mai, haere mai

Welcome to the Kāpiti Coast Museum Trail

The secret is out! We have eight museums in our District. For locals or visitors, this is an easy trail to follow – starting in Paekākāriki and wending through to Ōtaki. Whether you visit on your own or share the romance of childhood memories with family and friends there's lots to engage and interest everyone. This unique museum experience exists because of the passion of individuals – collectively in love with steam trains, trams, kiwiana, aviation, local history and vintage vehicles. They have all worked tirelessly to make sure this legacy stays here on the Kāpiti Coast – for us and for future generations.

Enjoy!

Jenny Rowan QSO, JP  
Mayor Kāpiti Coast District



# paekākāriki railway hub

Paekākāriki people have served the railway since 1886. Both its station and signalbox built in 1910 have been saved from demolition and restored by the community.



The station museum displays jiggers and railway crockery reminiscent of the era when Paekākāriki was the region's rail hub. There are stories of the US Marines and local history. The Kiosk in the old refreshment room opens at 5.00am daily to catch today's rail commuters.



## PAEKĀKĀRIKI RAILWAY MUSEUM

opening hours: donations welcome

fridays, weekends and public holidays 11am - 3pm

group visits by arrangement

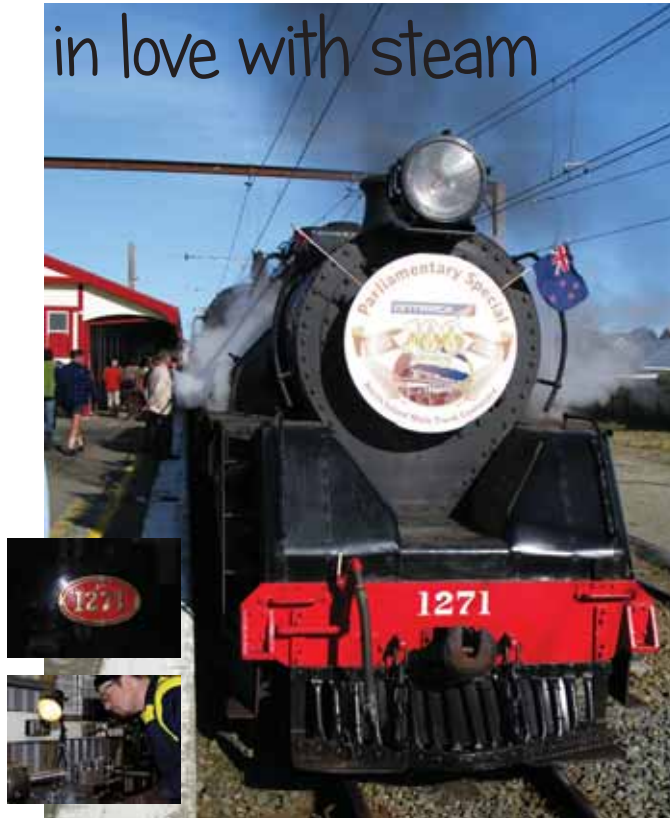
tel: 04 904 9970

email: [ajen@paradise.net.nz](mailto:ajen@paradise.net.nz)

web: [www.pspt.wellington.net.nz](http://www.pspt.wellington.net.nz)

over the railway lines at Paekākāriki off SH1

in love with steam



Relive the days when the steam train whistle was one of the most romantic sounds echoing through the countryside. Steam Inc extends a standing invitation to visitors and the community to join any number of annual excursions. Throughout the year you are welcome to step inside The Engine Shed which resounds to a team of enthusiasts refurbishing and maintaining locomotives and carriages.

## STEAM INCORPORATED

opening hours: donations welcome

Saturdays and some week days

bookings essential for excursions

tel: Depot (04) 292 8662 0800 783 264

email: [bookings@steaminc.org.nz](mailto:bookings@steaminc.org.nz)

web: [www.steaminc.org.nz](http://www.steaminc.org.nz)

SH1, Paekākāriki, just north of the Railway Station

remember the days



Bring family and friends to share memories and transport you to the past. or just come for the tramful experience - with or without the kids. Journey to the coast through the inspiring Queen Elizabeth Park. landscape for a picnic or a stroll along Whareroa Beach. Have a coffee and check out the Museum's child-friendly displays and activities on your return.



## TRAMWAY MUSEUM

opening hours:

every day 10am - 4.30pm museum and visitor centre  
trams operate weekends, school and public holidays or  
by prior booking

email: [info@wellingtontrams.org.nz](mailto:info@wellingtontrams.org.nz)

web: [www.wellingtontrams.org.nz](http://www.wellingtontrams.org.nz)

Queen Elizabeth Park turnoff at Mackays Crossing SH1

## our aviation history



HP 1488 Vaughan Collection loading a DC3 at Paraparaumu Airport 1952

The Museum's primary task is to preserve and display as much as possible of local aviation history. An extensive collection is held of models and pictorial images, together with an aviation library which includes DVD's, VCR's and many historic aviation publications. Paraparaumu Airport was the hub of commercial aviation in New Zealand from 1947 to 1959 until operations shifted to the reconstructed Rongotai which we now know as Wellington Airport. The history of the major operators, National Airways Corporation (NAC) and Safe Air who used Paraparaumu Airport throughout this period, is well displayed at the Museum.



HP 1487

### MUSEUM OF AVIATION

opening hours: admission by donation

Sundays 10am- 4pm

group visits welcome by arrangement

tel: (04) 905 2322 (04) 905 4847 ( 04) 297 1806

visitors welcomed to members' meetings tuesdays @9.30am

next to the Control Tower,

Kāpiti Road, Paraparaumu Airport

## a vintage affair

One man's passion for restoring derelict machines to their former glory has created one of the finest collections of veteran and vintage cars in the world. It not only includes early motoring curios dating from 1895, but also traction engines, motor bikes and bicycles. The late Sir Len Southward and a partner set up a motorcycle repair business in the 1920s and in 1939 began manufacturing rear view mirrors and Austin 7 silencers. Renowned in Australasia as a speedboat champion, he was the first man to travel at 100mph on water. His fascination for vintage cars soon claimed his time. Now, Sir Len has left his vintage legacy, housed on this six hectare property at Otaihanga. The Southward Museum Trust was incorporated in 1972 to preserve this outstanding collection for posterity.



### **SOUTHWARD CAR MUSEUM**

opening hours: admission adults \$12 kids 5-15 \$3

every day 9am - 4.30pm (except Christmas and Easter)

tel: 04 297 1221

email: [southward@kapiti.co.nz](mailto:southward@kapiti.co.nz)

web: [www.thecarmuseum.co.nz](http://www.thecarmuseum.co.nz)

signposted at Otaihanga Road, turn left off SH1

## telling the time



A wonderful collection of clocks, phonographs, radios and domestic items combine to make a social statement about change. The many communication exhibits echo the 'life' of this former post office. Rescued and restored by a group of locals, it has in part become a repository for telecommunications including a telephone exchange. A wide range of items will interest the kids and give a glimpse of the past. These examples from the website catalogue are not to be overlooked. Images by Jack Penman.



## KĀPITI COAST MUSEUM

opening hours: donations welcome

saturdays and sundays 2pm - 4pm

group visits by arrangement including school tours

tel: 04 904 2120

email: [manager@kapiticoastmuseum.org](mailto:manager@kapiticoastmuseum.org)

web: [www.kapiticoastmuseum.org](http://www.kapiticoastmuseum.org)

Elizabeth Street, Waikanae (over the railway lines)

## anything goes here ...

A chaotic collection of kiwiana crammed into the former Te Horo Cheese Factory and one time engineer workshop makes this unique. The personal collection of Selly Hyde has been expanded by donations of memorabilia from around the country to cover every inch of 6000 square feet. Shops throughout including a barber and tobacconist and a grocery, replicate 'the way it was' in fine detail. Selly has made sure there's something for everyone here. Even a tribute to the Royal family. There is a corner for the kids with model railway and toys to help make this a family stopover. If you're lucky enough he'll give you an entertaining tour and share some of his many stories associated with each of the displays and unusual items.



### HYDE PARK MUSEUM

opening hours: donations welcome  
weekends and public holidays 11am - 3pm  
group visits by arrangement

tel: 04 298 4515

PO Box 1527 Paraparaumu Beach

next to Hyde Park Cafe

corner of Te Horo Beach Road, left off SH1

# telling Ōtaki stories



Step back into the past. Ōtaki is the oldest town on the coast, with a rich heritage of Māori and European settlement, spiced with the arrival of Chinese workers. The 1918 former BNZ and Ōtaki Borough Council Chambers has been restored to house changing exhibitions inspired by the many stories, photos and artifacts. There is also a research centre which gathers, preserves and shares Ōtaki history.



## ŌTAKI MUSEUM

opening hours: admission by donation

thursday - saturday 10am - 2pm

group visits by arrangement

tel: 06 364 6886

email: [otakimuseum@paradise.net.nz](mailto:otakimuseum@paradise.net.nz)

**Main Street, Ōtaki** (Ōtaki Heritage Bank Preservation Trust)  
**turn down Mill Road at Ōtaki SH1 roundabout**



Mill Road, Ōtaki



Te Horo



Waikanae

Otaihanga Road



Kāpiti Road, Paraparaumu



QE Park  
Mackays Crossing



Paekākāriki

disclaimer: opening times and admission fees may change



HP images are from the Historical Photograph  
Collection held by Kāpiti Coast District Libraries

HP 1500 J Buckley Collection  
Railcar on trial Paekākāriki Station 1939

HP 582 Kāpiti Observer Collection  
Vintage cars at Southward Car Museum, 1979

Paraparaumu Local History Librarian  
(04) 296 4885  
email: [kay.duncan@kapiticoast.govt.nz](mailto:kay.duncan@kapiticoast.govt.nz)

Arts and Museums Development Officer  
(04) 296 4688

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