



# Christmas 2013 Update

By Tessa Phillips

Hello everyone,

Season's greetings and all the very best for the New Year!

**MAGAZINE:** I hope you will all enjoy the enclosed *Driving Wheel* magazine. (Note the Musick Memorial Trophy article is by MOTAT's Belinda Nevin, somehow her name dropped off the article header somewhere along the way, apologies Belinda!)

A reminder that we are **now collecting content for next year's magazines**, so why not use the opportunity over the holidays to sit outside on a balmy summer day or evening and note down some of your interesting MOTAT or related stories, knowledge and experiences. We'd love to hear and share them. If you aren't keen on computers, we can type up hand written text, and if you have related photos we are happy to help digitize these for inclusion. Contact Tessa ([admin@motatsociety.org.nz](mailto:admin@motatsociety.org.nz) or mobile 021 0479973) or Andre ([drivingwheeleditor@gmail.com](mailto:drivingwheeleditor@gmail.com)) for more on contributing to the magazine. The deadline for Issue 7 (Autumn 2014) content is the end of January.

**MOTAT Reports:** Just a reminder for those that are interested that MOTAT has finalised its Annual report for the 2012-2013 year and Draft Annual Plan for 2014/2015 and these are available for public viewing on their website at [www.motat.org.nz/about/corporate/](http://www.motat.org.nz/about/corporate/)

## Full Day Outing To

### THE KAURI MUSEUM, MATAKOHE

Saturday 22nd FEBRUARY 2014

We are currently planning for a full day Society outing to The Kauri Museum at Matakoho, on 22 February next year, so pencil the date in your diaries. Full details to follow in the next Squeaky Wheel newsletter / emails late January. Matakoho is about two hours drive north of Auckland.

**Please rsvp interest by 20 Jan 2014 to [admin@motatsociety.org.nz](mailto:admin@motatsociety.org.nz) or mobile 021 0479973** so we can gauge numbers for possible bus hireage (anyone have contacts to help with this?!) and food options.

The Kauri Museum and MOTAT have a special connection and in light of MOTAT's 50<sup>th</sup> celebrations next year it seems an ideal opportunity to remember that connection. Both museums have their roots in **The Old Time Transport Preservation League** which was established in 1957 (becoming incorporated in Jan 1958). The League was formed when initial aims to preserve some of the Auckland Trams (after the tramways closed in 1956) extended to the idea of the creation of a museum to preserve all forms of transport. Mervyn Sterling offered 6 acres of land at Matakoho which became the initial site, but it soon became apparent this was not the ideal location for a large scale Transport Museum which would be better suited to a metropolitan area.

At the same time the Royal Aeronautical Society's Auckland Branch was endeavouring to establish a technology museum at the Western Springs Pumping station. They worked with the League and The Historic Auckland Society, supported by many other heritage and enthusiast groups, to present a plan to Council in 1960 for a NZ Transport, Aeronautical and Technological Museum at Western Springs. The MOTAT Society was born, and after much work the Museum opened in 1964. The Matakoho collection was mostly transferred to MOTAT and the League wound up 1963.

However the experience inspired those at Matakoho to create a Pioneer Museum in 1962 with items held back, and this has developed over time to become The Kauri Museum, Matakoho. This internationally acclaimed Museum is one of the best places to visit in Northland, and provides a perfect insight into Northland's pioneer past. Check out their website:

[www.kauri-museum.com](http://www.kauri-museum.com)

For more on the historical connection you can check out the 1996 book "The Museum Makers" by Harold Stone.

