



## *Christmas Greetings 2012*

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## *La Gazette*

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# *President's Greetings*

Joyeux Noel et Bon Annee !

Bonjour ma famille

2012 is drawing to a close...Summer days have arrived, a promise of warmer weather, plans are underway for the Festive Season and it is also time to reflect on the year that has been.

The most exciting event was the re print of The Libeau Family of Banks Peninsula.

Thank you for the many family contributions received to build on our family tree.

After two years of planning and encouraging family members be involved we are very pleased with the outcome. Many of the biographical details have been from enthusiastic researchers and others who were keen to have their family details recorded for the following generations.

I enjoyed making contact with so many descendants, whether it was those who found us through the website or through emails and phone calls.

Our thanks must go to Alison Honeyfield at Evagean Print for her formatting of the text and photographs. I have a new appreciation of the pressure when documents 'go to press'!

Alison told me it was an anxious time as 'another of her babies' is published.

This year we have had smaller gatherings but it is always enjoyable to catch up with families and watch the younger members growing up. Life just keeps getting busier!

Several families have had special occasions to celebrate this year.

Margaret Holliday celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday in October and was fortunate to have her family arrive over from Australia to share this time with her.

On 11<sup>th</sup> of November the descendants of Andrew Frank Clark gathered for a Family Picnic at Waddington

More about this later in the newsletter.

Our publishing team is always keen to receive information and items on family news. This information is a great way to keep in touch keep your research up to date.

For those of you who are concerned/interested in the repair of the headstones of family, particularly in the Canterbury/Akaroa region will be pleased to know that the Comte de Paris group has linked up with the Christchurch City Council and have been working on identifying those headstones and developing a priority list.

Bruce Clark, who has been working on the guidelines for some time, is our representative.

Looking forward to next year, a reminder that Gilles and Micheline Fournat will be visiting New Zealand in February/ March. Thank you to those who have offered to host them. Many of us have enjoyed their hospitality in Surgeres.

Christmas Greetings and Best Wishes for 2013 to you all.

Patricia

# *Births, Passings, Marriages and New Members*

## **Births:**

Layken Andrew Duncan to Stacey (Granddaughter of Andrew and Julie Clark) and Laurence 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2012.

## **Marriages:**

Brendon Hawke (eldest son of Alan and Janet Hawke) to Clare nee McDonald at Hamilton on 6th October 2012.

## **New Members:**

Welcome to Barbara Linton of Paihia.

## *Passings*

It is with great regret we acknowledge the passing of Dorothy Isobel Walker on the 22 May 2012 aged 86. See tributes below.

## *Tributes*

Written by her daughter, Lynne Walker.

**Dorothy Isobel Walker nee Libeau**



4-December-1925 to 22-May-2012

Dorothy was born in Eltham Taranaki and was the first daughter of Charles and Gladys Libeau. She spent all her life in Taranaki, going to school in Kaponga where at secondary school she specialised in shorthand, typing and bookwork. Her first job was working for the Kaponga Town Council where part of her duties included looking after the library which was in a small room in the council office. She thought it was a wonderful coincidence that her first child Lynne became a librarian and ended up working for the South Taranaki District Council, and in later years often reminded Lynne that she had been a "librarian" too. She also worked for the Kapuni Dairy Factory, Yarrows Bakery at Manaia and the Maypole Grocery Store in Hawera.

Her fascination with figures lasted her all her life and book working and accounting were strong links in the various jobs she held. In the days before digital computers she worked at the horse racing courses around Taranaki in the Totalisator working as a Dividend Calculator, she was incredibly quick working out sums in her head and usually beat those using calculators. Even her volunteer work for many groups usually involved being the Treasurer. She once told Lynne that she automatically counted the pegs as she put the clothes on the line. She also loved words and was an amazing speller always pulling the kids up if they spelt something wrong and once going to the school to tell a teacher off because the teacher had spelt a word wrongly. It was not often you could beat Dorothy at Scrabble.

Dorothy meet Guy Walker in Hawera while staying with her Aunt who lived next door to Guy's family. Guy had come home after 5 years away at war. They lived in Hawera after their marriage on the 26<sup>th</sup> around South Taranaki before returning to drove buses and later worked for engineering lived a very happy 26 years together until years of age. They had 5 children by then, and Jill and two sons - Keith and Marc. Keith school and Dorothy continued to work and



away at war. They lived in February 1949, then on farms Hawera in 1956 where Guy firm Croucher and Crowder. They Guy died very suddenly at 58 three daughters - Lynne, Dawn and Marc were still young boys at raised them on her own.

Dorothy was heavily involved in volunteer associations serving with the Red Cross, St John Ambulance ( was awarded a Special Priory Vote of Thanks for her Work) , the Crippled Children's Society and the Hawera Brass Band. The Hawera Town Council awarded her a Citizens Award in 1998 for the community work she did. When she moved to New Plymouth in 1994 she became involved with the YWCA and did their book keeping for almost 10 years until she had a stroke and could not continue. She belonged to several Country Women's Institutes and was a staunch Anglican Church member serving on the vestry in Hawera. Dorothy also had strong ties to the Salvation Army as many of the wider family were Officers.

In 2003 Dorothy was struck down with a stroke which impacted on her independence and she came back to Hawera to live closer to the family. She spent her last years of life firstly at the Waihi Road Assisted Living Centre and then the Trinity Home and Hospital. She was supported by her family and the many friends who always made the effort to call and see her. She still kept her sense of humour and loved to know all about the families of the staff and remained alert and caring right to the last days.

