

Ongaonga Museum Newsletter October 2018

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Museum opening hours

- Sunday's 1:00- 4:00 pm.
- Please note: hours may vary during holiday periods, please enquire.
- The museum may open on request for tour groups, please enquire.
- Donations are always welcome

Contact and follow us

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From **Saturday 13 October 2018** visit our new website at www.ongaongamuseum.org.nz and subscribe to our e-newsletter

Upcoming Events

Partial opening of Coles Building – Sunday 14th October 11am



Join us at the Coles building for the opening of the west side. It has been a very long time since the building has been open to the public, so come along and be a part of this special opportunity to celebrate this unique building coming back to life. This is a unique opportunity to inspect the inner workings of a building and carpentry factory before the advent of electricity.

The Coles factory is a historic site in need of restoration, visitors are asked to adhere to safety instructions and guidance provided by our society member's when on site.

After the Sunday 14th October Coles building opening, it will be open during regular Museum opening hours on Sunday's from 1-4pm. Read more on the Coles building below.

Car boot sale and open day

A car boot sale and open day is planned for the 1st of December 2018 and it will be a great way to kick into summer. There will be ample opportunity to look for Christmas festive treats and gifts. So come and trade, buy and sell while you enjoy the Ongaonga museum site and our village. Cost per car is \$ 10.00. Please call Di Hollis on 06 858 8910 to register your interest. Alternatively, if you have goods you would like to donate to the Society to sell for fundraising purposes, please also contact Di.



A picture taken this week by a society member of Ongaonga (Urtica Ferox) on a farm under the Wakararas.

Coles - building a regional business of NZ heritage value

The Coles building is an important piece of New Zealand's industrial heritage and it is thought to be one of the only remaining examples of an authentic small joinery factory in New Zealand according to researchers of Heritage New Zealand. The building, built in the late 1870s is one of the largest buildings in Ongaonga and is a significant local landmark that makes an important contribution to the village landscape. Heritage New Zealand states that the Coles Factory is a building of national significance and they have recently visited the site with the society member's and confirmed the Category 1 importance of the Coles Factory and the need for rectification and restoration work. An archaeologist report has been commissioned by the Ongaonga Historical Society and the Society is awaiting approval to go ahead with restoration work. The Central Hawkes Bay Council has also shown interest in the work of the Society. Come and join us on the fantastic journey ahead to restore and fully open the Coles building for the public and our future generations to explore.

The Coles family business was founded in approx. c1878. The factory was run by a large steam engine and it is known that the fine tradesmen employed by the Coles factory built many stunning Edwardian and Victorian residential homesteads, homes and public buildings such as churches, school houses and community halls in the wider Central Hawkes Bay and as far as Eketahuna. The Coles factory closed in the late 1950's.



Coles family members David and Mark, on a recent visit to Ongaonga and the Coles building where they provided rich family information and records. [See you at 11am 14th October 2018.](#)

Website

The Ongaonga Historical Society is almost complete with developing a dedicated website for visitors to learn more about the museum, our restoration work of the Coles building and the historical village of Ongaonga. As fundraising for the restoration of the Coles building will be a major task ahead for the Society, we will be looking for "Friend's of the Coles building" where individuals far and wide can become a friend and contribute with donations via the website. We will have a page on Give a Little and we are an incorporated society, a charitable organisation as well as being IRD registered as a tax donee for tax credit status. From [Saturday 13 October – you can find our new website at \[www.ongaongamuseum.org\]\(http://www.ongaongamuseum.org\) and email correspondence can be addressed to \[info@ongaongamuseum.org\]\(mailto:info@ongaongamuseum.org\).](#) Or follow us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter now.

Did you know?

Ongaonga village takes its name from the Ongaonga stream, which runs to the south of the village. The Maori's named the stream Ongaonga after the giant stinging nettle that grew by it. Ongaonga is a nettle shrub endemic to New Zealand (*Urtica Ferox*) and is also known as Okaoka or Taraongaonga. Ongaonga had the first white people pass through in 1842 and during the 1850's Ongaonga was beginning its settlement with four main farm stations being established; Springfield, Forest Gate, Mt. Vernon and Fairfield. There are many older heritage buildings residing in the village area and with many of them being recognised and listed by Heritage New Zealand.

Sponsors

Consider becoming a sponsor of the Ongaonga Historical Society or specifically of the Coles building restoration work. We will proudly list your name in our newsletter, the Society's website and social media feeds.

Donations

Donations to support the work of the Ongaonga Historical Society can be made via the website using the Give a Little page or by Paypal. There are also donations boxes in the Museum and Coles Factory or please contact us directly if you would like to donate in other ways.