
King George's Hall



1911 - 2011
Bay View, Napier



Judy Siers

History - Memories - Stories

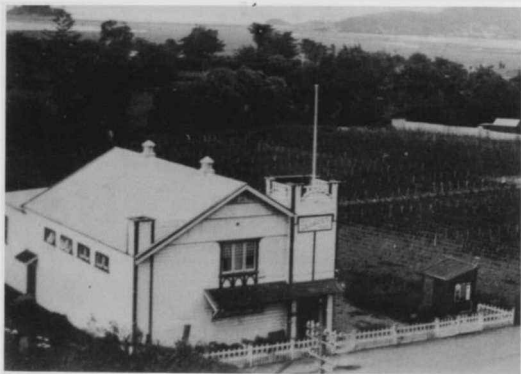


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King George's Hall



King George's Hall c. 1925

Blair Collection

King George's Hall

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A rare Hill Road photograph that includes a view of King George's Hall, c. 1940. Jim Wilson rests his sacks of crops that he has brought down from the hillside above. He built a steep track to take the horse and sledge up and down the hill bringing potatoes and peas ready for the market. He is with his boys, little Conway and older brother Eric (Sweeting).

Wilson Collection.

King George's Hall

1911 - 2011

Bay View, Napier

Published by The King George's Hall Committee 2011

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Typography and design by Judy Siers and Joanne Wilson, Ladybug Design

Consultant publishers: Millwood Heritage Productions

Printed in New Zealand

King George's Hall Committee

PO Box 80

Bay View

Napier

Hawke's Bay

New Zealand

ISBN 978-0-473-18419-3

*Today we are proud of our Hall, the finest in
Hawke's Bay,
and, as Institute members, can be proud
of our share towards it.*

Marge McHardy
Bay View Country Women's Institute, 1991

Acknowledgements

We wish to thank, most sincerely, those who have generously donated to the Centenary Celebrations of the Hall; also those who gave their time and provided historical information and photographs for the writing and production of this book.

Firstly the Napier City Council, Community Services, who had the foresight to commission the book so the story of King George's Hall could be told; in particular officers Monique Hewitt and Paul Faleono.

It would not have been possible without the interest and support of the people of Bay View and descendants of their families; thanks to them and especially, in alphabetical order, Ray and Violet Blair, Anne Compton, Ashley Cunningham, Lance Curry, Garth and Grace Dawn Curry, Margaret Dine, Wilma Ennor, Rosemary Gattsche, Jack and Mary Harwood, Margaret Hay, Bernie Hunt, the late Joan Jessep, Athenie Kempton, Dorothy Lumsden, Ian Mills, heritage adviser and architect Guy Natusch, Frank Otter, Patrick Parsons, Cyril Pickering, Thelma Pickering, Dorothy Pilkington, Lois Powdrell, Cherry Robertson, Janet Robertson, Pamela Smith, Peter Taunton at Surveying The Bay, Avis Wakelin, David Turnbull, Annelies van der Linden, Conway Wilson, Derek Williams, Martin and Desiree Yeoman.

Research was assisted by the Mayor of Napier, Barbara Arnott, the staff at Napier City Library, Hastings City Library, Alexander Turnbull Library; heritage consultant, Chris Johnson, Napier City Council heritage officer, Maree Moyes; and Blyss Wagstaff and the NZ Historic Places Trust.

And finally for their financial generosity: M and J Ruddenklau, Sir Russell and Lady Pettigrew, C and M Hair, Eskdale War Memorial Church, J D Harwood, C and D Lee, J and P Tait. Also, Panpac Forest Products Ltd, Eastern and Central Community Trust, Pub Charity, Ahuriri/Sunrise Rotary Club, Newstalk ZB and the Eskview Badminton Club.

*Judy Siers, author, and
Juliette Cadwallader, Chairperson
The King George's Hall Committee.*

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Aerial view of BayView, 1976, taken from above the northern hills looking towards Napier in the distance. The Cunningham property, Edelweiss, is centre foreground with King George's Hall on the right, on the corner of Hill Road and the Main North Road.

Introduction

The opportunity to compile this history arose when the King George's Hall Committee, at Bay View, considered how they would celebrate the centenary of their Hall. They believed that in 2011 a commemoration of the laying of the foundation pile for the Hall, on 22 June 1911, was appropriate. Further that a record of the Hall should be written, and a book published.

There is a good deal of history around the coronation of **His Majesty King George V of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the Seas**, as was his full title. Certainly Petane, a seaside village, and farming community north of Napier, New Zealand, came into the category of beyond the seas, yet even at that distance the good and loyal monarchists of the Village knew their King. The Festival of Empire was opened at the Crystal Palace in London in 1911 and the vast British Empire that encircled the globe, rallied to celebrate. But England wanted it to be a lasting affair, the pride in the Empirical status needed to endure. New Zealand had become a Dominion a few years earlier, so the importance of ties with 'the old country' was even greater than before. From London came numerous encouragements and the New Zealand Government offered to donate funds to communities who would build lasting memorials to the occasion, matching pound for pound money raised by those communities. Buildings were favoured because they would endure.



King George V. The coloured portrait of the King as he appears in the centre of the proscenium arch, in the front of the stage at King George's Hall.

Anne Compton Photograph

In Napier a Coronation Hall was built in Robjohns Street, Ahuriri. It was a brick building, designed by architect A. Liddy, constructed by Beagley and Angus, completed in 1912. Regrettably it did not

survive the Hawke's Bay earthquake in 1931 and was not rebuilt. The rubble was cleared away, and the street renamed Coronation Street in the 1930s, a reminder of what was lost and a continuing link with King George V's coronation. Later, a small new building appeared built of corrugated iron, the beginning of the complex we now know as Tabard Theatre, and residential homes were built.

In addition to funding buildings and memorials, acorn seeds were sent from England, collected from the large oak tree growing in the Windsor Great Park, in London, to be planted throughout the land, and known as 'Coronation Oaks'. Today Napier's huge oak grows handsomely in the grounds of Nelson Park near the Jull Street gates. But the most significant gesture of all was King George's Hall at Bay View.

In this illustrated book is an explanation of how the decision to build the Hall was made, its construction and its succeeding history. Here, also, is the fascinating story of a small community that lived life to the full and made use of their Hall at every opportunity. It is impossible to write about the Hall and not include the bigger picture that is Bay View. There is immense pride in the Village, and residents today consider the Hall as much a focal point of what happens now, as much as what has happened over 100 years.

It would not have been possible to write this book without the support and enthusiasm of Bay View people who were interviewed and opened up their hearts, and their albums of photographs.

However, this is not, and was not intended to be, a definitive history, but rather a social account of the Village and its people through their association with their Hall. Retold by selected personalities of the district, it is a distillation of 100 years of a community through memories and stories. It will bring the past and King George's Hall alive for the grand occasion of a one hundredth birthday.

Long live the King!

The early days and early names

The Maori settlements of the area and the surroundings that is now called Bay View had many ancient names. They reflected a particular period in history, the natural environmental changes to the landscape, events, the chiefs and their families.

Maps of the 1800s labelled the lagoon area: Kō-te-Whanganui-o-Roto, and there is record of an ancient large lake, named Te-wai-o-Hinekatorangi after the daughter of Tunui-a-Rangi, the paramount chief of Heipipi Pa that ran along the top of the hill opposite King George's Hall and to the north.



This was the view of the lagoon, looking south, from Hill Road, also known as School Road, before the 1931 earthquake. The Olsen house is in the centre. During the earthquake land rose, water drained away and the area transformed into farm and agricultural land over time.

Pickering Collection.

The flat land north of the Esk River, now Petane Pa, was called Kai-arereo, meaning 'the eating of the tongue'. This was a rather unpleasant name for a very beautiful place, but in Maori tradition it recorded an historical event, when raiding Maori killed the local Chief Tiwaeuae. Utu was necessary and Te Mautaranui, the chief of the raiders, was massacred, his tongue cut out, served and eaten.

The area was abundant in fish, birds and plants. Wide, deep rivers, estuaries, vast areas of wetlands, freshwater lagoons on one side and an ocean that lapped the hills, rocky inlets and seashore, on the other. Visiting Maori came from north and south, passing through to fish and gather food, or to raid.

The first European to record the area was Captain Cook who anchored in the deep water that he named Hawk Bay. He observed nine Maori canoes travelling through the Keteketerau outlet, the channel of water that once flowed out of the lagoon to the sea.

Reverend William Colenso who arrived in 1844, the first resident missionary for the Church of England, sought a new name for Kai-arereo. He called it Bethany, with the agreement of local Maori. However, they translated it to Petane, pronounced it 'pay-t-nee' as the Maori language could not translate a B, a Y or TH. Given those difficulties it seems a strange choice of name, however, Bethany has been acknowledged as an appropriate Christian name for the mission site as Reverend Colenso walked the distance each Sunday, from Napier to the Petane Pa to conduct the service in Maori. Biblical stories tell of Jesus walking a similar distance from Jerusalem to Bethany. And so the Petane Mission Station was established north of the Esk River on the road to Wairoa.

The Petane name extended in a southerly direction and Petane Road was formed early, although it was more of a walking shingle track than a road. It ran to the western spit, on the edge of the lagoon entrance that separated Petane from Napier town.

Petane River, a tributary of the Esk River, was named and appeared in print on early maps.



Catherine McHardy, right, and an unidentified woman, at the railway station, Petane, c.1923. The opening of the Railway Station in 1923 brought the confusion of freight handling to a head, and a realisation that a change of names was necessary.

So Petane was renamed BayView, and Petone stayed the same.

Blair Collection.

The Village was known as Petane when King George's Hall opened in 1912, but this was about to change. The reasons and the final date of changing the name of Petane to Bay View were deliberated. As early as the 1890s the confusion between Petone (near Wellington) and Petane was raised and the outcome then was that where possible "HB" was to be added, i.e., "Petane, HB" but mis-deliveries still occurred.

However it was not until 16 April 1924 that the new Village name was officially announced. Government made the decision, and demanded that change be made.

The McHardys were operating the postal services at that time, from their general store in the Village, and it is said that John McHardy proposed Bay View as a new name, and it stuck.



At the time of the gift of land for The King George's Hall this Petane store was owned by the Bryant family. It was built for John (J.B.) Arnott in 1900. Around 1925 John and Catherine McHardy purchased and renamed it the John McHardy & Son General Store. In time it would be managed by their son, Arthur McHardy and his wife, Marge (Wilhelmina Margaret Tait). Marge figures significantly in the story of King George's Hall, in the Country Women's Institute and Village life. The building suffered damage in the 1931 earthquake; the top story was removed and the single story 'wheeled' across the road to John T Harvey's site of the former livery and bait stable building that was gutted by fire in 1928.

Painting by the late Sheila Cunningham.

The McHardy Story

But for the McHardys there may not have been a King George's Hall.

There was a buzz in the village of Petane in 1910. King Edward VII died and King George V became head of the realm. It was significant news and local councils expressed their sympathy to the royal family. It cost Napier Borough Council two pound two shillings to send their cable, and 18 pounds one shilling to provide an appropriate public mourning commemoration. In the early 1900s many New Zealanders still called England 'home'. They could not have imagined a time when this country would not have close ties with the British Empire. It was one big happy family and on the ascent of the new king, an opportunity to be more inclusive was about to be announced.

The New Zealand Government offered communities a 250 pound subsidy towards a commemorative coronation building of their choice. The people of Bay View, with a population of less than 200, declared their intention to build a public hall. They understood the conditions. They put up their hands enthusiastically – yes, they would build a King George's Hall. They felt confident they would raise the necessary funds. BUT where to build it? The site needed to be close to the Village.

The solution was the generous donation of land by Catherine Eleanor McHardy, who with her husband John, arrived in the Village around 1903. Earlier they had a business in Clive where John ran the local butcher shop, (Ray Blair, grandson, has an original accounts book dated 1896). They moved to Ahuriri, then on to Petane with their three boys, Vivian John, known as Boy, Francis Alexander known as Frank, and Arthur. They had prospered, and were able to purchase the Petane Hotel and invested in land in the Village. They purchased the large two storey Bryant & Co. Ltd Store and Post Office; the Billiard Salon next door, and the building behind it, that became their home. Earlier they had bought land to the east, of these building, as the map shows, and a section there became the site for the proposed new hall.



John and Catherine McHardy photographed in their back garden at BayView c.1911. When the McHardy descendants talk about Catherine they refer to her as Grandma McHardy.

Blair Collection.

Their youngest child, Kathleen Ellen, was a Petane baby, born upstairs in the Petane Hotel, on 26 October 1906. It was business as usual downstairs, until the baby girl arrived, when the news was joyously received, and it was drinks 'on the house'. It is this little Kathleen who would play a major part in this story. She was chosen to break the bottle of champagne over the first pile laid, at the start of the construction of King George's Hall, in 1911.



In 1911, the McHardys owned sections throughout the Village, and on Hill Road, numbers 1, 3 and 7. It is number 1, the furthest east of the sites that was gifted. It is now Pt Lot 1, DP 2563, 0.0971, HBL2/807 Napier City Council. Section 46 is an extension of this site that had boundary re-adjustment at the time of road re-alignments.

Land Registration Hawke's Bay, from Surveying The Bay Ltd.

Back to 1910, having obtained a site, the next initiative was to raise funds. The residents gathered public support, personal funds were received, and 25 pounds each from the Hastings County Council and the Napier Port Company made the building of the Hall a viable project. By 1911 the project had taken flight. At a public meeting on 5 June substantial donations were announced. King George's Hall was on its way.



In the 1920s two men back their Ford model-T truck down to the Petane River. It was wide and deep enough for shallow craft to sail. The Napier BayView Heritage Trails leaflet records: "During the 1870s a steam-boat ran from Ahuriri to BayView. People from far away met the boat with bullock or horse sledges to carry their goods home."

Blair Collection



The J. McHardy Post Office Store, the truck in the foreground loaded with extended lengths of timber is weighted down in front to prevent a seesaw effect. Another vehicle parked closer to the shop provides an illusory image – at first glance one thinks there is an extension to the first truck.

Blair Collection

Petane, a stop en route

At the time a public hall was proposed for Petane, the area was best known to travellers coming to and from Napier. It was a fine place for rest and refreshment.

The northbound traveller could have arrived via the seven mile trek from Napier, by boat and then along the shingle shore, or by the road around the lagoon from Rissington. For the south-bound traveller it was the next stop after Te Pohue. Petane was a sweet temporary landing, a respite for people and the horses also.

The early transport story of Petane is told in the book, *Coaches North - The Story of The Hawke's Bay Motor Company*: "From Napier the coaches set off along part of the same route as the Taupo vehicles: an early morning start, a brisk run to the livery and bait stable at Petane – and then, a change from two horses to a full team of five for the first serious stage of the journey." The account continues describing how on the return journey from Taupo, which could be a two day affair, with at least 30 horses required, to provide for five changes en route. All was in the capable hands of Petane resident, John Thomas Harvey, who saw prosperity in freight and passenger services.

John wanted the best for Petane, and was right behind the building of King George's Hall. He had invested in land, much of it in anticipation of the increasing need for accommodation paddocks for his horses. He was a great lover of horses but also knew that



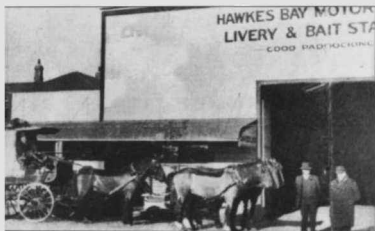
John Thomas Harvey, c. 1912, was one of the six trustees who led the King George's Hall project. He was the owner of the Petane Stables from the early 1900s, and became a shareholder and manager of the Hawke's Bay Motor Company. Some of his descendants stayed in Bay View for many years; best known is Sir Russell Pettigrew, his grandson.

Coaches North - The story of The Hawke's Bay Motor Company. Len Anderson.

without them he was not in business. The motor vehicle would replace his four-legged friends in time, but in 1911 horses were the kings of his realm. He personally named them: Sir Roger, Carstairs and Lady Prue are just three examples, each horse recorded in the ledgers of the company and he claimed to know them all by name, a big claim as at one stage the Company owned more than 600 horses! Company policy was to buy them at around five years of age, and sell them around four years later. But favourites grew old grazing at Petane.

J.T., as he known, rose early to meet the first coach that left Napier each morning at 6.30 am. Petane was its first staging point. From *Coaches North*: "... his first glance was for the horses. Then he'd

have a greeting for the driver and a hearty welcome for the passengers. When the coach returned from Taupo he'd be there again to meet it. This time, though, the horses would be sweat-stained, their flanks heaving from the downhill run from Te Pohue. Drivers knew the routine then. The team would be unhitched from the poles and driven to the nearby stream to cool off in the deep placid water."



The Hawke's Bay Motor Company Livery and Bait Stables entrance, Petane. The two horses that brought the travellers from Napier to Petane have been replaced by five rested horses for the next stage of the journey.

Reproduced from *Coaches North* -
The story of The Hawke's Bay Motor Company, Len Anderson.

In 1913 the first Cadillac motor service was offered for the Napier - Taupo run, and if the conditions were good then passengers could expect to leave Napier at 8am and be in Taupo by 5 pm. Tickets were

5 pound each. However, many travellers would not enter the new fangled, four wheeled monsters, especially after they had heard of the necessity for travelling backwards to supply the gravity fed carburettors on steep hills. The horses still had a role to play for many more years; it would take another decade before they were fazed out of the service.

A Committee is formed

Through the first half of 1911, the small community of around 200 people were enthused with the idea of their own hall, but they asked "Was it a dream?" "Yes" was the answer, but a group of local men were determined to make that dream come true, and they took leadership.

At this time the district of Petane was part of the Hawke's Bay County Council and the people of Petane needed this authority to process their application to Government for financial assistance. The local media reported that the Under Secretary of Internal Affairs had notified Council that the subsidy must be applied for before 31 December 1911. The project needed to move along.

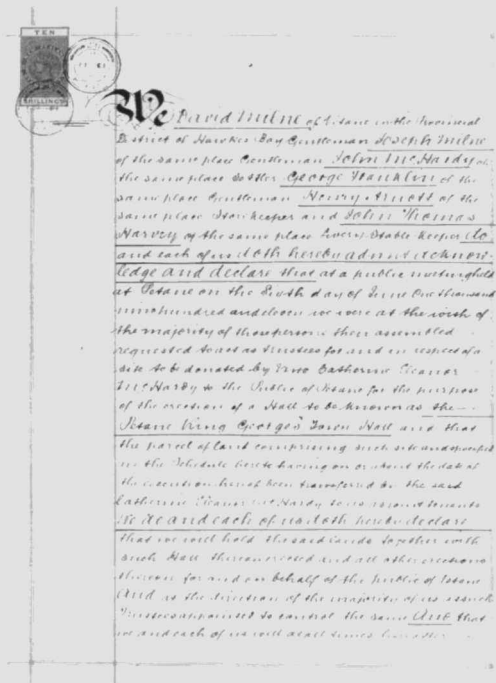
The first public meeting was held at John and Catherine McHardy's Petane Hotel, on 5 June 1911, and a second meeting held on the following night was attended by ten men when six trustees were elected. The donation of the site by Catherine McHardy was discussed and lawyers, Messrs Cotterill and Humphries, were asked to transfer the section of land to the Trustees, free of legal cost if possible.



Old Petane Hotel c. 1900.

Hall Committee Archive.

It was noted that further subscriptions had been received, including a donation from the Petane School Committee. Coronation medals were presented and a decision made to hold a fund raising concert for what they called the 'Public Hall Building Fund'. The Hall Committee wanted no stone unturned and urged that more settlers in the district should be approached to be forthcoming, and contribute. With confidence they moved that "Mr J. Louis Hay be asked to prepare a plan of the hall".



David Milne of the same in the Provincial District of Hawkes Bay Gentleman Joseph Milne of the same place Gentleman John McHardy of the same place Settler George Franklin of the same place Gentleman Henry Arnott of the same place Storekeeper and John Thomas Harvey of the same place Livery Stable Keeper do and each of us both hereunder set our hands and declare that at a public meeting held at Petane on the 20th day of June One thousand nine hundred and eleven we were at the wish of the majority of the persons then assembled requested to set on foot a fund to be raised to be donated by Mrs Catherine Thomas McHardy to the Public of Petane for the purpose of the erection of a Hall to be known as the Petane Wines & Spirits Store Hall and that the parcel of land comprising such site and depicted in the Schedule hereto having on or about the date of the erection hereof been transferred to the said Catherine Thomas McHardy to us in trust and that we do and each of us both hereunder declare that we will hold the said lands together with such Hall thereon erected and all other erections thereon for and on behalf of the Public of Petane and as the trustees of the majority of us set forth and as the trustees of the majority of us set forth that we and each of us will deal with the same as follows

Two pages of the Declaration of Trust paper signed by six Trustees, David Milne (gentleman), Joseph Milne (gentleman), John McHardy (settler), George Franklin (gentleman), Henry Arnott (storekeeper) and John Thomas Harvey (livery stable keeper).

Hall Committee Archive.

... immediately comply with any request from the majority of us to assign transfer or set over the premises free of consideration to any person or persons firm or corporation for such purposes or objects as the majority of us shall think meet and proper **AND WITNES** the hands of the parties hereto this 10th day of December One thousand nine hundred and eleven

The **McCull** heretofore referred to —
 All that piece or parcel of land situate in the Provincial District of Hawkes Bay containing thirty nine decimal eight perches being portion of Section Fifty Western Side of Harbour and portion of Lot Number Twenty nine All situated on a plan deposited in the Land Transfer Office at Napier under No. 2568 and being portion of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Registered Volume 57 Folio 167.

Witness to the signature of David Leslie
 J. J. Bradley
 Hotel Keeper
 Petaw

Witness

Witness to the signature of James Leslie
 J. J. Bradley
 Hotel Keeper
 Petaw

Witness

Witness to the signature of John Leslie
 J. J. Bradley
 Hotel Keeper
 Petaw

Witness

Witness to the signature of George Leslie
 J. J. Bradley
 Hotel Keeper
 Petaw

Witness

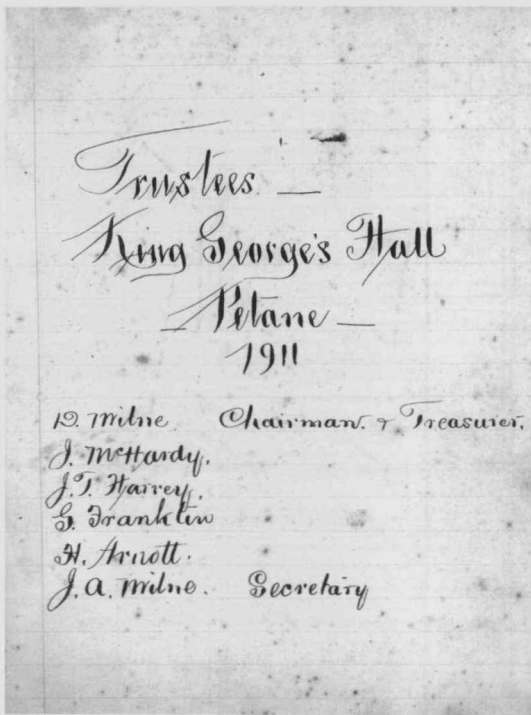
Witness to the signature of Henry Leslie
 J. J. Bradley
 Hotel Keeper
 Petaw

Witness

Witness to the signature of James Leslie
 J. J. Bradley
 Hotel Keeper
 Petaw

Witness

The document goes on to state that they "... hereby admit, acknowledge and declare that at a public meeting held at Petane on the 6th day of June 1911, we were at the wish of the majority of these persons then assembled requested to act as trustees for and in respect of a site to be donated by Mrs Catherine Eleanor McHardy to the public of Petane for the purpose of the erection of a Hall, to be known as the Petane King George's Town Hall."



The title page of the King George's Hall Minute Book in decorative hand written script.

Hall Committee Archive.

They built a hall

On 21 June 1911 at the meeting of the Hall Committee it was evident that the project was on a roll. Final arrangements were made for the laying of the foundation pile on the following afternoon, Coronation Day, 22 June 1911, at 2 pm.

At the same meeting architect Louis Hay presented plans. Full discussion followed and, in generous mood, the Committee asked him to extend the length of the hall by 12 feet; he agreed and then reported that he would submit the plans to the Hawke's Bay County Council building office.

At the next meeting on 13 July, the County Clerk of the Council reported that "they had made application for subsidy" to Government. Louis Hay was asked to seek tenders for construction, with options for building in brick, wood or concrete. Twelve days later they met again. Louis Hay presented the final plan and specifications for a timber building. These were approved.

By the 30 August meeting, the Committee reported receipt generous donations, cash and kind, for example. Louis Hay would not charge for his architectural services, and the Harbour Board advised they would contribute 25 pounds.

Construction tenders ranging from 825 pounds to 1,198 pounds were presented by Louis Hay. The Committee accepted the lowest price, submitted by J.E.Humphries. Interestingly, and reading between the lines of the minutes, there must have been debate about this low price, and some concern about quality as



*James Augustus Louis Hay,
architect 1881 – 1948.*

Photograph c.1920

Margaret Hay Collection

Trustee, John Thomas Harvey, moved that Louis Hay be engaged to supervise the construction, and that he be paid 2½% of the cost.

On 22 June, 1911 at 2 pm, the people of Petane gathered to lay the foundation pile for their new hall. Across the other side of the world, King George V was not to know that on the same date that he attended his coronation at Westminster Abbey, London, when England was experiencing the hottest summer on record, the people of Petane were dressed in their winter best for their ceremony in his honour.

Two views of the laying of the foundation pile on Coronation Day, 22 June, 1911 at 2 pm. The first image shows the crowd of fifty or so, with their backs to the photographer, watching five-year-old Kathleen McHardy break the bottle of champagne over the foundation pile. The second photograph shows the crowd moving away after the ceremony. People are dressed for the occasion, hats galore and the men in their dark suits.

Blair Collection



The Petane community had gone to great lengths to have the pile-driving ceremony recorded and hired a professional photographer; the quality of the two photographs reproduced here are evidence. The original prints have survived thanks to the McHardy descendants. The photographer would have set up his tripod and large camera, put his head under the cloth and asked the people to hold still while he captured these scenes.

The descendants of the McHardy family were unable to find a photograph of Kathleen Ellen McHardy as a child. This portrait was taken c. 1925.

Blair Collection



Petane Public Hall.

Copy

At a meeting held at Petane on June 5th. It was decided to build a Public Hall. A suitable Section has been secured, and Trustees formed. The following donations have been promised and further subscriptions will be thankfully received by the Trustees.

John McHardy	£ 60	-	-
J. J. Farney	50	"	"
Richard Tacon	25	"	"
David Milne	25	"	"
J. A. Milne	25	"	"
G. Grant	25	"	"
J. E. Bradley	10	"	"
J. Piper	5	5	"
Gurdet Singh	5	"	"
Tommaso Cuccipoli	5	"	"
James McHaw	2	2	"
C. Hickey	1	1	"
Mummy Roberts Co.	1	1	"
<i>[Signature]</i>	2	2	0
<i>[Signature]</i>	2	2	0
<i>[Signature]</i>	1	1	"
<i>[Signature]</i>	2	2	"
<i>[Signature]</i>	3	5	"

After the Trust was formed a donations register was established and as stated on this first page on the register "further subscriptions will be gratefully received".

Hall Committee Archive.

King George's Hall opens

The Hall construction was completed by April, 1912.

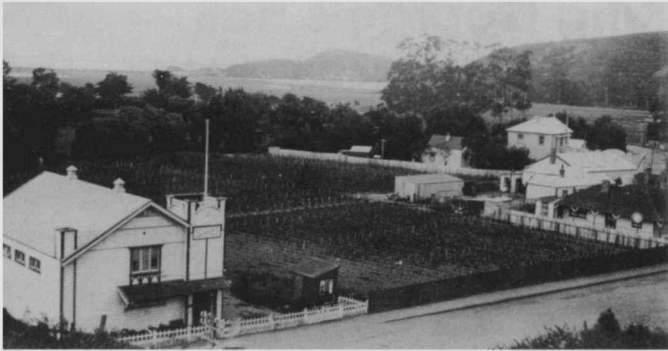
The Committee had been hard at work meeting regularly and checking on progress. There were costs associated with the interior of the Hall to be discussed. Seats and furnishings: 53 pounds 2 shillings, the piano: 27 pounds 15 shillings and crockery, and kitchen expenses: eight pounds eight shillings and five pence. Funding was a consent consideration.

Then there was the opening night event to arrange. The date set was 24 May, Empire Day, 1912 and it was proposed that the Mayor of Napier, John Vigor Brown be asked to perform the formalities. But the Committee deliberated, Petane was not part of Napier and indeed Napier was building their own Coronation Hall and had little interest in the areas north of the city. So the vote went in favour of Thomas Clark, elected area member of the Hawke's Bay County Council, to do the honours. However John Vigor Brown and his wife did receive complimentary tickets; but the hoi polloi paid and ticket sales totalled 29 pounds 11 shillings and six pence.

Mr Hutton was the Master of Ceremonies and the Frivolity Minstrels' Orchestra, supplied the music for the evening, with 16 players, including the architect of the Hall, Louis Hay who played the flute.

Following the opening night, the first bookings for the Hall included a football club event, and a fancy dress ball, each paying one guinea for the night. In the first year rentals totalled 12 pounds and one shilling.

There was a line entry "for Kinematograph purposes", in the balance sheet receipts for 1913 that is indicative of the arrival of King George's Hall of the new film entertainment technology. This was slowly being introduced into public halls.



King George's Hall, c. 1925. This is probably the earliest extant photograph. The building is well positioned on the eastern corner of the Village on the land gifted by Catherine McHardy. Hill Road runs along the front. The McHardys large tomato gardens are to the right and rear of the Hall.

The small building, dark stained, in the right corner of the Hall property is the carbine shed, where gas was generated for lighting the Hall. Later this housed a generator for electricity. It also served a purpose when the fire alarm pole was erected in the 1940s.

Note in the background the water of the Inner Harbour. In the distance are the hills of Poraiti.

The photograph presents the architecture of Louis Hay. Built in timber with an iron roof, the building is a vernacular example of an English-styled, Arts and Crafts design. It is the epitome of the period, with detailing to suit a grand building. The a-symmetrical arrangement of the roof line, from the decorative tower (that was the base for the flag-staff) to the gable point, and the wide sweep of roof to the other side, are pleasing aesthetically.

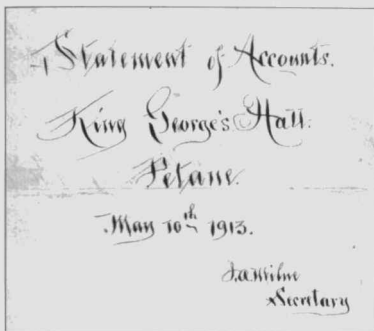
The vertical timber panelling on the front corner façade (on the left of the picture) looks to be a chimney, albeit a little insubstantial. However, there was a fire-place in the Hall. The Committee minutes record:

"Messrs Arnott and McHardy offered to supply the firewood" for the opening event. Napier architect and heritage consultant, Guy Natusch, commented about this feature.

"It is likely (though not proven) that this housed a flue of a stove used for heating, similar to those used in school rooms of the time. The tower-like enclosure of the flue, above the roof line, could well have been the way the architect wished to conceal the flue above the roof line, and at the same time provide some balance to the main tower on the street façade. Or there may be some other explanation."

The front façade of the building with its three casement windows, positioned well above the lower set, are decoratively arranged and the timber awning over the lower windows matches the front entrance with its well-appointed porch and front door. Four higher windows provide eastern light.

Blair Collection.



The Revenue Accounts, for King George's Hall tabled at the Committee meeting 10 May 1913.

Hall Committee Collection.

King George's Hall Revenue Account		10 th May 1913	
<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>Receipts</u>	
Cost of building	758 8 6	By Public subscriptions by private individuals	335 13 6
Architect's fees	20 - -	Government subsidy	250 - -
Plans & drawings etc	53 2 -	Patrons Board	25 - -
Plans & drawings etc	36 18 11	Concerts in aid of Hall	82 - 6
Gas & coal & electricity	24 - -	For typographical purposes	80 15 -
Legal expenses, conveyance of	10 3 6	Use of Hall, St. George's Dance etc	12 1 -
Insurance, furniture, robes	5 2 -	Laundry revenue	2 8 6
Bank charges & 2 3d on overdraft	14 7 10	By Bal. (2 190 10 0)	721 1 6
Laundry expenses, Janine Petrie			190 15 -
Carbunk, Ticket room, Printing etc	31 9 9		<u>£ 911 16 6</u>
	<u>£ 911 16 6</u>		
		Bank account overdraft	209 16 9
		10 th May 1913	19 1 9
		Cash on hand	1 140 10 -
			<u>£ 911 16 6</u>

I have examined the accounts in connection with the above balance sheet and in my opinion the balance sheet is absolutely correct.

H.S. Dwyer

There were 'magic lantern' slide evenings but these would be outdated very quickly as the people of Petane were on the threshold of discovering silent movies, 'the flicks' as they came to be known. A projection booth and screen were installed and residents, as well as people in outlying districts, proved the popularity of cinema by packing the Hall each screening. There are stories about those who came for the evening show and stayed overnight.



The McHardy Dodge c.1930 driven by Kathleen Blair with Clarice McHardy (Boy's wife), and her daughter, Joy, on the left. The child in the centre is unidentified.

In the background are the tennis courts and the pavilion that was directly behind the King George's Hall, until the tennis activities moved to Petane Domain in the late 1950s. The land was required for a road deviation so a new main North Road could bypass the Village. To the right are the willows and trees growing on the banks of the Petane River, a tributary of the Esk River.

"Bay View was a picturesque place that people would drive to, have a picnic and relax" remembers Lance Curry "and wild peacocks strutted along the riverbanks of the stream that meandered through the Village."

Blair Collection.

They came by horse, tethered them at the back of the Hall and purchased feed that was stored beneath the stage; or they sailed across the lagoon, and tied their boats up at the jetties on the riverbanks.

Movies had been around in Napier for some years, and at this time there were screenings at the Theatre Royal in Tennyson Street, the new Gaiety Theatre in Dickens Street and at Hayward's Empire Theatre in Hastings Street. The latter was the first specially designed movie house in Napier. But there was nothing quite like having them screened in one's own Hall in one's own Village. The films were distributed by Hayward's Pictures Ltd, and Fuller's Pictures Ltd, that would soon become New Zealand Picture Supplies Ltd. The operator purchased the rights for the screenings.

Films like *Cleopatra* with Helen Gardner, *Queen Bess* starring Sarah Bernhardt, *Les Miserables* with Henry Krauss and the biblical saga *Quo Vadis* with an all Italian cast were on the movie menu. How cultural times had changed! Napier cinemas may have had orchestras to accompany the silent images, but Petane had Miss Dorothy Kirkham from Eskdale. She was the resident pianist, admired for her ability to transform the mood of the moment by a light flick of the fingers on the ivories, or the heavy touch on the moody chords.

One memory is etched in the mind of Lois Powdrell (nee Lopdell) now 88 years old; she went with her parents to see a Charlie Chaplin film around 1930. "I was seven years of age, I loved it, I thought it was hilarious!" Thelma Pickering (nee Robertson), now 89 years of age, enjoyed the screenings immensely, she recalls that she edged her way forward in the ticket queue so she would be amongst the first entering the Hall, and could get a seat right in the middle of the front row. She attended Saturday matinee shows.

By the late 1920s Alexander Milne was operating the movies at the King George's Hall. He is remembered by his children, John and Pam, now Pam Lister. They are descendants of Joseph Milne who lived at The Terraces, Petane. Joseph and his brother David were original Trustees of the Hall. Joseph's son, Alexander served his apprenticeship and became an electrician, but his hobby and passion

was all things to do with projectionist photography and cinema. He introduced the 'talkies' to Petane. His business included hiring and managing the screening rights of the films including in time, those from the new cinema giant of the future Robert Kerridge.

There was a lapse of movie attendance through some of the worst of The Depression years, as many families could not afford the cost of a movie ticket. Screenings were less frequent and community dances and sports clubs events increased in number. But movie popularity returned and the Hall Committee went with the tide of public demand, maintaining reasonable rental fees so the Hall was accessible to all. The last recorded comment about films in the Hall is from Martin Yeoman who recalls that after the Second World War and into the 1950s, films were screened but with attendance slowly diminishing as Napier cinemas offered better choices. George Paxie, one of the last projectionists, brought his 16mm machine to Bay View in the early 1960s. In 1965 the last of the regular, public movie shows at King George's Hall were reeled.



Frank McHardy's market garden. For years the McHardys were picking tomatoes for the Christmas table. The Bay enjoyed a micro-climate, and the early ripening, and the flavour of the fruit and vegetables were renowned. Here, from the garden next to King George's Hall one can view the Hall's western façade and the large windows of the supper room. c.1925

Blair Collection.

First World War 1914 - 1918

Soon after the opening of the Hall, New Zealanders were at war.

The Hall Committee maintained demeanour that was appropriate and encouraged less dancing and frivolity. They would lead the way and suspend their Annual Entertainment fund raising concert. However fund-raising for the soldiers and their families was necessary and patriotic dances were held, but any fun that was had was offset by the sad, formal farewells to loved ones.

As the war went on more soldiers were needed urgently and civilians were called up at short notice, and women took on mens work. The National Reserve was active in all the towns of New Zealand, demanding that local teams get together and provide training. They requested free use of the Hall for military drill.

The Patriotic Board was set up throughout New Zealand and Bay View responded to the call. Socks, scarves, mittens, balaclavas and ditty bags were on the list of things wanted. Carding, spinning and knitting was taught, wool was distributed and garments produced were passed in monthly. Raw wool was donated directly by farmers for heavier garments. Lady Liverpool had her patriotic fund and Lady Galway had hers, and garments for refugees, as well as soldiers and sailors were sent from New Zealand to England.



The tomato pickers, unidentified, except for Flo Staniland second from the left. c.1925. The trailer carried old benzene tins of four gallon capacity, they fitted two cans to a case.

Blair Collection.

There were sobering notes made in the minute book in 1916: "Mr Harvey suffered the loss of his son at the front"...sympathy was formally recorded; "...also the loss to the Empire sustained by the death of Lord Kitchener at the most critical time of the war."

Money was tight and the Committee was concerned. Even though they made a 27 pound profit in 1917, by 1919 carbide was scarce and very expensive, and the rental was increased to two pounds five shillings, from one guinea.

After the war the influenza epidemic reached Bay View and the Hall became a medical centre and emergency hospital.

Slowly life in the Village picked up and the rental of the Hall slowly returned. Parties and dances resumed and the community came alive again. The 1920s would be remembered as the decade for movies. The Committee minutes are consumed with detail about hireages, installation of equipment, days of operation, sale of refreshments and compliance with Government regulations around the activity. A caretaker was installed and the Hall management moved away from the hands-on Committee involvement of the early years. They could take a step back.



William Brown from Bay View, served in World War 1. He is photographed here, standing centre, holding a mug in his right hand and some food in his left, with other soldiers.

Pickering Collection

The Bay View Women's Institute*

To do all the good we can, to everyone we can, in every way we can.

The motto of the Women's Institute.

On the afternoon of 1 October 1931 a meeting of women held at King George's Hall agreed to establish the Bay View Branch of the Women's Institute. At the same meeting it was agreed the Hall would be their permanent meeting place. In time it became their 'home' and headquarters, the venue for committee meetings, plus many diverse and interesting events. As the organisation grew so did their activities and their use of the Hall. The Institute is the Hall's longest tenant, also its most loyal supporter. They have contributed to the Hall financially as tenants, but also in donations and in kind with projects of their own that have enhanced the Hall. The leadership qualities of the members have been notable and their presence in the district has proven invaluable. They were witness to many changes and difficulties over time but for six decades they can take great pride in always rising to occasion, and in their record of achievements.



*A portion of the photograph overleaf,
King George's Hall, c.1935.*

WI Archive.

* The Women's Institute was the official and national (Dominion) name of the organisation when the Bay View branch was formed in 1931, and remained so until 1952. It became the Bay View Country Women's Institute in late 1952 and remained so until 2004 when the name reverted to the former and the word "country" was deleted. The Bay View Women's Institute is abbreviated sometimes in this text as "the Institute" or "WI" or "CWI".

Looking back a decade earlier, to 1921, it is interesting to observe the founding of the Institute as a national woman's organisation. It is a wonderful Hawke's Bay story, evolving from an idea of Miss Anna Elizabeth Jerome Spencer, who was living at *Omatua*, Rissington. For a long time she wanted to establish a movement that would bring women together in fellowship. In 1921 she held a meeting in the garden room at *Omatua*, and presented her dream. The result was the formation of the Rissington Women's Institute, followed by other Hawke's Bay branches at Eskdale, Tutira, Kaiwaka and Tangoio. At their meetings members could share information and conversation flourished.



The Village of BayView, Napier in the background, c. 1935. This was a few years after the Women's Institute has become a regular user of the King George's Hall. Pictured in the left-hand corner, the Hall fronts Hill Road which joins Terrace Road, on the left. The Arnotts' house is in the foreground, later owned by the Otter Family

WI Archive.

Bay-View Women's Institute

A meeting was held in the Bay-View Hall on Thursday September 3rd 1931

with the object of forming a branch of the Women's Institute.

Miss Spencer, Miss J. Spencer, was in attendance and explained the aims and objects of the movement.

The following Ladies were present: Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Standland, Mrs. El Hardy, Mrs. Blair, Mrs. Hemley, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Lowe, Mrs. Eltham, Mrs. Eltham, Mrs. Tolleston, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Eltham, Mrs. Eltham.

and after a general discussion it was decided by all present to start immediately. The following were elected as a Committee.

Mrs. Standland, Mrs. Blair, Mrs. Eltham, Mrs. Eltham, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. El Hardy, + Mrs. Hemley.

Mrs. Eltham was elected as President + Mrs. Hemley as Secy.

It was decided to hold our first meeting on the second Thursday, on October 8th 1931 in the "Hall" Bay-View.

Miss Spencer displayed several articles of interest, and made by Ladies of other Branches.

On behalf of the Ladies present, Mrs. Eltham

The first page from the BayView Women's Institute Minute Book dated 3 September 1931. It is showing the fading and wear and tear of time.

There was an emphasis on homemaking, considered a proud occupation, also art and craft work and, most important of all, the Institute had a relevance for rural and isolated women, enabling them to meet with other women. The formula for their meetings was to provide: "Something to see, something to hear, something to do," and the meeting motto was: "If you know a good thing, pass it on".

Women from Bay View wanted to form a group and "... wrote to Miss Jerome Spencer inviting her to the meeting at King George's

Hall, on 3 September 1931... she replied that the date would be suitable, and we gathered together as many women as possible... we agreed, then and there, to form an Institute. A Committee of six was elected and a President appointed," Marge McHardy wrote, in 1981. "The attendance was encouraging right from the start, women walked, or they rode a bicycle, one or two even rode on horseback carrying their handicraft, afternoon tea, etc. but over the years this form of transport has gone and today most members arrive in late model cars."



The first banner of the BayView Women's Institute, made in 1931, now hangs in the Hall, on the left side of the stage. It is an historic relic and was put into conservation framing for heritage preservation in 1981, when a new banner was created.

WI Archive.



Each branch of the Women's Institute had their own flower emblem. BayView chose the Gaillardia pulchella, sometimes called the Blanket Flower. Indigenous to North America, growing wild from Mexico to Canada it is the State wild flower of Oklahoma. A drought-resistant daisy-styled bloom it has the staying power of the Bay View Women's Institute, a suitable emblem indeed.

Anne Compton Photograph.

In those first few years the members learnt to paint, to sew and make their own clothes, papier-mâché, craft work from chocolate papers, cake icing, floral art, marquetry and poker work. They set up card playing evenings and developed a taste for euchre. They were instructed in Scottish dancing and organised evening dances in the Hall, often with euchre being played as well. In May 1932 it must have been a cracker show as Marge McHardy recorded, "... it was enjoyed by all, dancing kept merrily on until one o'clock."



When this photograph was taken time had moved on since Miss Jerome Spencer gave her 1931 inaugural talk to the BayView women who established BayView Institute. Pictured with Miss Spencer, in the front, are three foundation members who were at that talk with Miss Spencer, in front; Left to right: Marge McHardy, Flo Staniland and Grace Kemsley, at the Institute's 21st birthday, 1952.

Miss Spencer, known as Bessie, was born in Napier in 1872, the daughter of Anna and William Isaac Spencer, a surgeon and Mayor of Napier, 1882 – 1885. She was a pupil at Napier Girls' High School, a graduate of Canterbury College, became a teacher at Napier Girls' High School and in 1901 was appointed headmistress.

The same year the Institute organised a children's Christmas party and around 80 young ones attended. It was a combined adult and children's night with the children homebound by 10pm. The adults partied on, "taking the floor until one pm". The music provided by R.A and B. Band must have been good. They had "spot dancing, waltzing competitions and the usual popular numbers".

Thelma Robertson was there and was no stranger to the Hall or the Institute events. Her mother Maria was a stalwart of the Institute and when they met monthly at the hall, in the afternoons, Thelma raced there after school from Eskdalé to meet her mother. She wanted to get there quickly and have a choice of the 'left-overs' of the delicious afternoon tea. Thelma joined the Institute in her own right when she was 15 years of age, and is still a member today.

In May 1934 the Branch introduced card playing and 'ping-pong' and other fun and games evenings. But to balance the programme and on a studious note, they invited Bishop Williams to give a Hall talk on Native Birds. There was a practical aspect to membership and each September seed potatoes were brought to the Hall, and divided up; and to follow up there were prizes for the best potatoes, in weight, in the New Year.

A motto for the day of each meeting was encouraged and given the likely character of these women, "He who rises late must trot all day," and "We are given two ears to hear both sides," are typical examples. The Institute continues to uphold a formal approach to meetings. They start with the Institute song and the National Anthem. They have a written programme and there is order in the session. They make a point of thanking the participants and in the minutes they comment on the refreshments, generally, "and a dainty afternoon tea was served", was a frequently repeated comment in the minutes of the early years.

The Institute has kept an excellent account of their meetings and activities through their minute books, also collections of photographs, and news clippings. The support for each other is very touchingly told through these files, and the leadership, the helping hands and the good deeds recorded at the monthly meetings, in the Hall, have been woven into the narrative of this history.

1930s – The Depression - The Earthquake

The Depression

The Great Depression affected Bay View as it did the whole of the country. Help was offered through the Institute and by the good-hearted and generous nature of the residents of Bay View. But it was necessary to keep spirits up and the Hall became the venue for fancy dress events, parties and balls. People could make their own costumes at no real expense, and enjoy a great deal of community fun. Functions were often themed and costumes made to match. Dorothy Kirkham turned her fingers from movie music to good oldtime dance pieces and tunes for 'sing-alongs'. She had a record of 25 years of playing music for all.



A pre-earthquake snapshot of school children wandering their way to school over the hill to Eskdale. In the background the photographer has captured a unique glimpse of Whanganui- O-Rotū, the Maori name for the expanse of water of Orotu, an ancestor of the people of the area.

Hair Collection.

The Hawke's Bay Earthquake

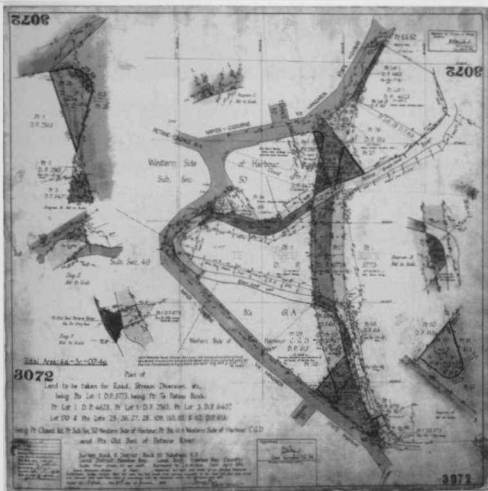
The establishment of the Bay View Women's Institute in 1931 followed the "disastrous Hawke's Bay earthquake" in February. Marge McHardy wrote "... a group of women feeling the need for more companionship and a general place to meet... went about the ways and means of forming an Institute." This is from *The History of The Bay View Country Women's Institute*, published in 1981. Earlier, in 1937 Marge wrote a *History of Petane* recording memories. "On 3 February 1931, came disaster, swift and sure. The day broke fine and warm with no wind but a very high sea running in the bay for several days with no apparent cause. The breakers washed up the beach at Petane on the railway line, but not a thought of danger came to anyone's mind as they started their day's work. At 10.45am came the never-to-be-forgotten earthquake and all was confusion. Buildings in the village, and homes in the district were damaged more-or-less-extensively, many of them being wrecked beyond repair. All avenues of communication were dislocated, great landslides took place; three Petane residents lost their lives in Napier city. It seemed that life had come to a standstill in and around Petane Township for it was quite cut off from other districts and many months passed before life seemed to settle down to even a small degree. Our beautiful Waiohinanga River had completely dried up, or at least had taken another course, emptying its waters into the open sea, instead of watering the flats around Petane on its way to the Inner Harbour, for this portion of the district had risen between six and seven feet in that great upheaval. The Inner Harbour too had dried out, never more will the tides ebb and flow in around its little bays and valleys. Already it is being drained and roads formed, and grazing sheep wander where once, only six years ago, fish were caught in large numbers, yachts sailed and motor boats raced over its smooth waters, and soon, very soon, small farms will replace what was once a large expanse of water."

King George's Hall survived the earthquake and the Hall was used as an assembly point, a safe building to occupy during the smaller aftershocks that continued for several days.

Water, water every where...

For hundreds of years, long before any white person had sailed the area we know as Hawke Bay, the western bays were formed by ancient volcanic and seismic activity, tsunamis and sea and river patterns.

Petane was a very watery place. The resident Maori avoided the swampy ground and took to the higher reaches of the hills. There they could establish their kumara gardens, build their pas and not fear the mercurial floods and seasonal tides.



Survey maps show the division of sections at BayView and the flow of the Esk River, known as the Petane River in this area. Here the river flows behind the King George's Hall site, almost opposite Terrace Road entrance. The water ran wide and deep and wound around the Village offering a water course for small craft and boats that could be pulled along by rope for the delivery of goods to the Petane people.

Land Registration Hawke's Bay, from Surveying the Bay Ltd.

There was water everywhere: on the east the sea lapped the outer shore of the shingle beach and the Inner Harbour was largely a fresh water lagoon fed by the small streams and the large Tutaekuri River from the south. Further north, the strong flowing Esk River burst its southern banks and flowed east and south, curving inward to the Village and out again in a perfect U shape. It was called the Petane River and further east discharged into the Lagoon. The Lagoon waters lapped the hills of Petane.

After the 1931 earthquake and the rising of the land, Bay View's water system changed forever. The 3,800 hectare lagoon transformed into a 450 hectare tidal estuary. There were problems of drought where once flooding was the only concern, yet there were still the wild moments when nature brought more water than was required, and usually unexpectedly.

Anzac Day 1938 Flood

Marge McHardy recalled: "The stream which ran around our Village, overflowed and entered several homes as well as the hall, damaged crops, farmlands and many of us lost heavily."

Builder Jack Harwood comments on the silt that was found years later in the Hall when maintenance work uncovered the evidence. It was up under the stage and almost impossible to clean out. He says there is still a layer of 12mm thick on the sleeper plates just under the floor. It was a mighty flood.

Jim Wilson and his wife Chrissie living on the corner of Hill and Terrace Roads, opposite King George's Hall, left their home as the water rose. Jim married Chrissie, a widow with a young son, Eric Sweeting, in 1937. Chrissie was the Post Mistress at the time and continued to hold that position until the 1960s. In 1937 they moved into the Hill Road cottage and converted it into post office and home.

Jim was a market gardener and owned land high up on the hill above the cottage, where the property of *Edelweiss* is today. He became the keeper of the keys of the Hall and managed the comings and goings of those who rented and used it.



The 1938 flood brought its own watery havoc to Hill Road. The King George's Hall entrance is unreachable and water is flooding and bringing silt through the building. This view was photographed from the Arnotts' house opposite, now Frank Otter's property. Their front fence is in the foreground.

WI Collection.



Further down the road the water was wider and deeper. The Wilsons' cottage, and Bay View's Post Office is on the right, on the corner of Hill and Terrace Roads.

Wilson Collection.

His role was possibly established because of his proximity, although he was a member of the Hall Committee for years. "Get the key from Wilson" was a Village slogan. He was a stickler for the return of the key on time, and for renters to leave the Hall as they found it, to close windows and lock up. Jim was a member of the Bay View Indoor Bowls club and persevered to have the floor of the Hall repaired after the earthquake and after the flood, and kept in good order thereafter.



The 1938 flood took cars off the road and the Village and John McHardy & Sons Store is engulfed in water.

Blair Collection.



Jim and Chrissie Wilson wade through the knee high Hill Road river.

Wilson Collection.

The 1940s

"The Hall was the hub of the Village" - Avis Wakelin.

The anticipated peace that New Zealanders felt after they had been through the 'war to end all wars' was shattered when World War II was declared in 1939. Everyone everywhere was affected, including Bay View. Once more the King George's Hall became a drill hall for military training.

"Farewell concerts, for those called to serve overseas, were a regular event. They were hearty but were the saddest occasions, also," recalls Avis Wakelin (nee Calder). "Each soldier was given a farewell gift and a concert where we sang wartime favourites like *The Maori Battalion* and the songs of Vera Lynn, including the *White Cliffs of Dover*." They were great sing-alongs, tinged with tears.



Children's activities in the Hall continued through the war years and little Annette Beryl Pickering and brother, Cyril, attended a fancy dress party c.1944. Annette is typically dressed for the era, as a flower. Costumes were designed and made at home. These were frugal times, and no material or decorations were wasted.

The Pickering Collection.

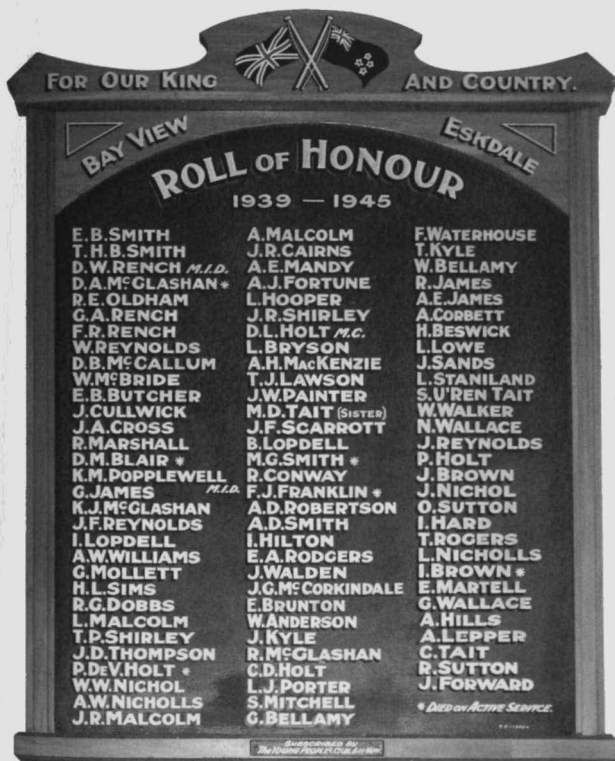
Under the leadership of the Women's Institute the whole Village rallied in a special way. The minute books tell amazing stories of how help was offered, and help was received. Marge McHardy recalled: "In 1939 when World War II was declared, we swung into action overnight so to speak."

Even the school children were involved, weaving camouflage nets for military helmets; they also collected ergot, a tiny black fungus, smaller than a grain of rice, from fescue grass which grew along the road-sides. Ergot was used to manufacture a blood co-agulant. Many empty tobacco tins were filled with ergot, and handed in to the Patriotic Board.

Fund raising was ongoing to buy transportable food and the Hall was the depot to receive donations of any sort, also the assembly point for food parcels to wrap and dispatch. New Zealanders' own food supply was rationed so there was a constant personal reminder that "we are at war". Soldered tins of cooking fat were gifted by the Bay View butcher. Up to six food parcels were assembled each month, and that quantity doubled at Christmas, elaborately packaged and dispatched. The CWI became so adept that the local councils asked them to handle their dispatches as well. And so the Hall became a sort of warehouse.

Post-war the Hall became the venue for reverse concerts – they were welcome home affairs. But the sadness was ever present in the remembrance of those that did not make it back. Rationing continued for a long time into the late 1940s as New Zealanders helped English families to survive.

New groups formed, the Indoors Sports Club in 1947, and Buffalo Lodge held their meetings in the Hall from 1949. Both moved to their own premises but were always helpful to the Hall committee and were ready to be generous when fund raising was required. Eric Sweeting recalled the youth group activities during and after World War II. A Young People's Club met fortnightly, organising dances and events to fund the Roll of Honour Board. The Tennis Club came on board to help with costs. The board hangs proudly in the Hall for all to see. Lest we forget.



Roll of Honour 1939 - 1945.

For Our King And Country. It is now half a century ago that we New Zealanders lived through World War II, fought on battlefields on the other side of the world. The Roll of Honour 1939 - 1945, hangs in King George's Hall on the right of the stage, a constant reminder of the losses to Bay View and Eskdale. The number of young people who served the country in World War II seems disproportionate to the population.

Only six failed to return, but it was six too many.

The board was subscribed by The Young People's Club, Bay View.

King George's Hall was a regular venue for wedding receptions. Often couples would marry in the Eskdale Church and retire to the Hall. In 1949 this was the choice of Avis Calder and her husband to be, Richard Wakelin.



Avis Wakelin on her wedding day 31 March 1949. She is photographed in the Robertson home talking to page boy, Guy Pickering. Avis recalls a typical wedding of the era. At the time she was working with around 20 girls, all pickers at the Robertson Gardens.

"When I told them I was engaged and the marriage plans, they all wanted to help, and they did everything. Really, I just presented myself. One of the women made the dress from 15/- fabric, the headgear was hand-made and fitted to the veil I borrowed from Thelma Pickering, and Marge McHardy did the flowers including filling the flower girls baskets. The breakfast at King George's Hall was catered for by the guests who also put on their aprons and did the washing up at the end of the occasion."

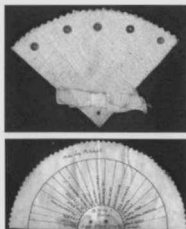
Pickering Collection.

They could have danced all night

Dances, balls and musical events were held regularly at King George's Hall after the opening in 1912. The times dictated the style and popularity.

After World War II there was a groundswell of people wanting to 'let their hair down' and have a bit of fun. Also there was the rise of a different social order. It was a new generation of Bay View-ites using the Hall. The most formal events were the debutante balls held in the 1950s. These 'coming-out occasions' were considered a rite of passage for young ladies leaving secondary school and entering society. Bay View parents and daughters welcomed the opportunity to take part. The Bay View Country Women's Institute initiated the first debutante ball on 22 June 1948, when 11 young women were 'presented' to His Worship the Mayor T. W. Herccock and Mrs Herccock of Napier.

The handcrafted souvenir programme for the 1948 debutante ball, closed and opened. They were the girls' programmes, the dances listed in sequence and they could fill in the name of the partner they accepted for each dance. This programme belonged to Joy Mitchell who was not a debut that year, but was an invited guest.



CWI Archive.

The ball was in the English tradition and followed a formal style in the fashion of the day. The official party was seated at the top of the Hall, and the debutantes, as reported by *The Napier Mail*, 24 June 1948: "... in their dainty white frocks, walked slowly to the dais, were presented by their escorts, made their curtsies to the Mayor and Mayoress, and took their positions behind the official party." The Mayor then made his formal address.



The official party and the debutantes, at the King George's Hall, 1948, for the first debutante ball. In the background are the musicians, on stage, and the arrangement of branches of trees is just visible along the rear wall. There is an aura of elegance and formality. The official party were, left to right; Mr and Mrs Les Dine and Mrs Woodward, Mayor and Mayoress of Napier, Mr and Mrs T.W. Hercock, Mr and Mrs W. Cowper Smith and Mrs A. (Marge) McHardy. The debutantes included, Left to right; Beverly McCarthy, Marjorie Le Roy, Blanche Christoffersen, Deirdre Sutton, Dulcie James, Ngaire Bruhns, Wilma (Susan) Dahm, Isobel McDougal, Doreen Stafford, Maryan Porter and Mary Bird.

CWI Archive.

The newspaper continued: "A sumptuous supper was served by members of the Institute, and dancing to the music of Les Henry's Orchestra continued until the early hours of the morning."

Deirdre Lee (nee Sutton) recalls the event and the lead up to it: "I sewed my own dress and made my own posy of roses". On the night: "We took our evening clothes and accessories to the McHardy's house, where Mrs McHardy, Marge, and our mothers helped us get dressed. Then we posed for photographs in the McHardy lounge. We walked as a group to the King George's Hall.

Was it in an excited and nervous manner? I think so. It was a good job it didn't rain!" Deirdre was presented by her father, as were most of the debutantes. She had the last dance, the waltz, with Finn Lee, her husband-to-be. Ah, romance was in the air!

The arrangement of the interior of the Hall was fitting for the occasion. The newspaper reporter wrote that it was: "most beautifully decorated by Mrs P. Pattullo who had used the Institute colours of brown and gold as the predominant colour scheme, intermingled with masses of greenery."

The next debutante ball was held three years later, on 3 July 1951. There were 12 debutantes and the occasion was as formal as the earlier event. They were presented to Mr R. Harding, Chairman of the Hawke's Bay County Council, and Mrs Harding.



The debutantes pose behind the official party at the second ball in 1951. In the front row: Mr and Mrs W. Cowper Smith (Mr Smith was the Councillor for the Petane Riding), Mr N. Harding (Chairman of the Hawke's Bay County Council) and Mrs Harding, Mrs J. Olsen, President of the Women's Institute and Mrs A. (Marge) McHardy. The debutantes, left to right are: Mary Woodward, Maureen Porter, Pamela Harvey, Jocelyn Dahm, Margaret Beattie, Jane Etheridge, Mary Blair, Ruth Palmer, Betty Bird, Betty Hambley, Jane Lawson, and Lorraine Hunt.

Mr W. Cowper Smith, Councillor for the Petane Riding and Mrs Smith, Marge McHardy and Mrs J.H.Olsen were in the official party. Around 300 dancers filled the Hall and Les Henry's Orchestra was assisted by Les Staniland's Orchestra.

The last of these balls was held on 26 May 1958. There seems to have been a decline in the popularity of the event as only six young ladies took part. The debutantes were presented to the Dominion President of the Country Women's Institute, Mrs J.W. Martin, and after her address the debutantes joined their partners and circled the floor in the debutante's waltz. The official party shown in the photograph below included: Mr D. Holt, Councillor for the Petane Riding, and Mrs Holt, Mrs N. Dorreen, and the Country Women's Institute's Federation President, and her son. The music for dancing was played by Ernie Rouse's orchestra and the supper extras were played by Les Staniland's trio.



The official photograph of the Debutante Ball at King George's Hall 26 May 1958.

The six debutantes were, left to right: Annette Pickering, Pauline Beachen, Beverley Hunt, Maia Brown, Nancy Scott and Margaret Goldsack.

CWI Archive.

The Bay View Volunteer Fire Brigade

Every village has its stories of loss through fire. So it was at Bay View. Ray Blair recalls a record of seven fires at the Petane Hotel, up until the 1950s.

When Wally and Nola (née Briasco) Atkins became residents after the Second World War, they purchased a blackened site on the eastern corner of Petane and Hill Roads in the Village. A blaze had spread into an enormous fire in 1941, and destroyed a large number of buildings including Jack and Alice Carr's Bakery, and their home next door.

The Atkins intended to rebuild on the same land, (now the site of the Four Square shop) and to open a new general store, one that would include something different - a milk bar - they were all the rage.



The Petane Village, c.1900. It was the cluster of buildings, centre left, that burnt down in 1941.

Blair Collection.

Newcomer to the district, Frank Otter became friends with the Atkins, and as an experienced grocer, working at Self Help, on Emerson Street, in Napier, offered advice. It must have been good as Frank soon became an employee. Frank's father worked for NZ Railways and had been transferred to Bay View in 1944. Frank followed, and lived with his parents on the corner of Hill and Terrace Roads, opposite King George's Hall.

Fires were on Wally Atkin's mind. Not only had he rebuilt on a site that was a constant reminder of the tragedy, but there was risk all around, especially along the edges of the railway tracks where sparks from the coal-burning steam engines, ignited the tussock grass. So Wally set up an old Dodge truck with two forty-four gallon barrels of water, and lots of wet sacks on the tray. On demand Wally and his mates could get to a fire and deal with most ground-level fires and small blazes. An alert was established by installing two siren poles; one in the Village designed with a glass box for the public to break open and activate in emergency, and the other at the King George's Hall. A pole was attached to the carbine/electricity generator shed, activated from a small, locked box. It had to be tested daily, so Frank Otter who went home to lunch, took the key and would be sure to leave work at Atkins Service Limited four minutes to noon, so he could set the siren off at 12 o'clock sharp, one ring. It was loud, no-one needed a watch or a clock at midday at Bay View!

But it was in 1947 when the Pickering's house was burnt to the ground that the community realised the matter was serious. Lives and buildings were going to continue to be lost without an adequate fire fighting service.

It was obvious that a fire station, with real engine and equipment and a fire brigade of trained volunteers, was a must for Bay View. Mind and muscle engaged and fund raising became the community project through the early months of 1950.

Wally and Nola who had the musical and theatrical skills to pull a quality performance together proposed a fund-raising concert.

The people were behind them one hundred percent, and of course, there was King George's Hall, the perfect venue for the show. Two concerts were planned, and on 2 and 5 September the sounds of music and song filled the Hall and beyond – the hills were alive! The Grand Concerts, called the First and the Second Concerts, were hugely successful and the Hall was packed on both occasions. "Everyone was marvellous, and the audience were astounded, it was such good fun, and very professional," Pam Smith (nee Harvey) recalls. Frank remembers an enthused audience member shouted "Blimey you should take this show to the Muni! That's how you'll get your money!"

And they did, and with just one performance of the "Non-Stop" Sparkling Revue, to a full house at the Municipal Theatre, the fire engine was on its way.



*Some of the members of the production team, and performers of the Bay View Volunteer Fire Brigade fund-raising concerts:
Back row: Arthur Sutton, Unidentified, Finn Lee, Neville Greig, Frank Otter and Burt Josephs.*

Middle row: Mary Woodward, Unidentified, Pamela Harvey, Joan Josephs, Nola Atkins and Wally Atkins.

Front row: Noeline Hansen, Margaret Beattie and Deirdre Sutton.

This photograph was taken when they took a night out to celebrate the success of the concerts. The occasion was the Port School Ball, 1950, held in one of the Williams and Kettle buildings on Ossian Street.

The Daily Telegraph reported that the “Non Stop Revue ... went without a hitch” and described it as “quick-fire” (no pun intended of course) “entertainment of a commendable standard... the result was a notable triumph for the producer, the artists and others... with a continuous flow of humour by the compère Mr W. Atkins. The funds of the Bay View Volunteer Fire Brigade have been augmented by over 60 pounds.”



Performers left to right; Frank Otter, Margaret Beattie, and Neville Greig. Frank Otter was the stage and scenery manager and recalls that Russell (now Sir Russell) Pettigrew supplied timber for his scenery and stage settings.

Frank Otter Collection.



The Gray twins and Noeline Hansen perform on stage.

Frank Otter Collection.

Programme

1. BEAUTIFUL EYES Dancing Debs.
2. I DON'T SEE ME Gray Twins
3. VOCAL SOLO Jim Nichol
4. THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT
 Sketch, A. Pickering and W. Atkin
5. BABY FACE Dick Lee and Noeline Hansen,
6. RECITATION Joyce Nichol
7. PIANO SOLO Marie Gannaway
8. NUNS CHORUS Cherry Robertson
9. THE OPERATION Fire Brigade Boys
10. BLUE HEAVEN Blue Rhythm
11. TALAHASSEE Andrews Twisters

INTERVAL

12. TAP DANCE Clare Kalin
13. NOW, NOW, NOW Dancing Debs.
14. SHOE SHINE BOY Dick Lee and Harry Woodward
15. SAXOPHONE SOLO Jock Stevenson
16. TENOR SOLO Sam Duncan
17. MOUTH ORGAN AND STRINGS
 Jock Spooner and Gray Boys
18. SKETCH Huberto and Party
19. MANDRAKE Jack Harvey and Dick Lee
20. COMMUNITY SING. See page 5.
21. MY HAPPINESS Gray Sisters
22. TAKING MISS MARY TO THE BALL ; Dancing Debs
23. AT THE BALL Harold Arnold, Deidre Sutton
24. SOUTH AMERICA—TAKE IT AWAY
 Andrews Twisters
25. ROOM FULL OF ROSES Cherry Robertson
26. MARGIE John Woodward and Margie Beattie
27. FAIRY BALLET Fire Brigade Boys

GRAND FINALE (BEAUTIFUL EYES)

Superintendent, Mr. HARRY WOODWARD

GOD SAVE THE KING

Compere, ARTHUR PICKERING

ORCHESTRAL—

Accompaniste, MARIE GANNAWAY.
Piano, PERCY BRIASCO; Violin, SOPHIE HARGRAVE;
Saxophone, JOCK STEPHENSON; Drums, RAY LEPPER.

PRODUCTION—

Compere, ARTHUR PICKERING.
Producer, NOLA ATKIN.
Assistant Producer, JOHN WOODWARD.
Stage Manager, FRANK OTTER.
Spot Lights, NEVILLE GREIG.
Assistants: BOYS OF THE BAY VIEW FIRE BRIGADE
Electrical Sound System, BILL PIDD and D. ATKINSON.

“Non-Stop”

PRODUCTION—

Producer - - - - - NOLA E. ATKIN
 Assistant Producer - - - JOHN WOODWARD
 Stage Manager- - - - - FRANK OTTER
 Scenery - - - - - FRANK OTTER
 Lighting Effects - - - - - NEVILLE GREIG
 Sound System - - - - - J. WHINCOP

ORCHESTRAL—

Piano - - - - - PERCY BRIASCO
 Violin - - - - - SOPHIE HARDGRAVE
 Drums and Effects - - - - - RAY LEPPER
 Trumpet - - - - - HUGH SWEENEY

Double Bass and Saxophone

Community Sing

SIDE BY SIDE

Oh, we ain't got a barrel of money,
 May be we're ragged and funny,
 But we'll travel along, singin' a song,
 Side by side.
 Don't know what's comin' to-morrow,
 May be it's trouble and sorrow,
 But we'll travel the road, sharin' our load,
 Side by side.
 Through all kinds of weather,
 What if the sky should fall,
 Just as long as we're together,
 It doesn't matter at all.
 When they've all had their quarrels and parted,
 We'll be the same as we started,
 Just travellin' along, singin' a song,
 Side by side.

DAISY BELL

Daisy, Daisy, give me your answer do;
 I'm half crazy, all for the love of you.
 It won't be a stylish marriage,
 I can't afford a carriage,
 But you'll look sweet, on a seat,
 Of a bicycle built for two.

MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC.

Put another nickel in,
 In the nickelodeon,
 All I want is having you
 And Music, Music, Music,
 I'd do anything for you,
 Anything you'd want me to,
 All I want is kissing you
 And Music, Music, Music,
 Closer, my dear, come closer;
 Is when you're dancing close to me.
 So! Put another nickel in,
 In the nickelodeon,
 All I want is loving you
 And MUSIC! MUSIC! MUSIC!

Previous page and above: The programme and words for the public sing-along at the BayView Volunteer Fire Brigade Fund-raising Concerts, 1950.

Frank Otter Collection.

The volunteer firemen were eager to take part in the shows. There were numerous skits that suited these men and Thelma Pickering saw her husband, Arthur, a strong, tall man of 6 feet 2 inches, who drove a Leyland truck for Pettigrew Transport Company by day, transformed into a fairy dressed in white tulle. For his act he curled up to ride his young son, Cyril's little two-wheeler bike across the stage. "It was an absolute scream," Cyril recalls, "... and others put themselves out to be as funny as they could. They had one skit that everyone enjoyed, we had seen it many times, but we always laughed and laughed – a large white screen was erected across the middle of the stage. Behind it a doctor performed surgery, and the intestines were removed. Sausages kept coming out and up, and more, for what seemed like ages. The whole show was just magic."

That was theatre 1950s style. Deirdre Lee who performed in the show looks back over half a century yet can recall it like yesterday.



Cherry Robertson (nee Standiland) sings Come Back to Sorrento. Cherry had a very fine voice and came from a talented musical family. Her parents were good singers as was her brother Les, who also played the piano accordion; his wife Ethel played the piano and, ukelele and a friend Ted Mandy the mouth organ. The Les Standiland Trio provided musical additions to many BayView functions.

Frank Otter Collection.

She gives credits to Nola Atkins who led the production "...a vivacious lady, talented pianist and energetic theatrical person. She could do anything and inspired all around her. She was a member of Napier Frivs, the Napier Frivolity Minstrels."

Pamela Smith adds: "It was under Nola's tuition the concert took shape. She had a great and enthusing personality, everything she touched theatrically had appeal. I loved being part of it and meeting people. I was new to Bay View and New Zealand, so enjoyed making new friends. I did many things but felt the roaring success of old favourites, in new guises. I have fond memories of singing: *If you knew Suzie* and the *Mousie* duet with Dick Lee. Also the *Nun's Chorus*, with Cherry Roberston and the Debs... how angelic we all felt and sounded. As well as performing on stage us girls dressed-up in red and white outfits, with hooped (with number 8 wire) skirts, and jaunty caps on our heads, selling programmes at the door."

Bay View did get a professional Volunteer Fire Brigade finally, a purpose-designed station building started with voluntary help from Bay View people, and completed with assistance from the County Council by the early 1960s. Harry Woodward of Bay View was the first Chief Fire Officer.

For King George's Hall the fear of fire was part of the safety precautions that the Hawke's Bay County Council implemented. Council documents from the 1970s (it could have started earlier than this) record that the Committee were required to apply for an annual licence to operate a 'Place of Public Assembly', and then abide by the regulations. An annual inspection was made and such things as adequate 'exit' signs, for quick egress, were installed, and portable fire equipment and extinguishers had to be on hand. In the 1980s the Committee were instructed to cut the long grass and weeds around the exterior of the Hall, and storage of newspapers in the cupboards had to be kept to a minimum. A year earlier the old material that used to line the walls and ceiling had to be replaced. Scrim and paper did not comply.

Special occasions

There were birthdays, dances, weddings and a special Golden Jubilee.

King George's Hall could be decorated to suit any event. One of the most dressed-up occasions was the annual flower show, organised by the Country Women's Institute. The interior of the Hall was transformed into a floral wonderland, described by Thelma Pickering, "absolutely chock-a-block with flowers, displays of all sorts by everyone – adults, beginners as well as experienced flower arrangers and children's contributions. The colour and array was unforgettable."

Birthday parties were numerous, private and public dances too, and weddings, but none as regularly as the sports groups after match activities.

The Tennis Club members used the Hall, until their land was required for the re-alignment of the Main Road North, and their courts were relocated at the Petane Domain. From the 1920s, local rugby games were played, in various paddocks, against Eskdale, Te Pohue, Kaiwaka, and Tutira, and the Hall was used for after match dances, and other rugby functions for many years.

Nancy Hammond (née Calder) celebrated her 21st birthday in King George's Hall, 21 September 1950.

Her sister Avis is with her, also grandmother, Maria Robertson, and her father, David Calder.

Pickering Collection.



The Country Women's Institute's 21st birthday in October 1952 was hailed as a model of a celebratory occasion, and an "Institute Milestone" by the local media. King George's Hall rose to the occasion. It was "artistically decorated with the Institute colours of brown and gold, with masses of spring flowers at all vantage points."

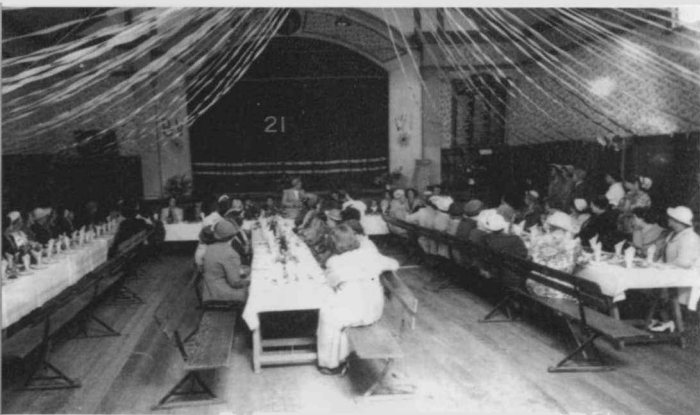


President Marge McHardy.

She set a record for her contribution to the community, much of which was through the activities of the Women's Institute.

In recognition she was awarded the Queen's Service Medal in 1981.

WI Archive.



Guests at the luncheon for the 21st birthday celebrations for the BayView Country Women's Institute. The Hall is splendidly decorated, note the 21 on the curtain - this is a new draw-curtain made by the women of the Institute in the Institute colours, a brown fabric and gold stripes. It replaced the original flat canvas curtain that rolled up like a blind.

WI Archive.

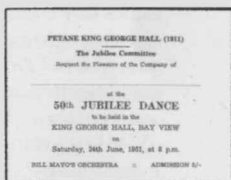


BayView Institute members were photographed 'en masse' on the occasion of the 21st birthday.

WI Archive.

The Hall was set up for a luncheon, followed by speeches, social chit-chat and a concert performance from the stage; this included the Singing Circle musical treats and a 'playette' titled *Hats and Mats*. There were dance items, including a demonstration of square dancing. Awards and trophies were presented, happy birthdays acknowledged, with musical accompaniment, and afternoon tea followed. *Auld Lang Syne* was sung heartily to conclude the day.

Almost a decade later a Jubilee Committee was formed to acknowledge the Hall's 50th birthday. The minutes of the Committee meetings include detail of how they would bring all the past members and participants together for a large happy party. A Jubilee banquet was proposed for 17 June 1961 and a dance on 24 June. All seemed in capable order, especially, as the minutes record "catering to be left in the hands of the ladies". It was indeed a splendid affair.



PETANE - KING GEORGE HALL, 1911 - 1961 JUBILEE COMMITTEE:



Back row:- 1 - r. Bertha Pettigrew, Viv McHardy, Vera Schofield, Thelma Pickering, John Olsen, Frank McHardy.
middle row:- Ron Le Quesne, Jim Brownlie, Jim Wilson, Les Stansland, Bill Mitchell, Charlie Pearcey.
front row:- unknown ?, Mavis Beattie, Muriel Mitchell, Madge Hatley, Boy McHardy, Clarice McHardy, John Shirley.

The King George's Hall Jubilee Committee 1961.

Hall Committee Archive.

Public movies had been screened for five decades in the Hall where no decoration was required. Mobile projectors and screens were brought in and set up as required by the projectionist-managers. By the 1960s the screenings were less frequent. The rental was two pounds per night and one pound per afternoon for the matinees, so the Hall Committee missed this revenue. However other renters were found. A Play Centre was formed and met regularly, the Scouts were there twice a week and the Marching Girls' Club made good use of it. Nola Atkins played for them, on the old piano, almost past its use- by date, to the best of her ability, with keys sometimes not responding to her fingers. Square dancing quite the rage from the 1950s was organised at the Hall, for all to attend, on a weekly basis. Card evenings continued, raffles raised necessary funds and in 1959 the very popular Selwyn Toogood 'It's in the Bag!' came to Bay View.

Sports and recreation

The Hall attracted sports groups of many and various kinds. The earliest was the Esk View and District Rugby Football Club Inc. established in 1933.

The games were played at different locations but when they were at Bay View (often down on the Le Quesne's field) the team and the supporters met at the Hall after the match, and again in the evening when there was a public dance. Invitations to the latter were much sought after; everyone wanted to be in for the fun.

The Club used the Hall for their end of season prize-giving function. Also for the strange event called the 'Smoke Concer'. Annually, the blokes met for a smoko in the Hall and male entertainment. There were no women present so the smoking could take place indoors; when women were present smoking was strictly banned to the outdoors. Football activities moved on to the Petane Domain in latter years.

Indoor Bowls

One Club was enduring - The Bay View Indoor Bowls Club, established in February 1958. Indoor bowling was a highly popular sport through the '50s. Clubs formed in most New Zealand towns, each wanting their own local group at a venue well-positioned geographically for attendance. And the rentals had to be affordable. King George's Hall rose to the occasion. The incoming committee elected Viv McHardy (Frank's wife) as President, Eileen Hard as Secretary and Marge McHardy and Jack Scarrott were two of the committee members. They canvassed local sports-people to join, both men and women and raised funds to buy their mats and bowls. They asked the local plumber, Mr Schofield, to build a fireproof box to store their equipment, and he did a wonderful job. It is still in use in 2011. Thirty-three fully subscribed members started that first year. Alan Pettigrew was the Patron.

Over the years the Club has maintained a high level of sportsmanship, encouraged members to think competitively and engaged with other Clubs. It has maintained a high level of quality equipment. They expanded their goals and in 1962 a Junior Club was formed, but in the quaint style of the times the Juniors had to wait on the side until a mat was free, before they could participate.



The invitation to the 45th celebratory dinner, 2003.

On this occasion the oldest life and foundation member of the Club, Vera Schofield, cut the cake. She was photographed with Judy Richards, President, who is lifting the felt.

Bay View Indoor Bowls Club.



They held their 21st birthday celebrations in the Hall in 1979 with five of the original members attending: Elaine Palmer, Irene Forward, Eileen Hard, Chas Champion and Roger Bennett. It was a cabaret evening. Despite decoration the Hall was not looking its best, showing signs of the need for major restoration, repair and renovation that would take place in the following decade, The Club donated 100 pounds towards this.

Two decades on and in 2003 a 45th birthday dinner of the Club was held and King George's Hall looked very smart for the occasion. Deirdre Lee, Life Member of the Club, and President at the time, spoke. "So folks we have used this old hall for Indoor Bowls for 45 years! When the Club started the lights were dim, the hall was a bit neglected and in disrepair, there were draughts from all directions, especially the stage area; there were actual holes in the floor, and humps and hollows of old age to contend with. Bowling at Bay View was quite challenging and unpredictable. Now, in 2003 we can really enjoy the use of the hall,

restored in all its splendour, with extra toilet facilities downstairs, excellent lighting, heating and air conditioning, a sprinkler system, improved access etc. We can feel proud that, over the years, our Indoor Bowls Club has helped to keep this old hall alive; providing an opportunity for people to play a sport that can be enjoyed at any age and at any level."

King George's Hall has been home to the Club for more than half a century now. Its membership stands at a comfortable 28, with provision for a full house of six mats. They are in good heart and operating with the same *raison d'être* and ambition envisaged by that small group of eager beavers in 1958.



The insignia of the Eskview Badminton Club, designed by Dorothy Lumsden.

Lance Curry Collection.

Badminton

Garth Curry is the acknowledged 'Father of Badminton' at Bay View, establishing the Eskview Badminton Social Club in 1971.

Garth Curry's BayView Butchery at the Village, a new building constructed in 1966, by local builder Rex (Frog) Jenner. The willow trees behind the shop define the bank of the stream. During construction of the new shop the area was cleared and the remains of the original jetty where boats once moored, was visible. The river often overflowed its banks and the Village flooded during periods of heavy rain. Lance Curry recalls watching the backyard fill with water and their firewood floating down Petane Road towards the Village!

Lance Curry Collection.



However Garth did have other claims to fame. He was the butcher in the village for many decades, and earned an even greater reputation. "Ask anyone – Garth made the best bangers in the Bay" is the opinion of the residents. The recipe remains a guarded secret.

Garth and his wife, Grace Dawn, came to Napier in late 1950s, they had two children; Alayne, and then Lance. Garth bought the Petane Butchery and went into business with George Andrews; later he worked on his own and renamed the business Bay View Butchery.

The family lived in Napier town when they first arrived, and Garth played badminton with the Napier Club at the old military Drill Hall in Coote Road, next to the Centennial Gardens.

When they moved to 22 Petane Road, in 1961, it was too far to travel to Napier, and Garth missed his sport. However they had a big yard behind their house, that Garth levelled and grassed, kept well mown, painted with white lines defining the court and set up the net. Within a short time badminton became a popular Bay View sport and, with local support, Grant proposed formalising a club based at King George's Hall - it was an ideal building with a high ceiling, and floor space that was perfectly proportioned for the game.

Thirty-two interested persons met and held the first annual general meeting on 14 April, 1971 at King George's Hall. They elected a committee of four: President, Garth Curry; Secretary, Len (Chook) Herrick and two Club Captains, Dorothy Lumsden and Yvonne Robertson.

They agreed that Wednesday would be their Club night, from 5.30 – 7.00 p.m. for Juniors and 7.00 – 10.00 p.m. for Seniors, during the winter months. The fees were set at a seasonal \$2 per Junior, and \$4 per Senior, plus 20 cents per night to cover the cost of equipment. Racquets were made available for those that did not own them, and shuttlecocks were supplied. There was huge enthusiasm and by 1975 the Club boasted a zenith membership – 27 men, 23 women, 14 boys and 7 girls!



Garth Curry is pictured announcing awards and presenting cups and trophies at the Eskview Badminton Club prize giving, 1975. To his right is David Large and behind him, Len Herrick.

Lance Curry Collection.

And they were getting competitive, they wanted to play inter-club and advance the regional and national ladder of success. So the Club moved from its beginnings of simply playing socially to being affiliated with the Hawke's Bay Badminton Association. Members could play against other clubs, enter tournaments and compete in interclub matches that the Association organised.

Garth and Grace Dawn's son, Lance, was one of the most ambitious. He was 12 years old when the Club started. He recalls his youthful keenness and how he crept in under the Hall at the stage end, and got in through the storage area, then set up the net and practised his serves. This was early morning stuff when most folks were sensibly sleeping! He remembered the land sloped away at the rear of the building. The rear wall had double doors that opened widely for access. As a small boy he was told that this was to provide space to corral a horse under cover, and to store feed

for them. Those were the days when country folk still rode their horses to Bay View to do some shopping and visiting. This included women attending the Country Women's Institute meetings. Lance worked in the local orchards to earn pocket money to buy a steel racquet and was thoroughly motivated to excel. It paid off and Lance became the most highly capped player of the Club, and a sports' name in Hawke's Bay.

BADMINTON TROPHIES

Eskview Badminton Club members and friends attended the annual social and presentation of trophies at Bay View. The president, Mr Garth Curry, presented the trophies and the Hawke's Bay president, Mr Lauretta Fergusson, presented Mr Lance Curry with a Hawke's Bay junior pocket.

Awards were:

McKinnie Cup, women's singles, Gwenda Howard; Curry Cup, men's singles, Lance Curry; plate round, men's singles, Bevan Gattsche; Brownlie Trophy, women's doubles, Gwenda Howard and Marion Sturm; Kempton Cup, men's doubles, David Large and Keith Eyles; Bon Lopdell Cup, mixed doubles, Lance Curry and Marion Sturm; most improved players, Marion Sturm (women), Geoff Keogh (men); Boy McHardy Cup, best club member, Dorothy Lumsden; Young Motors Trophy, sportsmanship, Yvonne Robertson; women's ladder, Gwenda Howard; men's ladder, Lance Curry.

Media clipping reporting the winners of the badminton prizes, 1975.

Garth Curry was honoured with Life Membership in 1977, early in the Club's history. Dorothy Lumsden, a long serving Secretary had to wait a bit longer, until 1991. Over the years many contributed to the success of badminton at Bay View, too many to roll call here, but the late Bevan Gattsche deserves a mention as he went way beyond the call of duty in his attention to the interior condition of the Hall, painting it and keeping it looking good. Gwenda Howard was one of the strongest women's players with a sustained period of playing for the Club; it was fitting that her funeral service was held in the same Hall, in 2005.

After two full decades the last annual general meeting of the Club was held on 7 April, 1993. Not long after that the Club went into recess. Most of the many fine silver cups and trophies, evidence of the competition within the Club, have survived, likewise the papers and administrative records that tell their own story of all the people who gathered at the Hall to enjoy sport and camaraderie.

Theatricals

There have been theatricals at King George's Hall for a long time.



Architect Louis Hay must have had excellent performances and quality drama in mind, as he designed this hall with a most elegant stage and a proscenium arch, in the old theatre tradition. As a flute player who performed in public, and an architect, he understood acoustics. He balanced the shape and form of the Hall so that neither aspiring thespians and musicians nor the audience would be compromised in their enjoyment. The stage was 'raked' in classical stage construction, that is it was sloped from the rear to the front, in order that players at the back of the stage could be seen better. At one time during renovations, 50 years on, builders tried to flatten it. They gave up after the architectural feature was explained to them.

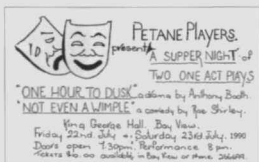
The original light box running along the front of the stage is extant, a wonderful reminder of old-fashioned theatre. It sits flat on the edge and can be lifted up, like a trap door, and folded back to form a raised, boxed shelf. The wooden side faces the audience and the other side is open to the stage. Originally candles, then gas lanterns and, later electric bulbs provided foot level lighting. These boxes, in the traditional way are lined in metal to avoid the risk of fire.

The original curtain for the stage was a flat sheet of canvas that rolled up like a blind, or an awning. Joseph Milne, (brother of Alexander who was projectionist for the movies for many years) believed it needed decoration and painted a Venetian scene in oils, complete with gondolas and Italian buildings. Another backdrop was painted for the back of the stage, also a Venetian scene. This could be rolled up and taken offstage when not required, revealing a panelled, tongue- and-groove timber wall.

The Bay View Women's Institute led the way for drama at the Hall. In 1933 six members performed *A Domestic Entanglement*. But taking the matter into a formal context in 1937 the Committee

decided to form a Drama Circle, and play readings and public performances followed. On their 19th birthday in 1950, Marge McHardy produced her version of *To Be Or Not To Be*, which seemed to herald the 'to be' decade of the 1950s, a great one for the Institute. One act plays were a speciality, first performed in the Hall and then taken on to other venues. Some were entered competitively into the area festivals, with good results and in 1981 the Drama Circle worked towards the Golden Jubilee to be held in September. They presented a review of *Theatre Through The Ages*, conceived and scripted by Joy Howard. One of the acts was a circus scene. This required a tightrope performance and Karen Harrap walked like a professional, and fooled the audience that this was the real thing!

Theatre is so much about illusion and the King George Hall was perfect for modification and adaptation. Although the stage was small it was possible to create scenes that stretched the imagination. Using either stage and the Hall floor, or both, the shows could be presented in open plan format or intimate settings, cabaret style or traditional theatre with equal success. Acoustics add to the aura of performance and Janet Robertson recalls that originally it was possible to hear every sound effect, music and full tonal range of a performer's voice in the Hall, even the lightest whisper from the stage was audible at the entrance door, as the acoustics were finely tuned. But this changed when the scrim that covered the upper wall (above the wainscoting) and ceiling was replaced by Gibraltar Board to meet fire safety requirements.



Petane Players' invitation to a night at the theatre, 1990.

Theatre Company Archive.

The Bay View Theatre Company rued the day the edict was received, and compromised by hanging curtains to absorb some of the unwanted echo.

In the late 1980s a new company, The Petane Players Theatre Group was established. A new era in theatre in Bay View and King George's Hall had arrived.



The cast of the one act play Covenant of Death performed in 1989, on stage at King George's Hall. Written by Margaret Woods, produced by Janet Robertson and directed by Wendy Doole, the players from left to right are: Joy Howard, Julie Glazier, Karen Harrap, Jan Marrington, Sue Burgess, Jo Drager and Veronica Warring.

Theatre Company Archive.

Membership included both men and women and it opened up the opportunity for entry into wider theatrical circles including New Zealand Theatre Federation competitions. Petane Players chose to be adventurous and they had the skills and the talent. They could write, produce and perform anything! They embraced both the community performances and theatre competition; they presented musicals, reviews and pantomimes - that included the local identities and children - as well as serious theatre work. They entered the New Zealand Theatre Federation competitions many times and with great success. In 1991 the play *Discovered Loves* written by Neil Stratton, and directed by Janet Robertson, took them into the national finals. By popular request it was performed again in Napier.

During this time a name change was discussed. Other competitors asked "Where is Petane?" And so The Bay View Theatre Company was born. Janet Robertson's devoted years of production and direction, and Joy Howard's creative and musical skills have built an admirable reputation for the Company. They call the Hall 'home', and perform plays, reviews and, annually, a *Carols in the Hall* show. With the inevitable twist of humour (their forté) they presented *An Upside Down Christmas* in 2009, described as the true story of Christmas with an up-to-date flavour.

The Players have their own purpose-designed building to store their costumes and props; it sits at the rear of the Hall property.



Theatricals at King George's Hall on the night of the Women's Institute's Christmas party, 13 December 2005. Here Lesley Harrison and Joy Howard perform their version of a Topp Twins number. Joy's yodelling brought the hall into hushed silence!

Anne Compton Photograph.

Law and order

Policing was formally established at Petane in 1923. Prior to that the residents maintained good behaviour, and dealt with issues in their own manner, a sort of 'frontier-town' style that worked well.

But societal change is inevitable and in 1923 Constable Andrew James Thompson was transferred from Porangahau to the new post established at Petane. By 1928 his new beat was comfortably set-up with home and Petane Police Station combined, at Mrs Tacon's White House on Petane Road. By 1930 the area had changed its name to Bay View and so the Station was renamed, Bay View Police Station, to avoid confusion with the Petone Police Station near Wellington.

An aspect of the human safety side of policing came to the fore when the Hawke's Bay earthquake struck the area in 1931. The natural disaster that opened up and recontoured the land, demolished built structures and caused a panic amongst the people, was something even the best of police training had not prepared Constable Thompson for. However law and order did prevail with everyone pitching in to make the best of the chaos happening before their eyes. But after the event Thompson needed to move on, and in 1932 he was replaced by Constable Darcy Walden. Darcy came from Tokomaru Bay and would stay for 18 years, until his retirement.

Joan the second child to Myra and Darcy Walden was five years old when they arrived and rode her pony with Thelma Robertson on her first day to Eskdale primary school. From 1938 she boarded at Solway College in Masterton for her secondary schooling, but always looked forward to coming home and meeting up with a young farmer known as Fred from *White Pines* at Kaiwaka. His real name was Alfred Charles Jessep and he served as a pilot in World War II. Joan waited for his return before she had her 21st birthday at King George's Hall. Joan recalled the events at King George's Hall during the 1940s and 1950s, as do many of the residents. Frank Otter said "On many Saturday nights, Ernie Rouse and his

Constable Darcy Walden, c.1920. A good, experienced rider he was appointed Tokomaru's first mounted policemen. He married Myra Whitehouse and they had three children, John, Joan and Bruce at Tokomaru. When John was ready for secondary schooling Darcy applied for a transfer to a place where a college was available. And so the family arrived at Bay View and John attended Napier Boys' High School.

Jessep Collection.



band provided the music for a happy night of dancing. Around 9 pm Constable Walden would appear, in full uniform, including his bobby's helmet. He'd enquire "everything under control here?" He'd look around and the demure innocence of the participants was clear for all to see. He'd leave and sighs of relief followed – now they could get down to having a really good time!"

One of Joan's memories captured the personality of her father, and his role as a policemen. During one of the balls, the whole village was involved, but Darcy found two little girls crying outside the Hall - they wanted to see the ball. Why couldn't they go inside? Darcy told them to hush and if they kept very quiet he would show them something of what was going on. He heaved both girls on a shoulder each and they peered through the high windows at the front of the building

Constable Darcy Walden and his wife, Myra, were present in the Hall on a very special occasion in 1950. On his retirement, the Napier Police and the residents of the Bay View staged a fitting event for this very popular and friendly neighbourhood copper, and presented him with an inscribed silver tray and tea service.

Constable Arthur Osborne replaced Constable Walden and stayed until 1967. A purpose-designed residential Police Station was built in 1953. Many fine Police Officers followed.

Church Services, Sunday Schools and special events.

The place to meet old friends and make new ones.
Martin Yeoman, *The Napier Courier* 2006.

During World War II and for many years after, Avis Wakelin remembers the Anglican church services that were held in the Hall. "I think we had petrol rationing and could not easily get to church at other places. We looked forward to those Sunday mornings. We sang wonderful hymns with piano accompaniment by Mona Christoffersen. I, and my cousin Thelma, had our babies baptised there. Reverend Cameron took the service."

Thelma Pickering recalls going to the Bay View Sunday School at King George's Hall during the 1920s. It was organised by the Brethren Gospel Hall whose main church was in Carlyle Street, Napier. For many years it was led by Robert McGill a businessman and clothing retailer in the city, and his daughter Marie took the Sunday school sessions. Early families involved were the Harrisons, Hunts, McArthys and Gilberts.

Although Thelma Robertson was a Sunday School attendee at the Hall, she wanted to be married in a real church. Here she and her husband Arthur Pickering are photographed on 8th March 1940, before they leave the Eskdale Church after their marriage service. They then moved on to the King George's Hall for their wedding breakfast. This was a fairly typical choice of the marriage day arrangements, for young couples in Bay View at this time.



Pickering Collection.



Bay View Junior Sunday School, 1960. The teachers form the left are: Alf Bell, and Eric, Betty and Martin Hughes.

Martin Yeoman Collection.

Mr Gilbert would pick up children in his car and deliver them to the Hall each Sunday. Avis loved going each week, and attended from seven years of age. "We sang hymns, listened to bible stories and were given a card with a bible quote on it that we were asked to memorise and repeat the next week. They put on lovely Christian pageants and afternoon tea."

In the 1950s Martin Yeoman was invited to become the Superintendent of the Bay View Sunday School which was still an outreach of the Carlyle Street Gospel Hall, Napier. He recalls the popularity of it and the attendance of 30 to 40 children. The highlight of the year was the winter festival when in an elaborately decorated Hall "recitations, songs, plays and various skits" were performed. For some years Fact and Faith nature films were screened and "to publicise these, Vas Vivian, a trumpeter, flew low over the village in Charlie Janes's *Auster*, playing tunes through a loud speaker and letting everybody know what was going on at the Hall." Out of the Sunday School developed the Every Boys and Every Girls Rally and then a senior youth group. They were very active and enjoyed "many escapades and at one stage numbered 186 participants."

In 1985 the Bay View Community Church was established in the Hall and ran for ten years.

The Bay View Sixty-Plus Club was a popular focus for people to gather and was started in 1987 and led by Desiree Yeoman. Monthly meetings included an acknowledgement of members' birthdays, a bracket of popular songs, musical items and demonstrations and a speaker followed by a five-minute devotional talk and afternoon tea.



Desiree and Martin Yeoman were photographed by The Napier Courier in 2006, inside the Hall. "King George's Hall was like a second home to us," Martin said.

The Napier Courier 30 March 2006.



Stuart Robertson, Custodian of the Hall, often acts as Master of Ceremonies for an event, and during the Bay View Theatre Company's Christmas Show, 2009, he was pictured here as sound controller.

Anne Compton Photograph.

The variety, style, and numbers of the users of the Hall change from month to month, and year to year. Community needs come and go. Stuart Robertson, Custodian, calls it “the do-it-yourself Hall. It’s a popular venue for 21sts, weddings, reunions, any party actually. You can decorate it yourself and do your own catering or you can call caterers in. Everything is there.”



In 2005 the Indoor Bowls Club arranged to hold a special bowls evening for the Country Women's Institute. Two mats were out for the occasion although the Hall can accommodate six when required. This photograph of the interior of the Hall shows off the batten timbered ceiling and is an excellent full width view of the stage end of the Hall. Note the portrait of King George V at the top of the proscenium arch. The curtain is the third one for the Hall, designed by Peg Hopcroft, a skilled craftsperson who led the WI members and encouraged people in the Village to “lend a hand”. This was the early 1990s. It took many full days of work of laying out, sewing and assembling in the Hall, and hanging with the assistance of Norman Compton. A fine example of true labours of love that have been the strength of the life of King George's Hall.

Anne Compton Photograph.

Repairs and renovation

The general maintenance of King George's Hall over the years was steady. There were no extravagances, balancing the books and providing a hall for a community at affordable rates were the objectives.

Finances were always tight, rental payments did not cover expenses and only donations and personal efforts kept the Hall intact. Costs always rose, so improvements were often pared back to affordable levels. So it became a piecemeal maintenance operation.

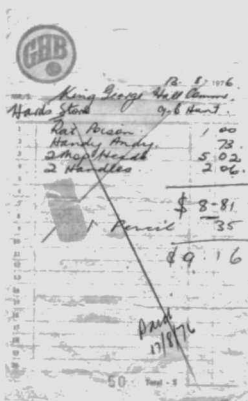
The Country Women's Institute were the regular users and observers, and over the years were generous in cash and kind. They concerned themselves with every aspect from the grounds - they provided shrubs and plants - to funding improvements to the kitchen, kitchen equipment and funds towards the piano and its tuning and many other projects. Thelma Pickering, who has been going to Institute for 76 years (first with her mother, Maria Robertson and then a member herself, and a former President) recalls the giant clean-ups before the events.



A derelict King George's Hall.

1 The Daily Telegraph August 1984

Thelma recalls how “Marge McHardy would get everyone cracking with brooms and mops and buckets to clean the place up; and then we attended to the decorations.” Avis Wakelin remembers Marge’s wonderful floral arrangements; regardless of the condition, the Hall could be transformed into something special. The supper room and kitchen however, needed modernising. How long would they have to boil the copper for hot water? Avis recalled the dish washing that went on, ladling water to the sink, and Miss Tollerton from “Sunny Nook” on the beach, who consistently volunteered the task of dish washer.



Evidence of the clean-up efforts!
A receipt from the GHB Store,
13 August 1976

Hall Committee Archive

The Institute was not the only concerned user; others played their part but not sufficiently as the business of owning and managing a hall was so big. Through the 1970s the situation became dire, and at one meeting it was reported that the flooding under the stage and at the street entrance was untenable, in some places the piles of the Hall were not meeting the floor, the stage had a huge lean on it, the roof leaked, the ceiling needed painting even more so than the walls, and the rats had made it their home. The latter needed to be eradicated, and the basement area under the stage needed to be concreted.

Bernie Hunt, the long-suffering Secretary, was doing his best and acknowledged the problems. For years under the stage was a storage area for horse feed and a dumping ground for all sorts; and it flooded. Of course it needed attention, but who would take up the challenge? Bernie and the Hall Committee Chairman, Neville Greig, were struggling to maintain interest and momentum, not only with the Committee members but also with the community at large.

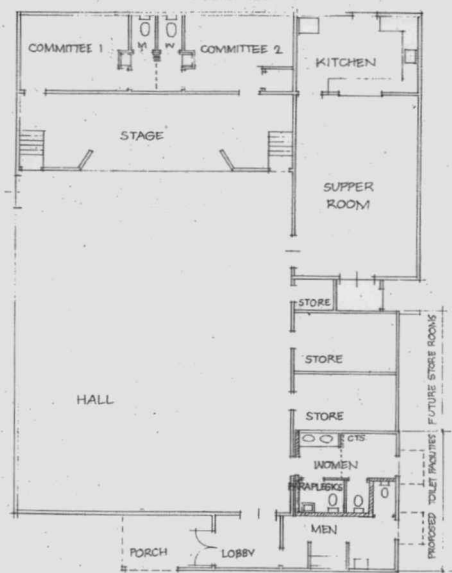
The long-standing Trustee of twenty years, Les Staniland, wanted to see the ownership and management of the Hall reviewed. It was a great burden of responsibility for just three Trustees who were effectively the owners on behalf of the community. He believed it would be best gifted to the Hawke's Bay County Council. The residents were against this, yet without committed community input the existing situation could not be sustained. Bernie Hunt, who had chaired the Committee for more than a decade was acknowledged as the man who held it all together. "He worked alone and it has been a long road to hoe," said resident Ray Blair. This was endorsed by Marge McHardy for the "one man job he had done," at a public meeting on 10 July 1984, looking back on a difficult period.

Bernie Hunt had taken up a crusade of his own in the 1970s, to prevent the building of a motel complex on the land on the western side of the Hall. He believed that as a commercial operation motels would drive the Council to implement rules around public events and private functions, and stringent conditions of traffic and noise control. Council would be obliged to issue compliances that would drive the Hall to closure. In this matter he was well supported by his Chair, Committee and the community. Bernie won that battle, and the motel development did not proceed.

In 1977 the Trustees were advised by the Public Trust that Arthur James McHardy had bequeathed one thousand pounds towards the cost of running the Hall. This was a windfall indeed, the McHardy family continuing even in death to be major benefactors of the Hall.

On receipt of this bequest Bernie Hunt and Neville Greig felt sufficiently confident to approach architect, R. Martin Yeoman, of Yeoman, Julier & Associates to inspect the Hall and make recommendations for upgrade, restoration and extensions. Martin was no stranger to the Hall as he led and took part in many of the activities, and he responded on 23 June 1977 with a full report including plans, specifications and a cryptic list of "suggested priorities". There was a lot to be done, more than daunting to contemplate, and most would not proceed until the 1980s.

The Hall users in the 1970s included the Bay View Play Centre, a much-appreciated place for mothers and children to socialise, with educational play time for the pre-schoolers. Others, apart from the regulars who are included individually in this story, included the Bay View Marching Club, the Ballet Dance Group Town and Country Tae Kwon Do, the Pistol Club, and Eskview Marching Team, Ramblers Cycling and the Softball and Basketball Clubs who made the Hall their head quarters. People could join Jazzercise or the Keep Fit Club, become basket weavers and have fun at the Gemini Star Discos and married couples could be sure of a great night out at the Benedict's Ball.



KING GEORGE HALL, BAYVIEW SCALE: 1:100
 PLAN SHOWING EXISTING HALL & FUTURE ADDITIONS

Floor plans for alterations to the Hall, drawn by Martin Yeoman, c.1977.

Hall Committee Archive

Restoration and revival

The 1980s and 1990s were decades of major change in restoration and revival of the Hall, its management structure and renewed popularity.

It started in the early 1980s when the condition of the building had worsened, and the evidence of disrepair could not be ignored. It was possible the Hall could be shut down and the community would lose its greatest asset.

Those most concerned were the Bay View Women's Institute and they put out a call for help. A public meeting on 10 July 1984 was attended by 35 people demonstrating that the public shared the concern, and there was unanimous agreement to work on a recovery plan. Welcomed to the meeting by Marge McHardy, President of the Institute, the Chair was then taken by Jennie Langley, the local Councillor of the Petane Riding, Hawke's Bay County Council. Jennie Langley, elected in 1983 and serving a three-year term was a keen supporter of the Hall. It was an informal meeting and was followed a month later by a formal one later to elect a steering committee. They needed leadership and it fell to Ray Blair (descendant of the McHardys), to take the mantle of Chairmanship of the Hall Restoration Committee. He and his wife, Violet, had been working in the background for some time, but now he could set to on serious work. The members were: Linda Mortensen, Secretary, Bernie Hunt, Janet Worfolk, Martin Yeoman, Jennie Langley, Ken Owen and Neville Greig.

In his first report, Ray commented that through the 1960s and 1970s with "... increased mobility, many Bay View people travelled to town to attend functions, the use of the hall dropped off, and maintenance fell behind. But within recent years there has been a resurgence in community identity and activity, and the hall is now in constant use for such activities as the Women's Institute, bowls, badminton, ballet, Sunday School, youth activities, regular church services, Sixty-Plus Club and family celebrations."

The first action was fund-raising for Hall improvements. Martin Yeoman's list of priorities and plans for restoration, alteration and expansion drawn up in the late 1970s, were brought out again. Restoration would be slowly implemented as funds and workers were available. Quotes were sought and events planned to bring in the necessary dollars. It brought people together and the Committee received publicity and arranged effective advertising.

\$1900 raised for hall



The 1980s and 1900s were decades of major change in restoration and revival, management structure and renewed popularity of the Hall. The local newspaper reported one of the Bay View King George's Hall Committee fund-raising events. This gala was typical of the successful activities. Pictured were children from Greenmeadows taking part in the fancy dress competition: Lynda Bradley aged seven years, a bride, sister Jayne, and six years old, in islander's dress, Amy Sawyer, seven years old is an Indian squaw, and Jessica Staples, six years old was a clown. The target for funding was \$20,000 and \$1,900 was raised at this gala.

The Daily Telegraph 10 December 1984.

A gala day was announced in December 1984. On 8 December the State Highway closed and from 10 am to 4 pm market stalls, entertainment, a DIC fashion parade and a Christmas Parade were staged. A two-day Dutch festival was organised in 1985 concluding with a 'closing ball' on 30 August. They called it The TULIP Festival, meaning The Understanding and Love between International Peoples. It was the brain child of Lettie Kampkes who managed it, and went on to create the Taradale Festival the following year. They raised \$2,656.18 for the Hall; but the organisers achieved other worthy objectives also, bringing many people together to understand Dutch culture, cuisine and arts and crafts. It was a marvellous effort from newcomers to the area. Only six Dutch families lived in the Eskdale, Bay View and Westshore area, but others in the greater Hawke's Bay joined in. People talked about the event for weeks afterwards. A great time had been had by all.

The Petane Lions' Club Country Fair was another highly successful fund-raising initiative, the first fair opened in 1986 and two followed until 1988. There were profits made at the annual Children's Christmas Party and regular dances, dinners and shows added to the coffers. The Frivolity Minstrels' performances were always popular and their donations were generous. Large and small, it all added up. In 1986 a house-to-house appeal raised \$1,115, the Old Buffalo Lodge donated \$25.00 and Glenvale Vineyards donated wine for the Restoration Dinner in July when Claret and Muller Thurgau were served.



The Tulip Festival. Women dancers performed in the Hall, dressed in traditional costumes from the village of Volendam. They were made by Ma van Berkel. In the picture Annelies van der Linden and Coby Fontein lead the group; choreography and training by Loes Wout, a dance instructor from Amsterdam.

Annelies van der Linden Photograph.

That year weatherboards were replaced and through the government and PEP scheme and the Salvation Army the building was painted, window frames were repaired and painted, and piles under the stage were renewed on a concrete slab at a cost of \$2,180.00, with the Petane Lions' Club providing the labour.

In July 1987 the Hawke's Bay County Council gave \$1,000 and the NZ Lotteries Grants Board \$2,760. The grant applications were starting to reap rewards. In 1988 an un-named benefactor gifted \$30,000, later identified as Mr and Mrs Cyril Isaacs' personal donation through the Kingdom Foundation Trust; making the roof replacement possible. Mrs Isaacs was the Patron of the newly formed Petane Players and it was her enthusiasm for their future that engendered the donation so that the Hall would be sound to work in and suitable for public performances in the years ahead. A further \$1,000 was raised locally and in 1989 a grant from the NZ Historic Places Trust of \$2,812.00 was received.



Tickets to events are evidence of the enthusiasm of the BayView people to raise the profile of King George's Hall and the finances for the restoration projects. The cover of the exhibition catalogue Village Faces To Remember, is a reminder of the work by artist, Judy Evans; portraits of local identities were for sale.

Hall Committee Archive.



An issue for the new Committee was the ownership of the Hall and land. The original Board of Trustees ownership/management system that had been set up in 1911 had been mooted as an outdated model for many years. It was time for change and a decision was reached, unanimously, to form an Incorporated Society. King George's Hall Incorporated was duly registered in 1985. Fifteen members had signed the application for incorporation and effectively became the new owners, albeit on behalf of the people of Bay View.

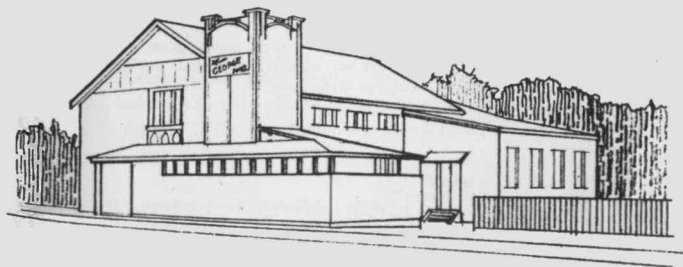
The matter of heritage

"The Hall is a magnificent old hall."

Martin Yeoman, architect.

As the restoration of the Hall took shape, the public could see the value in the fine old building. This was something that Martin Yeoman, architect, had known all along but he had been frustrated for many years in obtaining the restoration budget required. By the late 1980s it became easier to obtain grants.

The restored Hall took many years to complete, from 1987 into the new century. In the 1990s, \$84,000 was raised and \$83,230.00 spent. The Kingdom Foundation Trust, Napier City Council, and the NZ Lotteries Grants Board and the McHardy Trust all gave substantial donations that combined with personal and commercial donations, and fund-raising events made it happen.



EXTENSIONS TO KING GEORGE HALL

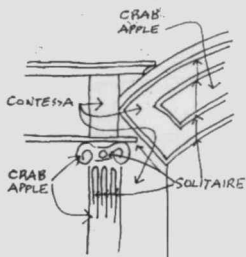
Architectural drawing of the Hall of the future, including the upgrade and future additions, drawn by Martin Yeoman. c. 1991.

Hall Committee Archive.



Herbert (Herbie) Kempton painting the timber mouldings on the curved arch of the proscenium, 1988. He has completed the rosettes and has started on the pilasters each side of the stage.

Athenie Kempton Photograph.



Martin Yeoman's sketch of the proscenium arch and specified paints from the Resene colour charts, 1987.

Major work to the interior of the Hall costing up to \$15,000 made a huge difference to the enjoyment of the events.

Hall Committee Archive.

The New Zealand Historic Places Trust had a role to play from 1988 when the Hall Committee wrote to the Hawke's Bay Branch Committee of the Trust, requesting a grant to meet some part of their restoration budget. The letter dated 10 May 1988 was attached a three page summary of the work required to be done and their fund-raising efforts, successes and plans for the future. It was a thoughtful and sound application and in 1989 the Committee received a cheque for \$2,500.

Interviewed in 2010 pending the Centenary, Guy Natusch said that "today the Hall is held in high public esteem, no doubt helped by the unusual detailing and style of both the exterior and interior." His architectural praise of the Louis Hay design is faint, but positive: "While it may not be of great architectural significance, the somewhat eclectic design of the front of the building is interesting and probably reflects a stage in the architect's study of styles, when he was inclined to combine detail and form from different styles, sometimes with a loss of architectural integrity. This is evident in the tower above the front entry. However, overall King George's Hall is an interesting and valuable example of those many halls serving our rural communities."

Sufficiently valuable for Guy to have recommended that the building be registered, with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust in 1988, when he was on the Hawke's Bay Branch Committee. He would have been concerned about the future of the building at that time, but it seems the registration was proposed but not followed up. In the late 1990s, registration was raised again, but again did not proceed.

However, in 2011 when the Hall is under Napier City Council's safe ownership and care, and with a listing on the Council's District Plan Heritage Inventory, New Zealand Historic Places Trust registration is not as important.

Bay View set to toast completed hallmark

IT'S TIME TO celebrate at Bay View's King George's Hall to mark the completion of final renovation work.

On Saturday a celebration breakfast is being held at the hall for people involved in hall fundraising, work and use, for Bay View residents in general, plus anyone else interested.

Over the years, King George's Hall has been repaired, painted, updated, refurbished and generally renovated both outside and in.

One of the oldest halls in the Napier area, its foundation pile was laid on June 22, 1911 — the coronation day of King George V — and it was officially opened on Empire Day, May 24, 1912.

It was one of the early works of Napier architect J A Louis Hay and has an Historic Places Trust B classification.

Since its opening, it has served as a social centre for the community, being well used by a variety of groups, including the Bay View CWI which has met there for all of its 64 years to date. Other major users these days are the Petane Players, Bay View Church, Sixty Plus movement, and indoor



INSIDE the refurbished King George's Hall, hall committee publicity officer Anne Compton displays photographs of early Bay View and the hall as it was. In the background are the stage curtains made by women on the committee.

bowls group. It is headquarters for Bay View civil defence and is used as an election booth as well as for large school functions and social occasions such as weddings and 21st birthdays.

In 1984, a committee was set up to restore and

update the hall. With the support of the community, it has organised many activities from then on to raise funds for the work. These efforts have been supplemented by various grants, donations and bequests. Expenditure since 1984 has amounted to \$112,822.

The latest work to be completed is the building of ground-floor cloakrooms and toilets and a new front entrance with wheelchair access.

Tickets for the celebration breakfast, costing \$12, are available by phoning 836 6424.

A celebration to mark the progress on the restoration of the Hall was held on 24 February 1996. Anne Compton, the Hall Committee's publicity officer arranged a media story and invitations were distributed.

The Courier-Leader 22 February 1996

King George Hall, Inc.

Celebration Breakfast

from 8.30 a.m.

on Saturday, 24th February, 1996

Nº 117 Tickets \$12.00 per person

KING GEORGE HALL OPEN DAY



Saturday 17th April
from 10.00am - 3.00pm

STATIC DISPLAYS



LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Come and see what your Bay View-community can offer you.

LEISURE INTERESTS

- ◆ **FOR ALL AGES-**
(from children to Senior Citizens)
- ◆ **FOR VARIOUS ACTIVITIES**
to suit all lifestyles -
evenings, half day, full day
- ◆ **TO CATER FOR ALL TASTES**
indoors and outdoors

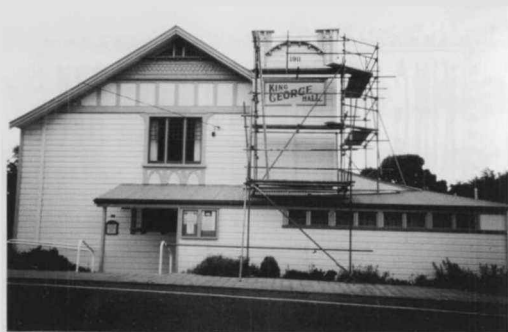
Organised by the King George Hall Inc committee in recognition of a Lottery Board grant for the installation of a fire sprinkler system.

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO BREAK OUT!!!

King George's Hall Open Day on 17 April 1999 was promoted in recognition of the grant received from the NZ Lotteries Grants Board, this was to cover the cost of installing a fire sprinkler system. The invitation was printed on gold parchment paper.

Hall Committee Archive.

The Napier Heritage Trail group recognised the heritage value of the Hall early in the 1990s. They included it in the Napier Bay View Heritage Trail leaflet, a guide to the history of the area. This was launched by Chairperson Anne Tolley in 1991.



Two views of the tower restoration in 2000. The Petane Lions' Club was a major fund raiser and worker for this project.



Anne Compton Photographs.

In the year 2000 the tower refurbishment was completed. The freshly decorated hall and new facilities increased hireage and a higher rental was able to be charged for private functions. This proved these were essential to the Hall's function as a public asset.

Jack Harwood says "The Hall is the only original old public building in Bay View, its antique! All the others have been replaced. But the Hall remains, and partly it is due to the fact that we had the sprinkler system installed." As the lead builder on the renovation and restoration Jack worked closely with Martin Yeoman who had taken a voluntary role, worked tirelessly and always applied professional standards. "He deserves a medal," Jack said, Martin responded to Jack's comment; "It is Jack that deserves one!" However it is significant to note that Martin received a Citizen's Service Award from the Napier City Council, presented on 6 November 1996.

Joining Napier

In the late 1970s there was talk of local body amalgamation - that the Petane Riding, then under the jurisdiction of the Hawke's Bay County Council should be re-configured and become part of the Napier City Council.

For years Petane, and then Bay View, residents were so isolated from Napier that they contained themselves in their own community. Their Council representative on the Hawke's Bay County Council from 1920 – 1940 was Charles Cowper-Smith, elected repeatedly over twenty years. Issues arising about their area, and King George's Hall always came to his attention, life was lived at a steady pace and changes took time. Napier connections built up slowly - road improvements, the railway, the embankment bridge that opened in 1924 and Westshore's amalgamation with Napier Borough Council in 1942 were positive moves. However Bay View remained simply a place to pass through, or to stop briefly and top up the car with petrol, to buy seasonal fruit and vegetables, or to stay over the summer holidays. There are many memories of the latter and in anticipation of the dances at the Hall young ladies packed their dresses and shoes for those occasions.

In 1950 Napier celebrated 75 years as a Borough and, having reached a population of 20,000, became a city. The growth provided good employment opportunities and took Bay View residents into town.

The first serious proposal for Bay View to join Napier arose over water. There was a convincing point of view that if Bay View residents paid rates en par with Napier residents, a community water supply would be guaranteed. The amalgamation looked as if it would go ahead, but by 1981 a different understanding arose. Napier City Council made it clear that an improved water supply would be available anyway, regardless of the political alignment of boundaries.

A Bay View Anti-Merger Association was formed and around 400 residents, almost the entire population of Bay View, petitioned

the Local Government authority. Residents argued that the water issue was not an issue to warrant a merger. Their objection was sustained and on 7 July 1981, the Commission announced that the amalgamation proposal would not proceed.

The water issue continued and seven years later a better water supply system was in place, and the Turning On Ceremony was held on 30 November 1988.

A year later Bay View's political boundaries changed. The Government led a national review of land and community association, and the outcome for Bay View determined that the residents had more in common with Napier than its rural surrounding land. Hence the Village and suburban housing became part of the Ahuriri area of Napier, and politically titled the Ahuriri Ward. This change was a government decision that gave local communities little chance for opposition, although the process included public consultation. But the residents were ready for amalgamation.

For King George's Hall it opened up new possibilities. The Napier City Council made a single special grant of \$20,000 for the continuing upgrade in 1993, and a \$3,000 operational grant annually. The Ward Councillor from 1996 was Barbara Arnott (elected in 1995) who had a great interest and admiration for that community. "There was a great deal of goodwill there, people working for the community as a whole. I believe that if people are willing to do so much for themselves they deserve support."

And support was received, and for the Hall this meant its survival.

Many times over the next few years the Committee discussed Council ownership of the Hall. The Hall had been managed for six decades by six personal Trustees – effectively the owners on behalf of the community, and they performed a mammoth task from 1911 until they grew old and died. Two decades of operation as an Incorporated Society followed and by the early 2000s the Committee sought further change. A public hall in the new century required local authority ownership and management to meet the demands of the times.



The King George's Hall Committee 2011, photographed in front of the Hall. Left to right: back row: Margaret McKerras, John McKerras, Hugh Harrison and Stuart Robertson.

Front row: Kerry Duncan, Lesley Harrison, Ginny Smith, Juliette Cadwallader and Deirdre Lee. Absent: Karen Harrap and Joy Howard.

Napier City Council Photograph.

The approach was made to the Napier City Council with a proposal to gift the Hall and its land to the Council. The response was positive. Councillor Arnott was Mayor by then – elected in 2001. She led the proposal, with unanimous support from her Councillors. At the same time the transition of the Meanee Hall into public ownership was setting a process in place that could be followed. The change details took time to legalise, but on 15 November 2004 there was a meeting to discuss the formal transfer to the Council. This was followed by a management agreement in early 2005. The Hall was in new hands, but the issue of the land transfer was prolonged. Once more the McHardy family was involved. There was the legal situation of the personal donation by Catherine McHardy in 1911 and the descendants of the family, Ray Blair and his sister Mary Harwood, needed to agree. There was no problem in that and on 14 March 2008 the transfer was completed. The property was added to the Council Asset Schedule: its value, \$275,000 and contents \$20,000.

Today the Hall is wholly owned by the Napier City Council together with the land that is gazetted as a "Local Purpose Community Reserve".

There are financial benefits in knowing that public funds can be made available as required to keep the Hall functioning. Also there is certainty in the bylaws regarding public hall operation and administration, health and safety issues, and community standards. This has ensured confidence for the King George's Hall Incorporated Society Committee who appreciate that their Council support them and their rôle under the Management Agreement. One Committee member described it as follows: "The understanding between Council and the King George's Hall Committee loosely means that Council look after the outside and we, the Committee, all that happens inside!"



The room adjoining the kitchen, and opening into the main hall, can be hired for small events, or used as a room to retire to for refreshments, depending on the function.

Hall Committee Photograph.



The Hall is still the 'hub of the Village'; in 2005 the interior of the Hall was setup for the BayView Women's Institute Christmas party in December. Note the Roll of Honour Board in pride of place.

Anne Compton Photograph.

Finale

It seems appropriate, in these last words, to mention King George V a final time. He died in 1936 and history records him as a popular King. He was known as Georgie, married Mary of Teck and had six children. His first son became King Edward VIII who abdicated, and the second son, King George VI followed him, the father our present Queen, Her Majesty, Elizabeth II.

New Zealanders of today know more about George VI than the earlier King George, with the exception of the people of Bay View who have never forgotten the King that brought them their Hall. But, also not to be over-looked, is the fact that after the 1931 earthquake the city of Napier received royal donations of 500 pounds from King George V, and 250 pounds from Queen Mary.

Today the Hall is as relevant as it has always been – an important civic building for the people of Bay View and the wider community. The three oldest residents from Bay View, interviewed just before this book went to print, endorsed the community sentiment – that the Hall is the community.

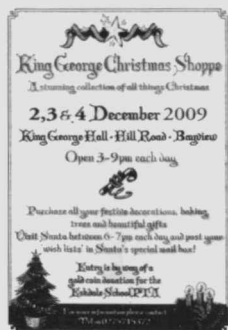
George Stafford, of Hill Road, born in 1925, recalls his childhood prank in the Hall. It was a Sunday School Christmas party and he, and some of his 'naughty mates' climbed onto the stage and popped all the balloons. They were told to leave immediately and were expelled from Sunday School. Cherry Robertson born in 1917 says "It would be awful to think of the Village without the Hall; and I am so glad it was done up and kept in good order." Her sister-in-law, Thelma Pickering born in 1921 says she couldn't imagine Bay View without the Hall. She recalls it as far back as her earliest memory. Many of her stories have been told in this book.

Fashions change over the years and pendulums swing. Social mores, club and group activities move with the times. A major change for today is the public's expectation of the standard, it is high and the current Hall Committee is aware of this factor. Good maintenance,

accessibility, plus affordability have been vital to this continuing success. A public hall will remain important to a community as long as a community needs it and uses it. So it has come to pass for King George's Hall.

There has been sensible management of the Hall over the years, together with well-staged events and agreeable compromises on hire and usage. In 2011 Stuart Robertson, Custodian, claims "the Committee manage him. The group that use the Hall can make it as attractive and suitable for their needs as they want, within the rules of the rental arrangement. This provides flexibility yet puts responsibilities where they belong." He has held the custodial management position for 17 years and was a member of the Committee from 1994.

Equally long serving is Juliette Cadwallader. In 2011 she is Chairperson and held this position at the time the Hall became a Napier City Council asset. She says: "The Hall and the Committee feel respected by the Council, and we can work comfortably to provide the Community with what they want."



The advertisement for the King George Christmas Shoppe, December 2009.

Napier Mail 25 November 2009.

It is staggering to think of the numbers of people and organisations, groups and private events that have passed through this Hall, 'if these walls could talk' has a tempting relevancy. The need for the Hall to be available for a wide variety of uses and to be responsive to change, and emergency has been its life story.

The naming of the Hall has varied over the years but King George's Hall is the correct name. However as recently as this Christmas Shoppe advertising the flexibility of the use of the name is evident. The original working name was Public Hall, from the earliest records, later it was the Petane Public Hall, then the King George Hall by public use, and finally to King George's Hall. This is now emblazoned on the newly painted Hall.



The King George Christmas Shoppe 2009. This interior view shows the adaptability of the Hall in Christmas splendour. The decorations and displays were set up for the Eskdale School fund-raising market days, early December 2009. This is now an annual event.

Anne Compton Photograph.

Early dances, concerts and community meetings set the scene, then just two years after opening, a military drill hall was required for World War I training, followed by an emergency hospital during the 1918 influenza epidemic. This is symbolic of an extensive programme that followed over the next 90 years. Sunday Schools to child care and play centre, musicals to polling booths, political meetings to civil defence, dances galore to dramatic performances, indoor bowls, badminton to the Sixty-Plus Club, family reunions, 21sts, funerals and weddings. And many more.

During the production of this book, Anne Compton, long-serving Women's Institute member, past member of the Hall Committee, their Publicity Manager, and supporter of restoration, remarked: "A book to celebrate one hundreds years of service to a community is the least we can do for this dear old hall. It is a tangible link with all the activities of significance in Bay View over the years. It has been and continues to be the heart of the community." She remembers as a child bringing to the Hall her floral sand garden, in a saucer, to enter the popular children's competition.



**BAY VIEW WI
PROGRAMME
2006 - 2007
Formed 1931**



King George Hall, Bay View

Bay View Women's Institute annual programme cover for 2006, their 75th Jubilee year when celebrations were held in the Hall. It was fitting, therefore, that the programme featured a photograph of King George's Hall on the front cover.

WI Archive.



In 2003 an honours' group of the Country Women's Institute assembled at the Hall for the presentation of their certificates.

WI Archive.

The Women's Institute has played the most significant role in the use and function of King George's Hall. Their membership in 2011 is only around 20 women, a far cry from the large membership in the heyday of the Institute. Hopefully they will pick-up new members and go from strength to strength. It is easy for a young generation to succumb to the pressures of a changing world, one that has tended to erase the usefulness of older organisations. But the importance of family and domestic values have not changed and the Bay View Women's Institute could revive with a renewed sense of purpose. Their motto for their 50th Jubilee in 1981, is as appropriate today as then, and for King George's Hall and all associated with it:



The contemporary badge of the Women's Institute, 2011.

WI Archive

We must continue to go forward with the confidence, courage and dignity that characterised our founders.

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