

From a small seed a mighty Kauri Tree grows.

The seed, Henry Trickett bought the first residential site in what we now know as West Melton. Another seed, Colin Watson, our local historian, mentioned that the 150th anniversary was coming up during a presentation to the local Probus Club.

The germination, Henry Trickett, having bought the first site, named the area West Melton, after his birth place in Yorkshire.

A steering group was established to investigate the possibility of celebrating the 150th anniversary.

The early growth, A rural support village established its self that included a Hotel, blacksmiths, and general store.

The West Melton 150th Celebration committee was established and a series of sub groups formed to lead various 150th events.

The Spreading Branches: There are families whose grandfathers lived here. Others, who moved in here for so many different reasons.

It is hoped these celebrations will be a unifying effect for all.

This will be typified in the unveiling of a plaque dedicated to the proposed West Melton Community & Recreation Centre, signifying the future, and the St Paul's Anglican church cemetery walk celebrating the past.

Ian Sandford  
Chair 150th Committee.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN, WEST MELTON 150TH CELEBRATIONS

West Melton's 150th celebrations promise to be an exciting time for the community.

The celebrations are an opportunity to look back at the past and recognise the hard work done by early settlers to establish the town and also celebrate how the town has developed since it was founded.

The Time after Time Field Days in September were a great opportunity for old and new residents to come together and showcase West Melton's farming history. Congratulations to the organisers of this fantastic community event which drew people from far and wide to join your celebrations.

You now have before you a series of anniversary events including the Black Tie Ball, Grand Parade, Mix and Mingle, The Great Westie Shindig, a dedication service for a new West Melton Recreation and Events Centre and a Sport and Recreation Fun Day.

Whether you are already part of the West Melton community or a visitor I would like to extend a warm welcome to you as you join the celebrations. I am sure you will enjoy the wide range of events planned as part of the anniversary.

However these events don't just happen and we must acknowledge the work of the various committee and volunteers for their achievements in putting together a range of activities for us all to enjoy.

Congratulations  
Kelvin Coe Mayor



FROM THE MAYOR

Mention West Melton to most Christchurch people, and they will recall the small settlement on the Main West Road, with its Store, School, Hotel, Churches and Domain. The dominant impression was one of humdrum peacefulness and ordinariness.

The district was part of the unsold land on the Canterbury Plains that, during 1851-52, was taken up by runholders. Tresillian and Sandy Knolls were the names of the two runs within which the present district of West Melton is situated.



150 YEARS OF WEST MELTON

The first land sale of 1000 acres, at £2 per acre, was to G. A. E. Ross in 1863. He lived in Hornby and never shifted to West Melton. Henry Trickett was the first real settler as he bought 100 acres and built a sod house there. He named the district after his home town in Yorkshire. There were already tracks across the land. The Coal Track (now Old West Coast Road), Bealeys Track (now Main West Road), Halkett Road, Weedons-Ross Road, Newtons Road and Sandy Knolls Road. More settlers arrived during 1864, these included John Hill, A. C. Truscott, Charles Newton, E. Vaughn, A. Sanderson, and P. Price. Most of the timber to build houses with came from the Harewood Forest at Oxford – this was usually ferried over the Waimakariri River at Courtenay. The house would be built by the men and then the rest of the family would be brought out from Christchurch. For the pioneer women, who had been mostly brought up amongst the amenities of civilisation, early farm life must have been hard. They showed remarkable initiative, courage and perseverance in carrying out their daily tasks.

With settlement there was a need for community facilities. Christchurch was too far away. The Wesleyans built a Chapel in 1871 (with 41 pupils and John Hill as Chaiiman), St Paul's Anglican Church started in 1872, the Store (with F. Lawrey) and the Hotel dates from 1881. The Blacksmith opened for business in 1882.

Roading was administered by the East Rakai Road Board (later the Courtenay Road Board). As time went on local government changed to become the Selwyn County Council, the Malvern, County Council, Paparua County Council and now the Selwyn District Council. Twenty acres of land for a Recreation Ground was put aside in 1873. Two early uses of the ground was for Cricket and there was an Athletic and Cycling Track there.

The West Melton Saleyards and Dip Co. was formed in 1892. A five stand shearing shed and a sixty foot long dip was built. Yards were built to hold sheep and every month for the next 35 years well attended sales were held.

To mark the millennium the three local Churches built a drinking fountain of greywacke stone and granite and erected at the crossroads. The other project was a bas-relief sculpture of a horse and a community notice board which was erected at the Community Centre.

What a change there is today. Two subdivisions and a School roll projected to be over 400 by the end of 2014. Farming is not now the main occupation as many people commute to surrounding areas or in to Christchurch or are just retired.

Colin Watson - Local Historian

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The Bloke  
Evergreen Garden Centre  
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## West Melton 150th Celebrations

*Commemorative  
Programme*

**24th - 26th October 2014**

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# West Melton 150th Celebrations Programme

	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
9 AM			
10			9.30AM - 10.30AM HOPE PRESBYTERIAN SERVICE
11			9.30AM - 10.30AM ST PAULS ANGLICAN SERVICE
12 PM			11AM - 12.30PM COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE
1	12PM - 3PM WEST MELTON SCHOOL OPEN DAY	11AM - 4PM GRAND PARADE FAMILY FUN DAY WEST MELTON	12.30PM - 1.30PM LYNDA SEATON CEMETERY TOUR
2			12PM - 2PM HOPE CHURCH OPEN DAY
3			1PM - 5PM SPORTS DAY
4			
5			
6		5PM - 8PM MIX AND MINGLE WEST MELTON RUGBY CLUB	
7			
8			
9	8PM - 12AM BLACK TIE BALL WEST MELTON COMMUNITY HALL	7.30PM - 12AM SHINDIG WEST MELTON COMMUNITY HALL	
10			
11			
12 AM			

GRAND PARADE & FAMILY FUN DAY											
	1100	1130	1200	1230	1300	1330	1400	1430	1500	1530	1600
GRAND PARADE	11 AM - 1 PM										
ROSALIA GIERSEWSKI STORY TELLER							2 PM		3 PM		
BEARD GROWING JUDGING						1.30 PM					
SHEARING DEMONSTRATIONS						1 PM - 3.30 PM					
THE FLYING DIXIES							2 PM - 4 PM				
NZ ARMY BAND					1 PM - 2 PM						
FIRE BRIGADE							1 PM - 4 PM				
ARMY DEMONSTRATIONS							1 PM - 4 PM				
BUTTER & POPCORN							1 PM - 4 PM				
FRAMERS MARKET							1 PM - 4 PM				
ARTS & CRAFT STALLS							ALL DAY				
HARNESS RACING DISPLAY							1 PM - 4 PM				
FOOD STALLS							ALL DAY				
LOLLY SCRAMBLE									2.30 PM		
BOUNCY CASTLE									ALL DAY		

SPORTS AND RECREATION FUN DAY - PROGRAMME												
	1300	1330	1400	1430	1500	1530	1600	1630	1700	1730		
ALL	OPERATING FOOD STALLS IN CARPARK											
TOP TEAM EVENT (SPORT CANTERBURY)		1ST TEAM EVENT				2ND TEAM EVENT (IF REQUIRED)						
SCOUTS	SCOUTING ACTIVITIES IN AND AROUND TENTS AND IN SCOUT HALL											
RUGBY					BEARDED MEN VS JUNIORS GAME							
TENNIS		MIXED DOUBLES TOURNAMENT										
BOWLS	BOWLS OPEN DAY - FORMAL GAMES AND TRY-IT-OUT											
FOOTBALL		FOOTBALL GAMES										
NETBALL		INVITATIONAL GAME										



- Participants Assembly Point and Parking

Finish Area/Picnic Area

Public Parking

! Pedestrian Crossing Point
- Disabled Parking

Horse Finish Area

Sunday Celebrations