

telling tales:

Competition Answers

Salty Tales

Ship in a bottle

This particular ship in a bottle was built by a prisoner of war, who was captured off the coast of New Zealand in December, 1943.

false

Sea Chest

When the chest was opened in the 1970's it was found to contain an original diary thought to have belonged to Sir George Grey.

false

Taffrail

The 'Cutty Sark' features in the dire straits song "Single Handed Sailor", has its own brand of whisky named after it and features in "The life & Times of Scrooge McDuck...."

true

Ship Nails

There were only ever three deaths recorded on the H.M.S. Buffalo, which is remarkable considering the unsanitary

true

Boat Cradle

Harry Dent was in Southampton and joined the thousands that farewelled the RMS Titanic on her fateful maiden voyage to New York, on 10 April 1912.

false

Cook's Medal

Totara Nui was also the location where 10 men from the Adventure were killed and eaten by Maori in December 1773.

true

Boys Club

Soldiers Paybook

After surviving the war Bell returned to New Zealand only to have his uniform burst into flame while being cleaned. The only remnant was his 'Land Service' badge.

false

Chasuble

The monogram IHS is a shortening of Jesus which was spelt 'Ihesus' in the Middle ages. It is now more commonly thought to stand for 'Jesus Hominum Salvator' (Jesus Saviour of Men).

true

Masonic Regalia

The Freemasons are thought to be behind many of the most significant events in history including Napoleons' campaigns, Captain Cook's pacific exploration and the assassination of Martin Luther King.

false

Officers Mess Jacket

This jacket was worn to a function attended by Sir Robert Muldoon in 1977 for the inaugural visit of the QEII.

false

Chairs (Pair)

These chairs once had pride of place in the Whakatane Borough Council chambers.

false

'New Zealand Native Football Representatives' Cap

This cap is considered to be the first time the silver fern was used as a national symbol in the history of New Zealand rugby.

true

Chinese Whispers

Rope

The British forces built a sports arena complete with a tennis court, gymnasium and swimming pool as part of the underground complex at Tura Caves.

false

Carved Head

This carved head was rescued from the jaws of the donor's pet dog, wiggles, who had mistaken the carving for a toy, which unfortunately can be seen in the damage to the carvings headdress.

false

'Pitcairn' Walking Stick

With a population of only 48 inhabitants, Pitcairn Island is one of the smallest jurisdictions in the world.

true

Lotus Shoe

Han mothers would systematically break their daughters' toes and bind their feet tightly in bandages soaked in animal blood to ensure they would heal in the required 'lotus' shape.

true

Illuminated Manuscript

The most famous Illuminated Manuscript is the Book of Kells which was produced by Celtic Monks in 800 A.D. It was stolen in 1007 A.D. during a raid by Vikings but was found only months later buried in a shallow ditch.

true

Tall Stories

Plane Propeller

The New Zealander Richard Pearse is thought to have been the first person in the world to fly an aeroplane. His flight on 31 March 1903 was 9 months before the Wright brothers made their flight at Kitty Hawk, U.S.A.

true

Framed Embroidery ‘Tom Baker’

The diamond symbol is a reference to a divine event experienced by Rua on the slopes of the mountain, Maungapohatu where he was presented with a ‘diamond’ as a sign from God.

true

Folding Chair

After a period of bad business deals and money problems Mr W. J. M. Larnach committed suicide. He was found dead on 12th October 1898 in the committee rooms of Parliament House.

true

Sketch by H. G. Robley

Robley had a collection of 35 moko mokai (preserved Maori human heads) which he attempted to sell to the New Zealand Government for £1000 but the offer was declined.

true

Patent

The first cargo of frozen meat products was shipped from New Zealand left Littleton Harbour bound for England in 1881.

true

Bullet

Whitmore was the key supporter of the New Zealand Cross, an equivalent medal to the Victoria Cross. The New Zealand Cross is one of the rarest decorations in the world with only 23 ever awarded.

true

Kemp House Nails

In 1835 Charlotte Kemp suffered a nervous breakdown after hearing that the house was built on a Maori burial site.

false

Gossip Girls

Glass Jar

Mr Litchfield was fluent in Maori. He often worked as a translator between local iwi and the European settlers in the Opotiki District.

true

Fox fur

This unusual stole was offered to Queen Elizabeth II on her 1953 tour of New Zealand. As one of the first animal rights activists, she declined to accept it.

false

Cocktail Dress

This dress was originally worn to a cocktail party attended by Queen Elizabeth during her 1953 tour of New Zealand.

false

Hatpins

During the Suffragette Movement in Britain many women were banned from wearing Hatpins to court for fear they would be used as deadly weapons.

true