

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2006

# GREYTOWN MATTERS

## Woodside station a Greytown gem



By LIZZIE CATHERALL

I'm writing my column ahead of the publication date and it's hard projecting into the year that hasn't yet begun. Jessie, the unmade bed, assures me in her uncomplicated doggy way that 2006 will be a good one with lots of widdle walks. She wags her tail and woofs cheerfully even though at the moment she wears, on a shaven base across her back, a wide row of stitches like some bizarre saddle, the result of an infected cyst. This dog is so damn trusting and like other

animals so totally dependent on our care.

Which makes particularly upsetting, information I've just been given of a shop, fortunately no longer operating in Greytown, that recently sold kittens at 3 weeks old, a time when they are still dependent on their mother's milk. And furthermore as a result of the failure to use flea treatment, a kitten on its premises was left to scratch itself to a state where there was a gaping wound around the neck.

No vet had been consulted to help this kitten before it was removed from this shop. The good news is that this unfortunate little kitten is now living in a good home, and well away from this vendor who could at best be called ignorant and at worst downright cruel.

So quoting from the SPCA reminder list: remember as we enter the hottest time of the year, cats and dogs do need flea treatment, make sure cats



Woodside railway station - saved from demolition in 1993

are cared for if you go away, don't leave dogs in hot cars and if you have a cat like mine with pinky mauve ears, they need sun bloc. Oh dear, I guess I'm sounding like Aunt Daisy but kids and animals do need advocates!

With a new year how about thinking of new activities? One could be catching the train to Wellington as that would give

you a chance to see a special Greytown gem: the **Woodside railway station**. This historic building was saved from demolition by a farsighted group of local people in 1993. They recognised that the planned replacement 'bus stop' type shelter was totally wrong for Greytown's early colonial settlement. Not only did this group save the building, they also

painted it and added an 'authentic' verandah. With the building once more needing some attention the **Woodside Railway Station Preservation Society** has been revived over the past year with a revised constitution, re-registration as an incorporated society and a committee headed by President **Graeme Gray**. New members are welcome. It

costs \$10 per person or \$15 for a family, and by joining you are helping to preserve an important part of Greytown's history! Contact the Secretary **Ian Childs** at PO Box 153 Greytown.

Another new activity you could be involved in this year is the Greytown Film Society.

It got up and running late in 2004 and by the end of 2005 had 100 plus members.

Films are shown every third Friday in each month at the Little Theatre, with an eclectic range of movies shown last year.

Highlights were: My Brothers Keeper, a US documentary and Shanghei Express with a young Marlene Dietrich. For more details contact the Secretary **Peter Francks** at PO Box 113 Greytown.

So that's it for the first column in the 2006.

A very happy New Year from Lizzie