

Alluring antiques on offer

Words & photo: Geoff Lewis

Deirdre Field has always enjoyed collecting things and started in Auckland more than 50 years ago.

After a varied working life, including working as an antiques dealer, Huntly-based Diedre, 77, will host a stand in the Antiques Fair as part of The Waikato Show this April.

About to move to the South Island, Deirdre is selling up a selection of choice collectibles including a large, signed, portrait of 'The Boot' Don Clark; Waikato rugby representative and legendary All Black. There's also an early Air New Zealand poster, showing its flight routes as they were in the 1960s and a travelling case once used by Wiremu Netana Panapa, the second Bishop of Aotearoa, 1951 to 1968.

Along with a selection of polished brass and copper, one of her more interesting items is an oil painting of a Maori chief in an unusual head dress. "I didn't have any information about who it was until I picked up a book at a sale in Pukekohe. This was Alan Duff's Maori Heroes and there was a picture of the same man – Mita Taupopoki, a prominent leader of Te Arawa who died in 1935."

The Antique Fair makes a welcome return to Hamilton, as part of the Waikato Show, after a gap of several years says Christchurch-based promoter Russell Poppe. "We have about 20 antique and collectibles dealers coming from all around the North Island including some from Hamilton. These are all specialists in their own areas so we will see things like china, glass, jewelry, linen and clothing."

Russell has been in the antiques business for 23 years. "It's a great industry, full of individualists. There are always trends and fashions and the interesting reasons why people

collect certain things varies widely.”

The Antique Fair can be seen as part of the Waikato Show, Claudelands Events Centre, April 7,8,9.

Photo caption: Deirdre Field with her portrait of Don Clark.