

# Hokianga Historical Society & Museum

## Summer exhibition 2012/2013

### Soaring over the Hokianga Early Aerial Photographic Views from the 1930's and 40's

Come and view aerial photos taken by historical flying photographer V.C. Browne on display at  
**The Hokianga Historical Society Museum  
and Archives Centre**

**from 5th December 2012 to  
end-January 2013**

14 Waianga Place, Omapere, South Hokianga

Tel: 09 405 8498

Curator: Donna Washbrook –  
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Rawene and the Heads



Opononi and the Heads

[www.ourhokianga.com](http://www.ourhokianga.com)

**How to reach the  
Museum:  
State Highway 12 at  
Omapere, South  
Hokianga  
(look for the sign)**



### The Photographer Victor Carlyle Browne

*(The Press 17 September 1980,  
page 45)*

Born 7 November 1900, North  
Albertland, New Zealand, died 13  
September 1980, Fairhaven  
Hospital, Christchurch, New  
Zealand son of Mabel and Samuel  
George Browne.



*VC Browne with an old  
Graphlex camera*

Heights and speed have always fascinated Vic Browne, whether it was climbing tall kauri trees as a youngster, or motor cycle racing as a young man. Later he found the ideal outlet for his energies in flying and aerial photography. Born in North Albertland, north of Auckland, he bought his first plate camera while still a schoolboy. His father was a well known sawmiller, and Vic Browne spent a few years in the timber business. In 1925, after his father was drowned [in about 1922 aged 48 years] while logging in a flooded river, he came to Christchurch and was soon indulging his enthusiasm for photography. To get the aerial photographs for the first edition of "New Zealand from the Air", a pioneering publication of its kind, which appeared before World War II, he and Captain A. J. Bradshaw flew over the whole country from Stewart Island to North Cape.

The Hokianga Historical Society Museum and Archive Centre, located at Waianga Place, Omapere, South Hokianga has an extensive collection of historical artefacts and documents reflecting the colourful history of the area. The archives contain a large collection of original and copied historical material relating to local people and families and their genealogy, school records, early missionaries, shipping etc. There is also a large collection of maps dating from earliest times.

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[www.ourhokianga.com](http://www.ourhokianga.com)

*Thanks to Ken Baker for acquiring and donating of copies of the photographs and to the family of VC Browne for giving permission to display the photographs*

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[www.vcbrowne.com](http://www.vcbrowne.com)*