

What do Museum workers collect?

1960s Kitchen

During lockdown we asked museum workers to share with us some of the items that they collect at home, and share interesting stories about the object and why they collect it.

Objects can be especially interesting to us when they give us insight into how the world was different in our parents' or grandparents' time. In this pack we find objects that would have been found in typical 1960s kitchens in New Zealand.

Kirsty's Grandmother's Recipe Tin

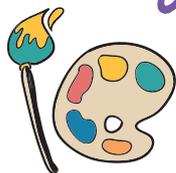
Kirsty is an educator at Te Manawa and this is a recipe tin that belonged to Vera, Kirsty's Grandma. It is a real time capsule, giving us a sneak peek into what kinds of things went on a 1960s New Zealand kitchen. The tin is jam-packed full of cutouts from magazines and newspapers dating from the 1960s. Many recipes are scribbled on old notices or notepaper from the Ministry of Health where her grandmother worked as a school dental nurse.

"In the 1960s Vera, my grandmother, would have had children in the house, so many of the recipes were used to make goods for school galas or to fill party tables. I chose a simple and fun recipe from the tin that everyone is sure to love..."



Vera on her wedding day 28th April 1951

Marshmallow



It's lots of fun making marshmallow as the mixture changes from transparent and runny to thick and gooey to wobbly like jelly. You can try it at home.

Ingredients

- One packet of jelly crystals
- One cup of icing sugar
- One and a half cups of water

Method

Boil the water and jelly crystals on the stove top for 10 minutes. Allow to cool but not to set. Once cool add the icing sugar and beat until thick. Set in the fridge.



Try layering different colours to make these fun party cups.



This is the pink marshmallow Kirsty made.

Cindy's Treat Tin

Cindy is one of the team that manages our collections at Te Manawa. Cindy's personal collection also has some clues as to what treats would have been popular back in the 1960s.

"This tray dates to the 1960s - I was born then so it's about sixty years old. I've collected it because it's nice and colourful - and brings back memories of childhood treats"



Because ice cream came in boxes, you didn't scoop it out with a spoon. You opened the box and sliced off an end with a knife. You could get rectangular pink waffles that were just the right size to go around your slice of ice cream so you could have an ice cream sandwich.



If you look, you'll see that all the frozen foods on the tray are in cardboard packets - plastic bags and containers are a new invention. The cardboard packets are that size because in the 1960s the freezer wasn't a separate section of a refrigerator with its own door. It was just a tiny box inside the fridge itself.



What are your favourite ice-cream flavours?

There weren't a large number of flavours. As you can see on the tray, vanilla and raspberry ripple and maybe hokey-pokey. For a treat you could get Neapolitan.



IN BLOCKS, PINTS AND QUARTS

Ice-cream in New Zealand



For a deep dive into the history of ice-cream in New Zealand, check out this website by the New Zealand Ice Cream Manufacturers' Association.

www.nzicecream.org.nz/history-nz.htm

All of the posters on this page are for ice-creams that were produced in the 1960s. Do you recognise any that are still in production today? What do you think was the inspiration for the Moonraider Milk Ice?



If you could invent an ice-cream, what would it be? What flavours would you choose? Would it be chocolate-dipped? What would you sprinkle over it? Think of an event that could inspire your ice cream creation. What words would you use to advertise your ice-cream? Design a poster to advertise your new delicious treats.

Discovery Time