



Epsom-eden.org.nz

Epsom&Eden

District Historical Society Inc

You are warmly invited to the next meeting of our society at
St Andrew's Church Hall, 100 St Andrews Rd. Epsom
to hear Elizabeth Gordon's fascinating talk on The New Zealand accent,

Why we talk the way we do!

2.30 p.m. 7 October 2024



Our speaker, **Elizabeth Gordon**

Elizabeth was born and brought up in Christchurch. She can claim a great-grandparent who came out on one of the first four ships in 1850 and two forebears who came to the West Coast gold fields in the 1860s. She taught at the University of Canterbury from 1967 until 2004, first in the English Department and later in the Department of Linguistics.

Her great interest has always been New Zealand English, especially the New Zealand accent.

Elizabeth will discuss the development and evolution of the New Zealand accent from the earliest days when children of the earliest settlers sounded like their parents, through the remarkably short period of time to when people began to accuse children and others of speaking with 'an odious colonial twang'. Evidence of what was a new variety of English comes from written sources, such as School Inspectors' Reports and from recordings collected in the 1940s by the Mobile Disc Recording Unit of the New Zealand Broadcasting Corporation.

+ We will hear some of these archived recordings +