

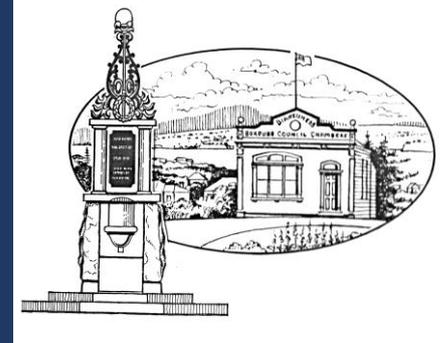
BIRKENHEAD HERITAGE

— SOCIETY INC. —

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Sketched by Margaret Paine

July - August
2017

NEXT EVENT

Saturday 8th July 2pm
at St Andrews Hall, Hinemoa St.

■ 1840s–1860s

Royal New Zealand Fencible Corps Guest Speaker

Don Gallagher on the history of the early Fencible Soldiers, volunteers retiring from active Service who came to New Zealand for defensive purposes and to settle.

NEXT MONTH

■ Past to the present

Saturday 12th August 2pm
at St Andrews Hall
Stories Day – when we want to hear your stories of bygone days.

Contents

- President's Report to the AGM
- In Appreciation
- Recent Award
- June bus trip to Warkworth Museum
- Book Review

CONTACT US

President – Marcia Roberts 418 0397
Vice President – Brian Potter 483 3400,
Vice President – Colleen Durham 483 4001

The President's Report 13th May 2017

Presented by Ray Johanson

It is my pleasure to present the 38th President's Report. This has been a very difficult year for myself due to not having a Secretary / Treasurer, and also with a smaller committee.

Reviewing the past year's activities

14 May 2016 AGM, followed by Lisa Truttman on The Demolition of St. Majesty's Theatre.

11 June, Keith Sloan on NZ Light Trench Mortar Battery.

9 July, Stories Day.

13 August, Ross Henderson on the story behind the Gallipoli Painting of Simpson's Donkey; Marcia Roberts on visiting Malta.

10 September, Bus Trip to the Helensville Railway and the Pioneer Museum.

25 September until 9 October **The Auckland Heritage Festival**, with a photo display at Birkenhead Library. Colleen Durham and Marcia Roberts gave a 'living history' walk, suitably dressed for the occasion. Extended Museum openings on 3 Sundays. Members were invited to an open day at the Museum to view the displays, share memories and afternoon tea.

12 November, At St Andrews the Christmas Party, Brian Potter spoke on 'Around the fruit farms' from Chelsea to Birkdale.

11 February 2017, Bus trip to Albertland and District Heritage Museum at Wellsford.

11 March, Jim Young speaking on his boatbuilding experiences. One of our largest turnouts in recent times.

9 April, Stories Day.

25 April, Traditional Anzac Day observance at Birkenhead War Memorial, museum opening, and laying of wreath.

Events with the Public

Website activity is very high. We have had 7,140 page views in the last 2 months. The top three stories in popularity are:

- From Birkenhead Wharf to Highbury
- Maori & Pakeha on the Shore
- Ranch House and barbers shop

Facebook: The reality of the modern world is that people communicate via Facebook. Colleen Durham has been busy building our first Facebook page. This receives a good number of hits and directs people to our website.

Submissions:

Marcia Roberts and Brian Potter have made submissions to the Kaipatiki Local Board concerning the Anglican Cemetery, and Frank Larking's Boat. Quite apart from the history aspects these keep our name in front of our political leaders. We have been represented at a Residents Association meeting on the future of Highbury.

Newsletter:

Marcia Roberts has taken over as Editor and is producing informative newsletters.

Museum:

Brian Potter continues to be busy with indexing approx. 1,200 photos and storing on the Museum computer. We do have challenges with computer reliability. A considerable amount of maintenance work needs to be completed and we are applying for a grant to move this along.



BIRKENHEAD HERITAGE SOCIETY

www.historicbirkenhead.com

Labelling of exhibits should be commencing soon. We have had approx. 187 Museum visitors although it is hard to be precise. Peak days are the Heritage Festival and Anzac Day.

The crowd at ANZAC Day Service Birkenhead 2017
Photo: Colleen Durham

Other activities

Mavis Throll has been doing a fantastic job contacting members by phone and has reluctantly had to advise that she needs to finish this. Thank you Mavis – you will be hard to replace.

Anne Farrington has continued to provide a venue for our Committee meetings with a sumptuous supper to follow. This should attract new members to the committee.

My sincere thanks to all Committee members, and to all members who have helped out in so many ways.

In conclusion

After 25 years involvement with the Birkenhead Heritage Society I have decided to not seek re-election as President. The Committee have persuaded me to remain a member as the Immediate Past President.

Ray Johanson

The officers elected to represent you at the Annual General Meeting.

President / Editor: Marcia Roberts

Vice President: Brian Potter

Vice President: Coral Durham

Past President: Ray Johanson

Secretary / Treasurer: Jenny Goodwin

Committee: Anne Farrington, Stuart Durham, Coral Malcolm, Keith Peachey, David Verran

In Appreciation

The Annual General Meeting was the opportunity to thank Ray for his many years as President and 25 years of contributing to the Committee and the running of the Birkenhead Heritage Society. He has organised the hiring of buses for countless bus trips, actively involved in maintenance of the Museum, responding to false Alarm alerts and numerous other activities. He generously shares his great knowledge of Birkenhead's past residents, events and places, and his interest in genealogy.

We welcome Jenny Goodwin and David Verran on the Committee and look forward to another busy 12 months. Maureen Andrews continues to assist with advice on the newsletter. Maintenance of Farrington House is an ongoing focus. Brian Potter has changed the lock on the side door which now allows access from the ramp, this was most appreciated recently by residents of a Takapuna retirement home.



Coral Malcom addressing the Annual General Meeting on 'The Life of My Father Cliff Utting' *Photo Colleen Durham*

It was a pleasure to have Past President Alec Utting and his wife visiting from the Waikato, and to receive his gift of two bound volumes of the 'The Birkenhead Historical Society Newsletters April 1999-February 2005' which he had edited, a great resource. As he wrote;

'These not only provide a glimpse of the activities of the Society during this period, but also contain an interesting collection of stories and articles written by members and others.'

The Museum needs a gentle cleaning by a water blaster. When quotes are complete the process of seeking funds to make repairs and repaint the old villa will proceed. The wet summer caused much growth in the small lawn, the Auckland Council does not continue the original Birkenhead and North Shore City Councils' policy of mowing the lawn. We receive favourable comments from visitors, many new New Zealanders are interested in the contents and layout of the old villa.

BY MARCIA ROBERTS

Recent Award

Anne Farrington appointed Member of the New Zealand Order Of Merit for services to women in the Queens Birthday Honours 2017

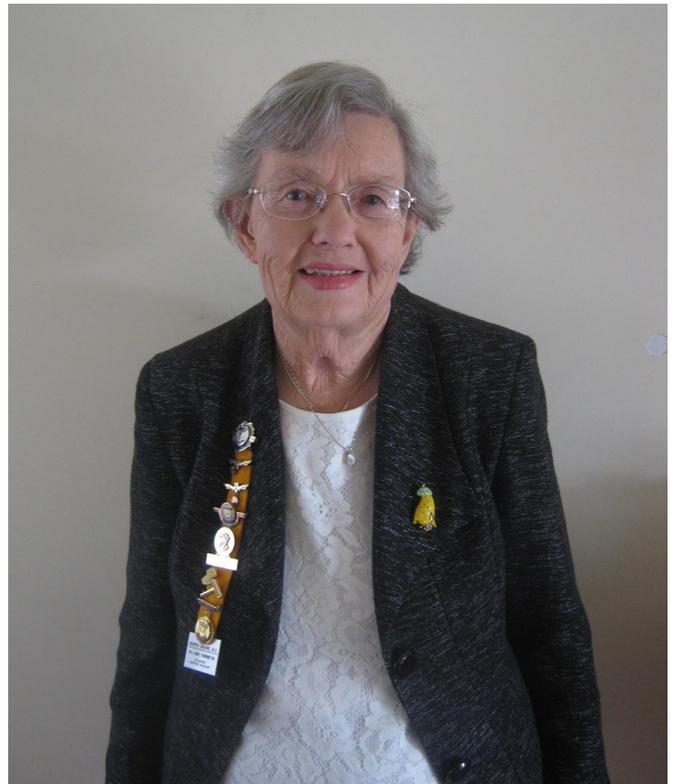
Congratulations to our Founding, Life Member and serving Committee member Anne Farrington who has been recognised for her long years of service to the community. Since 1975 Anne has been involved with Soroptimist International, at local, regional, national, federation and international levels.

Soroptimist International was founded in 1921 in Oakland, California and sought to bring about change to the lives of women and girls worldwide – transforming lives through education, empowerment and by enabling opportunities. The name comes from Latin Soror meaning Sister, and optima meaning best – interpreted as the ‘best for women’. The Association was awarded Consultative Status with UNESCO in 1949, and ESOCEC (Economic and Social Council) United Nations in 1950. The first project was to “Save the Redwoods” in California, followed by numerous education programmes worldwide.

In New Zealand the organisation set up a refugee relief committee for people escaping Europe during WWII. From the start it involved business and professional women and Anne has held a range of leadership positions with her local North Shore club, as Regional President of the Upper North Island clubs, and Treasurer of the Maori Scholarship Trust. She served at the national level as Treasurer and Trustee of a Scholarship Trust for education ‘for women over 25 years and on a course of study’, and various regional Scholarships towards furthering girls’ education.

Anne has also served on the Council of the Federation of Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific, a member of the team which chose the Soroptimist International Programme focus for the next four years, and Treasurer of the umbrella organisation comprising four Federations.

Locally Anne has led the Women’s Fellowship of All Saints Anglican Church in Birkenhead, and Parish Auditor for 20 years: and also completed a similar valuable task for the Birkenhead Heritage Society for many years. Anne and her husband Edward presented the old Villa which is now the Society museum, named Farrington House. We are delighted the Kaipatiki Local Board has acknowledged Anne’s award.



Anne Farrington MNZM

■ 1853 – to the present

**Warkworth Museum & Parry Kauri Park
Bus Trip 10th June**

A very enjoyable day out, first the refreshment stop at the Honey Centre Café and shop, with the opportunity to taste honey samples gathered from various flowers. The bus was comfortable, our driver very obliging and David Verran provided a good commentary en route.

Next we were welcomed to the Historical Talk at the Warkworth Museum by local resident Ian. He shared the story of the English settlers, lead by John Anderson Brown who founded Warkworth in 1853. There were few Maoris living in the area at that time, although various small Pa sites used as temporary residences are located in the area. Brown named the new town sited at the bend of the river after Warkworth in Northumberland, where a relative taught for many years, similarly located on a bend of the river Croquet near its outlet to the sea. He was able to purchase from the Government 153 acres, and his daughter Amelia 51 acres.

Brown further surveyed the land, marking of allotments and naming streets associated with the older Warkworth. Percy, and Neville were surnames associated with the Dukes of Northumberland, and Alnwick their ancestral home. Lilburn was named after another historic tower and stately home in the region.

Croquet was misspelled to become Coquette Street. By May 1854 Brown was advertising allotments for sale. His home was where Bridge Lodge now stands next to the Warkworth Bridge. The town prospered with kauri logging, flour milling, and boat-building beside the river providing easy access to the sea at Mahurangi Harbour. By 1884 cement was being produced by Wilson's Cement Company, closing in 1928 during the depression years.



Signs to other Warkworth locations.
Photo Colleen Durham

Later during World War II it became host to thousands of military men from America. There were 25 military camps which sprung up around the towns farmlands. They carried out exercises prior to being sent to the Pacific Campaigns. They were well received by the local community.

In 1957 the Warkworth District High School opened, renamed Mahurangi College in 1962. New housing helped increase the population by 15% to 3,720 in the 2006 Census, while the village in England, with medieval castle and Norman Church rose less than 100 to 1,493 in 2011. The Museum was a delightful treasure trove of items from the past, plus the lovely stand of Kauri. A visit to the Puhoi Cheese Factory preceded our return to Birkenhead.

The Secret Diary of Charlotte Gatland

A new book *The Secret Diary of Charlotte Gatland* by Patricia Charlotte Dennis has been published by her family. A copy was sent to the Society.

This is an amazing true story, commencing in 1847 in London just prior to a Fencible family immigrating to New Zealand. Sadly the early death of the father required resourceful budgeting and planning for the mother and her children to cope in the young Auckland.

The story is not only relevant to the topic of our next speaker Don Gallagher, but is full of interesting details on the every day domestic arrangements of early settlers. I enjoyed learning about a sacking door on an early outhouse, and the noisy passage of the night cart collectors if a penny was not left out. In later years one of Charlotte descendant's was based in Greenhithe, and her second husband had died here in Birkenhead.

A copy will be at the next meeting.

The contact is Bookreps NZ Ltd. Ph. 419 2635 – (Emigrant Publishing, 2017, ISBN 978-0-473-37357-3, NZ\$38.99) or ask your local Library to order a copy.

The entrance, and a display within the Warkworth Museum



Photos from Warkworth Museum website (L.) and by Collen Durham (R.)