

BIRKENHEAD HERITAGE

— SOCIETY INC —

✉ P O Box 34419, Birkenhead, Auckland 0746

f www.facebook.com/historicbirkenhead

🌐 www.historicbirkenhead.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday 12th May –
Annual General Meeting**

**2pm at St Andrews Church Hall
172 Hinemoa Street, Birkenhead**

Presentation by Brian Potter “The forming of Birkenhead - the subdividing of the land”
Outlines how the Birkenhead we know came into being, and includes the forming of a sample of the various suburbs and streets. (See P.6)

Saturday 9th June –

2pm at St Andrews Church Hall
Presentation by Lisa Truttman The Dixieland Hall across the harbour at Point Chevalier, the controversies and issues.

CONTENTS

1914 – 1918 ANZAC Stories

**1930's 50th Jubilee of Zion Hill
Church and Sunday school**

*Our appreciation for sponsoring
printing to **Trish Love***

trishlove@premium.co.nz L.R.E.S.

Premium | On The Points

142A Hinemoa St.

Premium Real Estate Ltd.

MREINZ. Ph. WK 480 0209

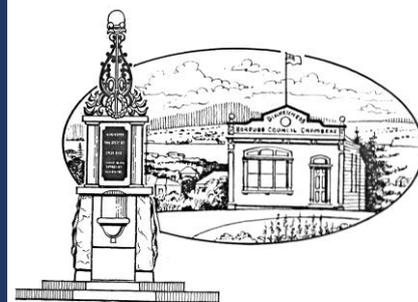


CONTACT US

President – Marcia Roberts 418 0397

Vice President – Brian Potter 483 3400

Vice President – Colleen Durham 483 4001



May - June
2018
Newsletter

PAST EVENT

The weather forecast for our Silverdale Pioneer Village trip predicted 55mm of rain between 8am & 4pm on 14th April. With the safety and comfort of our members our concern - the Committee decided to postpone the event. We will rebook.

The Birkenhead ANZAC Parade 2018



Photos; Top C. Durham Btm. M. Roberts

1914-1918

ANZAC - We continue to remember the Centenary Years of World War

Clyde McGilp was born on 12th October 1884. Prior to enlisting as a soldier he lived in Hauraki Street - now Hinemoa - with his father Constable Alexander McGilp, (Birkenhead's first resident police officer) and his mother Mary. According to one of his relatives Clyde's father is also remembered 'as the first Policeman in the Hokianga during the last native rebellion in New Zealand. One of Clyde's brother's school books have been displayed in the Russel Museum'.

The McGilps had eight children, five sons and three daughters. Three of their sons, Douglas, Clyde, and Lionel served in WWI. Douglas returned home, Clyde did return home but died in 1918 at Featherston, and Lionel was discharged.

Clyde had a long and honourable career serving his country, it began at the age of 18 when he served in the Armed Forces branch of the Army Service, South African War 1889-1902, in the year 1902 as a Private. Between then and WWI he is described as a Regular Soldier/Civilian, and single. He served in the Regular Military Service 1914-1918 as a Major with the New Zealand Field Artillery. He is listed as having participated in Campaigns; 1915-1916 Gallipoli, 1914-1919 Western Front, and 1914-1916 Egypt.

On return to New Zealand in 1918 Clyde was resident at the Military Barracks in Featherston where he died 14th November 1918 aged 35 years, just 3 days after Armistice Day. Sadly the influenza epidemic was the cause of death of many servicemen living within the confines of a military establishment, spread from a ship from overseas.



Clyde McGilp
(Source On Line cenotaph)

Clyde was not forgotten, according to the Cenotaph Records, Auckland Museum he was buried at the Featherston Cemetery, Western Lake Road in the Wairarapa (688A). His name is listed with others on a brass plaque reading "F.C. Memorial Plaque, Auckland Garrison Officers Club" which hangs in St. Mary's, next to Holy Trinity Cathedral in Parnell. Listed on the Auckland Museum and "Birkenhead Roll of Honour" at Birkenhead War Memorial Park.



Coral Malcolm and Jenny Goodwin laying the Birkenhead Heritage Wreath at the Birkenhead Roll of Honour ANZAC Day 2018

Photo C.Durham

1914 – 1918 ctd.

Clyde McGilp received the;

- Queen’s South Africa Medal (Transvaal, South Africa 1902 clasps.)
- 1914-1915 Star
- MID (Mentioned in Despatches) from Sir Douglas Haig, GCB, Commander-in-Chief of the British Armies in France. 13th November 1916.
- He was awarded Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, DSO, published in the London Gazette, 1st January 1917, p. 29 Record Number 473.

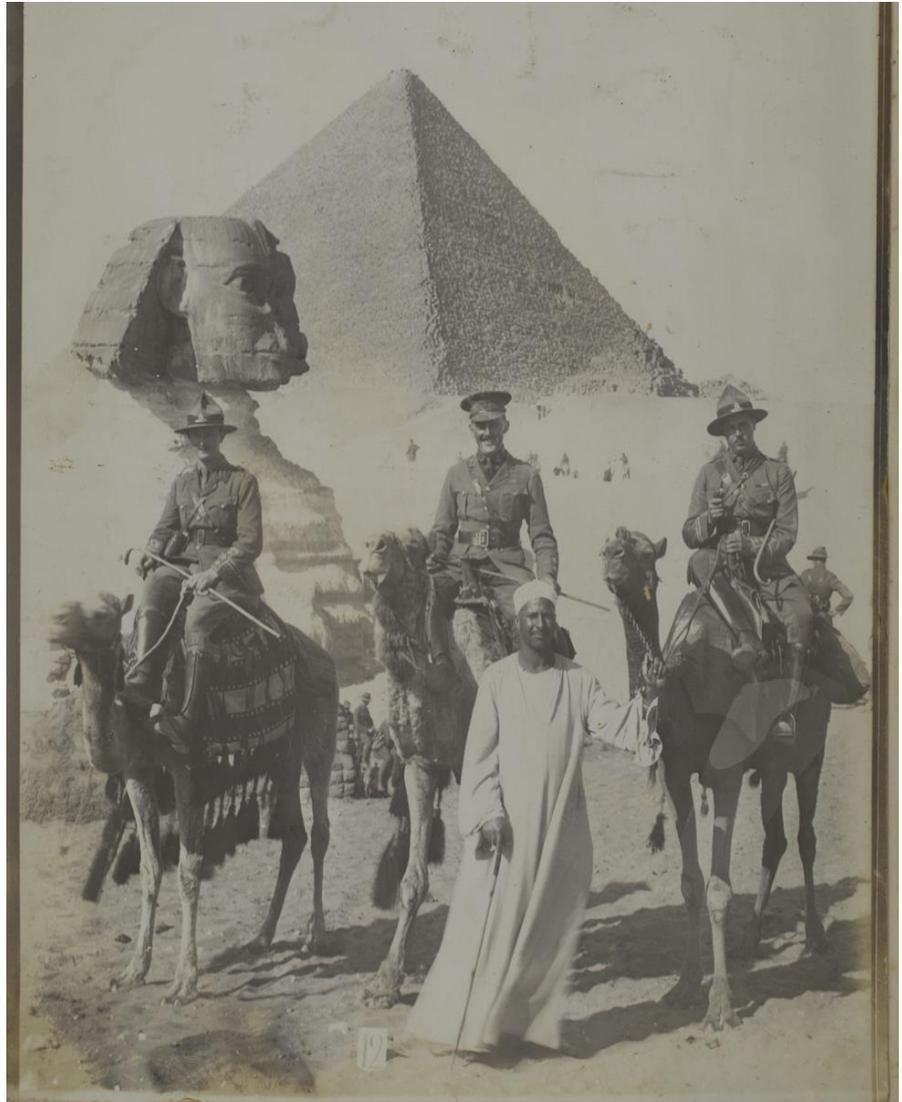
“This officer has done consistent good work ever since the 1st Battery was formed. On many occasions, like other Battery Commander’s he has had to observe under heavy fire. Several times in Armentieres his battery was heavily shelled, and he acted with great coolness and re... On many occasions his battery had to cut wire at close ranges. He was an excellent B.C. and I consider is worthy of recognition. He commanded the Battery in heavy fighting at Gallipoli.”

- British War Medal (1914 -1920)
- Victory Medal with leaf

Resource: The Cenotaph Record, Auckland Museum lists multiple references including Commonwealth War Graves Commission, N.Z. History online, Paper Past – Death of Soldiers and more.

A working-bee was held on Saturday 21st April at Farrington House, the outside walls were water blasted cleaning and vacuming inside completed , and grounds tidied.

Clyde McGilp on the right of the picture.



Mickle, A. M. R. (n.d.) Mickle album. Auckland War Memorial Museum -Tamaki Paenga Hira. PH-ALB-561. p.58.
No known copyright restrictions.

The ANZAC Parade and Service was well attended. With such a fine day this year many visitors came through Farrington House – estimated 60 people. Julia Potter’s home made ANZAC biscuits were appreciated by all. We gained one new member, and several said they would make a return visit. There were also 16 visitors the previous Sunday.

ANZAC Day - We acknowledge Australia in our day of remembering. Here is an Australian eye witness account, from a young soldier, Roy Kyle, on leave in England 100 year's ago.

"I travelled to Salisbury Plain where my brother, Len, was in training with his unit, the 39th Battalion of the 3rd Australian Division. My brother-in-law was also there with reinforcements for the 8th Battalion. Len obtained a couple of days leave and we spent Christmas Eve and Day together in London. I remember we saw a show at I think The Shaftesbury Theatre ...*Spider and the Fly Dance* [starring] that great Scottish comedian Harry Lauder, whose only child, Captain Lauder, had that day been on the casualty list amongst those killed....It was a wonderful show of courage and the audience rose at the end and stood for a minute in silence. Only then did he show any emotion and thanked them in a strangled voice for their sympathy and understanding. I never saw Len again."

"Early in February 1918, I went on ten days' leave prior to returning to France and spent it with relatives of my family in London, where I saw a number of good theatrical productions, and "the National Art Gallery, British Museum ...Dirty Dick's, Madame Tussaud's, The Old Curiosity Shop, Zoo, Hampton Court...and other places of interest. It seems impossible but you can cram a lot into a short time when you are young, healthy and life may be very short, and your guide a Londoner."

There were two zeppelin air raids during this short time. In the first raid, they were after the vast ammunitions factory at Greenwich, about two miles from the home where I was staying, and we had a good view of one airship, like a golden cigar in the glow of search lights."

The second raid was while my hostess and I were viewing a musical comedy – it may have been *High Jinks* – at, I think, the Adelphi Theatre in the Strand. I felt a great pride in being of British descent when the leading man (Jack Buchanan) came out on stage and calmly announced that 'There's likely to be a little fun from above shortly. We are going to carry on. Are you?' And not a single person moved from his or her seat, although bombs, (500 pounds) fell perilously close... one cutting the building of *John Bull* newspaper into two within 200 yards of the theatre."

"I had a wonderful twelve days and very reluctantly returned to camp, where I was punished for overstaying my leave. Towards the end of February I was sent to France."

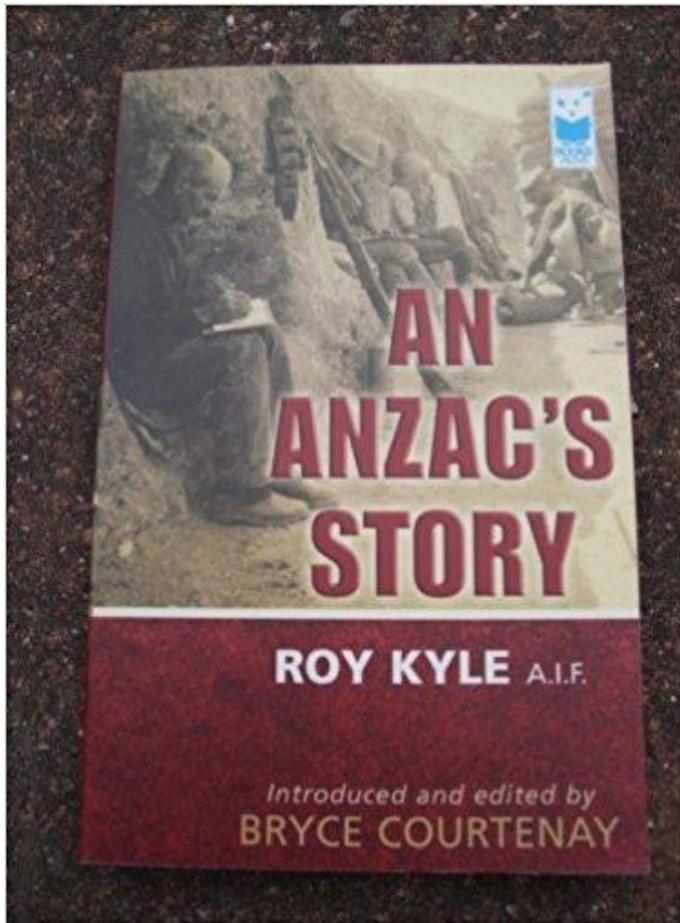
Roy Kyle survived his time on the front lines in Gallipoli and France and was duly returned to Australia. He not only lost his older brother Len, but his sister went down in a ship sailing from England to Australia where she had gone to visit her fiancée's family before war broke out. Her fiancée later lost his life in a naval vessel during action at sea. Roy wrote his life story in his senior years.

'In "1990, ROY KYLE, when an old man, returned to Gallipoli with other survivors. While there, a Turk approached him and asked, 'Why did you try to invade our country?'

Roy paused for a few moments, perhaps not having an immediate answer, 'We were part of the British Empire' he suggested at last. The Turk smiled, then added, 'We had an empire once.' Roy would say later that he saw the essential truth in it.

Source: Excerpts from Roy Kyle's book, a nephew of my grandmother. Editor.

1914 - 1918



Kyle, Roy. Edited by Courtney,
Bryce. (2003).
An Anzac's Story.
Penguin Books, Victoria.

2018

Conference Report

Brian Potter represented Birkenhead Heritage Society at the New Zealand History Federation Conference in March at the Thames School of Mines. It marked the 150th Anniversary of the opening of the Thames Goldfield.

He reported the Goldmine Experience at the North end of Thames had been massively developed since his last visit.

The members walked the underground mine (leading up to the Caledonian Mine Workings), and wearing ear muffs viewed the working stamper battery. They tried their hand at gold panning, viewed exhibits under development, and photo collections, plus watched a movie on underground mining at Waihi.

A new wing was opened at the A. & G. Price (Engineering Works) Exhibition at Thames Museum – the company had been operating in Thames since Gold Rush days. He noted the displays provided descriptive texts and information on the relevant dates. .

Harry Keith Peachey

22 September 1927 - 10 April 2018

It is with sadness we report the passing of our recent Committee Member Keith Peachey who along with his wife Inez attended our February Meeting. Keith was a bright and cheerful hard worker, an engineer, he worked as an engineer on the conversion of ferries from coal burning, and later with the Auckland Regional Authority. An active member of the Royal Akarana Yacht Club, a Mullet man and a keen fisherman and family man. We will remember his valuable input into our Committee meetings, and his assistance water blasting Farrington House Museum in November last year. His family quoted this poem on his Service Sheet, it seems appropriate to share a couple of verses here..

Gone Fishing

*The weather's fine, the tides right, and all the time I'm wishin'
That nothing else will matter, just as long as I'm out fishin'.....
So look for me from time to time, and if you find me missin'
Be happy that for evermore I've only gone out fishin'.*

By Norm Murray

1930's

Jubilee Celebration at Zion Church - from Papers Past, a delightful report.

A jubilee dinner was held in connection with the celebrations this week of the 50th Anniversary of the Zion Hill Church and Sunday School at Birkenhead.

The Rev. W. W. Avery presided at the public meeting which followed, when addresses were given by the Mayor, Mr. J. P. McPhail, the Revs. W. Walker (Pitt Street) Haslam (of Devonport, secretary of the conference), E. Drake (chairman of the District), and F. W. Wilkes (Anglican), and by Messrs. A. Campbell (Presbyterian) and R. Hames, of Takapuna.

Musical items were contributed by Mesdames J. Wright, J. W. Cocks and S. Carter, Misses E. Berry and D. Cocks, and elocutionary items were given by Messrs. J. Wright and S. Carter. At last evening's gathering the addresses were reminiscent of the early associations of the district and church. Most interesting in this respect were the remarks of Mr. Creamer, of Remuera, who resided at Birkenhead 65 years ago and whose father gave the site on which the church is built. There were only 13 families between Kauri Gully..... Shoal Bay in 1855. Mr Fitzpatrick, a brickmaker, lived on the other side of Kauri Point, and at Duck Creek (now Chelsea) there were three members of the McCrum family. Mr. Beadney, who lived on the Birkenhead side of Duck Creek, afterwards conducted brick works at Sulphur Bay, Northcote.

Mr. E.F. Tizard's was the first family at Birkenhead Point. Mr Hawkins was located in Glenfield Road. Mr. Creamer's parents lived at Zion Hill, and he had his first Sunday school lesson at the Anglican Church at Northcote from Mrs. Bateman, daughter of Mr. Thomas A. Bartley, speaker in the Provincial Council of Auckland. Among other old identities of Northcote he mentioned Mrs. Cooke, whose sons, John and James, were the first to run a ferry service; Mr Brady, who lived near the magnificent pohutakawa tree adjacent to the house Mr. Hall built there; Mrs. Clout, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Tarry, and Mr. Callan, who lived in a little brick house.

Mr. Allen Wilson spoke of many recollections since his childhood, and Mr. Fred Pugh gave some amusing experiences associated with his position as caretaker of the old hall. The Rev. J.H. Allen read greetings from many former workers in connection with the Birkenhead Church, and reminiscences forwarded by the Rev. A. B. Chappell.

Source: Auckland Star, Volume LXI, Issue 114, 16 May 1930.

Please join us at The Annual General Meeting 12th May 2018
Following the Annual Report and Election of Officers
Brian Potter will talk on the "Forming of Birkenhead" with photos
No charge for entry to the AGM, , a plate for afternoon tea appreciated.
Our raffles help to cover costs, 1 ticket \$2 and 3 for \$5.
Annual Subscriptions are due for renewal each May \$25 for single, \$35 for couples or a family.
Please bring your subscription to support our small committee.
Payment may be made by cash, cheque or electronic trfr. to A/C. No. 12 3035 0511576 00