



THE BIRKENHEAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Incorporated 1979)

PO Box 34419

Birkenhead

Auckland 0746



November/December 2013 NEWSLETTER

Greetings from the President

How many of you have visited our Museum this year with your family and friends?. The Committee have been working very hard to catalogue our displays, water blasting the Museum and replacing fence palings. The building and fence now need a coat of paint to complete this years maintenance. If you interested in being a volunteer or helping with displays etc, please telephone Mavis on 483 7230.

The Birkenhead Coastline display from the Heritage Festival is on display at the Museum if you missed seeing it at the Library.

We will be looking at reproducing the Frank Larking Book by Percy Allison, that we hold the copyright for, also in the next few months we should be able to start compiling another book of member's stories.

Just to remind you all that the entertainment for our Christmas Function on Saturday 23rd November will be Christmas stories from members. I do hope you can all come along for our final function of 2013.

If you have suggestions for speakers or bus trips we could use next year please give details to Mavis.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Regards

Ray Johanson



Memories – What are Memories

30 years – 40 years – or 80 years. Does it really matter? Mine only go back to 1933. That is when I first knew Birkenhead existed. As a very young teenager I had my first glimpse of a cow! And horror oh horror my first experience of an outside toilet. Years later when I married and came to Birkenhead to live I became quite proud of my own little outhouse. With sandsoap and elbow grease “One could eat off the floor” as my mother always said. And Oh! What a lovely vegetable garden we had. Why I can remember one cabbage weighing in at 25lbs. We gave that one away. I always kept a vase of flowers in the corner and woe betide any spider who thought to make a home there.

I wonder if there is another such as I. Where would there be another unfortunate bride, on the Sunday morning after her wedding to be seen standing in the middle of Highbury dressed in a glamorous Molleton dressing gown. My new husband decided at 6am to light the old coal range and make me a batch of scones. Oh well, if that’s the sort of thing new husband’s did then good luck to him. Unfortunately he set the chimney on fire. As we lived opposite the fire station (the original one at Highbury) off he went – hoping they would come quietly over and smother it in some way. Instead, off went the siren – bang open the doors and out shot the pride and joy of Birkenhead manned by one voluntary fireman. The others were soon on the spot though. Up on the roof they went and down the chimney went the hose. Glory what a mess. I, being a very new resident, and this you must remember was 7am on Sunday morning – thought all Birkenhead had turned out to see the fun. I am sure we were a topic of conversation for weeks to come.



No 11 Bus over the bank

Skip a few years to when we were living in Seddon Road, now Colonial Road. The times I cowered behind locked doors and windows when those great monsters, the Sugar Work’s Horses got out of their paddock and galloped past the house. How they towered over our 2 foot 6 inch picket fence. All was well when the man came to get them – they just trotted calmly back and I could breathe once more.

My next memory is of the bull which had wandered all the way from Takapuna and was shot right outside our gate. Do you know I can’t remember how they removed the carcass. I think I must have been out back being sick.

I can remember one occasion when I was ready with my old Brownie camera when the old No. 11 bus went over the bank. Poor old bus, everything happened to that one.

After I had managed to get my driver’s licence, which I did driving a large American car, I found it most difficult to turn in Hinemoa Street. Everytime I was down that way I would always go down to the wharf. Was my face red if the buses were there. “Here She Comes” would be the cry. Those drivers would then hop in and move their buses right over to the edge of the wharf to give me plenty of room to turn. What a nightmare to go to town on the vehicular ferry. I feel quite sure to this day the mate deliberately put me behind the funnel just to see me trying to get out. He would lean against the rail watching me make up my mind which way to turn the

steering wheel to make the car go the way I wanted it to. Oh well, we all have our memories, some good, some bad.
Kaye Bland



Now for something completely different I thought you would enjoy these

“Stella Awards”

These are ‘awards’ for the most outlandish lawsuits & verdicts in the USA....

A Pennsylvania jury ordered local restaurant to pay Amber Carson \$113,500 after she slipped on spilt soft drink and broke her tailbone. The soft drink was on the floor because moments before Ms. Carson had thrown the drink at her boyfriend during an argument! What ever happened to people being responsible for their own actions.

Now the best

Mrs. Grazinski of Oklahoma purchased a new Winnebago Motor-home. On her first trip out she drove onto the freeway then set the cruise control at 70 mph & calmly left the driver’s seat to go in the back to make herself a sandwich! Surprise, surprise, the vehicle left the freeway, crashed and overturned. Mrs Grazinski sued the Manufacturers because the Owners Manual did not state that ‘you could not leave the driver’s seat even with the cruise control set’. The Oklahoma jury awarded her (are you sitting down) \$1,750,000 plus a new Motor-home.

The Winnebago company actually changed their Manual as a result of this case.

Labour Day 2013

The Tall Ships leaving Auckland. How long will it be before we see anything like this again.



COMING EVENTS

Christmas Party

23 November 2013
Christmas Party
St Andrews Church Hall
Hinemoa Street
2pm – 4pm

Bring along your story of your most memorable Christmas to share with the members and to help celebrate our final event of the year.
Please Bring a plate.

Thank you to those who have supplied an email address for us to send the newsletters to. If anyone else would like to receive the newsletter electronically please don't hesitate to contact us with your email address.

President - Ray Johanson

Ph 483 7160

Email flo.ray@xtra.co.nz

Vice President - Brian Potter

Ph 483 3400

Email brian.potter@xtra.co.nz

Vice President – Colleen Durham

Ph 483 4001

Email faredurham@xtra.co.nz



Have a Happy and Safe Holiday from the Committee of the
Birkenhead Historical Society

If you have not paid your annual subscription these are **NOW OVERDUE**. We do appreciate you paying promptly as the funds will be spent on the upkeep of the Museum which we hope will be a permanent reminder of our history.