

**BIRKENHEAD HERITAGE
SOCIETY INC.**



PO Box 34419
Birkenhead
Auckland 0746

President Ray Johanson 483 7160
Vice President Brian Potter 483 3400
Vice President Colleen Durham 483 4001

**Newsletter
January/February 2017**

Next Event

**Bus trip to Wellsford Museum
Saturday 11th February 2017
Come and join this interesting trip.**

Bookings: Contact - Mavis Throll 483 - 7230, paying in advance ensures a seat.

Cost: \$30, including entrance fee. (By cheque, cash or electronic transfer)

Account Number 12 3035 0511576 00 – need to add ‘name’ and ‘bus trip’.

Leave: Verran’s Corner 9:30am. Farrington House 10:00am. **Return:** 4.15pm.

Coming Events in March

Saturday 11th March 2pm.

St Andrews Church Hall

Guest Speaker

Jim Young – boatbuilder

**An interesting talk about the early boatbuilding industry, and his own company
which was based at Birkenhead Wharf.**

**NEW Zealand Historical Federation Inc.
Annual Conference and Weekend of Events
24th to 26th March in Taranaki**

A bus will be taking and returning passengers en route to and from Auckland.

See excellent programme and flyer page 6.

More details and costs on the Birkenhead Heritage Website.

**Saturday April 9th 2pm.
Stories Day will be at St. Andrews Church Hall**

An update on the Birkenhead cemeteries opposite Pupuke Road.

The Birkenhead Heritage Society made the following presentation to the Kaipatiki Local Board on 24th August 2016.

“This submission concerns the incorrect naming of the Anglican Cemetery at Pupuke Road/Birkenhead Ave intersection as Pompallier Cemetery.

This incorrect renaming appears to have occurred in September 1989 when the Catholic Cemetery was transferred to the Birkenhead City Council by the Catholic Bishop of Auckland, it being decided to rename land outside the cemetery Pompallier in recognition of its historic identity. For some reason the Pompallier name has been interpreted as including the Anglican cemetery.”

What is the History of these two adjoining Cemeteries?

The Birkenhead Anglican Cemetery

In 1860 Major Isaac Rhodes Cooper, formerly of the 58th (Rutlandshire) Regiment of Foot, owned allotment 121 of 108 acres (Takapuna Parish), part of which is located at Pupuke Road/Birkenhead Avenue/Glenfield Road intersection.

The 58th Regiment was raised in 1755, later amalgamating with other British regiments and saw service on many overseas postings. They had spent 11 years in Ceylon from 1828, then escorted convict ships from Britain to New South Wales in 1843. The regiment remained in Australia for two years before a 14year posting in New Zealand, including service during the First Maori War (1846-1847). Several men retiring from the regiment opted to stay in New Zealand when the 58th left in 1859.

As an officer, Major Cooper would have been entitled to a land grant, the grants were not one piece of land but could be several separate lots. Major Cooper had given land for the erection of a church where St. John the Baptist (Anglican) Church in Northcote was consecrated by Bishop Selwyn, First Anglican Bishop of New Zealand in 1860.

In 1865 Major Cooper gifted 1 acre of his land, (adjacent to that conveyed to the Catholic Bishop by Philip Callan) to trustees appointed in 1864 by the General Synod of the Auckland Diocese of the Church of England as ‘a site for the erection of a Church’... but also... ‘gifted for religious or Charitable purposes’.

The trustees decided to use the land for burials, the first recorded burial was Thomas Forgham in 1882. The name of Highbury originates from the name of the Forgham families’ home. A death notice found for Major Issac Rhodes Cooper, formerly of the 58th Regiment N.S.W. RG 1889/01576, recorded as the son of Issac S. Rhodes and unknown mother, who died on October 6th, 1889 at Sydney, so he did not remain in New Zealand.

The cemetery was initially identified as the Church of England Cemetery, lying within the boundaries of the Takapuna Parish, also Northcote Cemetery due to the association with the Northcote Parish, named as the Birkenhead Cemetery in 1902 in the Funeral Notice for well know orchardist Mr. Henry James Hawkins, now referred to as the Birkenhead Anglican Cemetery. A post and wire fence divided the Cemetery from the Roman Catholic Cemetery.

As early as the 6th February 1840 Bishop J.B. Pompallier at Waitangi spoke out for recognition of other faiths, the Forth Article of the Treaty of Waitangi recognized the “several faiths, (beliefs) of England, of the Wesleyans, of Rome and also the Maori custom, shall be alike protected.”

Within the Anglican Cemetery other denominations were buried, including those from the Methodist and Presbyterian, and those with no affiliation. However at a meeting of the cemetery Board on June 9th 1924 concern was raised the cemetery would be fill within ten years, and it was decided to restrict internments ‘to members of the Church of England who have taken an active interest in the Church’. At that time there was an Agent paid an annual remuneration of 12 pounds, and a caretaker and gravedigger on hourly rates.

Later it seems the uptake of the two cemeteries became difficult, there were large increases in the local population following the opening of the Harbour Bridge. One Vicar was reported to use his own mower to cut the grass for a number of years. In 1979 the Birkenhead Borough Council began talking with the trustees of the old cemeteries about taking over responsibility for the upkeep. The transfer of the Anglican portion occurred in 1980 and the Catholic portion in 1987.

On the earlier North Shore City web site it was reported ‘The Birkenhead Historical Society and Friends of the Cemetery did a great amount of work at Pompallier Cemetery’ over 18 years throughout the two cemeteries, clearing weeds, clearing debris that contained car wrecks, the result of years of illicit dumping which were covered in climbing vines and a tangled mass of weeds and regrowth. Local woman Connie Purdue was the instigator of the work, Margaret Hutchinson and Juann Ryan spent years working to not only clear weeds but restore memorials, and planted roses and some appropriate trees near the graves of some of the earlier pioneers. Olive trees in memory of the Rev. A. M. McCallum a Minister of the Free Church of Scotland who built his home “Mount of Olives” at the bottom of Ocean View Road. The abundant apples attract birds in summer to the tree near Mr. Hawkins grave, and a palm grove near that of Clement Lindley Wragge whose passion for gardening created “Waiata” at Birkenhead Point. Margaret and Juann received a Rotary Award for their Community Service in the year 2000.

The Birkenhead Catholic Cemetery

The existing stone inscription erected on a solid concrete block in the Birkenhead Catholic Cemetery states the origin and purpose of the gift.

On 13th November, 1861, three acres of land here was sold by
Philip Callan of Stokes Point to JEAN BAPTISTE FRANCOIS
POMPALLIER, first Catholic Bishop of Auckland
for ten Shillings.

A part of the land was consecrated as this cemetery.
On 30 September 1989, a ceremony was held to mark the formal
transfer of the full three ‘acre’ block to the Birkenhead City
Council to be held in trust for the people of Birkenhead.
The Catholic Bishop of Auckland as represented by
Philip Purcell, Vicar General of the Auckland Diocese
Mayor of Birkenhead by the Deputy Mayor Peter Thomas.
The land outside the cemetery was renamed Pompallier Park
in recognition of its historic identity.

The Callan family lived in the Birkenhead - Northcote area from at least 1843, in a whare, and may well have come to some arrangement with local Maori until Philip Callan senior bought Lot 30 in July 1851, and Lot 31 in 1856. It could be assumed that Maori moved out of the area following the Mahurangi Purchase from 1841. Callan was greatly involved in the establishment of St. Patrick’s Roman Catholic Church in Auckland, and was well known as a prominent benefactor of the early Catholic Church in Auckland.

St Patrick's Catholic Church, served the North Shore until a separate church was built in the early twentieth century, St Patrick's lists six Maori marriages for "Onewa" families from 1846 to 1849.

Phillip Callan had also received a crown grant of 67 acres of land in Birkenhead in 1853 comprising Allotment No. 152*, a portion of which was the land sold in 1861 to J.P F. Pompallier, first Catholic Bishop of Auckland. No records of burials can be found until John O'Neil on 18th August 1898 in what from that time was to become Birkenhead Catholic Cemetery.

In 1987 the Cemetery was gifted by Bishop Browne to the Birkenhead City Council with the unused portion of the land to be developed as a reserve and named after Bishop Pompallier. Members of St Mary's Parish, Onewa Road led the group Friends of the Cemetery, and were instrumental in organizing the handover, and arranging for the Council to provide the inscribed concrete block.

In 1996 an area of Maori grave sites located with the graveyard area were rediscovered following a clean up by Council and Friends of the Cemetery. A special ceremony was held at the site to unveil a memorial plaque, which was blessed by Father Peter Ryan of Hato Petra College*

The Birkenhead Heritage Society Committee looks forward to the time when the two separate but adjoining historic Cemeteries will retain their individual church affiliation, with appropriate interpretative boards, and the name Pompallier will honour the first Catholic Bishop of Auckland by the attached portion of the park which lies within the Birkenhead War Memorial Park, and the path which leads down through regenerating bush to significant native trees, as a small piece of early preserved native forest.

*Birkenhead Historic Residential Neighbourhoods Heritage and character Study May 2005
Prepared for North Shore City Council by Matthews and Matthews Architects Ltd. & Lisa Truttman p21

Birkenhead 1888 -1988

What Have we to show for 100 years?

Quite a lot you will say –
Industry, commerce, social life
The rush and hassle of the modern day

*

Clay roads, metal roads
Horse buses, wagons and traps
Ferry boats came to Birkenhead
And sugar workers always wore caps.

*

Sunday School anniversaries and concerts
Filled our social life
We played, we worked and lived together
There was no crime or strife.

*

We must be progressive
We must move with the times

But my memory goes back to other times

When life was easy and slow
We lived in a world of our own
We were just beginning to grow

*

Grocer, butcher and baker -
All bought goods to our door
Old Mr Wong with his vege cart
And the man with his fish galore.

*

World War 1 passed – we were much the same
World War 2 was when the changes came
Transport was easy, we had a harbour bridge
Our borough grew into a city

*

But for me Birkenhead brings back memories
Which will EVER be in my mind

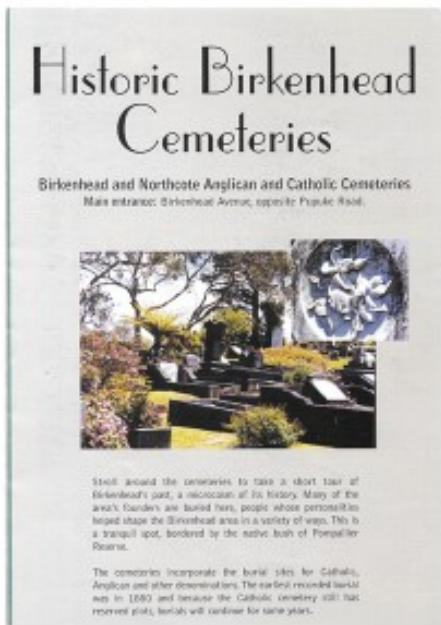
Alice O'Callahan

Editor: Marcia Roberts

The Historic Birkenhead Cemeteries Pamphlet

Birkenhead and Northcote Anglican and Catholic Cemeteries

– published by North Shore City Council - (1980-1990s)



Symbolism

ERN	Symbol of fate and death. Pterory symbolizing man is but clay in the hands of God.
CROSSES	Christian faith and resurrection.
FLAMES/TORCHES	Symbol of new life - Christian rebirth to heavenly abode.
BOOKS	The Bible.
HEARTS	Love.
WREATH	Victory over death.
DRAPERY	Dark sun - shadow of death or night creeping onward.
ANGELS	Often used on children memorials.
BROKEN COLUMNS	Symbolize a young life shortened early.
STEPS	Stairway to heaven.
ROSEMARY	Remembrance (Hamlet).
PALM LEAVES	Triumph over death.
IVY	Christian Faith.
SUNRISE	Rebirth.

Sacred Monograms

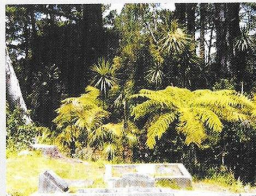
JESUS	CHRIST	ALPHA OMEGA

Crosses

LATIN	PATRIARCHAL	COPTIC	EASTERN	GREEK	ST GEORGE
	LOURNAINE	STABED	RUSSIAN		
			BYZANTINE		

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observatory in Britain and the Mt Kosciuszko observatory in New South Wales. In New Zealand, he was well known as the source of the daily weather forecast in the New Zealand Herald. His passion for gardening led him to turn his property 'Waiata' at Birkenhead Point, into a unique tropical garden, featuring over forty varieties of palm. A palm grove has been established near his grave in memory of this brilliant, sometimes eccentric man.



6. **Thomas Forgham** (died 1882 aged 76 years) one of the first recorded burials in the cemeteries. Thomas built a home in Birkenhead and named it 'Highbury' after the country home of the Hammond family in England. Although the house no longer exists, the name is commemorated in the Highbury Shopping Centre.

7. **William Francis Hammond** (died 1907, aged 77 years) was already a qualified architect and surveyor when he arrived in New Zealand. Hammond surveyed all the Birkenhead and Northcote area in the 1870's & 80's. He designed Zion Hill Methodist Church and was the first superintendent of the Chelsea Mission Hall built at Chelsea in 1885. Hammond also obtained the land from the Crown for the Eskdale Road Cemetery, Glenfield and set out a design for this cemetery.

8. **Rev. Alexander Murray McCallum** (1832 to 1897) A Minister of the Free Church of Scotland, poor health led him first to Italy and then to California, where he became interested in fruit tree culture; before coming to New Zealand with his wife and children. He became Minister of St Pauls Presbyterian Church in Devonport, and built his home "The Mount of Olives", at the bottom of Ocean View Road. Upon retirement he spent his time experimenting with different types of fruit, importing apples, grapes and persimmons (the first in NZ). He was a keen advocate of New Zealand having an Arbour Day.

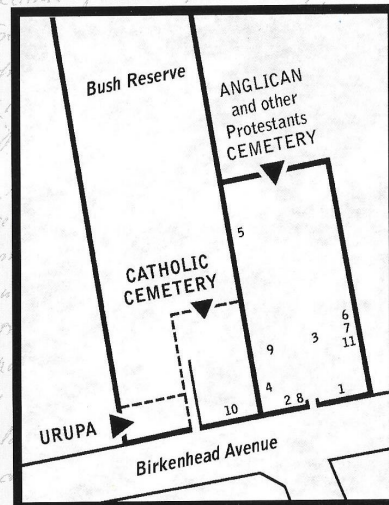
the plaque on the site of the urupa

9. **Kate R. and James Caldwell McPhail** (died 1893 and 1894, aged 46 and 48 years). James came to Chelsea from Melbourne in 1883 as a contractor employed by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company. During the building of the Sugar Works he was responsible for all the plumbing work and when the works began production in 1884 he became contractor in charge of the Refined Sugar Store. Kate and James had seven children and two of their sons later served Birkenhead as mayor and councillor.



10. **Capt. Matthew Slattery** (died 1904 aged 80 years) came to New Zealand with the 48th Regiment and fought against Hone Heke in Northland. He returned with his regiment to England; but upon his discharge, returned to New Zealand in the 1870's.

11. **William Thompson** (died 1928, aged 84 years) and **Maria Thompson** (died 1929, aged 85 years) emigrated from Britain with their three children, and bought land in Birkenhead. They established a market garden producing strawberries, and Maria made jam to sell in the district. William formed a canning business - "Thompson and Hills" later to be called "Oak".



Visit the Birkenhead Library to find more information on the history and residents of old Birkenhead.



New Zealand History Federation Inc

Conference and AGM 24 March – 26 March 2017

Hosted by Patea and Okato Historical Societies
C/- N.Z. History Federation, Secretary, 5 Elmira Avenue, Chartwell, HAMILTON 3210
Neil Curgenvan 0272441348, historyfederation@gmail.com

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Friday 24th

7.00

Get together ,the opportunity to present to other those interesting activities your society has been involved with during the past year, and gain ideas for where to go in the future. Venue TBA

Saturday 25th

9.00

Assemble at Devon hotel

Bus tour leaves, Auckland bus will be complimented with New Plymouth bus for those travelling independently and also for locals wanting to join the conference.

Each bus will have a commentator .

Tour of Heritage sites relating to Taranaki wars and its history, traveling through Waitara, Bell Block and New Plymouth

Lunch, arrangements have been made for these bus loads

Afternoon from New Plymouth to Okato passing Mission House, Dickie Barrett's grave, Pioneer Memorial, site of the Battle of Waireka and Omata Stockade.

Afternoon tea and AGM at 3.00 at Okato

Travel to Parihaka via St George Redoubt and Kaitara battlesite

5.00

Arrival at Parihake Pa, hosted v for dinner and movie Tatarakhi the Children of Parihaka

8.30

Return to Devon Hotel

Sunday

From Devon Hotel (one bus)

Tour around Central City including Len Lye Gallery, Govett Brewster Art Gallery, St Mary's Anglican Church and Cemetary

Bus will leave to head north at appropriate time for suitable arrival back in Auckland

NB Final details of times etc will be determined once numbers have been confirmed. REGISTER EARLY

Note: Attendance at the Annual General Meeting is FREE.

Cancellations must be notified to Neil Curgenvan, Secretary, N.Z. History Federation. No refunds will be given for cancellations received after 12 March, including "no shows" at the conference, unless there are exceptional circumstances (at the discretion of the organising committee). Substitute attendees will be accepted at any time.