

BIRKENHEAD HERITAGE

— SOCIETY INC —

✉ P O Box 34419, Birkenhead, Auckland 0746

f www.facebook.com/historicbirkenhead

🌐 www.historicbirkenhead.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

■ **May 11th Annual General Meeting**

Sat. 2-4pm St Andrews Hall, 172 Hinemoa Street

In keeping with the rules 'Fourteen days notice of the A.G.M and the business of the meeting shall be given to members.' Three additions to the Society Rules will be presented, (see details page 2).

Followed By

Guest Speaker – Richard Coote,
Retired Principal, Birkdale Intermediate;
Speaking on his visit to the sites of the
Passchendaele battle and the Great Escape.

Plus Celebrate our 40th Birthday –
Birkenhead Heritage Society 1979-1919
Free event, raffles and special afternoon tea.
Visitors welcome

■ **June 8th Saturday, Stories Day**

St Andrews Hall, 172 Hinemoa St. 2-4pm

■ **July 13th Saturday Bus Trip proposed.**

Our appreciation for sponsoring printing to

Trish Love trishlove@premium.co.nz

09 558 4518 or 021 22 66 099

Premium | On The Points

142A Hinemoa St.

Premium Real Estate Ltd.

MREINZ Licensed REAA

2008.

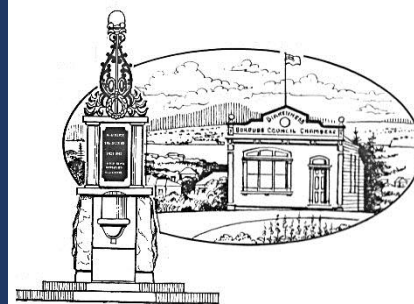


CONTACT US

President – Marcia Roberts 418 0397

Vice President – Brian Potter 483 3400

Vice President – Colleen Durham 483 4001



May - June
2019
Newsletter

■ **Birkenhead School – 100 years on**

By Brian Potter
The Celebration



CONTENTS

- P2 A.G.M. Rule Amendments**
- P2 'Our Community Our People' for 2019**
- P3-5 Birkenhead School Celebrations**
- P6 Northcote and Birkenhead School 1901**
AGM Report from Auckland Star

Annual General Meeting 11th May

Business: Presidents Report
Financial Report
Amendments to the Rules*
Election of Officers

***Purpose:** To meet current Tax Department requirements relating to any disposal of the assets.

The Amendments: Will enable the Society to apply for tax exemption, required for grant applications.

New: Rule 5 Personal Benefit

The Organisation does not have the purpose of making a profit for any member and prohibits the distribution of property in any form to any member.

All subsequent Rule numbers advance by 1.

Addition; to Rule 18 Alteration to Rules

Current: No alteration, amendments or revision of these rules shall be made except at an Annual General Meeting, or a Special General Meeting.

ADD: No addition or alteration of the objects, personal benefit clause or the dissolution clause shall be made which affect the non-profit body status.

The provisions and effect of this clause shall not be removed from this document and shall be included and implied into any document replacing this document.

Current: The decision of the Committee on the interpretation of any rules or regulation, or on any matter not covered by the rules shall be final.

Addition to Rule 19. Dissolution

Current: The Society may be dissolved in accordance with the Incorporated Societies Act 1908. On its dissolution the Museum building is to be transferred to the Auckland Council.

On dissolution of the Society the exhibits of the Society's Museum are to be first offered to their original donors and subsequently to organisations having like objectives.

ADD: The funds of the Society shall not be paid or distributed among the members but are to be offered to organisations having like objectives or to the Registered Charities within New Zealand.

(Rules 18 and 19 stand with the additions above).

Marcia Roberts President.

For the 2019 Auckland Heritage Festival we would like to prepare a story board of
“Our Community, Our People”

and now seek stories about the journeys of people who are connected with, work or live locally.

Our early settlers braved journeys on Sailing Ships in the 1800s, later replaced by steam ships, many came as immigrants after WWII, changing to long flights in the 1970s, a new life. We would like to share such stories.

Here is an account of one early sailing ship voyage. The *John Temperly* left Gravesend, U.K. in 1865. 8th May struck by a storm shortly after sailing.

29th May “off Gibraltar a sudden squall struck while carrying full canvas, meeting at the same time a heavy sea forward which swept down the hatch and set everything movable a dance and a jingle.”

“June, a sailor was knocked off the jib boom by the flying-jib. A boat was quickly lowered and luckily the man was picked up.”

“27th July moving splendidly along 9 to 10 knots, and passed close to a large iceberg – the enormous mass of ice had 6 pinnacles, all glittering in the sun. The sea was breaking over parts of the berg – it looked like an island with 6 mountains on it.” Owing to the presence of ice, the crew on watch was doubled, the water temperature taken every half hour. If a marked drop in the reading should occur, generally a warning of the proximity of ice. The ship survived that experience – but received damage in a later storm.

“13th August the foretopmast, the foretopgallant mast, and the foreyard, all coming down on the deck...taking crew and passengers 3 days to clear away...the largest spare spar on board raised to make a new foreyard.”

31st August the ship had a narrow escape, “severe gale” and nearly ran aground on rocks during the passage down the coast to Auckland.

The same ship was then entrusted with taking Colonel Wyatt, and the second half of the 65th Regiment – 267 rank and file - back to London. She sailed on the 25th October 1865, also carrying 68,000 pounds worth of gold. She fortunately made a successful return trip

Source: Story from Diary of Mr.J.A. Pond in *White Wings Fifty Years of Sail in the New Zealand Trade* - N.Z.S. Co. Ltd.: Printed by his Company, The Brett Printing Company Ltd. Shortland Street, in 1924. p.143/4

Birkenhead School - 100 years on by Brian Potter

This year Birkenhead School celebrated its centennial on its present site on the 8th and 9th of March. Prior to the celebration the centennial committee approached the Birkenhead Heritage Society for assistance. We contributed a number of our archived photos, loaned the school desk which featured in a Highbury Mall display, and provided two photo displays.

The committee asked me, as an old boy, to be interviewed for a video they were producing. On arriving for this I noted that Graham Stott and Barbara Lewis were just leaving, so I was amongst friends! The interview was a lot of fun as I was led through my recollections of life at the school which I attended from 1959 to 1965.

The centennial commenced on the Friday with a walk around the grounds escorted by current pupils: in my case I was escorted by a descendent of the Bland family – a blast from the past as the Blands were our neighbours in Mokoia Road when I was a child.

After the tour I showed my escorts the school layout in 1963 using our display. As I departed one was heard to say: "Wow, we learned as much from that guy as he did from us". On Friday night a "Natter and Nibbles" evening was held at the Birkenhead Bowling Club. There was indeed much Nattering, meeting old friends, consuming the sumptuous Nibbles, and hearing the introduction of the centennial history book written by Robert Hunt. A copy will be in our museum.

Saturday saw gatherings for decade photos, planting a time capsule, and in the afternoon a High Tea. I was invited to speak on behalf of Past Pupils for 2 to 3 minutes which is a very tall order. To relate to as many people as possible I spoke about the school grounds, in particular about places that hadn't changed too much over the years. This approach defied the time limit but got lots of laughs. It was great to have Heritage Society members company at the centennial: Marj Mumme, Coral Malcolm, Jenny Goodwin and David & Susan Verran as well as Farrington family members Judith and Keith.

1919 Standard 2





BACK ROW: Fay Taylor, Ada Le Roy, Ivy Thomas, Edna Verran, Daisy Spiers, Myrtle Fitzgerald, Zara Walker, Betty Giles.
THIRD ROW: Vera Town, May Blair, Blanche Hazelwood, Monica Gamble, —?—, Edna Townsend, Olive Roberts.
SECOND ROW: Myrtle O'Halloran, —?—, Rosalind Satchell, —?—, Phyllis Thom, — Perrett, —?—, Violet Smith.
FRONT ROW: Elsie Jones, — Tucker, — Beebie, Mona Miles, Dorothy McPhail, Olive Harnden, Rebecca Ross.

1919 Standard 1 (from Birkenhead Heritage Society Archive)



1919 Primer 2 (provided by Deidre and Brian Wilkins)

We are now missing two key items of information about these 1919 pupils:
The Primer 1 Class photo, and matching the names on the roll with the photos, (except Standard 1 where we have most of these). If anyone can assist I would be very grateful. B.P.

Birkenhead School - 100 years on ctd.



The story of the school begins in 1878 with the establishment of Northcote School on part of the current Northcote College site. Apart from 1885 – 1886, when a small school existed in the Chelsea Sugar Works village, Northcote was the only school in the area until the opening of Glenfield School in 1890. By 1913 the roll had outgrown the Northcote site so a “Side School” was established in the Highbury Foresters Hall. Later the Standards moved from Foresters Hall to the Zion Hill Methodist Church Hall. In 1919 the Birkenhead (Side) School building was completed and both Standards and Primers moved there.

In 1925 a further classroom block facing Mokoia Road, was completed, which was intended for Junior classes, however it was considered that the “busy” nature of Mokoia Road made this too dangerous so the Seniors were housed in this block.

By the early 1950’s the school had added a Dental Clinic, Swimming Pool, Admin Block and developed sports fields.

By 1963, when the school roll had reached almost maximum size an aerial photo just happened to be taken of the whole Birkenhead Borough; available from Google Earth. Thus a comparison of 1963 can be made with the view from 2019, shown above.

Congratulations to the school and the centennial committee for a fantastic celebration.

Brian Potter

Historic Event : Northcote Birkenhead School Committee AGM 1901

The annual meeting of householders was held last evening in the school. There were from 40 to 50 persons present. Mr. William Thompson was elected chairman. The report for the year was read by the secretary to the committee (Mr. Brooking), and showed that on March 31st the number of scholars on the roll was 261, with a daily average of 222.6. The balance-sheet showed receipts to be £62 7/11, and the expenditure £50 7/11, leaving a credit balance of £12. The inspector's report was read, and was very satisfactory. Reference was made to the rapid increase in the number of scholars, and in connection with this matter a letter was read from the Board of Education, intimating the appointment of an assistant master. Some discussion took place as to providing a complete gymnastic apparatus, eventually the matter being left to the incoming committee. The committee were supported by those present with reference to their action in refusing to lend the school to outside bodies for entertainment or show purposes. A ballot took place for the new com-

-mittee, when the following gentlemen were elected:

Messrs. Cadness, McClymont, Rushbrook, Boyd, McKay, McPhail, I. Taylor, Brooking and Roberts. Before closing a vote of thanks for his past services was accorded unanimously, and with applause to the late chairman, Mr. Low, this gentleman having continuously served on the committee for 14 years, and part of that time as chairman. A vote of thanks concluded the meeting.

AUCKLAND STAR,
VOLUME XXXII, ISSUE
95, 23 APRIL 1901

The newspaper was
digitised in partnership with
Auckland Libraries.

Join our 40th
Celebration and
AGM 11th May