

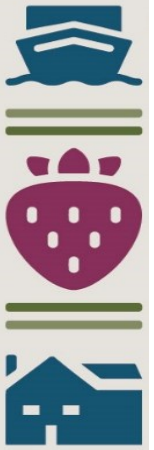


Birkenhead Heritage Society

FOUNDED 1979

July
August

2023



www.facebook.com/historicbirkenhead



www.birkenheadheritage.org.nz

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat. 8th July 2-4 pm 44 Mahara Ave at Farrington House Museum
Gum Diggers in Your Back Yard

presented by Erica Hannam
Afternoon tea provided –
Members free: Visitors \$5 donation

Sat. 12th Aug. 2-4 pm 44 Mahara Ave at Farrington House Museum

The Gold Hole Outhaul at Northcote Pt
Interesting artefacts from Chelsea Sugar
Afternoon tea provided –
Members free: Visitors \$5 donation

Farrington House Museum opens
44 Mahara Ave, Birkenhead
2-4pm on the 2nd & 4th Sundays:
July 9th & 23th. & August 13th & 27th
Adults \$4 /members & children free



We remember Past President Ray Johanson who passed away in May,
Ray, above at the opening of Farrington House in 1997. A tribute by Brian Potter on page 5 .

We now have a fresh new website appropriate for the generations brought up in the world of computers. The new Logo replaces the former hand drawn by member Margaret Paine, which served us well for many years. The contact address @ gmail is below.

Our appreciation for sponsoring printing to

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Retiring and new Committee members

CONTACT US

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**44th Annual General Meeting
Birkenhead Heritage Society Inc.
10th June 2023**



President's Report from Erica Hannam:

Welcome, I am delighted to present my first annual report as Society President. It is a great privilege to contribute to the future of the Birkenhead Heritage Society. The 44th AGM so well done, everyone!

BHS Committee First, I would like to thank the Committee for their incredible work over the past 12 months. Marcia Roberts, our immediate past president and editor of the Society Newsletter. Brian Potter and Colleen Durham, our Vice Presidents. Michelle Taylor, Secretary, and with her partner did a major clean-up on the Museum grounds. Stuart Durham, Treasurer. Elizabeth Collins, and Dorinda Duthie, Leighann Wilson and Nikki Cloete, who have worked to consolidate and reorganize the Museum Collection. (Michelle absent from photo below at the end of year gathering.)



Top **Brian, Dorinda, Nikki and Leighann**, Mid: **Elizabeth, Colleen and Stuart**, Front: **Marcia and Erica**

Museum Volunteers I would also like to thank museum volunteers David and Susan Verran, Diana Hill and Paul Woodward.

Museum Reorganization Over the past 12 months, our focus has been attracting new members, a key reason behind the Museum reorganization. With Leighann and Colleen's assistance, we have increased the level of advertising of our talks and open days on social media community pages, which has resulted in an increase in numbers attending the talks and museum open days.

Museum Maintenance I would also like to thank Brian Potter and John Duthie for their handyman skills and maintenance work at the Museum.

Monthly Talks Our monthly talks are an important way to keep in touch with our members and connect with the broader community. So far, in 2023, we have presented the following talks.

Feb; Birkenhead and area Fruit Growers: Brian Potter showed our unique tools and implements

March; We were fortunate to have Laurie Wesley, an expert Geotech engineer who spoke on **Slips in Le Roys Bush**, a topical subject given colossal damage resulting from Anniversary Weekend storms.

May; Bottle Collector and Expert Lee Urquhart recently gave a fascinating talk on Bottles – we titled it **Bottles of Birkenhead**. Many of you will know that the Museum has an interesting and eclectic collection that was dug up locally and donated. Some children attended this talk and brought along bottles they had found, excited to get information and advice on their finds!

June today, **David Verran speaking on the Birkenhead Brass Band**. I'm looking forward to this!

(April no meeting due to Easter). Our planned talks over the next few months include the following –

Gum Diggers in Your Back Yard ; The Gold Hole Outhaul at Northcote Point has some interesting artefacts in use, from Chelsea Sugar; and **Poets of Birkenhead**

Heritage Festival : We had an excellent turnout for the exhibition at last year's Heritage Festival event at the Museum. Last year's event was 'Sugar, Farming and the Birkenhead Heritage Museum'.

We received a grant that enabled printing of large-format posters, which will be used for future events. Some visitors attending the Heritage Festival event stayed for hours, looking over the Museum's books and periodicals.

44th Annual General Meeting Report ctd.



This year's Heritage Festival runs through September and October. The theme for the 2023 festival (prescribed by Auckland Council) is **Peace, Love and War** – and our submission this year is the period between the wars, domesticity and the home. This is an ideal opportunity to showcase the Museum and collections, including the very early electric cooker donated earlier this year. I hope everyone here can visit, and we should have a heat pump commissioned by then.

Heritage Trail About a year ago, the Birkenhead Heritage Society and the Birkenhead Residents Association embarked on a collaboration with Auckland Council and the Kaipātiki Local Board to produce a Heritage Trail to raise the level of awareness of Birkenhead Heritage (one of the North Shore's three historic maritime suburbs), and as a tourist attraction to encourage people to the area, and hopefully stop for coffee and support our local businesses.

We have used the knowledge and expertise of Heritage Society members and archives. I want to mention Marica and Brian's contribution, historian Jane Leggett, and some very talented local graphic designers. We have met with various organizations and stakeholders to discuss the work, a true collaboration of Birkenhead locals and businesses. And a special thank you to Gillian Taylor from the Birkenhead Residents Association for her fantastic project management effort.

As it happens, we got a bit carried away and produced two heritage trails. The first is the **Gateway**, which starts at Birkenhead Wharf and winds up Hinemoa Street – with a diversion down Awanui Street – and up to Highbury House as its endpoint. Then the walk reverses back past the cafes to take in Bridgeview Road and the beautiful views from Wanganella Street before descending through the bush track part of Hinemoa Park, back to the Wharf.

Picking 'stops' on the Trail was difficult because Birkenhead Point has many interesting places to see. Another limitation is the published leaflet of size, which prevents going into detail about the highlighted stops.

New Website To get around this, the Heritage Society has published a new website that will provide the ability to download the Trail and offer extended and detailed information for those who want to do a deeper dive into the architectural styles of the residences and the stories of those who lived there. **The new website is - birkenheadheritage.org.nz.**

Cemeteries Trail The second Trail is called "**The Cemeteries Walk**", which encompasses the three cemeteries – Anglican, Catholic, and the Urupa. We had to select just a few individuals from the many buried here who represent the development of Birkenhead, Auckland, and NZ society. For logistic reasons and the current wet and overgrown condition of the Cemeteries, we will probably defer the launch of this walk until later in the year.

Closing

- In summary, the past year has been to reset the foundations for the next number of years. We need to grow our membership, and we need to raise our profile. This Society and the Museum are significant and respected assets in Birkenhead and the surrounding communities.
- In closing, I would like to say thank you to you, our members, and Committee for your involvement in and support of the Birkenhead Heritage Society.

Signed by Erica Hannam, President

Financial Report 10th June 2023 Annual General Meeting



BIRKENHEAD HERITAGE SOCIETY INC STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

| EXPENDITURE | 2023 | 2022 | INCOME | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Museum Establishment | | | Donations | | \$3,740.82 |
| Museum Expenses | | | Museum/Donations | \$576.80 | |
| Electricity | \$835.12 | | Meetings | \$341.40 | \$175.10 |
| Insurance | \$1,460.50 | \$2,595.22 | Subscriptions | \$745.00 | \$815.00 |
| Repairs and Mtce | \$271.85 | | Interest | \$210.00 | \$75.00 |
| Firewatch -Alarm | \$159.98 | | Sundry | \$200.00 | |
| PO Box Rental | \$215.00 | \$125.00 | Heritage Trail Auckland Council | \$7,925.00 | |
| Heritage Trail | \$1,775.00 | | | | |
| Website upgrade | \$2,060.80 | | | | |
| Bank Fees | \$40.00 | | | | |
| Water Care | \$104.34 | | | | |
| Sundry | 648.41 | | | | |
| Subscriptions | | | | | |
| NZ Fedn Historical Society | \$50.00 | \$50.00 | | | |
| | <u>\$7,621.00</u> | <u>\$2,770.22</u> | | <u>\$9,998.20</u> | <u>\$4,805.92</u> |
| Excess Income over Expenditure to Accumulated Funds | \$2,377.20 | \$2,035.70 | Excess Expenditure over Income to Accumulated Funds | | |
| | <u>\$9,998.20</u> | <u>\$4,805.92</u> | | <u>\$9,998.20</u> | <u>\$4,805.92</u> |

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

| LIABILITIES | 2023 | 2022 | ASSETS | 2023 | 2022 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Accumulated funds | | | Cash at bank | \$8,181.57 | \$5,804.37 |
| Balance 01/04/2023 | \$21,917.09 | \$19,881.39 | Stock of Books on hand | \$32.50 | \$32.50 |
| | | | Petty cash imprest | \$20.00 | \$20.00 |
| Plus | | | Investments | | |
| Excess income over Expenditure | \$2,377.20 | \$2,035.70 | ASB Bank | | |
| | | | \$10,000 @ 5.30% 22/2/2024 | \$10,000.00 | \$10,000.00 |
| Less | | | | | |
| Excess Expenditure over income | | | Museum Building | \$127,086.00 | \$127,086.00 |
| Capital Reserves | \$127,086.00 | \$127,086.00 | Computers | \$6,056.22 | \$6,056.22 |
| | | | Minor assets | \$4.00 | \$4.00 |
| | <u>\$151,380.29</u> | <u>\$149,003.09</u> | | <u>\$151,380.29</u> | <u>\$149,003.09</u> |

Presented to Birkenhead Heritage Society AGM held on 10/6/2023 at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 172 Hinemoa St, Birkenhead

Stuart Durham
Treasurer

Erica Hannam
President



Ray leading a meeting, with Brian Potter.

In Memory of Ray Johanson, Past President; by Brian Potter

"Ray Johanson became involved with the society through working at Birkenhead Transport with Glad Durham. At the time the society had been donated the building which later became Farrington House, it had been transported to Mahara Ave. It was clear it would need considerable renovation to convert it to museum use.

So Ray joined our team of would be carpenters: Glad Durham, John Malcolm, George Dickson, Lloyd Mumme, Eric Wilkes, Stuart Durham and myself. Enthusiasm was abundant, money was critically short so favours were "called in" all over the town. Additionally John and Eric donated their skills as Electrician and Drainlayer respectively. We even saved money by straightening nails. We employed a Task Force Green worker but found the volunteers worked much harder than he did!

At that time the Society was running successful bus trips with Glad as the volunteer driver. But Glad didn't want to hand over the steering wheel to Ray. Nevertheless Ray was eventually allowed to take the wheel and successfully drove for many BHS outings. We were able to visit places as far afield as Thames, Waihi, Hamilton, Waiuku, Dargaville and Mangawhai. Ray was at the wheel with his wife Flo, in the nearest passenger seat.

Birkenhead Heritage Society

Ray joined the committee and was elected as President, a post he held for many years. I paid frequent visits to Ray and Flo's house where we discussed family history research in which we were both keenly interested, and of course BHS activities.

Sadly time was to catch up with both of them, with Flo passing first, followed by Ray."



Ray and Flo
on a Society
bus trip

A letter of condolence was sent to the family from the Committee, respecting Ray's and the families wish for privacy.

RAYMOND JOHANSON OBITUARY

JOHANSON, Raymond Leonard (Ray). Passed peacefully on 17 May 2023 at The Orchards Glenfield. Loyal husband of Flo; loved dad of Margaret Elizabeth (stillborn), Sharon, Raewyn and Bruce; proud Pop of Kimi, Chris, Steph, Matt, Melissa, and Rachel; Great Poppa of Bodhi, Luca and a great granddaughter due in August. Special thanks to Shamni and the staff at the Care Home for their devoted care. A

private cremation will be held as per Raymond's request.

**Published in The New Zealand Herald on
May 18, 2023.**

Ray Johanson enjoyed sharing his family history research.

In 2019: Ray provided details from an 1841 Diary written by Surgeon Superintendent, **Dr J.R. Motherwell** on the barque **Birman**.

“The ship sailed from Gravesend, London, 13th October, with 157 adults, 96 children and babies, plus crew, arriving Wellington 1st March 1842. On board during the long voyage was **Ray’s Great Grandparents, George and Sarah Perkins**, newly married on 26th Sept 1841 in Bath, Somerset.”

Birman was a barque, a ship with three masts, square rigged on two masts forward, fore-and aft rig on the other. The ship providing free passage, “Emigration to **New Zealand**”

“The Directors of the New Zealand Company, do hereby give notice that they are ready to receive Applications for a **FREE PASSAGE** to the **TOWN OF WELLINGTON,.. NEW ZEALAND From... ”**

“Agricultural Laborers, Shepherds,, Gardeners, Brickmakers, Mechanics, Miners, Handicraftsmen, and Domestic Servants, BEING MARRIED, not exceeding Forty 40 years; also from SINGLE FEMALES, under the care of near relatives, and SINGLE MEN, accompanied by one or more ADULT SISTERS, not exceeding, in either case, the age of Thirty years. Strict enquiry will be made as to qualifications and character.” “Apply.....” days and place supplied.. “to the local AGENT TO THE COMPANY”. It also stated “TOWN and COUNTRY SECTIONS of LAND on sale...”;

The Treaty of Waitangi was signed Feb. 6th 1840. Estimated population of N.Z. end of 1841 was 78,400 Māori, 5000 non-Māori. On 1st July 1841 the islands of New Zealand separated from the Colony of New South Wales, made a separate Colony in their own right. Ray’s ancestors were amongst some of our early English settlers.

Introducing newer members of the Committee.

Dorinda, “I have lived in Northcote/ Birkenhead area my whole life. I particularly enjoy finding out about everyday life on the North Shore before the Harbour Bridge. Farrington House contains many interesting items from this time. I have a strong connection to the history of Northcote Pt., many of my relatives being early settlers in this area.”

Editor: Marcia Roberts

Birkenhead Heritage Society



At the A.G.M. Erica Hannam presented Past President and Editor Marcia Roberts with a lovely bouquet of flowers & Life Membership. As your Editor I was honoured to receive these after nearly 10 years on the Committee. I was invited to join by Ann Farrington after preparing a history for All Saints Church 2013 Centennial. Later, President when Ray Johanson retired in 2017. Since then, and over the Covid years external repairs were completed, a new side door installed and external repainting of Farrington House was completed. Recently Elizabeth Collins & I stepped down, local Dorinda Duthie and Michele Taylor joined the team. Two enthusiastic visitors to Farrington House were persuaded to join, Nikkey Cloete and Leighann Wilson brought major ideas to revitalize and refresh our displays.

Michelle “I help people reconnect with lost family via DNA connections or just stories. I’m proud to be the secretary of the BHS and look forward to helping others find their roots.”

“**My name is Nikkey;** I am a wife of 23 years and 2 teenagers aged 14 and 17. I have over 20 years experience in administration in many different fields, environments and with many different people. I love organizing, creative work, finding the history of different objects, furniture, items etc.”

Leighann, “I’ve been keen on local history since beachcombing Needles Eye and finding a few vintage bottles that sparked my interest. After living in Birkenhead more than 20 yrs. I’m looking forward to sharing and preserving local history.”