

BIRKENHEAD HERITAGE

— SOCIETY INC —

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Please Note :

Birkenhead Heritage Society Inc. Committee decided due to the ongoing, and predicted sharp rise in Omicron cases to -

Cancel the March Meeting, plus the opening of Farrington House until case numbers reduce.

Saturday 9th April 2-4pm

St Andrews Hall 172 Hinemoa Street –

If Omicron numbers reduce

Guest Speaker : Brian Fitzpatrick

**‘Rambling Recollections –
97 years in Birkenhead’.**

March 2022 2nd & 4th Sun. 2-4pm

Farrington House Museum CLOSED

44 Mahara Ave., (Temporarily)

Possible reopening in April.

Our appreciation for sponsoring printing to

Trish Love trishlove@premium.co.nz

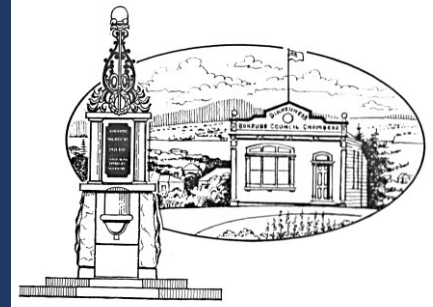
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March - April 2022

February – Meeting Report

Beach Haven – Gem of the Waitemata

On Saturday, February 12, Brian Potter presented an informative lecture about the history of Beach Haven. (Yes, it is definitely meant to be written as two separate words.)

Brian outlined the history of the area starting with prehistoric rock formations, the use by Maori as a stopping point on travels to and from Northland, early pioneer settlement, initial subdivisions and current housing as a dormitory suburb. Brian used many photos to illustrate the lecture, including early photos of the original wharf and beach area. Frank Larking’s contribution to the enhancement of the beach was also mentioned. The background history of the name Tramway Rd was intriguing. No, there was never going to be a tram connection to Takapuna as has been mentioned in an early history book about Beach Haven, no, it probably was not going to be a tram line for transporting kauri.

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Te Reo Maori, some familiar words.

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February – Meeting Report ctd.

But yes, it was a plot of land purchased by the Tramway Company who used horse drawn trams to transport people and goods.

A copy of the initial subdivision map meant that Heritage Society members were able to identify original streets and, in some cases, their own sections. Brian also provided a list of street names that had been changed from the original version. Once again Brian's research and communication skills added to the available information about our suburb and surrounding area. Thank you Brian.

Also thank you to Dorinda Duthie for her excellent recall and written report of Brian Potter's presentation.

Memories of Campbells Bay

By Marcia Roberts

Margaret McClure in *The Story of Birkenhead* refers to the 1923 opening of land in Beach Haven for subdivision. 'There were a few tiny baches amongst acres of second-growth tea-tree', reminded me of my grandparents section in Campbells Bay.

In 1942 35 View Road Campbells Bay was bought by M.C. & R.E. Stranger. My grandfather had recorded his low wages throughout the forties, an inheritance possibly enabled the purchase, and build of the home. They had visited Auckland (from Hamilton) and bought at then remote Campbells Bay, there was an existing farmhouse across the road. Access to their cliffside section required a drive down to cross a small stream (or drainage ditch) then up to their site overlooking the Hauraki gulf.

During World War II purchase of building materials was restricted – a bach was first built, with the later addition of a three bedroomed house on top, after the War.



Campbells Bay bach, with retaining wall beside the drive.



Household water collected in tanks. Red volcanic rock formed the garden and lawn boundaries



Construction began on the house, the bach retained below on the left. (Baches are considered an iconic part of N.Z.'s history.)

Memories of Campbells Bay ctd.

My grandfather meticulously recorded the cost of rocks for retaining walls, and early building materials. He collected seaweed in his Ford Popular car after easterly storms for compost, and bathwater led into an old tin baby bath for his amazing garden, (photo below). He kept his neighbours in vegetables, seasonal fruit, and with fish. He also built, with others, the original stairway and possum ladder at the end of the walkway that passes the property. A wide ladder formed the last section down to rocks.



Snapper caught from a dinghy out from Campbells Bay – my grandmother's niece 1950's .. Note a bach behind.



Construction continues, roof in place. Bach still visible below.



A view of the R) of the house, with raised lawn, a paved deck accessible from the side dining room door.



Completed - doors opening from 2 bedrooms, the bach now a small flat below, next to a garage. Lounge windows R) overlooking the sea from above cliffs at Campbells Bay. Today – two townhouses now fill the space.

Book Reviews

Common Ground – by Matt Morris

The author of this book lives in Christchurch and has used the local area as the background for much of the content of this book, but a lot of the information is transferrable to other parts of New Zealand. There is even a photo of a house and garden in Birkdale. The main aim of the book is to investigate the history of domestic gardening in New Zealand. The book covers Maori gardening practices, both pre and post European influences, the increase in vegetable gardening in times of need e.g. WW1, the Great Depression, WW2; and changes in garden fashions.

The Christchurch earthquakes and subsequent land use of areas no longer suitable for housing are also mentioned. The move away from chemical use in gardening is covered. Some of the chemicals that used to be used in home garden are alarming, to say the least. I do not think the author has a particularly good understanding of compost making which has resulted in some questionable conclusions in this area. I was impressed with the author's use of primary sources. He included analysing real estate advertisements and their descriptions of the gardens surrounding the houses.

From Kai to Kiwi Kitchen – edited by Helen Leach

What did we/ do we eat, and how did we prepare and cook our food? This book contains chapters - each written by different authors, about the changes in food preparation and consumption in New Zealand. The changes in diet of Maori, the scarcity of cooking implements for early settlers, the changes in appliances are among the subjects covered. Several of the authors used large collections of recipe books as primary sources for analysing the changes in typical meals. They emphasised the use of community recipe books rather than commercial books in order to get a better indication of the food that people actually prepared rather than aspirational ideas.

Both of these books contribute to the increasing knowledge of life in Aotearoa as being unique to our country, but recognising the background influences that have contributed to how we choose, grow and prepare food.

Dorinda Duthie

Some Maori words New Zealanders should know – Te Reo Maori

Hui – a meeting of any kind, conference, gathering

Marae – the area for formal discourse in front of a meeting house – or applied to the whole complex

Haere mai! - Welcome! Enter!

Nau mai! - Welcome!

Tangihanga – funeral ceremonies, when body is mourned on a marae.

Tangi – short (verbal versions) for the above, or to cry, to mourn.

Karanga – the ceremony of calling to the guests to welcome them to enter the marae.

Manuhiri – guests, visitors

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Editor; Marcia Roberts