



ONslow HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Established 1968

Newsletter

March 2019

Notice of Annual General Meeting

22 May 2019 7–9pm at KATE

Come along to the AGM, hear what the society has been up to and help shape the coming year’s activities.

There will be the usual election of the committee and there will be a number of positions available as some of our existing committee will be stepping down – the President, Jeff Owens and Secretary, Chris Lock.

Please email onslowhistorical@gmail.com if you would like a nomination form for yourself or others.

Our guest speaker for the evening is Mark Lindsay, Heritage Manager at Wellington City Council. He leads a team of Council heritage advisors that can help with any heritage-related matters, including advice on built and cultural heritage, Māori places of significance and archaeological matters.

Mark will speak to our group about the Council’s overall approach to heritage.



Christmas High Tea

Many thanks to our committee members, Helen Wilson and Joy McNicholl for organising our Christmas get together. We had a good turnout on a lovely afternoon.



Crofton House, Ngaio. Built 1857

Outing to Crofton House, Ngaio

Join us for an afternoon at **Crofton House**. One of Wellington’s earliest and most historic residences built in 1857 by Sir William and Lady Sarah Fox; now home to Margaret Domett. Margaret will talk to us about the house and its history over afternoon tea.

Where 21–23 Kenya Street, Ngaio

Date Sunday afternoon 31 March between 2.30 & 4pm

Cost \$15.00 for members. \$20 for non members

Book For those wishing to attend Contact Helen Wilson 04 479 6882 or email helenwilson1@xtra.co.nz by Monday, 25 March.

Please make direct payment to Onslow Historic Society account 01-0527-0006628-00. When paying on line give us your name as the reference.

For attendees with mobility problems – car parking is at the top of the driveway.



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OHS 50th Anniversary Celebrations



Jeff Owens – OHS President, Russell Murray – Conservation Architect, Gerard Linstrom – Stakeholder Communications Manager, Chorus, Judy Siers – OHS committee member, Michael Kelly – Heritage Consultant, Councillor Diane Calvert – OHS committee member



Paul Anderson looking pleased to get the new sign installed.

Have you seen our new sign outside KATE. Kindly organised, designed and fixed in place by Paul Anderson who is also on our committee.

In October 2018, the historic Khandallah Automatic Telephone Exchange (KATE) was packed full of chatter with members of the Society and invited guests who came together to celebrate. KATE is 100 years old and the Society celebrates 50 years serving the area between Wilton/Wadestown through to Johnsonville/Ohariu. It was the Society's effort that saved KATE from demolition in the mid-1980s and achieved its heritage status. The building is now owned by Chorus who continue to make it available to the Society for its use.

Judy Siers, a founding member, the Society's archivist and a current committee member was keen to see the future of KATE and the society remain entwined, "We fit hand in glove – but who's to know what lies ahead".

The celebratory evening started with an informative presentation by Adrian Humphris, Wellington City Council's Archives Manager. Adrian spoke about the relevance of archives in the 21st century and how that continues to help people foster a sense of place and belonging.

Following the presentation, Gerard Linstrom, Stakeholder Communications Manager from Chorus launched the latest issue of the society's "The Onslow Historian"



Adrian Humphris, Archives Manager - Wellington City Council and Jeff Owens - Onslow Historical Society President.

which tells the story of KATE, from its history of use through to its conservation. The story is based on KATE's Conservation plan, funded by Wellington City Council and written by Conservation Architect Russell Murray and Heritage Consultant Michael Kelly who were both present at the launch.

Onslow Historical Society President – Jeff Owens, acknowledged the dedication of the many members past and present who have all contributed to the success of the society and its prolific publications on many aspects of the Onslow area. "Like any volunteer organisation, we welcome new members to help us achieve our aims of recording, conserving and promoting history within the northern suburbs of Wellington".



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Lethenty. Built 1915



Proposed Rangitikei homesteads architectural trip

– scheduled for early November 2019

Settlers to the Rangitikei in the middle of the Nineteenth Century were blessed with good flat land and a favourable climate. During the next fifty years, rural New Zealand saw the establishment of great family homesteads there.

Some of these are still lived in by the descendants of the settler families. The homesteads are on a grand scale, spacious, solidly built and contain much fine wood and family treasures. Their style of architecture ranges across the Italianate Villa, Georgian Revival, and the English Domestic Revival. There was a heavy influence from the English Arts and Crafts Movement.

One of the most prominent architects of this period was James Walter Chapman-Taylor who described his work thus: "The aim has not been to build an 'old-fashioned' house. The aim was to erect an honest building. That is to say, a building that meets the aesthetic and practical requirements without resort to artifices, shams or limitations."

The trip

Our Bus would leave KATE at about 9am and travel north to Bulls where we would first visit "Lethenty" and meet our Historic Homes Guide, John Vickers. Lunch would be nearby at John and Sarah Vickers home at "Woodleigh Farm". In the afternoon we would travel onto "Merchiston" with John. Our return home would be via the Maori Church at Wheriko, the Monument to Bess (a famous WWI horse who was shipped back from Europe) and Scott's Ferry Barge. With there currently being greater delays on the road South on a Sunday, return to KATE times are estimated as Saturday – about 6pm, and Sunday 6.30pm.

John Vickers describes the homesteads we would visit as:

Lethenty – 1915, designed by W Higgins in the Georgian Revival style, home of the Wilson and Haylock families. Included in Michael Fowler's book of Country Houses of NZ 1974, it has seen little change inside or out since its building and is closely involved with the story of the Rangitikei district.

Woodleigh Farm – Chapman-Taylor 1911 – one of two courtyard design houses built by the architect in his career – from his brick and Jarrah period, built the same year as the Jerram house in Makererua Street, Ngaio.

Merchiston – built 1906-8, designed by JC Maddison, with many features from the Christchurch Exhibition 1905-6. A grand Edwardian Mansion rarely equalled in NZ. I often consider it the rural equivalent of Olveston in Dunedin, a grand merchants house of the same period.

These houses have survived little altered in rural NZ where many of their city cousins have not.

Cost

The actual costs for the bus, the tour of the homesteads and lunch would depend on the number of people that come, but at this stage if there are some 22–24 people our best estimate would be \$105 per person. Should some 40 people (members and friends) wish to go, a larger bus would be organized and the cost per person revised.

Expressions of interest are sought, so please register these at onslowhistorical@gmail.com - subject 'Bus Trip' or by phoning the member of the committee that you know so that we can gauge the viability of organizing such a trip.



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Merchiston



Woodleigh



Wheriko

Membership Renewal Notices for 1 April 2019

Membership renewal notices will be sent in April for the year beginning 1 April 2019. We would appreciate early payment (\$35 per family / individual membership) once you receive your notice.

Payment is to be made, no later than 25 March 2019, to Onslow Historical Society Inc by Cheque or Direct credit to ANZ Bank 01-0527-0006628-00 (quoting your name in the reference field).

Free membership is provided to local schools.

Working Bee at KATE

We are arranging a tidy-up of KATE over the next two months. Windows are being repaired, the kitchen and bathroom are being painted (contractors will be undertaking this). We will also be putting up new shelving and taking down the North Road display which has been up for a number of years.

If you are able to assist in any way with sorting, organising and displaying our collection of books and periodicals and photos, please get in touch by email to onslowhistorical@gmail.com

New to our Archives

Gary Morrison has donated 32 photographs of Broadmeadows to OHS. These will be filed in the metal filing drawer in the Gallery. The flash drive record will be stored in special collections in the archive room.

A rare and early photograph of three people at the Khandallah Baths c.1935 was recieved. Our thanks goes to the donor.