



ONSLOW HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Established 1968

Newsletter

October 2019



Hullo everyone!

Well it's spring, the daffodil season, daylight saving time* and it's voting time for our representatives onto the local city council.

Wellingtonians have just elected a new Mayor. Andy Foster has won the 2019 mayoral race and OHS will have a new Patron. It is time to reflect on the loyal support Justin Lester has given us over the last three years and we will be writing to thank him for that. Also to wish him happy times for where his future takes him. Councillors elected to serve the OHS area of heritage and historic interest are from the Western and Northern Wards and we welcome all of them to join us at any time.

In the Takapu/Northern Ward we have Jill Day, Malcom Sparrow and Jenny Condie, and in the Wharangi/Onslow Ward, Simon Woolfe, Rebecca Matthews and Diane Calvert. OHS must make a special mention of Diane, who polled so well. She is a member of OHS and served on the committee for the past two years. The others are not members and we should invite them to visit and get to know us. Especially Rebecca Matthews who lives in the historic Tarikaka Street precinct that OHS worked so hard to achieve.

So here is our spring Newsletter with lots of news and history to read and enjoy.

Judy Siers

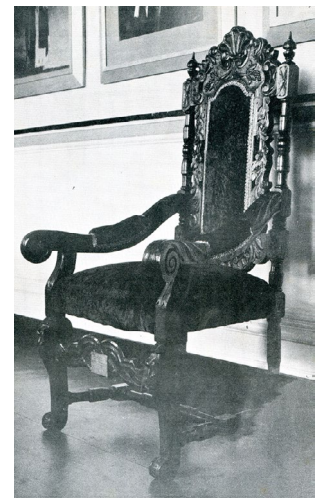
P.S. Remember to pay your sub!

* For a history of daylight saving go to *Time in New Zealand* - Wikipedia.

A New Council 100 years ago

In early 1919 two Mayors meet and discussed how they would sit around the same Council table for the forthcoming three years. J. M. Dale, known as Murray, Mayor of the Onslow Borough, knew his role would change; he had resigned following the amalgamation of the Borough with Wellington City. He would serve as a Councillor of the city in the future and Wellington Mayor John P. Luke would preside.

The Onslow Borough was established in 1890 and had served a useful purpose for the community. But nearly three decades on it was economically and politically wise to collaborate with the capital, Onslow's neighbouring city. The Onslow area had a small population and rates base to finance the public assets the residents wanted. They understood what the larger local authority could offer but many were saddened by the change. They would lose independence and some of their identity.



The Onslow Borough Mayoral chair in the WCC Council Chambers, 1976. WCC Archives photograph.

However, the ebullient John Luke, Wellington Mayor, declared the occasion of amalgamation on 12 March 1919 "more of a party than a funeral!" He had pushed for this and stated "the sooner Onslow comes in to help build a bigger, happier community, the better." In the change, two of the Borough Councillors, Appleton and Gardner (Gardiner) became WCC Councillors, and Appleton would become a Mayor of Wellington in the future. However it was Borough Councillor Hobbs who would have the last word on the auspicious



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day suggesting that the Borough's Mayoral chair be presented to Councillor Murray Dale and that he should take it with him. Dale was overwhelmed by this gesture, and considered it could be, officially, the wrong thing to be accepted personally; it had already been presented to the Wellington City Council. But in the spirit of the moment he agreed and declared "I will sit tightly upon it."

Apparently he did, and saved the chair for future generations. When I was elected to WCC in 1992 I saw the chair in the Mayor's chambers and asked Mayor Fran Wilde if she could part with it and have it returned to Onslow. She was more than happy to follow this suggestion through. The chair is on long term loan to OHS.



The plaque attached to the front of the mayoral chair stating that it has been presented to the WCC from the Onslow Borough Council.



Mayor Fran Wilde flanked by Onslow Ward councillors Sally Baber (left) and Judy Siers (right) around the Onslow borough mayoral chair. Photo: Neil Price, Wellington City Council photographer.

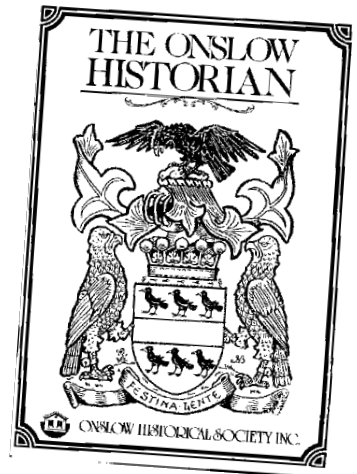
Mayoral chair coming home

The Onslow borough mayoral chair is coming home.

The *Independent Herald* story of the mayoral chair transfer to OHS, 24 January 1995.

More information about the Onslow Borough Council, its Mayors, its use of the name for local organisations, the Dale family of Simla Avenue and the amalgamation are in various editions of *The Onslow Historian*, ref: Volumes 6, 30, 31, 37.

Right: Front cover of the history of *The Onslow Rugby and Cricket Clubs* by Bruce Heather, 2001, Volume 31. The clubs used the De Bretts illustration of the Onslow Coat of Arms, and the crest of the Earle of Onslow, 1853-1911, for their decorative design work.



Feedback

Thanks to those who have written or told me they are enjoying the Newsletters and to those who offer more information.

Elaine Bolitho responded to the piece about the book *Charles Pratt of Belmont Common*. The Pratts were a family that lived in Ngaio in the early 1900s, at Imlay Crescent, and were the same who attended the Methodist Church. I recommend the book to anyone researching this period of Ngaio's history. Also, *The Onslow Historian* Volume 6 No 1, 1976 that contains five pages of history of this period compiled by Harry Lawrence complete with a scenic photograph and an extended caption of who lived where, including the Pratt family.

I welcome feedback and contribution to this Newsletter.

86 Khandallah Road, Wellington

email: onslowhistorical@gmail.com

~ Chorus is the Society's major sponsor ~




WELLINGTON HERITAGE WEEK 2019
28 OCT - 3 NOV

*BOOK TICKETS AT WELLINGTONHERITAGEWEEK.CO.NZ

Wellington City

Archaeological Walking Tour
3pm Mon 28 Oct & 10am Sat 2 Nov, Free*

Circa Theatre Historical Tours & Open Day
1pm Mon 28 Oct-Fri 1 Nov, & 11am-2pm Sat 2 Nov, 1 Taranaki St, Free*

Dinah Priestley's Old Thorndon: An Historic Walking Tour
10am Tues 29 Oct, Begonia House, Wellington Botanic Garden, \$5*

Discover la Résidence de France
10am-3pm Fri 1 Nov, 39 Hobson St, Free*

Discover Wellington's Historic War Bunkers
Everyday, See website for locations, Free

Fever Hospital After Dark
7:15pm Fri 1 Nov, 140 Alexandra Rd, \$99*

Karori Cemetery Open Day
11am-4pm Sun 3 Nov, 76 Old Karori Rd, Free

Futuna Chapel Open Day & Talks
11am-3pm Sat 2 Nov, & 11am-4pm Sun 3 Nov, 67 Futuna Cl, Free

Government House Tours
1:30pm Fri 1 Nov, 10:30am & 1:30pm Sat 2 Nov & Sun 3 Nov, Hospital Rd, Free*

Historical Walking Tour of Suzanne Aubert's Wellington
10am Sat 2 Nov, Pukeahu Education Centre, Koha*

Home of Compassion Open Day & Tours
12pm-3pm Sun 3 Nov, 2 Rhine St, Koha

Immersive Legacies: 320 The Terrace
10am-5pm Everyday, Wellington Museum, Free

Little Cottage - Big Story: Open Day
12pm-4pm Sat 2 Nov, 68 Nairn St, Koha

Memories of Rita Angus
5pm Fri 1 Nov, Bolton Hotel, 12 Bolton St, \$70*

Modern Wellington Walking Tour
1pm Sun 3 Nov, see website, Free*

Absolutely Positively Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

HUTT CITY
TE ANA KAIRANGI

UPPER HUTT CITY
MŪHURI KŪKŪ

Wellington City

Onslow Historical Society Centre Exhibition
1pm-4pm Sun 3 Nov, 86 Khandallah Rd, Free

Recreating Heritage in Augmented Reality
1pm Sat 2 Nov & Sun 3 Nov, Te Papa forecourt, \$10*

St Gerard's Church and Monastery Tours
2pm Tues 29 Oct-Fri 1 Nov, & 10am-5pm Sat 2 Nov, 75 Hawker St, Free

St Christopher's Church Seatoun Open Day
10am - 3pm Sun 3 Nov, 27 Ventnor St, Koha

Te Aro Bell Tower Open Day
10am-3pm Sat 2 Nov, 211 Willis St, Free

Thorndon Open Day: Literature, Music & Art
1-4pm Sat 2 Nov, 14 St Mary's St, Koha

WCC Archives Tours & Talks
10am-2pm Mon 28 Oct, 28 Barker St, Free*

Wellington Heritage Photo Walk
5pm Tues 29 Oct, Pukeahu National War Memorial Park, Free*

Wellington's Lost Urban Streams - Walking Tour
5:30pm Wed 30 Oct, & 3:30pm Sun 3 Nov, top of Woodward St, Free*

Wrights Hill Fortress Open Day
10am-4pm Mon 28 Oct, 50 Wrights Hill Rd, \$8 / adult, \$5 / child, \$20 / family

ZEALANDIA Heritage Walk & Talk
12pm & 2pm Sat 2 Nov & Sun 3 Nov, ZEALANDIA, Standard Admission Cost*

Lower Hutt

Archaeological Bike Tour of Pencarrow Coast
11am Mon 28 Oct, 519 Muritai Rd, Free/\$25 for bike hire*

Lower Hutt on Film
7pm Wed 30 Oct, Petone Library, Free

Petone Library and Petone Settlers Museum Open Day
10am-3pm Sat 2 Nov, Petone Library, Free

Upper Hutt

Golden Cottage Open Days
1:30pm-4pm Mon 28 Oct & Sat 2 Nov, 707 Fergusson Dr, \$5 / adult, \$2 / child

Remutaka Rail Trail
Everyday, Pakuratahi Forest, Free

Wallaceville Blockhouse Open Day
11am-2pm Mon 28 Oct, Blockhouse Lane, Gold Coin

Wellington Vintage Machinery Tours
10:30am-3:30am Mon 28 Oct-Fri 1 Nov, & 10:30am-4pm Sat 2 & Sun 3 Nov, 155a Mangaroa Hill Rd, Koha, Group Bookings*

Kapiti Coast

The Life of Octavius Hadfield
1pm-4pm Fri 1-Sun 3 Nov, Kapiti Coast Museum, Free

*BOOK TICKETS AT WELLINGTONHERITAGEWEEK.CO.NZ

Museums Wellington

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Wellington Community Trust
Supporting community initiatives

Heritage Week

As you can see the events and outings to choose from during Heritage Week are many and varied. Go to www.wellingtonheritageweek.co.nz and /or Wellington Heritage Promotion Council web site www.wrhpc.org.nz to find out more information.

Here are just two suggestions:

OHS exhibition at KATE

Sunday 3 November, 1-4pm

We are showcasing our North Road exhibition with a new focus. We have rearranged some of the display and have added new work. This includes further information about the mammoth task of the road building, plus the colonial artists who recorded the work in progress and the surrounding landscapes.

One example is this work by George French Angus, 1822-1886, titled *Scene in a New Zealand Forest*, 1844.



This is a painting of the local landscape three or four miles from Wellington, from a road that had been formed through the forest, which afterwards became a narrow track. It is recorded as so overgrown with tangled lianas and supplejacks that it was scarcely passable. The tall trees of the upper canopy were rimu, kahikatea, totara and rata. In the undergrowth there were nikau, beautiful smaller tree ferns and the glory of the New Zealand forest - the king of ferns.



Left: *Wooden Cottage, Porirua Road*, William Swainson.

Martha King's work and two examples of William Swainson's pencil drawings of early colonial houses are particularly appealing.



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Right: *Scotch Jock's House*, William Swainson.

Far right: *Halfway House*, named by Martha King who titled the drawing: *House (where) we halted halfway to Pororua August 1849.*



Another early traveller wrote of his arrival at

Halfway House and on meeting Anthony and Susannah Wall: "these two kind settlers were very good to us, gave us food and shelter and made up a bed for us in front of the fire."

Visit to the Wallaceville Blockhouse 28 October, 11-2pm, gold coin donation

The Wallaceville Blockhouse is an Upper Hutt property, on Blockhouse Lane, off McHardie Street. It is managed by Heritage NZ, a registered historic building, a rare surviving example of an 1860's military blockhouse.

A visit here is *déjà vu* for older OHS members. In 1971 the Wallaceville Blockhouse was the destination of a 'field trip', as we called our outings. I recall a big

turnout of members on this occasion and a long queue as we waited in turn to enter the building.

After this visit members may wish to enjoy refreshment at the much loved **Fig Tree Café**, operating in a restored, former old church building. This is the café who supplied, and partly sponsored, our catered lunch when we had our recent trip to Christ Church and the Hutt Valley School for the Disabled. All agreed the food was excellent!

The Café is on the main road at Heretaunga, at 386 Fergusson Drive. It's a very casual affair, so just call in, café style, or if you are thinking of making up a party you can ring, 939 1068, and book a table. View their menu: www.figtreecafe.co.nz.

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THE OLD BLOCK HOUSE
AT UPPER HUTT

Amongst recent donations to the Society is the print, shown on the opposite page, of the old Blockhouse at Upper Hutt. This was taken from the original etched by Mr M. Crompton-Smith. The print was donated by his daughters, Misses E. and A. Crompton-Smith. They are unsure of the exact date, but believe the original photograph was taken in the early 1900's and the etching made in the 1920's when Mr C-S first had an etching press.

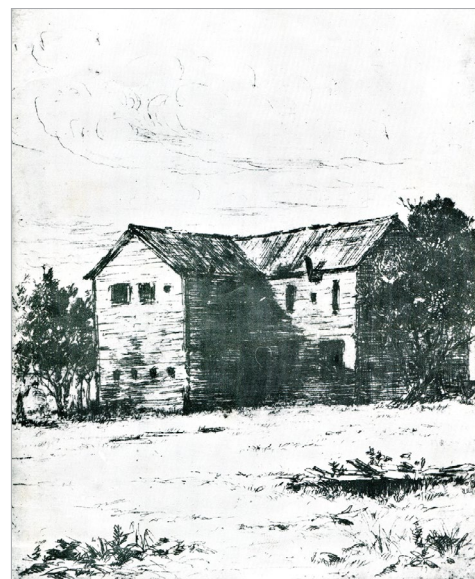
Reference to the Blockhouse can be found in Turnbull library in Transactions and Proceedings of the N.Z. Institute, Vol. 53, 1921. Elsdon Best gives a full account of the building, its history and there are scale drawings of the layout and design. The following information has been taken from this reference.

The Blockhouse stands in what was known as McHardy's Clearing, a few miles from Wallaceville station. It was erected in 1860 as a "refuge and a rallying place for settlers of the district in case of Maori raid". At that time renewed Maori hostility was feared. The Otaki and Wairarapa Maoris were hostile, there were numerous raids in the early 1860's, and a number of Volunteer Corps were formed.

But open hostility did not occur here and in fact, the Blockhouse was never utilised.

The defence area consisted of a stockade and trench and two-storied Blockhouse, in one corner. The stockade was 9 feet high and bullet proof. The walls of the Blockhouse are loopholed at appropriate intervals and were originally plugged with solid blocks of timber.

The Blockhouse still stands today and is maintained as one of our Historic properties. It was built in sound timber which is believed to have been cut from Cruickshank's, the first mill to be erected in the area.



The article and the illustration from *The Onslow Historian* Vol 1 No 3 1971.



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AN INVITATION

The OHS Christmas Party 2019



Please join us on Friday 6 December, 6–8 pm, at KATE, 86 Khandallah Road.

The Christmas cheer occasion will be our annual get together. Come along so we can remember each other! Enjoy camaraderie, bring a guest and a gold coin.

RSVP for catering: **Helen Wilson, 479 6882**, or email onslowhistorical@gmail.com

INVITATIONS FROM OTHER HISTORICAL GROUPS

Friends of the Karori Cemetery Open Day

Sunday 3 November, 11am–4pm

This free public event offers conducted tours of the cemetery and activities to keep the children busy. This is a wonderful opportunity to view the stained glass windows in the lovely old crematorium chapel and hear a talk about their history. The entrance to the cemetery is at 76 Old Karori Road.

For more information contact: friendskaroricemetery@gmail.com or telephone 021 673 640.

Wellington Historical & Early Settlers' Association

Christmas Luncheon

Thursday 12 December, noon, at the Museum of Wellington City & Sea Board Room, \$25

The guest speaker will be talking about the New Zealand Opera Company.

RSVP is essential for catering: contact Vonnie Nunns 938 9811 or Judy Kirby 478 5386.



Karori Historical Society

The Society is launching a updated reprint of their highly popular Karori Streets book, first published in 1991, and sent us the following flier.



Marsden Books and the Karori Historical Society invite you to attend the Launch of 'Karori Streets' at Marsden Books, 6.00 – 7.30 on Friday 18 October

Karori Streets
Will Chapman & Kitty Wood
Revised and updated in 2019
by Judith Burch

Published by the Karori Historical Society

The streets of Karori are named after its pioneering settlers. The original *Karori Streets 1841 - 1991*, published in 1991, described how Karori was sub-divided and how the streets were named. Judith has revised and updated the original text, included the new roads and subdivisions since then, and added many new photographs. *Karori Streets* is the definitive account of Karori's pioneers and how this podocarp forested valley became Wellington's largest suburb.

Karori Streets



Will Chapman & Kitty Wood
REVISED AND UPDATED BY JUDITH BURCH

Copies of Karori Streets can be purchased for \$35.00 from Marsden Books and the Karori Lotto shop and also directly from the Karori Historical Society. The Society will deliver free in the Western Suburbs; otherwise please add \$5 for postage.

To buy directly from the Society email us at karorihistoricalsocietysales@gmail.com

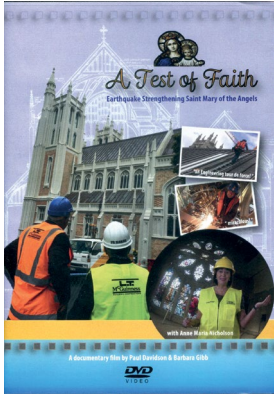
86 Khandallah Road, Wellington

email: onslowhistorical@gmail.com

~ Chorus is the Society's major sponsor ~



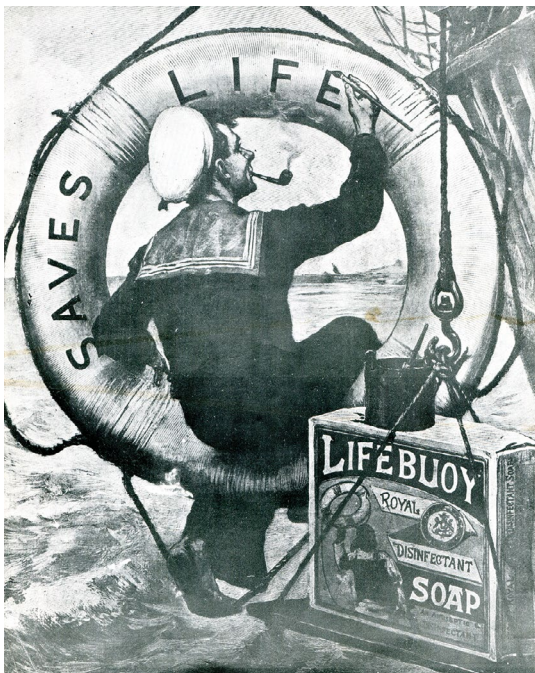
A Test of Faith




Some of our members will remember the screening of “A Test of Faith” at KATE in 2017. It is the story of the recent restoration the church of St Marys of the Angels, in Boulcott Street. It often comes up in conversation as it

is such a success story. I recently attended a service there. The interior is truly magnificent. The beautiful blend of natural timber with painted surfaces, the art and craftsmanship, specially the stained glass windows is breathtaking. The church is open to the public through the day.

To purchase a copy of the video contact Vonnie Nunns at 938 9811 or call in to the Church Office that is sited further up Boulcott Street, alongside the church, it is sign posted. Sales of copies of the film contribute to the continuing fundraising for the restoration.





ONSLow HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Membership Form

Annual Membership fee (as at 1 April 2018): **\$35**. This is a family fee and covers all members of the household.

We publish regular newsletters, organise events and our magazine "The Onslow Historian" is free to subscribing members.

Please send the completed Membership Application form to onslowhistorical@gmail.com or to the address below

The Secretary, Onslow Historical Society Inc
86 Khandallah Road, Khandallah
Wellington 6035

Payment

Payment can be made to Onslow Historical Society Inc by **Cheque** or **Direct credit** to ANZ Bank 01 0527 0006628 00 (quoting your name in the reference field)

Member's Details

Details	
Membership Name <i>(Individual, Family or Organisation)</i>	<i>e.g. Smith & Jones Family</i>
Date joined	
Preferred salutation on emails	<i>e.g. John & Jane</i>
Primary Email Address	
Additional Email (optional)	
Postal Address <i>(include post code)</i>	
Primary contact details	
First Name	Surname
Landline Phone	Mobile
Title (optional)	Position Title (organisations only)

Above is our membership form and I am printing this with a special request: please help us recruit new members by circulating this and encouraging your friends to join us.

Nostalgia

Lever Bros in Petone were OHS's first sponsors. Here is an advertisement we ran on the back cover of the same Onslow Historian mentioned above, in return for the cost of producing and distributing that edition. The early Lifebuoy advertisement is from an unnamed magazine c.1900.