



# ONSLOW HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Established 1968

## Newsletter



## December 2019

### Festive Greetings Everyone!

It's a good feeling to finish the year with a bang, and that's what happened on Friday 6 December when we held our Christmas party at KATE. There was lots of chat accompanied by a glass of bubbly and energised with fine food. The event was put together for us by Committee members Helen Wilson and Gary Morrison. Hearty thanks to both of them.

It was the perfect opportunity to meet our new Patron, Councillor Rebecca Matthews who represents the Wharangi/Onslow Ward.

Our Mayor, Andy Foster, is following our trail and intends to keep in touch with OHS. We received his apologies for absence on this occasion but we will arrange to have him speak during next year. It is important to have these ties with WCC. We consider our lease-free use of KATE, from our landlord, Chorus, a bonus to the community, and the service we provide in the area of heritage and history is an out-reach service of WCC Archives' mandate. Hopefully we can enhance this relationship further in the future.

Councillor Matthews will bring a fresh breeze to our organisation, and we will help her understand better the history of the area that she calls home. The Tarikaka Street Settlement was a WCC project that was originated and driven by OHS through the 1990s led by Gary Simons, Committee member at the time, and his wife Margaret Almao. They lived in the historic *Colway Knoll* and as this property backed onto the houses at the top of Tarikaka Street; they had a close interest in the changes ahead.

We wanted to ensure the survival of the historic precinct, and we succeeded.

We have records in our archive collection and in 2004 published a story of one of the original railway worker's family recollections, *The Onslow Historian* Vol. 34, titled *Life in the Ngaio Railway Settlement 1930-1940* by Vincent J. Moroney.

### Wellington Wind

*"Wind!" mutters a disconsolate Onslow Road gardener,  
"If I sow seeds in my own garden, they come  
up in my neighbour's."*

OHS keeps up with the times and is not short of ideas when it comes to historic issues in the city. So it was not a surprise to see committee member, John Galloway, in print in *The Dominion Post*, recently, regarding the naming of Wellington's unruly and characteristic wind. The only problem was that his letter was edited and an important part was excluded – the heritage part, urghhhh! So here's the gist of it:



John suggested the Maori name 'ngake', and he took this from the book *The Pioneers of Port Nicholson*, by David McGill, published in 1984.

It reads: "Ngake was a vigorous, thrusting, turbulent taniwha, who moved quickly, restlessly, always bumping into things."

Ngake was also responsible for the formation of the harbour entrance: "Twisting his tail up like a giant spring, with a great hiss and a roar of taniwha enthusiasm, he drove off to the south at great speed."

John's final words: "If that doesn't sound like a description of Wellington's blustery and bullish wind style than I don't know what does!"

### Conclusion

A sincere thanks to all who have helped us, participated in our events this last 6 months and for renewing your membership. We are so pleased to have you on board and long may it continue.

***We wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy holiday.***

**Judy Siers, President  
and the OHS Committee**



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## Farewell to Barbara Hampton 1935–2019

Barbara Hampton, and husband, Peter, joined the Society many years ago, both having a keen interest in our work. They brought experience with them.

Most recently Barbara and I had been working on the history of the Khandallah Domain, now Khandallah Park, with a view to publishing information in our *Onslow Historian*, 2019. Sadly the work has stalled but I hope to bring this forward in 2020.

Our condolence has been sent to Peter and the family who have written the following Obituary especially for us to publish.

**HAMPTON, Barbara Anne (nee Neill):**  
Passed away suddenly, but peacefully, on Thursday, 3rd October 2019, aged 84 years. Cherished and dearly loved wife of Peter for 60 years. Much loved mother of Lesley & Marco (UK), and Robyn. She was everything to us. Messages to the "Hampton family" may be left in Barbara's tribute book at [www.tributes.co.nz](http://www.tributes.co.nz) or posted c/- 4 Moorefield Road, Johnsonville 6037. In lieu of flowers donations can be posted to Stroke Foundation of NZ Inc, P.O. Box 12482, Wellington 6144 or Wellington Free Ambulance, P.O. Box 601, Wellington 6140. A private family farewell has been held as per Barbara's wishes.



Barbara Hampton 2019

Barbara Hampton (nee Neill) died on 3 October 2019 aged 84. She was an avid local history researcher to the end. She was passionate about Wellington, in particular Wadestown and Wilton, and at the time of her death she was researching the history of the Khandallah Domain.

Barbara was born in Wellington to Arthur and Lottie Neill, originally from Dunedin, and was the young sister of Graham and Colin Neill. Barbara grew up in Wilton Road, Wadestown attending Wadestown School and Wellington Girls College.

Otari-Wilton's Bush was her stamping ground along with her parents, brothers and friends. Her father managed the photoengraving department at *The Evening Post* and was a keen

amateur photographer creating a record of the family's forays into the bush. Barbara wrote "*Wilton's Bush and Otari became part of my life from early childhood. My immediate playground was Izard Park and any day of the week would see children gathering to play.*

*From Izard Park my family clambered down through the pines to Blackbridge Road and made their way to the bush entrance. An early memory is my father quoting the botanical names of plants as we walked through the bush. He was an early member of the Wellington Botanical Society and NZ Native Bird Protection Society. ... As a teenager I roamed the bush with my dog – never any thought of danger. Those of my era who grew up in Wilton Road have a strong bond with the bush which is difficult to explain to 'outsiders'.*"

Barbara lived in Wellington most of her life apart from time in Waipukurau, Upper Hutt and the Cook Islands. Peter, her husband, worked for The National Bank of NZ which resulted in periods of time away from Wellington. In 1983 they returned to live permanently in Khandallah.

In her retirement Barbara volunteered at the Johnsonville Citizens Advice Bureau and Birthright. Barbara was a skilled genealogical researcher of both hers and Peter's families plus for other people. She undertook detailed research for the 125th anniversary of Wadestown School (cited in *Windows over Wadestown* by Debbie Monigatti), following in her father's footsteps who worked on the school's 75th Jubilee.



Young Barbara Neill in Wilton's Bush with her brothers, c.1940.

Death Notice *The Dominion Post* Saturday October 12, 2019.

86 Khandallah Road, Wellington

email: [onslowhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:onslowhistorical@gmail.com)

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Several years prior to the WWI 100th commemoration, before records were digitised, she researched the lives of the Wadestown Primary School boys that went off to war. She always referred to them as her ‘boys’.

For the past 7 years she researched and wrote an unpublished history entitled *Otari-Wilton’s Bush – Native Botanic Garden and Forest Reserve – the land, bush and people from 1840*, and an extract from the Preface is quoted above. She contributed to an oral history project about the reserve in 2006/2007 (records held by the National Library) and in 2016 gave presentations on her research to the Wellington Botanical Society. Her research skills led to her expertise being sought by individuals and organisations such as Archives NZ, lawyers and botanists. Her genealogical, land titles and Otari-Wilton’s Bush research was thorough. If she read something factually incorrect she wanted to put it right. Barbara concluded her manuscript with these words “As one walks through the bush today, those who have gone before should be remembered. We need to acknowledge its rich past; the history of the land – the people – and keep the story alive.”

**Peter, Lesley and Robyn Hampton**



## An Invitation – A visit to Ohariu Valley

**John and Liz Hume have invited OHS members and friends to visit Forest Hill farm**

**On** Waitangi Day 6 February 2020

**Time** 4 – 6 pm

**At** Forest Hill farm, 109 Rifle Range Road  
Turn left at the Crossroads, last house at the end of the road, there is plenty of parking space.

This is an outdoor event with the opportunity to walk up the hill to see the historic plaque that the Hume family erected to celebrate 150 years of farming in Ohariu Valley. It was unveiled on 19th November 2018. The following year, in February 2019 descendants from the pioneering family attended a celebratory event.

The bronze plaque is set on a huge boulder plinth, positioned halfway up to the top of Mt Kau Kau on the western side of the hill. We will be led by John who will share information and the family’s fascinating history. From this position the view is magnificent and given a clear sky the South Island will be visible. John says this is a ‘dress circle’ position and suggests you bring your binoculars! Also, to wear warm clothes

– it can be cold and windy.

The walk is quite steep and will take about 30–40 minutes, and those not so agile (that means me!) can take the car, or be driven, as the private road is sealed.

Refreshments will be served after the walk at a small cabin in the garden.

Visits to Ohariu Valley have been on the OHS calendar since 1968 and through the 1970s and 1980s with great regularity. Warren Bryant snr, and John’s father, Jim Hume, were on our first OHS committee and made sure we didn’t forget the rural community on our doorstep, or its history. It was country styled hospitality. Goodness, what fun times we had! So I am particularly pleased to recommend this visit and a revival of what used to be a regular event.





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## Heritage Evening at the Khandallah Public Library

Thursday 7 November 2019



### Khandallah Heritage Evening

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November, 6.00-7.30pm

Celebrate our local history with the rededication of a scroll remembering Khandallah Library's founder, Fanny Irvine-Smith.

A digitised collection of the 1930s vintage magazine *The Ngaio and Khandallah Review* will also be launched in collaboration with the Onslow Historical Society.

Share your own memories over hot drinks and nibbles.

This is a free event. No bookings required, but limited seating.

wcl.govt.nz

Absolutely Positively  
Wellington City Council  
Me te kōwhiri ki te kōwhiri

OHS members were invited to this occasion and committee member Clare Gleeson reported:

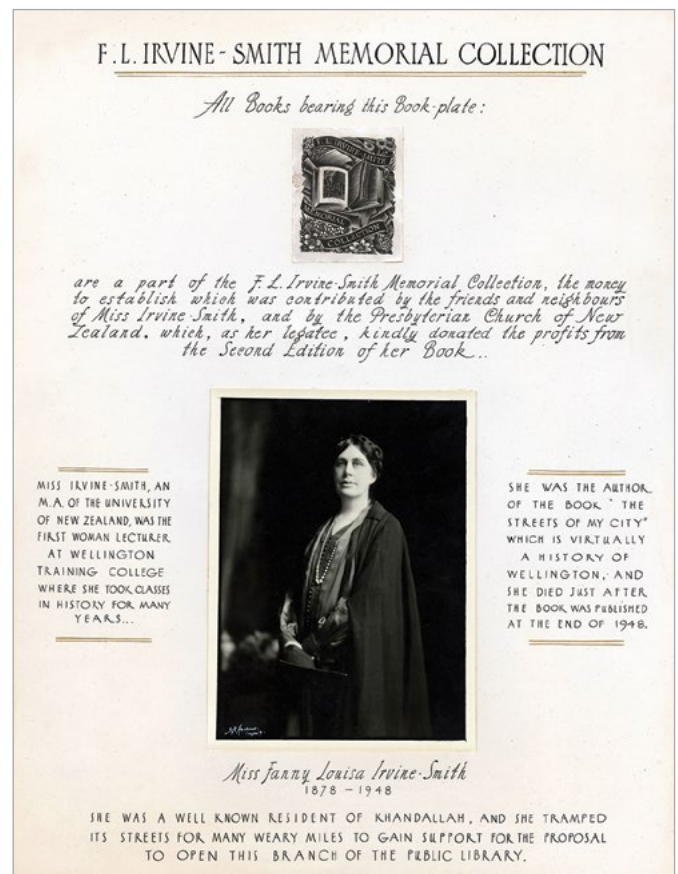
*We gathered with an enthusiastic group at the Library to honour the contribution of Fanny Irvine-Smith to the establishment of a branch library in Khandallah and admire the reinstated scroll acknowledging her achievement.*

*In an illustrated presentation Wellington City Libraries Local and Wellington History Specialist, Gabor Toth spoke not only of Fanny's efforts with regard to the library, but also her work in researching and writing still regarded*

*as a valuable resource for those digging into Wellington's history.*

*Switching from the physical library to the e-library Gabor then outlined the successful collaboration between Wellington Library and the OHS in digitising all extant copies of the Khandallah and Ngaio Review (later The Social Review) and encouraged those present to look at "Wellington City Recollect" the online resource where thousands of items relating to Wellington's history have been digitised.*

Clare unveiled the commemorative scroll and under Fanny's benign smile the evening concluded with supper and chat.



86 Khandallah Road, Wellington

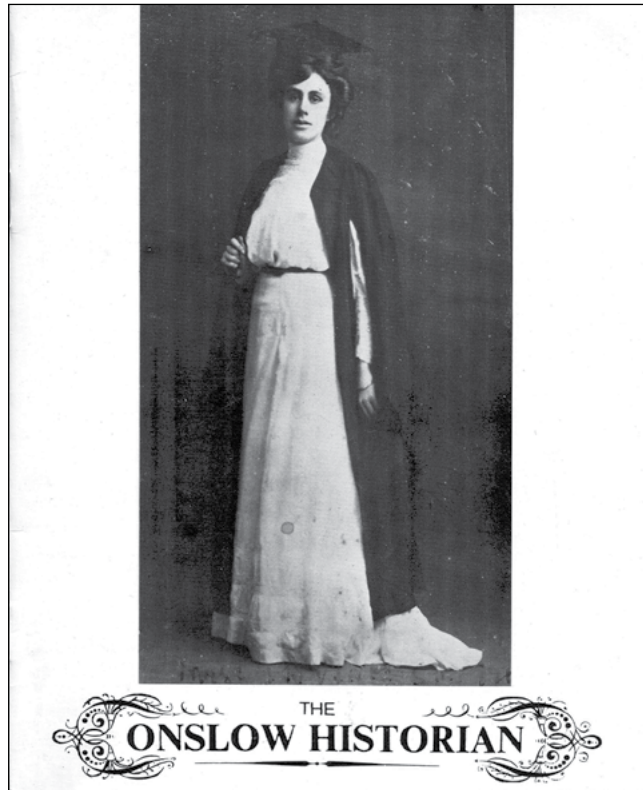
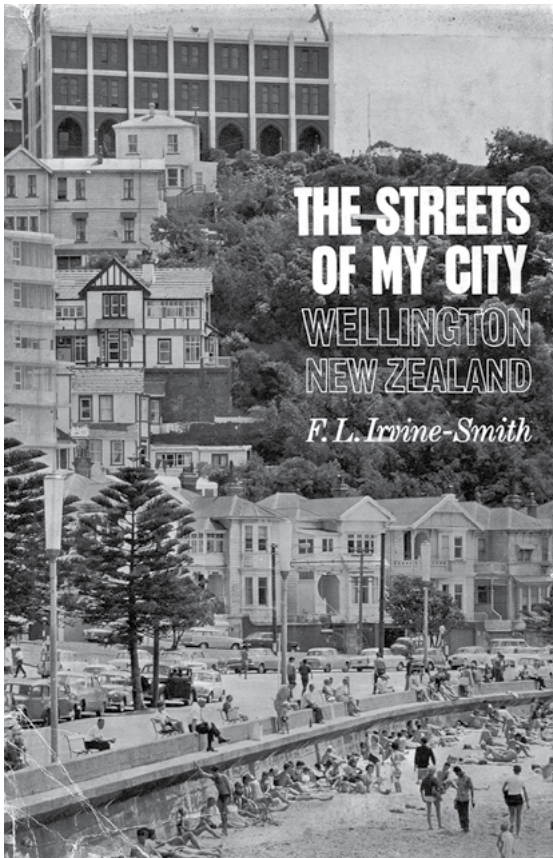
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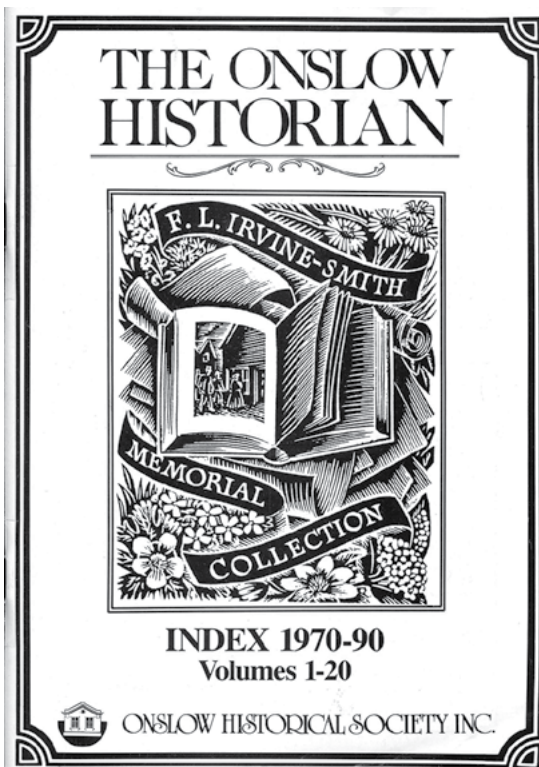
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Above left: The front cover of Fanny Irvine-Smith's book, published by A.H. and A.W. Reed, Wellington, 1948 and reprinted several times.

Above right: Front cover of *The Onslow Historian* Vol 6, No 2 1976 with a photograph of Fanny Irvine-Smith on graduation in 1908, from Maude Dale's album. The contents include a five page story *History Was Written Here*, reminiscences about Fanny compiled by Julie Bremner.

Below left and below: Front cover of *The Onslow Historian* Vol 20, Nos 3 and 4, featuring Fanny Irvine-Smith's bookplate and the cover illustration description.



COVER ILLUSTRATION

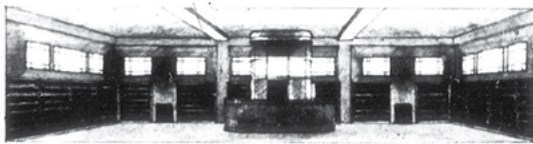
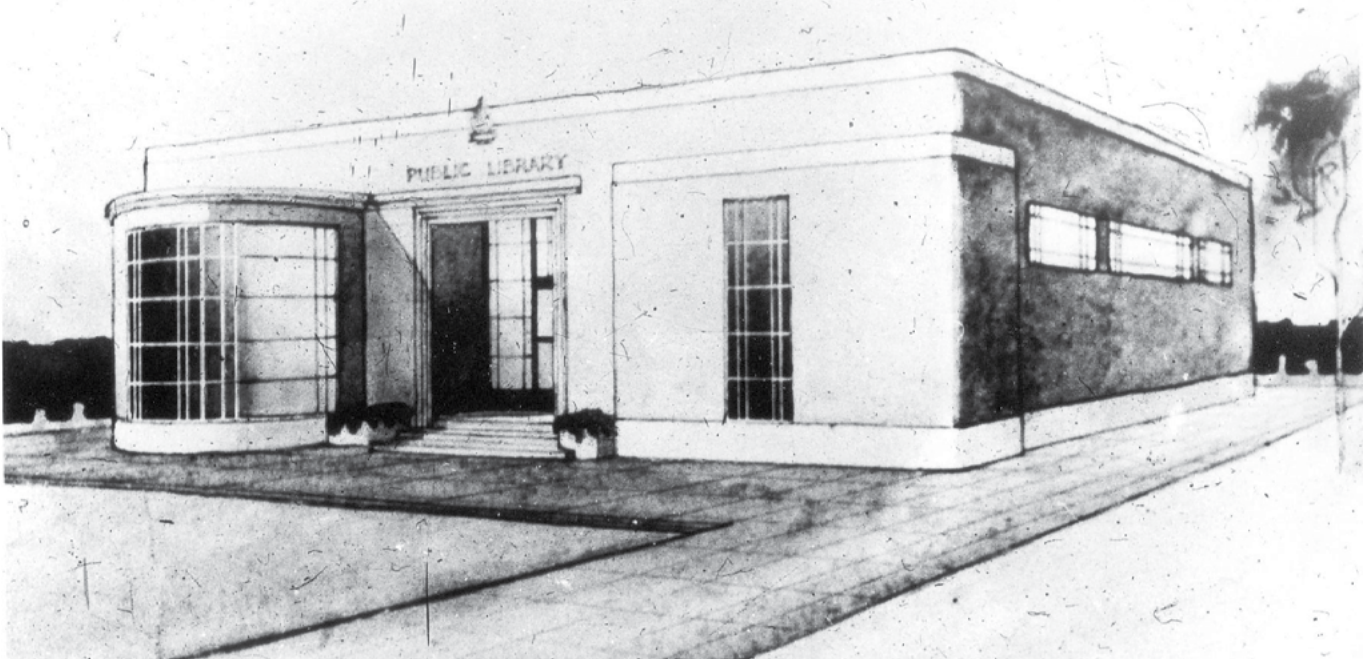
Bookplate designed by E Mervyn Taylor in 1950 for Khandallah Library. "The symbolism of the bookplate is based on the life of Miss F L Irvine-Smith. The open book with the suggestion of early streets is intended to recall to mind her book. The New Zealand flowers which adorn the bookplate are to suggest her great interest in natural history, particularly New Zealand botany, and the sheets of note paper to depict the copious notes which she took when preparing material for her book", wrote Stuart Perry in 1951.

Books bought by the F L Irvine-Smith fund are permanent possessions, available only to borrowers at Khandallah. Titles which appear to have outlived their usefulness may be removed to the reserve stocks at Central where they may be made available for reference use. £150 in the memorial fund was invested in Government stock and the interest from this each year is used to buy books for the Khandallah Library. The Hon Secretary/Treasurer, A W Mason wrote in 1950: "My committee further stipulates that the books purchased be the best of their kind on any of the following subjects: history, travel, nature study (particularly of New Zealand), drama, natural history, and that one book each year should be for the children's section."



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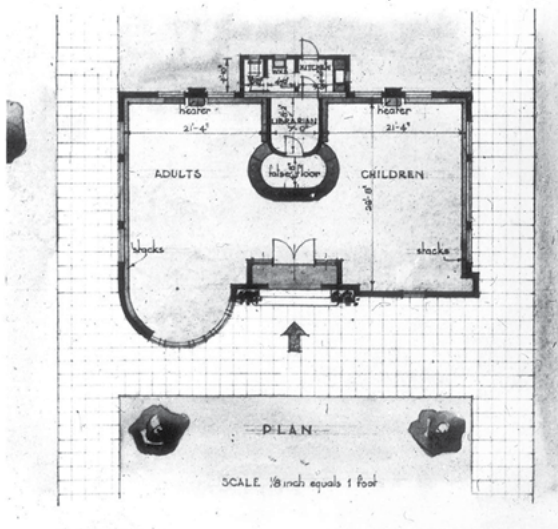
## From our Archive



INTERIOR PERSPECTIVE

These architectural drawings of the proposed new library, Ganges Road, Khandallah, are copies from the WCC Archive attached to building consent documents, 23 July 1952.

The builder was L.E. Borrell but there is no record of the architect except for 4 sets of initials: FO, JC, NS and NF. They must have felt proud of this charming and functional Art Deco styled design. The price was £7,139 and the project was signed off by K.E. Luke, City Engineer, WCC.



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