

keith.flinders@gmail.com

From: keith.flinders@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, 5 October 2022 2:13 PM
To: keith.flinders@gmail.com
Subject: FW: OHS Newsletter May 2017 no 2



ONSLow HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

established 1968

Newsletter

May 2018

Notice of Annual General Meeting

To be held at KATE, 86 Khandallah Road, Wellington. 7pm Monday 28 May 2018

The AGM will include the President's, Financial and Archives Reports plus the determination of the office bearers (President, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer) and committee for the society.

If members have any suggestions for general business and / or nominate anyone as an office bearer or for the committee, please contact us at onslowhistorical@gmail.com with your suggestions and / or to request a nomination form.

AGM Guest Speaker – Mayor Justin Lester

Following the formal part of the AGM, we are delighted to have Mayor Justin Lester as our guest speaker.

The mayor is our Patron, a former Committee member and previously Northern Ward Councillor. We look forward to hearing what he has in store for us.

Supper will be served, so please RSVP to the above email address if you have access to email.

All members welcome.



Film evening – A Test of Faith



Front cover of the DVD *A Test of Faith*, 2017.

In late March, Onslow Historical Society and the Wellington Historical & Early Settlers Association hosted a screening of the documentary film, *A Test of Faith*.

It's the story of the earthquake strengthening, and restoration of the historic St Mary of the Angels Church in Boulcott Street.

Father Barry Scannell, who championed the project, was the guest speaker introducing the film and filling in on detail not covered in the film. We learned how it truly was a test of faith where both he and Brian McGuinness were pushed to the limit before delivering a truly amazing outcome. In 2013 the Church closed. After four years of painstaking work the much loved heritage building was re-opened.

This beautiful film goes into fascinating detail on design innovation, planning, problem solving and preservation challenges and the construction process. It also tells the story of the establishment of the Catholic Church in Wellington; the site and building iterations and its place in our heritage.

Copies of the film can be purchased. Contact St Mary of the Angels.

www.onslowhistoricalsociety.appspot.com email: onslowhistorical@gmail.com



ONSLow HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.
established 1968



OHS features in TV3's Great War Stories

Captain Norman Bell's Trunk becomes Captain Norman Bell's Treasure Chest!

On Friday 12 April TV3 Newshub screened the film, *Pixie Laing*, one of seven films in the *Great War Stories* series. Our very own Judy Siers stars in this short four minute story about Pixie Laing and her contribution to World War 1.

"Early in February I was approached by film maker Anna Cotterill, requesting that Onslow Historical Society provide information and material to film a story about Pixie Bell. She would pick up two angles – a personal perspective and her service as an ambulance driver in WW1", explained Judy. The project was part of the WW1 Centenary events. "It was possible for OHS to collaborate with AC Productions, Anna Cotterell, and tell Pixie's story and provide images because of material held in our own Archive. Even though it was at very short notice, we hold a variety of unique collectables on the subject, not available elsewhere, I felt obliged to respond". Filming took three days, 19 to 21 February.

The film gave us a fascinating glimpse of Pixie's life; the still photographs, the documents and testimonials merged perfectly with moving footage, the troops in Paris, the dancers at the *Folies Bergère*; the presentation was seamless.

This film project made clear the importance of keeping archives. If Pixie's past had not been stored in the trunk and if the Onslow Historical Society had not looked after it, all the precious memories would have been lost. Congratulations OHS!

Inside Captain Norman Bell's trunk was full of information about his wife, Pixie. It was left in safe keeping at the BNZ by Captain Bell when he went on an extended holiday in the 1940s. He died overseas and never reclaimed his possessions.

In 2000, Rosemary Collier, archivist at BNZ, negotiated that the trunk should come to OHS for safe keeping and a future. This transfer was deemed appropriate as the Society already had a large collection of Captain Bell's papers and photographs.

We had published his story in 1989, and in 1995 curated and presented an exhibition in the KATE gallery with a further publication, and a poster of the Bell Bus fleet. It was on viewing these that Rosemary realised we had an in-depth interest in Captain Bell and the Bell Bus Company.

(Pixie Bell continues over)

86 Khandallah Road, Wellington www.onslowhistoricalsociety.appspot.com email: onslowhistorical@gmail.com

~ Chorus is the Society's major sponsor ~



ONSLow HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.
established 1968

Before 2000 we had focused on the latter and knew that Pixie and Norman had met in England during the Great War, that they married in NZ and became Ngaio residents.

Seeing the contents of the trunk revealed much about Pixie, her place of birth, Dunedin, her birth name, Ada Laing, and the change to Pixie when she adventured out of New Zealand to travel through Australia, then South Africa, Paris and London.

Finally she became Pixie Bell when she married her war time boss, Captain Bell, first meeting him when she joined the army to work as an ambulance driver during WW1, serving in London and France.

To see the film...

[CLICK HERE](#)

To see more about the making of the film in Heritage Today Issue # 28 May-June...

[CLICK HERE](#)

Appreciation was expressed and OHS was acknowledged. A koha of \$100 was gifted to the Society.

Captain Norman Bell's trunk



For more on the subject visit KATE on Sundays between 1 – 4pm.

There's a Bell Bus Company display on currently. Read more detail in:

- The Onslow Historian Volume 19, number 2, 1989.
- The Onslow Historian Volume 25, numbers 1 – 4, 1995, a miscellany of stories, with poster.
- The Bell Bus Company 1921 – 1936, researched by AW McCormick, written by Raymond Dixon.

Both volumes can be purchased from OHS for \$5 each plus postage \$3.50.

2018 Subscriptions

Note that annual subscription notices (year ending 31 March 2019) will be sent out from mid-May. The annual subscription fee remains at \$35.

If you would like to make your payment now, you can, by Cheque or online by Direct Credit to:

Onslow Historical Society Inc, 86 Khandallah Road, Wellington 6035

ANZ Bank 01 0527 0006628 00

(Please quote your name in the reference field).

Can you help?

The committee is looking for people to help with a variety of tasks. These include:

- tech savvy people who can coordinate and manage a new website (once built)
- update and maintain our Facebook page
- write stories and articles
- assist with archives
- prepare grant applications
- act as our Health and Safety coordinator.

If this sounds like you, please be in touch with the committee to register your interest.

It's our 50th Anniversary

It all started in 1968 and this year is the year to celebrate our beginning – our history.

The committee is currently organising a number of events for the latter half of the year.

More details to follow...



86 Khandallah Road, Wellington www.onslowhistoricalsociety.appspot.com email: onslowhistorical@gmail.com

~ Chorus is the Society's major sponsor ~

Web links:

[Pixie Laing](#)

[Making the film](#)

[Facebook page](#)