



ONslow HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Established 1968

Newsletter

October 2022

Dear OHS Members,

Here's an October Newsletter with information about forthcoming events, general news and historical information.

It has been an exciting few weeks realising that our local paper the *Independent Herald* will be celebrating its 50th birthday on 1 November 2022. Yes, it makes me feel my age and many others with me, when we look back to those days when we young parents with children, and many, like Jim and me, new residents of the area, would welcome the delivery of the local 'rag'! It helped us settle into the community. Here were accounts of events and local news, club and society activities, a reminder of forthcoming meetings to attend, stories of interest and a lot of advertising. We could find the tradesmen we needed, follow shopping guides and explore old-fashioned classified columns.

The arrival a few weeks ago of former editor of the paper, Ruth Thomas and reporter, Janet Tyson



Reading the first and early editions of the *Independent Herald* 1972, former editor, Ruth Thomas, right, and reporter, Janet Tyson, left, with Judy Siers at KATE, Sunday 18 September 2022. PHOTO: CLAIRE BIBBY

OHS Events

October – December 2022

Monday 24 October – Tuesday 6 November 2022

Wellington Heritage Week 2022

OHS members can refer to the programme emailed two weeks ago, or check online www.heritageweek.co.nz

Choose an event/events from the exciting range on offer and support Wellington heritage!

Monday 24 October, Labour Day holiday, 2022

A walk with Chris Horne

10.30am – 2.30pm

Four Streams and Three Ridges – an urban walk from Boulcott Street to the Botanic Garden's Rose Garden

See page 3 for more detail.

Sunday 6 November 2022

Celebrating the *Independent Herald* – 50 Years Old

An afternoon at KATE

86 Khandallah Road ■ 2–4 pm

See page 4 for more detail.

Sunday 27 November 2022

OHS Christmas Party

With entertainment, Christmas fare, bubbles and punch

At KATE ■ 86 Khandallah Road ■ 5–7pm

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

~ Chorus is the Society's major sponsor ~



at KATE was a special occasion. I was there to greet them on a Sunday afternoon when Claire Bibby, a KATE minder, was on duty and produced afternoon tea for us, then she captured the moment on her phone camera. Yes, OHS had original copies of the paper and as we turned the pages we reveled in looking back and discovering things long forgotten. Thank goodness the Society saved these papers.

The discussion turned to celebration ideas and the result is the OHS afternoon event on Sunday 6 November, see the invitation on page 4. I hope there will be a good turnout of people who we may have lost touch with – it will be a reunion!

Congratulations to Max Bruce

Max's new book arrived in the post, unexpectedly, and with a charming, personal inscription. I was overwhelmed. Here was an autobiography of a man I knew and respected but I was unaware he had published, and on reading realised so much more of his fulsome life than I could have imagined!

His story tells of a career in photography, his passion and livelihood, which is how I know Max. But there is much more including his early training at National Publicity Studios, his business ventures, his outdoor pursuits, including much about the Tararua Tramping Club, and his travels in NZ and overseas with special focus on his ancestry from the Shetland Isles. Images of his personal and family life over 90 years weave through the pages and lovely wife, Pamela, comes to life. They married in 1954 and since then she has always been beside him.

You can judge this book by its attractive and inviting cover – you won't be disappointed.

Max is a true 'local' – born in 1929 at 37 Woodmancote Road, Khandallah. His parents

Katie and William Bruce supported their children in all their endeavours. For Max, his father helped him build a photographic darkroom in the basement of the house. Using his skills as a sailmaker he created two

large carrying folders so Max could safely transport his mounted 16 inch x 20 inch prints on the train to Wellington to the Wellington Camera Club where they were exhibited and assessed for merit by the selected judges. And there are more stories of Max's childhood and teenage years in Khandallah.

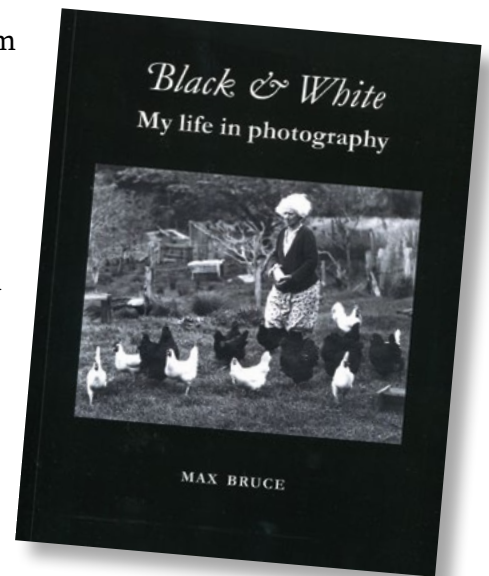
OHS has a collection of Maxwell Bruce photographs. They have been donated by him and they are treasures. We have reproduced them in various editions of *The Onslow Historian*: in Loretta Landers' *Three decades in Woodmancote Road, 1930–1960*, Vol 37, nos 2–3, 2008 and more recently in *Khandallah Park – A recreational and Forest Park*, Volume 50, nos 1–4, 2020.

Black & White – My life in photography is available for purchase at Camera House, Queen's Drive, Hutt City and the Mitchell Gallery, Ganges Road, Khandallah. The price: \$40.00

Max is on my list to be a presenter and speaker at KATE in the new year. I am sure he will agree. It will be something special for us to look forward to.

All the best to everyone.

Judy Siers





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Labour Day Holiday Walk with Chris Horne

Monday 24 October 2022

Four Valleys and Three Ridges: An urban walk from Boulcott Street to the Botanic Garden's Rose Garden

Meet at 10.30am on the lower Boulcott Street corner of O'Reilly Avenue.

The walk will end approximately 4 hours later at the Rose Garden in the Botanic Garden.

Booking is essential: Contact OHS's John Galloway, email: jghgalloway@slingshot.co.nz or telephone: 04 478 7603

This is another walk that the Society has arranged led by Chris. It will progress at a pace to suit the company, to take enjoyment in the landscape and from the commentary learn about local history, botany and bird life. Chris welcomes participants contributing their knowledge to the event.

Make sure you wear good walking footwear and clothes for all weather conditions. There will be a break at half-way, bring lunch and drinks. At the end of the walk there will be the opportunity to relax at the café for refreshments before departure. Tables will be booked in advance.

Chris has described the walk: From the corner of O'Reilly Ave and Boulcott St, in the valley of the now-culverted Waikoukou Stream, we'll visit historic Signal Hill (link to Wairau Affray, 1844) and Terrace Gardens, then climb Allenby Tce (link to WW1) to The Terrace – on our first ridge – lower down which Kumutoto kainga stood near the top of Woodward St.

In the valley of Kumutoto Stream we'll see our second stream, a colourful sculpture and the Romanesque rear of a house which is on The Terrace, then climb Town Belt land to Kelburn Park (toilets) and the fountain moved there from the 1940 NZ Centennial Exhibition site at Rongotai.

On Salamanca Rd we'll pass the impressive house, Chevening (1912), now owned by Pouhere Taonga/Heritage NZ. We'll walk a short way up Kelburn Pde, under which flows now-culverted Kumutoto Stream, draining the eastern slopes of Pukehinau ridge along which run Glasgow St, Rāwhiti Tce, Central Tce, Upland Rd. We'll climb flights of steps to Rāwhiti Tce and Upland Rd, on the crest of Pukehinau, our second ridge.



Culvert sculpture, Kumutoto.
PHOTO: ALAN BENGE 2022

From North Tce we'll descend a zigzag to The Glen, in the catchment of Pipitea Stream – our third stream. We'll enter Wellington Botanic Garden then from Mamaku Way use minor tracks to the Play Area (toilets) and stop to eat our lunches on a grassy slope at the end of Epuni Path. We'll visit the Discovery Area, walk up Stable Gully in impressive mature native forest to Scrub Path and arrive on our third ridge – Remembrance Ridge. At the end of Junction Path we'll see the Peacemaker Statue, then turn onto Waipiro Walk/Serpentine Way to see our fourth stream – Waipiro Stream – in kohekohe forest. Finally we'll arrive at Picnic Cafe, beside the Begonia House and Rose Garden.

Homeward bound: No. 2 buses on nearby Glenmore St run uphill to Karori Park and downhill to Miramar and Seatoun.



Chris and the greenery. PHOTO: ALAN BENGE 2022

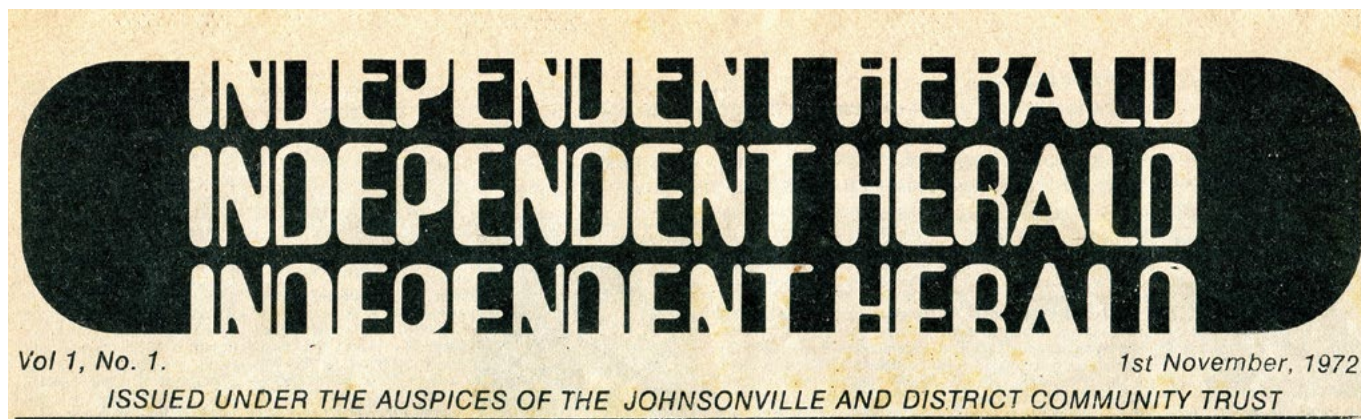


Chevening, 90 Salamanca Road, Kelburn. PHOTO: ALAN BENGE 2022



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Invitation



OHS invite you to join us and celebrate the *Independent Herald* – 50 years old!

At KATE • 86 Khandallah Road • on Sunday 6 November 2022, 2–4 pm

Original copies of the paper will be available for careful handling.

RSVP essential for seating and afternoon tea arrangements.

siersjudy@gmail.com 027 345 0374

The first edition of the newspaper for the northern suburbs of Wellington was published on 1 November 1972. Past editor, Ruth Thomas and reporter, Janet Tyson are bringing together former staff, contributors, the public, *et al* to mark the occasion.

OHS welcomes the opportunity to host an event. KATE is the ideal venue and will resonate with stories and memories as old friends gather to reconnect and remember old times. *IH* history is an amazing history. The regular local paper brought us the news and items of interest for our community, provided a reliable medium for advertisers and the ‘go-to’ place for readers for information of all sorts.

A local paper keeps communities intact and it is splendid that the paper still exists today.

If you know anyone who has a strong connection to the *Independent Herald* and would be interested in attending, please let us know.

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INDEPENDENT HERALD INDEPENDENT HERALD INDEPENDENT HERALD

Vol 1, No. 1.

1st November, 1972.

ISSUED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE JOHNSONVILLE AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY TRUST

EDITORIAL WHY AN INDEPENDENT HERALD?

Almost a stupid question perhaps. We think there will be few people in the community that embraces Johnsonville, Khandallah, Ngaio, Ohariu Valley, Churton Park and Crofton Downs who wouldn't agree that a truly independent voice for the area is a desirable and useful thing.

We need a newspaper we can control, cultivate and consult — an outlet for community news, ideas, queries, theories and complaints. We need to have a forum — not only for the exchange of ideas, but as a way for people within the area to get to know one another. We need to know our talented people — the poets, the historians, the potters, painters, sculptors, the craftsmen, the critics, the radicals, the stand-up-and-be-counteds! So — this is one thing the Independent Herald will endeavour to bring you every issue — a Profile on one of your interesting neighbours.

We hope you'll bring us your news, complaints, queries, photographs, ideas — and, above all, your support. This is our paper — yours and mine. With your co-operation, we will be able to make it into the most fascinating, the most well-read suburban newspaper ever. As a consequence, we hope to attract the most attractive advertisers, we will make a profit, the profits will be ploughed back into the community, the community will become more vital, and this district will have an identity to be envied.

So . . . individuals, social groups, sporting bodies, charitable organisations, artists, craftsmen, business people . . . it's up to you. If you have something for your newspaper, let us know. Send us your stories, photographs, advertisements, letters, queries, and we'll do the rest.

How An Independent Herald?

When we heard that the 'Times Herald' was about to be swallowed up by the Kapi-Mana, which in turn had been swallowed up by the consortium of Independent Newspapers Ltd, a few of us decided to act. We approached local businessmen to see if they would go on supporting a local newspaper in preference to the comparative anonymity of the 'bigger, brighter' You-Know-What; the response was overwhelmingly in the affirmative.

So, with the promise of advertising under our belts, we turned our thoughts to immediate financial backing. It came in the form of the Johnsonville and District Community Trust. The trustees will hold all the shares in the venture and will take care of immediate costs. All profits will revert to this Trust to the benefit of the Johnsonville and District Community, whose continued support, we hope, will make the running of this newspaper an outstanding financial success.

What is The Johnsonville and District Community Trust?

It is a charitable Trust set up by Mr. Egan Ogier to engage in trading activity in the Johnsonville-Newlands area with the promise and legal requirement that profits made from the community be returned to the community.

It is the policy of the Community Trust Board to distribute profits for the promotion, advancement or encouragement of education, science, literature, art, physical welfare and other cultural and recreational pursuits; for the erection, laying out, maintenance or repair of buildings or places intended to further any of those purposes; for any further philanthropic purpose; or for any other purpose for the benefit of the Trust district.

Residents of the area will recall that the Community Trust purchased the business known as Bert Chatfield's Foods Limited and renamed it Jayville Grocers Limited and that since operating the new business, the Trustees made a distribution of \$500 to district organisations, giving \$100 each to the Johnsonville Branch of the Plunket Society, the Johnsonville Kindergarten (for special equipment), and Johnsonville Main School, Johnsonville West School and Brigidine Convent School for the purchase of library books.

With the purchase of Bert Chatfield's Foods Limited, the cash surplus of the Trust (other than the distribution made) has been applied in reduction of the purchase price of the business. As soon as the balance owing on the purchase of the business has been settled, the Trust Board will be in a position to make further distributions.

What will the Herald contain?

Apart from the Editorial and copy sent into the office from the community, we hope to continue and expand the feature pages you see in this first issue. We look forward to further suggestions from you, readers, as to possible additions.

Features in the Next Issue

A Special Bargains (column) for Shoppers to carry with you over the following fortnight; a Join-a-Group column (in which groups are invited to submit an advertisement giving names and phone numbers of people to contact); a Query Page (in which readers are invited to write in and ask about local affairs — we contact the institution or official concerned for the answer); a Profile on a local artist; and our Forum Page next issue will look into the need for Child Care Centres in the district.



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Recent donation to OHS



This photograph of *Haumia Street, Johnsonville, 1946*, was donated to the Society by Michael McElwee, a Johnsonville resident.

It's a triptych – three photographs joined to make a horizontal vista. The result is a view of a rural-type landscape, sited as one travelled north nearly 80 years ago towards Johnsonville, after passing today's Malvina Major buildings and Raroa Park on the right, east side, and Onslow College on the left.



On the back of the print a penciled caption reads:
Johnsonville Native Block No 2. View from the corner of Haumia St and Moorefield Rd, July 1946.

I spoke with Michael but he was unable to help with much detail about the image – he stored it for many years and memories of its origin have been lost in time. But OHS is grateful to have it in our archive collection, and we can compile a history as members and others make comments and share knowledge. This open field is now covered in houses. OHS ARCHIVE

