



ONslow HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Established 1968

Newsletter

July 2022

Hullo OHS Members!

We had a successful AGM on 9 June, with full attendance and around 40 apologies so although our membership is shrinking we have a solid core of followers and supporters. Thank you everyone. We enjoyed meeting our Mayor Andy Foster and his wife Ann, and Andy's speech was perfect for the occasion, titled "Heritage Matters". We had the media present and Felicity Wong's piece from *Wellington Scoop* is reprinted on page 5.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of Life Membership awards to William Main, Stan Pillar and Chris Lock.

A new Committee for the 2022-23 year was elected we have had our first meeting – a lively session and we hope to bring you an active year without Covid interruption.

Our members are

Secretary: John Galloway

Treasurer: Lachman Prasad

Committee: Chris Rabey, John Wilson and new members Viv Chapple, Greta Lange and Geraldine Needham-Girven.

I will be leading again as President and look forward to seeing as many of you as can make it to our events. The programme is listed in the column opposite.

OHS Events

August – December 2022

Sunday 7 August 2022

An Afternoon at KATE

86 Khandallah Road ■ 2 – 4.30 pm

Presenting the new *Onslow Historian*, "Colonial Artists of the North Road".

Guest speaker: author, historian Ian Brown.

Awaiting advice of date, time and place from Wellington City Council

Trooper Retter Memorial – the unveiling.

Monday 24 October – Tuesday 6 December 2022

Wellington Heritage Week

This popular city-wide events programme is being staged for the 6th time.

OHS will join with others with a range of options for participation.

Monday 29 October

Labour Weekend walk with Chris Horne

Details will be announced soon.

Sunday 27 November 2022

OHS Christmas party

86 Khandallah Road ■ 5 – 7 pm



FELICITY WONG



Snapshots of the evening were taken by OHS member Felicity Wong: Andy Foster in the Mayor's chair, as he should be! And Judy and Chris Lock, Chris made a short speech after the presentations.

The **OHS Newsletter** is proving a good way to share news and information, and feedback is proof of readership and a good way of the sharing historical information.

Here are some of the recent comments and requests.

The Horse Trough

A member sent a quote of interest from the story by Grace Patterson, *Pattersons of Harmony House*. During their horse rides through the suburb "... we would always pull up and I would offer Queenie a drink. There was one (trough) at the Simla Crescent entrance to the bush and another on Khandallah Road opposite and to the east of the Ngatoto Street entrance."

Elsie Crompton-Smith wrote in *The Onslow Historian* in her story *Early Khandallah Kaleidoscope*, 1976 that her brother Hector would wash his hands in the horse trough on his way to music lessons at Dorothy Finn's in Ngatoto Street.

OHS member Ron Ward asks a question

Ron has sent the attached photograph, c. 1940 and wonders if someone can identify the boy, and if the background is the area known to many as "Indian Rock"? Ron's family would walk from their home in Quetta Street to the Khandallah Reserve and he believes this was the setting for this photograph.

They had picnics there often with the Cooper family, walking about half an hour and following the stream to their preferred picnic spot.



New research, new project

Committee member Geraldine Needham-Girven is working on a history of the area around the Khandallah Station and Station Road including Cashmere Avenue and Boxhill at the road junctions – the Station Road precinct. She has good leads and contacts but a researcher can always do with more. Does anyone have information about the shops and their owners? If you have something to offer in a story or two, documents, maps, heritage records and photographs please contact her at gneedgirven@gmail.com

Archives and new acquisitions

OHS has been busy, aspects of history continue to unfold with new research and new deposits add to our collection.

Meantime, all the best and hope to see you on Sunday afternoon 7 August.

Judy Siers, President

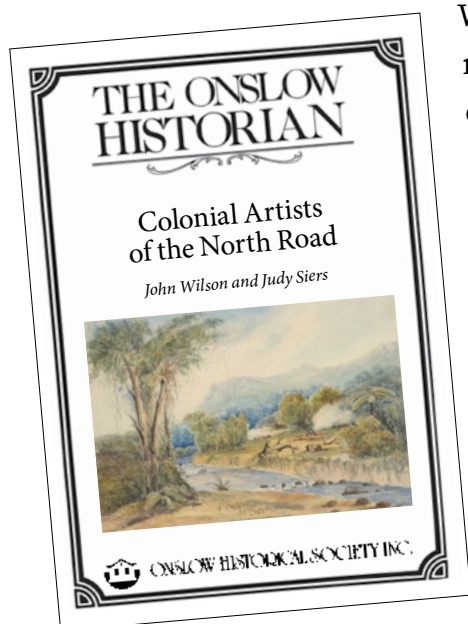


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REMINDER

Join us for an afternoon at KATE

2 – 4.30 pm, Sunday 7 August 2022



We will present our latest *Onslow Historian* and members can collect their own copy on this occasion.

Colonial Artists of the North Road

Guest Speaker

Ian Brown, author and historian

Ian will focus his talk on his ancestry, settlers who arrived in the 1830s in the Wellington and Kapiti region. There's an interesting connection in Ian's story with our new edition of *The Onslow Historian*. Come and find out about it!

Ian will bring a single copy of his expensive limited edition book for us to browse.



Afternoon tea will be served

RSVP welcomed for catering purposes, ring John Galloway: 478 7603 or email us.

86 Khandallah Road, Wellington

email: onslowhistorical@gmail.com

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Icons and Warriors

Author, Ian Brown, of the book *Icons and Warriors*, will be our guest speaker at our meeting on Sunday 7 August 2022. He has summarised his talk as follows:

I had been researching my own family history, and that of my wife, for over twenty years when it occurred to me that among the literally thousands of individuals whose details I had recorded, some had led extraordinary lives – and better still – I had gathered substantial detail about their lives and accomplishments. It became important for me and the family to document these stories in as much detail as I could capture. The book distills the stories of some twenty of these ‘Icons and Warriors’, dating back to the earliest days of colonial – and pre-colonial – New Zealand, commencing with the stories of the lives of our 3 x great grandparents.

The talk will focus primarily about my own 3 x great grandparents, John Nicol (‘Scotch Jock’) and his wife Kahe te Rau o te Rangi (legendary swimmer from Kapiti Island to Waikanae in 1824, and signatory to the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840). Jock and Kahe were both participants in and close observers of virtually every event of consequence in the wider Wellington region from 1830 until the late 1850s. It is equally the story

of the Ngatitōia people through this time. John Nicol transformed himself from a sailor, whaler, sealer and adventurer to become a prominent trader, farmer and innkeeper. He and Kahe would regularly sail twin open boats from their Kapiti Island base to the Sounds to trade with visiting American and other whaling vessels. They ran a successful innkeeping business at Pukerua Bay through the early 1840’s but as soon as the Paekakariki Hill road construction commenced (following the Battle Hill conflict) they recognised the opportunity and built a new inn at the foot of the Hill road, on ancestral land belonging to Kahe. This site has remained a hotel site until present day. The travellers on the new road presented a steady income for Jock and Kahe to supplement their ongoing trading business, but more importantly the road provided 3 of their own daughters with a surprise – and a future life path – that none could have anticipated. The stories of Mere, Maggie and Heni (my 2 x great grandmother) are as equally astonishing as those of their parents.

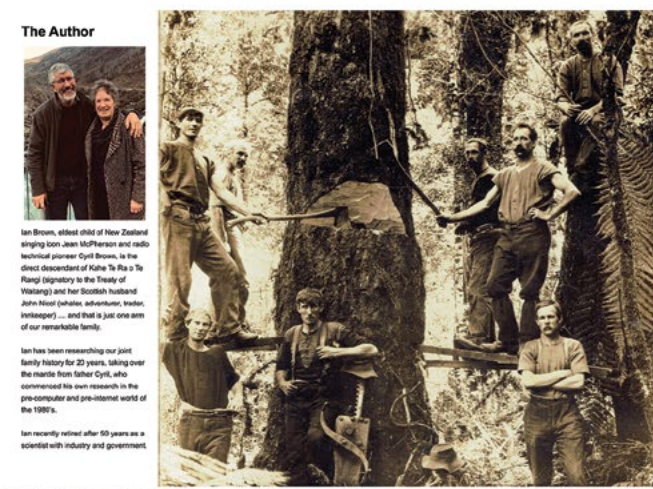


Illustration of the front and back cover.

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

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Felicity Wong's report of the Onslow Historical Society's AGM 9 June 2022

First published on Wellington Scoop Co NZ, reprinted here with permission.

“A deliberate campaign had picked on the character areas as the barrier to building houses,” said Mayor Foster at the Onslow Historical Society last week. There had been a “contest between ‘build anything anywhere with no controls’ vs those who cherish heritage controls”.

Heritage and character, and Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) and the Johnsonville rail line were “the biggest issues in the new district plan, and character protection was the biggest of them,” said the mayor.

Currently there is a blanket “demolition rule” protecting pre 1930s houses in the old inner suburbs of Thorndon, Mt Victoria, Mt Cook, Aro Valley, Newtown and Berhampore. It doesn't prevent demolition but the Council needs to be persuaded, for an alternative to be built, he explained. 1930 had been chosen because of the large amount of pre-WWII housing stock with not much having been built for a time after.

“All of those character houses are now 90–140 years old, and while some are cold, many have been renovated and invested in,” the

Mayor said. “They are made of native timber, which is recyclable but is not replaceable.”

But he agreed that some parts of the inner suburbs were not coherent and could have development.

The Council had commissioned expert advice from Boffa Miskell. “The Boffa Report was generous on demolition and had left some areas out of its recommended areas for protection.”

He had walked around the areas concerned and listened to stories about who had lived in the houses and about their kaitiaki.

He had visited the house where the first woman to earn a degree had lived, and the house of a famous boxer, as well as the delightful Thorndon cottage at 5 Torless Terrace.

Mayor Foster said the operative (existing) district plan had 370 ha of character protection. But with the new plan, only 70ha was expected to be retained. Although Council “experts had recommended that 42% be retained, councillors had decided to cut



that down to 22% on the basis that density was desired”.

There had been nearly 3000 submissions on the spatial plan and more than 1000 on the draft district plan. There will be a vote on the draft district plan on 23 June and the new plan will be notified (starting legal process) in mid July.

The Mayor said that “the Government had messed around twice with the process. It put 6+ stories near the CBD and railway stations, and then put in place 3 houses on every property, and fast-tracking decisions with no appeals allowed.” Mayor Foster said “the Government’s actions really constrain the Council’s ability and reduce citizens’ rights”.

Turning to protection for specific heritage buildings, Mayor Foster said new “listings” were proposed to “fill in gaps” with modernism. He said the Council didn’t want the Library building listed before it was strengthened. In welcome news, he said few heritage listed buildings had been lost in recent years. The Lebanese House in Abel Smith Street had burnt down, and Erskine College was in a designated “special housing area”.

“There are currently 600 earthquake prone buildings in Wellington and 150 of them are heritage listed,” the Mayor said. \$5.9m had been contributed to 209 buildings through the Council’s Built Heritage Incentive Fund. From October 2014 to this year, 97 heritage buildings had come off the earthquake-prone list. Fourteen of them had come off since last year and he outlined the good progress being made on strengthening many of the rest.

At the end of his talk, the Mayor sat back in the big old carved Onslow Borough’s Mayor’s chair. A relic from the time when Onslow was a self governed local body. A time many wish to return to, given the WCC councillors who voted against character protections and for radical upzoning around the train line.

One of those councillors had given her apologies for not attending the event. With the news from Onslow Historical Society President Judy Siers (an ex councillor) that it would soon be the end of that councillor’s role as Patron of the Society, we all sat back and applauded.



All about Harold Bourke

by Geraldine Needham-Girven

Harold's parents, William and Annie Jane, were married in 1896. Annie was a widow and had one child, Margaret, already. They initially lived in Tinakori Road and Pita Rua Street. They moved to Clark Street (later 11 Clark Street), Khandallah in 1904 where they lived for the rest of their lives.

William was born in Ireland and had come to New Zealand as a child. He worked for the Railways and had been a station master at Rolleston and Kaiapoi (leaving in 1889) before becoming a clerk in the accounting department in Wellington. He retired in 1926 as chief divisional passenger clerk, after 40 years' service. He was also a member of the Khandallah School committee.

Harold was born on 9 Sep 1900. Harold had an older brother, William born in 1897, a younger brother, John who died as a baby, and two sisters, Helen Dorothy born 1902 and Clara Winifred born in 1910.

William and Harold both went to Khandallah School and did well. In the 1912 prizegiving, William, in Standard VI, received a proficiency certificate, and a general proficiency certificate and Harold received awards for general proficiency and arithmetic in Standard V.

In 1913 Harold received prizes for Standard VI proficiency, arithmetic and drawing. His father must have been proud as he was Chairman of the School Committee and presided over the awards.

In 1914 he won a free place to junior high school and the following year won a free place to senior school. In 1916 he placed fifth in New



Harold and Annie. These photos are taken from their Brazil immigration cards from their visit in 1947.

Zealand in the Public Service Examination. He gained a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering from Canterbury College in 1922.

Harold left New Zealand on 20 Feb 1923 for New York, the first of many overseas trips. I haven't been able to find out what he did there, or when he returned, but he was back in New Zealand by 1925, living with his family at Clark Street and working as an engineer.

In 1927 he married Annie Logie, who had emigrated from Scotland by herself in 1923. Her family, parents and siblings, arrived in 1927, perhaps in time for her wedding.

Harold and Annie did not have any children, and this enabled Annie to travel with Harold as he developed an importing business. They travelled to England in 1933 and 1939, Brazil in 1947 and England again in 1950, 1955 and 1960.

Annie Jane, Harold's mother died in 1937 and his father William in 1939. Services for both were held at St Barnabas.

William left the house at 11 Clark Street to Helen and Winifred who had remained living at home. Winifred was a music teacher and pianist and performed many times on the radio. Winifred also organised musical events to raise funds for the St Barnabas Babies Home. In later years she became a shop assistant. Less has been found about Helen, but by 1957 she was listed as a tailoress.

Helen and Winifred seemed to have sold the house in Clark Street to Harold by 1954 and moved to 71 Amritsar Street. Later they moved to Lower Hutt. Winifred died in 1973 and Helen in 1985.

Harold and Annie lived in Clark Street until the mid 1960s when they retired to Waikanae. Annie died in 1987 and Harold in 1990.

William Senior, Annie Jane, Margaret Coutts, John, Helen, Winifred, Harold and Annie are all buried in the same plot in Karori.

William the oldest brother became an accountant, married and had a family. They moved away from Wellington, living mostly in Hawkes Bay, and he and his wife are both buried in Northland.

Articles from PapersPast about Khandallah school prizegiving

KHANDALLAH SCHOOL.

There was a large attendance of parents and friends to witness the distribution of prizes at the Khandallah School on Thursday. Mr. George Finn presided, and, after the children had given a short programme of songs and recitations, he addressed them in a genial and interesting manner upon their duties and privileges. Mrs. Inglis then handed the winners their prizes, and spoke a few kind words of encouragement to the assembled scholars.

Following is the prize list:—Proficiency certificates—Standard VI: James Patterson, William Bourke, Arthur Orr, Victor Evans, Alan Clark. Competency certificates: Gwendoline Inge, Henry Clark. General proficiency—Standard VI: William Bourke, 1; James Patterson, 2; Standard V: Harold Bourke, 1; Irene Living, 2; Standard IV: Maida Clark, 1; Ernest Curtis, 2; Standard III: Wilfred Blyth, 1; Eustace Jenkins, 2; Standard

Following is the prize list:—Proficiency certificates—Standard VI: James Patterson, William Bourke, Arthur Orr, Victor Evans, Alan Clark. Competency certificates: Gwendoline Inge, Henry Clark. General proficiency—Standard VI: William Bourke, 1; James Patterson, 2; Standard V: Harold Bourke, 1; Irene Living, 2; Standard IV: Maida Clark, 1; Ernest Curtis, 2; Standard III: Wilfred Blyth, 1; Eustace Jenkins, 2; Standard II: Enid Nalder, 1; Mary Zimmerman, 2; Standard I: Marjorie M'Gowan, 1; Leslie Evans, 2. Arithmetic (Mr. Finn's)—Standard VI: Victor Evans; Standard V: Harold Bourke; Standard IV: Annie Thomas. Civic history (Mr. E. Stafford's): Harold Bourke, 1; William Bourke, 2; Maida Clark, 3. Essay writing: Arthur Orr, Standard III—Arithmetic: Alan Meadowcroft. Handwork: Myrtle Thomas, George Stafford. Brushwork: Eustace Jenkins, Fred. Bates, Horace Thomas. Needlework: Irene Living, Annie Thomas, Muriel Aplin, Florence Coppock, Edna Waldie. Special merit (Miss MacGregor's): Gladys Page, Robert Evans. Diligence: Eric Hutchings, Pressly Matthews. Excellent conduct (headmaster's): May Christie. The day was made the occasion for presentations from the children to each member of the staff.

Above: *Dominion*, Volume 6, Issue 1630, 23 December 1912, page 2.

Right: *Evening Post*, Volume LXXXVI, Issue 149, 20 December 1913, page 4

KHANDALLAH

On Thursday afternoon Khandallah School was the scene of a large gathering of parents and friends of the pupils. The visitors inspected the well-kept school garden, and in the classroom were shown specimens of brushwork, drawing, and mapping. After a short address by Mr. W. Bourke, chairman of the School Committee, and an interesting programme of songs and recitations, the prizes and certificates were presented. Standard VI.: Proficiency to I. Living, H. Bourke, V. Matthews, F. McKenzie, R. M'Arthur, and J. Meek; competency to C. Pycroft. Special prizes included in the following list were those given by Mrs. Patterson for needlework, Mr. G. Finn for practice and theory of gardening, Mr. Murray Thompson for Standard VI. arithmetic (especially mental), and those given by the assistant teachers—Misses MacGregor and Temple.

Prize list.—Standard VI.: H. Bourke, proficiency, arithmetic; I. Living, reading and recitation; V. Matthews, diligence and progress; H. Phimister, neatness.

Standard V.—M. Clark, proficiency, reading and recitation; E. Curtis, arithmetic; A. Thomas, diligence and progress.

Standard IV.—G. Stafford, proficiency; R. Bakowell, reading and recitation; B. Evans, arithmetic; C. O'Brien, diligence and progress; E. Jenkins, neatness.

Standard III.—M. Zimmerman, proficiency; P. Matthews, reading and recitation; F. Bates, arithmetic; F. Coppock, diligence and progress; A. Kelly, neatness.

Standard II.—W. Young, proficiency; B. Twiss, reading and recitation; L. Evans, arithmetic; M. M'Gowan, diligence and progress; G. France, neatness.

Standard I.—I. Auld, proficiency; D. Thompson, reading and recitation; K. Twiss, arithmetic; J. Daniels, diligence and progress; I. Butt, neatness.

Elementary Agriculture.—Best plot; R. Aplin, H. Bourke; best papers, H. Bourke 1, A. Thomas 2.

Drawing.—Standard VI., H. Bourke; Standard III., E. Nalder; Standard I., B. Paul.

Brushwork.—Standard IV., M. Thomas; Standard III., E. Nalder; Standard II., H. Thomas; Standard I., J. Auld.

Needlework.—Standard VI., I. Living; Standard V., A. Thomas; Standard IV., E. Simmonds; Standard III., G. Page; Standard II., L. Simmonds; Standard I., I. Butt.

Conduct.—Standards IV. to VI., May Christie; Standards II. and III., Edna Waldie; Standard I., Maggie Thompson.

Presentations of useful articles were made to each of the staff as tokens of their pupils' esteem.