

Onslow Historical Society

Newsletter

www.onslowhistorical.nz

Onslowhistorical@gmail.com

86 Khandallah Road, Wellington, 6035

Christmas Newsletter 2024

Dear Member,

A very happy Christmas and New Year to you.

Your sustained interest in the Onslow Historical Society is very greatly appreciated.

Recently, Secretary John Galloway and I expressed to Chorus our thanks for its ongoing generous provision of the building at 86 Khandallah Rd, and our desire to find a pathway to ownership of our home, K.A.T.E. We will have to “purchase” the site, potentially taking account of variables in value, including acknowledging the building’s limited use options, earthquake prone and heritage status. We await Chorus' response in due course.

We aim to set up a separate ownership Trust and bank account and to start fundraising in the New Year. Ideally we’d find a handful of generous members willing to lend or gift significant amounts and also take up roles as trustees. If you think that might sound like you, please contact me.

We’ve had preliminary advice from engineers that the building’s former strengthening was robust, but we need further detail about what’s required to meet the since-changed standards. Recent legislation led by Minister Chris Penk provides extensions to deadlines for strengthening requirements, and his department will also substantially review the Standards. So let’s be hopeful about our eventual compliance, with some affordable remediation.

< North Rotary presentation, 21 November 2024 -... [Open in PowerPoint](#) 



'Native potato grounds', Khandallah, early 1840s

On 9 October your Committee visited the WCC Archives to hear about the plans for storing and digitising the OHS Archives. We are grateful to Past President Judy Siers for so carefully securing their transfer for long-term safe keeping. WCC Archives will be shifting from near Cambridge Terrace into the Council's new home on Jervois Quay. Archivists Adrian Humphris and Prayash Chhetri have been most helpful, and will oversee the digitisation of the records as appropriate. Information about the "OHS Collection" is available on line - see below for more info.

Some digitisation has occurred already by WCC Chief Library Historian Gabor Toth and is available via the Library website. Other digitisation will no doubt follow, as resources permit.



Reports on previous events

We've had a bumper season of successful events for members. A report of our Heritage Festival walk on 28 October led by Chris Horne can be found on page 7 of the 21 November issue of the Independent Herald. Link:

https://mcusercontent.com/c46c5bf979c5dad4eaca08d61/files/bb424036-6442-9869-2619-6f1362e5e220/21_November_Independent_Herald_s.01.pdf

Despite the intermittent rain the walk was very interesting and we'll aim to offer it again next year.



On 3 November OHS members were hosted by Paul Bicknell and Claire Bibby at the historic Halfway House for a garden tour and tea. The garden has many heritage plants, and Paul and Claire are engaging and interesting hosts. The Halfway House is looking absolutely splendid, framed by its beautiful garden. Thank you Claire, who is also one of our regular weekend hosts at K.A.T.E.



It was a scrumptious afternoon tea that Viv Chapple provided for our Christmas party on 24 November. The themed offerings included traditional Christmas cake and Blackberry Shrub (non-alcoholic fruit drink), together with asparagus rolls and biscotti and other yummy homemade treats. We had sherry and cherries too. It was great to have Patron Peter Dunne with us, and Councillor Ray Chung also. Past President Murray Pillar reminded us of all the impressive and varied musical experiences that OHS had put on for its past Christmas events, including garden parties - hard acts to follow. This year we opted for an engaging OHS-themed quiz, which Viv Chapple hosted. Our afternoon tea, fellowship and conversations were most enjoyable. Thank you Viv and others.

Last week John Martin and I gave a talk to the North Wellington Rotary Club, which has its regular meetings at the Khandallah Presbyterian Church in the Village. We talked about "Cultural Landscapes" and the history of land ownership and suburb development in Onslow, together with touching on the new district plan and the old 1890 Thomas Ward maps, which show each surviving individual building in the inner city suburbs. Many folk are unaware that Archaeological permits are required to demolish them, and with the widespread "upzoning" in the district plan, the older structures have lost their previous protection.

Finally, last weekend OHS had a really successful stall at the Khandallah Fair. John Galloway sold many copies of our Onslow Historians and the Northern Suburbs books.

We also displayed on our table a giant green papermache “maunga” of “Tarikaka”, made by the children of Khandallah Kindy. We displayed their large posters about the local mountain and its original name “Tarikaka”, conscious that we’ve known it since the 1960s (at least), variously pronounced as Mt “KawKaw”, “CowCow” and now “CoCo”!

The children are suggesting folks restore the original name, now the kaka birds are back, and it makes more sense as the “nesting place of kaka”.

I hope you’ve enjoyed my weekly Onslow History columns in the free, online Independent Herald. Next year I’ll gather this year’s columns together into an Historian. John Martin, Geraldine and Claire have got several Historians under production at present on some great topics. Publication will be next year.

Well it’s been a busy and enjoyable six months for me, and we give thanks to our Past Presidents, Judy Siers and Murray Pillar, to the hard working Committee, and to each of you as a member of OHS.

Happy festive season and see you next year!

Felicity Wong
President OHS



To access WCC archives go to <https://archivesonline.wcc.govt.nz/>

There is also a link to its user guide. OHS members can create an Archives Online (AO) login, which will allow you to do more stuff, such as create a collection of items, save those favourite items, share those items with your families and friends etc. You can also request items to be digitised once you have created a login.

Archives Online User Guide - <https://archivesonline.wcc.govt.nz/nodes/view/863648>

Alternatively, OHS members can send their request to WCC Archives via email: to archives@wcc.govt.nz

Coming Events

6 February 2025

Chris Horne will again be leading members on a Waitangi Day walk. It will be an historical tour of Trelissick Park and the Kaiwharawhara area. Full details and an invite to attend will be sent out in mid-January.

9th March 2025

Kapiti and Coffee, A visit to Waikanae Kapiti Museum. Meet at 9 Elizabeth Street, Waikanae at 2.00pm. Follow by afternoon tea.

Next Committee meeting: Saturday 25 January 2025, 3.00pm.



Christmas at KATE 2024

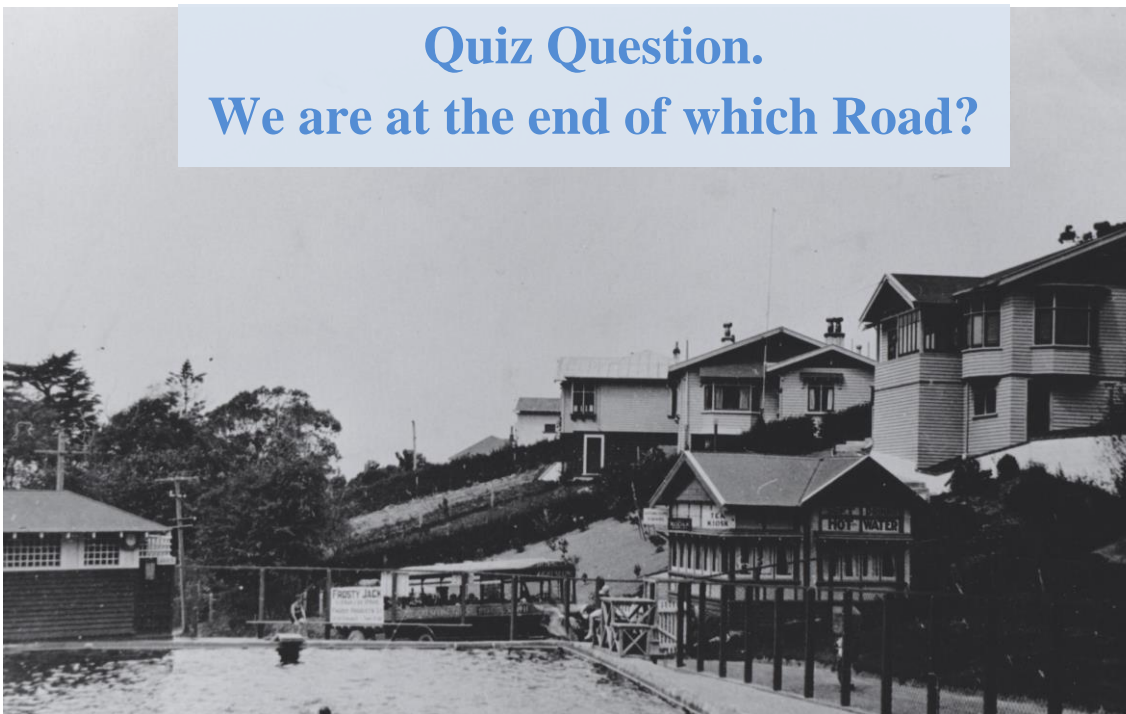
5115



This photo is from the Bob Myer collection, but where is it?

I think it may have been Moorefield Rd just to the North of the Catholic Church
If you know please let me know gwalternz@gmail.com

Quiz Question.
We are at the end of which Road?



Onslow History – local churches

By Felicity Wong

Prolific architect Frederick De Jersey Clere (1856-1952), designed many local churches.

Among them were the Anglican churches at Ngaio (All Saints, 1928), Khandallah (St Barnabas 1922), Newlands (St Michael and All Angels, 1922), Johnsonville (St John's 1921), Makara (St Matthias, 1920), Karori (St Mary's 1911) and Wadestown (St Lukes, 1908). In the city, De Jersey Clere also designed St Andrew's on the Terrace (1923), and St Mary's of the Angels (1922). The son of a clergyman he designed over a hundred churches, mostly in a gothic revivalist style.

The style was a deliberate attempt to transform the physical (and spiritual) landscape into something resembling English rural parishes. St Luke's, the Wadestown church, has a particularly beautiful interior recalling the English arts and crafts movement with timber beams, polished wood floor and red brickwork. It has recently been re-strengthened, restored and refurbished and was open to visitors during last month's Wellington Heritage Festival.

St Luke's received a grant from the David Luke Heritage Bequest (administered by Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga), donations and a grant from Lotteries to help fund the major two year work project which finished in June.

Under it's floor are now two big plinths designed to stop the east unreinforced masonry wall falling out.

In the 1970s external concrete buttresses had been added to the building to strengthen it. Horizontal steel now ties those buttresses on the inside of the building to bring it up to a very respectable 60% NBS.

Special features of the building include the large memorial window commissioned for the church and made in London.

The addition of the window was dedicated in a 1952 ceremony by General Freyberg.

St Luke's has the original 1868 organ from Old St Paul's Church in Thorndon.

The organ arrived at St Luke's in 1946 having been transferred to churches in Christchurch and Whanganui after it left Old St Paul's in 1878.

It has had modifications since then with an additional keyboard and extra stops and was fully cleaned and recommissioned as part of the recent restoration project.

In 2004 an older wooden church building next door, which had been shifted from the original Blackbridge Rd site to be used as the church hall, was demolished.

A new community centre was constructed joined to the present church building by a glazed atrium or cloister between the two.

"St Luke's Centre" is open for use by community groups, including music, yoga and pilates. With Wellington City Council's sale of the nearby Wadestown Community Centre and the Presbyterian church along the road being empty and for sale on Trade Me, it's a pleasure to see St Luke's well loved as a local landmark, well used and contributing to meeting contemporary community needs.

In the meantime, All Saints' Ngaio church, another De Jersey Clere church, stands forlornly as a monument to earlier times before its congregation merged with St Barnabas Church in Khandallah.

After a final service in 2011, All Saints' Ngaio was deemed to be earthquake prone and sold into private ownership.

Ngaio's Union Church is, however, an ever bustling centre of community activity, together with the 99 year old Ngaio Town Hall. It's centenary celebration will be in August next year. Join Onslow Historical Society for talks, walks and local history.

The Answer to the Quiz Question.

Woodmancote Road