

NEXT MEETING -

The Blockhouse Bay Historical Society next meeting is on Wednesday 1st October at 1.15 pm. **At Armanasco House**

***PLEASE note the change in venue as the Community Centre Car park will be closed.**

Guest Speaker – Barry Birchall from Blockhouse Bay.
The History of the Motor Car in Auckland.

Only 125 years ago there were no motor vehicles plying the roads in Auckland. Twelve years after the first motor car arrived in 1900, there were 600 vehicles registered in Auckland and by 1928, traffic jams. This is the story of how the motor vehicle transformed Auckland, and of how the barriers and obstacles presented by Auckland's terrain and weather were overcome.



AROUND THE BAY

Congratulations to Sean and Trinh from Levain Bakery White Swan Rd – In the 2025 Bakels Supreme Pie Awards they achieved: 1st Place – Bacon and Egg Pie, 4th Place – Steak and Gravy Pie and 6th Place – Vegetarian Pie.

There's been a supermarket in the Bay since the early 1970s but no more as we farewell the Bay's only one when Countdown closes. At the time of going to print there was no confirmation of what would take its place.

We remember Win Waterhouse, a long time Bay resident who passed away in August.

SOCIETY NEWS

New Board

President; Mary Marshall

Vice President; Tony Joyce

Secretary;

Treasurer; Anne Bell

Committee; Barry Birchall, Brian Goodwin, Ian Printy, Terry Thurtell, Krys Vickers and Norman Wansbrough.

*Note. Although Norman Wansbrough stepped up to be the Treasurer Anne will remain in that role until we have completed our reregistration as an Incorporated Society.

Tony Joyce was awarded Life Membership for his ongoing service and contribution at Armanasco House. Tony works quietly behind the scenes but you can always rely on him to help wherever needed.



Krystene Vickers; krys@ekiwi.com
Mary Marshall; marymarshall55@gmail.com
Anne Bell; 627 8619
Tony Joyce; 626 6445 tony.joyce@xtra.co.nz

Life Members;
Eileen Rusden, Yvonne Dabb, Alan Cole, Brian Goodwin and Tony Joyce.

Visit our website;
www.blockhousebayhistoricalsociety.com

615 BLOCKHOUSE BAY ROAD – LORRAINE'S STORY

Lorraine Wilson often talked to her family and friends about the little cottage by the beach, and how she would love to own the property.

When it was spotted for sale by her daughters, they alerted her to the fact, and then it was full on to sell the home she was living in, to purchase her beloved cottage by the beach.

Lorraine purchased the property in 1987 and couldn't wait to move into her dream home.

There were many special occasions held there, with engagements, weddings, christenings, and other special milestones throughout the years.

The beach was also a special place for Lorraine and her family, with many summers spent going down to the beach for a swim and then back to the cottage for lunch or dinner.

Over the years many people would stop and look at the cottage and take pictures on their way down to the beach and if any of the family were out in the garden at the time, they were happy to stop and chat about the cottage and share some of its history.

Lorraine loved to entertain and would create fabulous meals for family and friends. Not long after she moved in Lorraine was excited to be able to furnish her dining room where she had the most entertaining dinner parties. These parties were filled with love, laughter and fun, which will be remembered by many for years to come.

Lorraine decided to make part of the washhouse her office, for the many hours she spent on various committees, boards, etc., and had a partition to separate the laundry from her office area.

From then on in, it was fondly called "Not the Washhouse"

Lorraine was devoted to her beloved Blockhouse Bay and surrounding communities, during her lifetime she was a very active member of various committees, local boards and community groups. In 2001 she was awarded a Queens Service Medal for her services to the community.



615 Blockhouse Bay Road – a little bit of history

The original part of this house, constructed with double brick walls, is the oldest existing in the Bay and it is possible it was erected as a Government Store building circa 1860-65.

During the war – supplies were bought in by boat to the beach and transported up the hill to the homestead (from where Blockhouse Bay got its name.).

And the overflow was stored closer to the beach in a purpose made building, this we believe is part of the home as it is today.

This land was transferred in a Crown Grant in 1868, and the house was then used by several owners as a holiday cottage, being enlarged over the years.

In 1919 John Gordon added the little room at the left, as a little shop selling supplies to picnickers, which is shown in the 1920 photograph.

In 1926 it became a permanent home for the Gordon family, with the property being subdivided in 1956.

The small shed out the back was used as a washhouse and toilet – with the original copper base still residing where it was placed for washing laundry, and the door on the left for the water closet.

Written by Lorraine's daughters: Melanie, Fiona, Karina, & Justine.



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