



NorWest Heritage Society Inc.



PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF NORTH WEST AUCKLAND

Reg'd Charity # CC552778

<https://www.norwestheritage.org.nz/>

Email: info@norwestheritage.org.nz

Newsletter 6

December 2021

New History is made - 31 August 2021 The BIG Kumeu Flood



The second wettest day on record. 90 millimetres of rain fell in one hour. The railway breached in 2 or 3 places, causing sudden additional flooding. Extra high Spring tide at Helensville about 4 am prevented the swollen Kaipara and Kumeu Rivers from flowing out into Kaipara Harbour. 50 houses evacuated, including mine.

Experience noted from Bunty Condon, 71 Oraha Road, Huapai.

My house and garage are literally right beside the Kumeu River, on the recognised flood plain. In the past 29 years the annual flooding has never caused any major problem. I am told the previous major flood in Kumeu was 1978. I have never had any water inside the garage before. This time it was about 1.020 m. deep! Not quite coming inside the house, but the flood water was certainly just below the floor boards and the deep water surrounded the house and covered the full length of the drive.



“Jezebel” - my1951 Jowett Jupiter submerged in flood water in garage, 4.30am.

31.08.21.
Photo taken about 8am by a neighbour. Looking down my driveway, which is beside the horse truck. My house is much further back behind trees and was surrounded with this flood. The water had lowered slowly in the prior 3 hours. Imagine that it had, in fact, been over the seat inside the big horse truck!



Here is my house in 1978. I bought the property Christmas 1993. Photo is courtesy of Mrs. Price. Her son, Carl, is the 10 year old boy walking in the water. Amazingly, Carl Price was on business, looking for a neighbour's house, and got talking to me a couple of weeks after the flood this year. He told me of his experience in 1978. They were friends with the owners, Graham Yandall and family. (Prices and Yandalls are still in the District.) After this event the house was raised quite a lot (thank goodness!) making the recent flood level about a meter higher than it appears to be in this photo.



My house looks different now from this angle, but mainly it is totally obscured by big trees. The photo is taken in same direction as the recent one above. The driveway is just further over to the left in above photo from Aug. 2021.

******* NEW BOOK *******

“Treaty and its Times”

By Paul Moon and Peter Biggs.

Price: \$25 + \$8 freight (optional.)

Or collect from Waimauku.

Order from: Peter Biggs, Resource Books, Waimauku.

E: pbiggs@resourcebooks.co.nz Mob: 027 571 9937

- * Have you got any historic photos with some description?
- * Especially old photos from the Kumeu Show for our Centenary display early 2022.
- * Or a memory or story from early years in these districts?
- * Would you like to share and learn more about the history?
- * We would love to hear from you.
- * Please contact the Secretary: Mob: 027 440 0044
- * Email: info@norwestheritage.org.nz

OFFICERS

Chairman: Peter Biggs
Dep. Chair: Philip Parker
Treasurer: Don Blyth
Secretary: Bunty Condon
Email: info@norwestheritage.org.nz
Mobile: 027 440 0044

and

COMMITTEE

Barbara McIntyre
Beverley Calder
Elaine Parker
Joan Green
John & Gael Patchett
Nicole Galvin
Shirley & John Beveridge
Vivienne Wilson

*The NWH Committee
wishes all members
and their families a
Very Merry Christmas
with a Healthy and
Happy 2022 !!*

