



In 1966 I was a budding young reporter – Yvonne Blackett – working out of the Hutt Office of The Evening Post. (Here I am at my desk at the Hutt Office in High Street, Lower Hutt. Note my trusty typewriter and my healthy eating habits!)

I covered the Upper Hutt Council meetings and the Police round and the Courts. I also covered Upper Hutt repertory and my reports were published under YEB (nobody had by-lines in those days!). I remember being very proud when I would see an advertisement for a play in the paper with a quote from theatre critic YEB (yes it was me!) in it – just like you would see in The Times of London.

It was through my Police work that I met one PC Kevin Browne – boy did he have a few tall tales for us young reporters! Decades later, with his urging, I did publicity for the group of civic-minded people who wanted to make Golders Cottage into a museum. Now I am on the Committee myself!!

It is so great to be able to show our youngsters what it was like to live without electricity and all the trappings of a digital society – and I find them most interested in their local history and full of interesting (and sometimes curly) questions.

Yvonne Airey nee Blackett



In 1966 I was working in the ANZ Bank, corner Andrews Avenue and High Street Lower Hutt, as a Ledger Machinist with a daily commute on the bus, from Quinn's Post.

It was a fun place to work, with Yvonne Corcoran taking the younger staff under her wing.

What I remember about the bank that year was getting ready for the change to Decimal Currency "10 July next year (1967).

Ladies wore a Navy blue smock with ANZ badge and pantie hose.

My family home was 4 Whakatiki St.

Christine (Chris) Craig nee Keys



I was 8 years old in 1966 attending Te Marua Primary School at Brown Owl (later known as Brown Owl School). Mr Seasons was the Headmaster. As a child my life revolved around home (194 Main Road North, Upper Hutt), School, and the Farm – Woodlands at Maoribank. I walked to school usually with other groups of children from Mangaroa Hill Road, Hillside Drive Moeraki Road, Main Road and bottom of the Maoribank hill (we hadn't heard the term "Walking Bus" but this is what it was except no parents and no footpath to start with). 3 p.m. would see me dashing home to meet Mum, for cookies and milk and off load the days school news and doings, and then down to the farm "Woodlands" for milking time. Dad would have already started; Radio would be on in the Cow shed - 2YA.



I remember swing on the gate to let a cow or two in as some had been milked. Dad feeding the cows mash in the winter, while they were milked. Summer time Mum would stop across the Maoribank Bridge so I could have a swim in the river before milking, or we would stop at the Maoribank shop for ice block or Fanta as a treat. May 1966 saw the sale of the farm and livestock and change in the area from country to suburbs.

Janice Keys



I was one year old in 1966 when Upper Hutt became a city.

Elderslea Maternity Hospital was opened in 1961 and it closed in 1989, when services were centralised.

Elderslea had lovely grounds; the rooms had 2 beds and 2 cots in them.

The best part was that Mother and Baby stayed 2 weeks, unlike today.

Things have certainly changes since 1966.

What will Upper Hutt be like in another 50 years?

The future is anyone's guess.

Gordon Procter

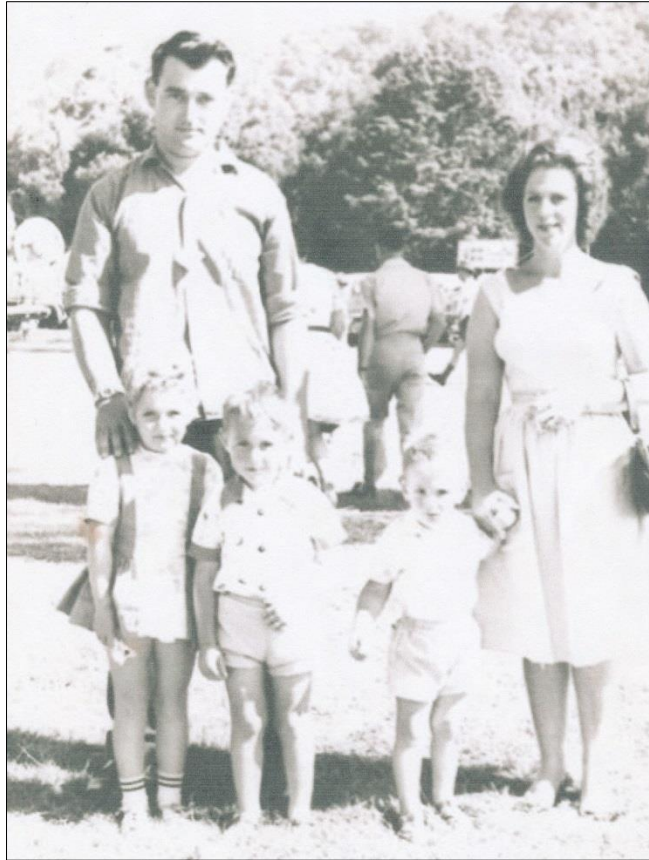


In 1966 I was travelling the world. I have wonderful memories and photos to remind me of the fun I had at night with all my friends and the slow donkey ride during the day.



50 years on and I am about to leave on another overseas trip with my Golder Cottage friend Pat Dunstan

Brenda Neville



In 1966 I was a young married woman married to Upper Hutt Policeman Kevin Browne (known as “Brownie”). We had three children between the ages of 5 and 1 year’s old.

With my husband on shift work, I had to adjust to being on my own with the children, both day and at night. If he was on late or night shift, it was then a matter of keeping the children quiet and occupied or taking the children out and keeping them occupied in order to allow him to sleep. At that time I did not have a driver’s license so it was a matter of walking everywhere with the children.

Even while off-duty people would come in the evening to pay their fines before being arrested in the morning for defaulting. The money would then have to be taken to the Police Station to fill in the forms required and to place the cash in a secure place.

My life during those days, revolved around my husband’s job and tending to both his and the children’s needs.

Janice Browne nee Golder



Since 1956 I had been Share milking on R. P. Prices Dairy Farm “Woodlands” at Maoribank (previously owned by Fred Whiteman). The year 1966 was notable for the sale of the four farms at Maoribank over the swing bridge. Although we knew it was going to happen it was still a bit of a shock. The Cottle, Price’s, F. Whiteman & Charlie Whiteman lands were sold to the “Totara Park Development Company (parent company M.S.D. Spiers of Marton) for land development (housing and a proposed light industrial park).

Fortunately I was offered a position with the Totara Park Company (though temporary – stayed to the finish in 1980), and went from Farming to Land Development.

I enjoyed the Land Development though it is the opposite to “Farming the Land”.

Peter Keys



For me 1966 would be remembered as an eventful year, filled with new found energy. The energy came from successful heart operation I received at the end of 1965.

1966 began when I married Snow, left Upper Hutt and went to live in Taita. I continued to visit Upper Hutt from time to time to catch up with friends and family.

On the day Upper Hutt was declared a City I joined my family in the celebrations. I remember crowds of happy, smiling people and a car display but my strongest memory was Sir Bernard Fergusson. I know I am short but to me his Excellency looked like a giant in his uniform with all the insignia.

The birth of Upper Hutt City in 1966 became clouded by another event in our family, the birth of our miracle baby girl that same year. We settled back in Upper Hutt in 1970 and have owned a few old cars. Perhaps the interests in old cars and the City of Upper Hutt began in 1966.

Now 50 years later it is 2016 and Snow and I began the year by celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary with our 4 daughters and their families. Later we will join our Upper Hutt friends in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Upper Hutt being declared a City.

1966 was a great year and 2016 will be just as memorable.

Lynly Yates nee Lessels

Memories of 1966

Members of the Golders Cottage