



*North Shore Golden Weather Heritage Week*

In the Victorian era the Shore was a popular destination for social outings

**Birkenhead Point, Auckland (September 2007).**

Stafford Villa is once again planning to bring the past to life for North Shore Heritage Week in 2007. After a sell-out crowd last year, these historic accommodation premises in Birkenhead Point are once again opening their premises for a traditional Victorian afternoon tea and house tour.

Stafford Villa is a colonial villa built in the North Shore in 1903. This was an era of few houses on the Shore, but those that did exist were often the grand holiday homes of the wealthy. During the Victorian and Edwardian eras the North Shore was a destination for social outings: whether it was movies and dancing at the Picturedrome in Milford, a day at the races at the racetrack on the site of the current Waitemata Golf Course, or enjoying a day at the many picturesque Shore beaches. The Victorian era was one of elegance and style, and Stafford Villa certainly embodies these times.

A family home for over 100 years, the first owners, the Hayman family, purchased the house after spending time in China and India as missionaries. The current owners, Christina and Mark Windram, restored and converted Stafford Villa to the luxury guest house it is today. To celebrate their heritage-listed property and this Victorian era, the owners will be holding traditional afternoon teas and house tours on Sunday 28 October, Thursday 1st November and Sunday 4th November. Attendees will be required to register at a cost of \$35 on a first come first served basis.

This event is one of a growing number that are part of the North Shore Golden Weather Heritage Week from 28 October to 4 November. This annual celebration is aptly named after the significant play "The End of the Golden Weather" penned by the famous Bruce Mason. The play is based on a twelve year old in the 1930's looking forward to an idyllic summer on Takapuna Beach. It embodies in particular both the coastal environment and literary heritage aspects of the North Shore, which are two of the heritage themes you can expect to see celebrated city-wide during Heritage Week.

Heritage Week allows organisations, businesses, schools, environmental groups, ethnic groups and anyone who wishes, to celebrate what's important for their heritage in North Shore City. It might be the likes of Stafford Villa and their 104 year-old heritage building celebrating the Victorian era. But it equally may be the reunion of the Mon Desir on Saturday 3 November, which for many people is more iconic from socialising in the 1970's and 80's. Or perhaps it's simply an opportunity for people today to start tracing their personal heritage through a Genealogy Workshop at Albany Village Library on Tuesday 30 October or taking a bush walk through Centennial Park in Campbells Bay on Wednesday 31 October to learn about caring for our environmental heritage. Whatever the angle, the choice is yours of how to celebrate. And as we get closer to this exciting week, the choice will be yours as to which of the many, many events and activities you may wish to attend around our city.

So far there are 33 different celebrations of North Shore's heritage planned between 28 October and 4 November, and we're expecting more to register over the coming months. Our city has a history to be proud of and which many of our residents and businesses aren't aware of – so let's all get involved in the celebration. Visit [www.northshorecity.govt.nz](http://www.northshorecity.govt.nz) and type Heritage Week in the keyword search for resources and information and to register your event or activity.

Domestic and international marketing and promotions of Stafford Villa is done by Navigate Oceania. For more information or for graphics, contact Karine Thomas on 64 9 307 3633, or email [karine@navigateoceania.com](mailto:karine@navigateoceania.com).

- End -

**Editors Notes:**

- o Stafford Villa, a heritage listed, colonial villa which has been a family home for over 100 years is situated in the genteel, historic village of Birkenhead Point across the sea from downtown Auckland. Stafford Villa's owner Christina Windram, on 418-3022 or [rest@staffordvilla.co.nz](mailto:rest@staffordvilla.co.nz). Visit their website at [www.staffordvilla.co.nz](http://www.staffordvilla.co.nz).
- o **Stafford Villa is a member of Navigate Oceania**, a new collection of 25 inspired destinations and unique experiences from New Zealand's best boutique hotels and luxury lodges, an exclusive private island, villas, spa destinations, a luxury expedition-style cruise, and a private motor yacht. Our members are: Doubtless Bay Villas, Cable Bay; Cavalli Island Retreat and Spa, Cavalli Islands; Paihia Beach Resort and Spa, Bay of Islands; Bay of Island Lodge, Bay of Islands; Oceanic Discoverer; Mission Hills, Bay of Islands; Waipoua Lodge, Waipoua Forest; The Boatshed, Waiheke Island; Stafford Villa, Auckland; Cotter House, Auckland; Seafields, Whitford; Maungatautari Lodge, Cambridge; Hamurana Country Estate, Rotorua; Kawaha Point Lodge, Rotorua; Treetops Lodge & Wilderness Estate, Rotorua; Chalet Eiger, Lake Taupo; Greenhill the Lodge, Hawkes Bay; Wharekauhau Country Estate, Martinborough; The Bolton Hotel, Wellington; Ohtel, Wellington; Claremont Country Estate, Canterbury; Huntley House, Christchurch; Elm Tree House, Christchurch; Wapiti Park Homestead, West Coast; Matakauri, Queenstown; Takaro Spa Retreat, Te Anau. For more information on our experiences, visit [www.navigateoceania.com](http://www.navigateoceania.com).
- o For more information or graphics contact Karine Thomas on 64 9 307 3633 or email [karine@navigateoceania.com](mailto:karine@navigateoceania.com).