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# PROSPECT

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## CONTENTS

# Auckland's Everton

*By Jack Baker*

I was born at Northcote in 1925, the same year that Blandford Park, tucked away in Grafton Gully, was opened. For the next 12 years or so, it seemed that our family spent every winter Saturday at my Dad's beloved Blandford Park, watching soccer.

At the end of a distinguished playing career my father, Frank Baker, served as an Auckland Football Association Control Board member from 1926–43, spent two years as chairman and was honoured with a Life Membership in 1940. We still have Dad's valued scrap book with press clippings and photos from most of Everton's matches. Plus his beautiful velvet blue and gold Auckland caps.

It annoys me when younger people say such things as, 'Soccer is finally going ahead.' They should see Dad's scrapbooks. Before WWI crowds of five or six thousand were common at the Domain, Devonport or Victoria Park.

In 1912 the *NZ Herald* had columns dedicated to soccer of pre-match and post-match comments including on a Friday half-page photos of tomorrow's captains for the main game. In July was the following report. 'Frank Baker, who at 20 years exemplifies in his 9st 7lb of well developed muscle and sinew the energy of EVERTON. He has led the black and blue eleven since the team took its place in the Auckland First Division of 1911.'

The *Auckland Star* also wrote:

> . . . formed in 1907 under a different banner (Tabernacle) the team had a triumphant march through the grades. In 1911 (now with the name Everton) the lads formed a new dynasty as it were and Frank Baker led the team to runner-up in their first attempt in 1911. The Everton Premier Team was one to be proud of. They had started together as Ponsonby boys in 1907 and worked up through the grades, gained the position of runner-up in 1911 and won the Championship this year. Seven of the original founders were still in the Premier team. If everyone trained and worked together as the Everton XI had, 'soccer' football would progress wonderfully. In 1912, he perched them safely on top and they stayed there till



he performed three on one day, and several others in the two weeks between his investiture on 14 November, and his death two weeks later on 28 November 1937. A large, lichen-covered rock from his own garden marks his grave at Purewa Cemetery.

The great sadness in his life was the illness of his wife, Emily, a woman of advanced ideas who, in 1908, was admitted to Ashburn Hall in Dunedin. She was transferred to Kingseat Hospital near Auckland in March 1950, and died at Kingseat in July of that year.

Algernon Thomas, in his will, had left clear instructions for his family. In accordance with his wishes a gift was made to the citizens of Auckland of Lion Rock at Piha, along with 100 acres of land adjoining it, and three acres of flat land on the north side of Piha Stream. All became part of the Auckland Centennial Memorial Park, which was later transferred to the Auckland Regional Council. In addition arrangements were to be made for the Auckland City Council to take over the regenerating forest in Epsom, almost two acres in content. This area is now known as Withiel Park. Located on the north side of Withiel Drive it can be identified by its lawn and stone seat which records the care given to the forest by Professor Sir Algernon Phillips Withiel Thomas.

With the added legacy of the extensive area of recreational bushland of the Waitakere Ranges which he worked so hard to secure for the pleasure of future generations of New Zealand, Thomas can truly be described as one of Auckland's greatest benefactors.

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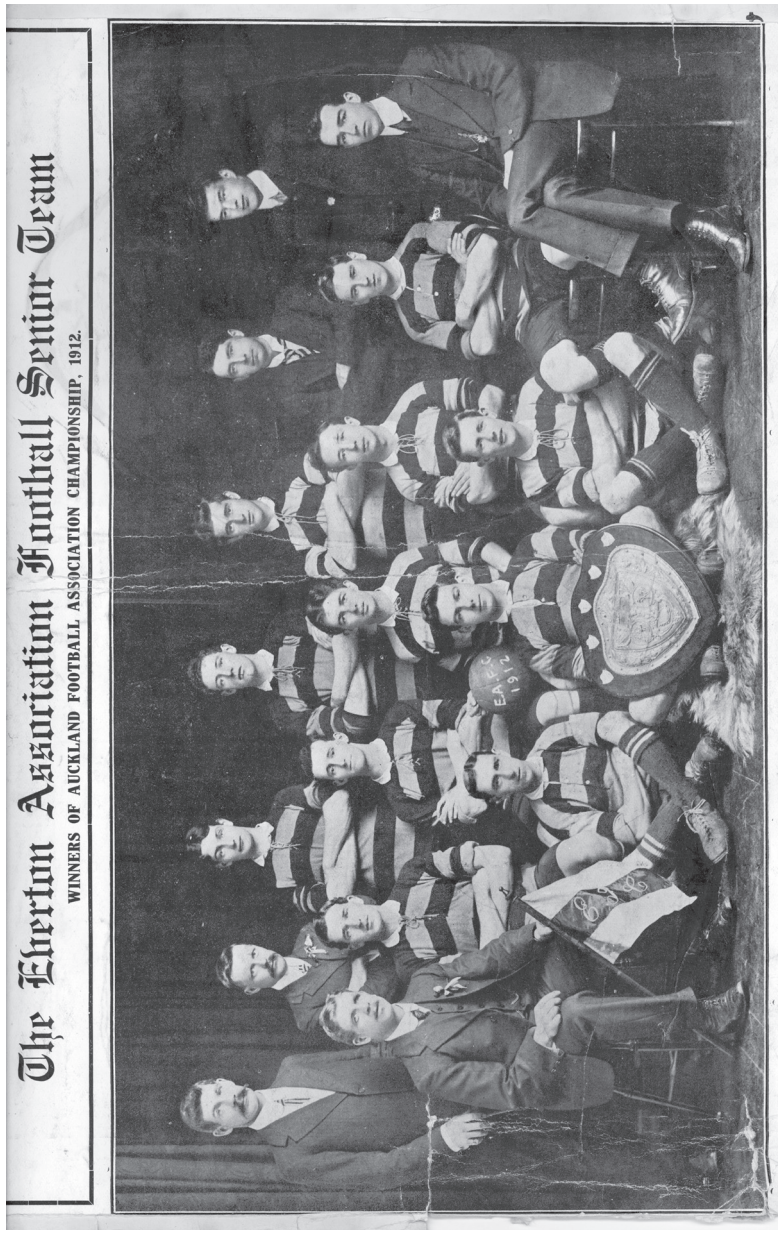
his interests to include the growing of daffodils. He had planted more than 1,000 bulbs imported from England, Japan and Italy, and proceeded to propagate and hybridize the finest specimens. For several years he exhibited up to 40 varieties of daffodils at the Spring Show, winning championships, and ultimately he was invited to judge the shows. Over many years he distributed thousands of bulbs to school children to encourage their interest in gardening. At around the same period he arranged for seeds of alpine plants to be collected and sent to Kew Gardens to cultivate in their New Zealand section.

In a period of administrative changes Professor Thomas and his colleague Professor F. D. Brown, the two original scientists, retired from the University College in 1913 to be replaced by four new appointees at lesser salaries. Both men were appointed Professor Emeritus. The university historian, Keith Sinclair, intimated that following retirement Thomas made little contribution to science. He did, though, publish his work on Tarawera and gave his time to encouraging others. Apart from holding chairmanships of various societies he worked for numerous educational bodies. His chairmanship of the Auckland Grammar School Board, presiding over the growth and development of the grammar schools, gave him great satisfaction and he took particular pleasure in seeing the new school in Mountain Road opened by the Earl of Liverpool in 1916.

With wise investment in solid stocks and shares over the years, added to those given on the couple's marriage by his in-laws, the Thomases were very well off. The professor returned to England in 1895 to visit his parents and old friends, and to freshen up on his scientific contacts. Again in Europe in 1914, he was in Switzerland when war broke out but returned safely to New Zealand in 1915. He purchased his first motor vehicle in 1916: a British 'A.C.' which was manufactured by an early company named Auto Carrier, but in later days took pleasure in being chauffeur driven in his Packard.

Described as an educationalist, scientist, horticulturalist, humanitarian and philosopher, Thomas received recognition in his own time. The Thomas Building for Biological Sciences at the University College, was named for him, and he gave a speech at its opening. Mt Thomas in the Haast District also bears his name. With the warm approval of the public, his colleagues and his friends, he was made a KCMG in May 1937. Still presiding and speaking at prizegiving ceremonies






***Everton Association Football Seniors, 1912***

***Back Row:*** W. Boyne (President), S. White (Vice-President), S. Robinson (Fullback), T. Brewer (Vice-Captain, Forward), R. Booth (Halfback), A. McMath (Vice-President), A. Whaley (Emergency)

***Middle Row:*** S. Moyle (Vice-President), A. Cantell (Goal), J. Caradus (Halfback), F. H. Baker (Captain, Centre Half), R. Webster (Forward), H. Ridley (Fullback), E. G. Atkinson (Hon. Sec.)

***Front Row:*** A. Shergold (Forward), Reg. Boyne (Centre Forward), C. Isbister (Forward)

Matches played: 10 Matches won: 9 Matches drawn: 1
Goals for: 49 Goals against: 13

the outbreak of WWI in 1914. In 1915 with the legendary Reg Craxton in goal, they also won the Auckland provincial Falcon Cup at that time Everton fielded 12 teams.

The famous Ces Dacre wrote in the old *Observer*: '. . . my ideal half-back is Frank Baker—a hard man to beat and you could never lose him.' (Dacre had 17 NZ Caps and played for Auckland from 1901–27. He was also one of NZ's best ever batsman, playing in the UK for many seasons.)

Another press report in my Dad's scrapbook read: 'Apart from being a thoroughly good sportsman, Frank Baker was shrewd, active and as game as a pebble.'

In 1913 Dad left for the UK and the *NZ Herald* wrote:

> Sixty Everton members sang 'Auld Lang Syne' to farewell their popular skipper. The unanimity spoke more than words for the hold that the good-looking cheerful and modest man had gained in Auckland Soccer. Untiring, unselfish, fearless and simmering with energy that never boils, Baker has a genius for making openings. Everton's effective machine-gun combination is due to the confidence players have in the man who controls their attack and defence.

Another star of Everton was centre forward Reg Boyne who had the distinction of being the first New Zealander (not NZ born) to be signed for an English professional club. In 1913 during a match at the Auckland Domain, the headquarters of the Brotherhood team, Boyne scored three great running goals in the first half. Burton, the Brotherhood goalie, was a son of the Aston Villa director. At half-time he approached Boyne in Baker's hearing and said, 'Reg would you go home to play for Aston Villa if you had a chance?'

Reg replied, 'Don't be a bloody fool man. Of course I would.' Within weeks arrangements were completed and Boyne was on his way. (Several years ago, his son Harold still had the cables.)

Strange to say, Baker had left on a working holiday two weeks earlier and was on the Fenchurch Station in London when Boyne signed the contract with three Villa directors (and his son also had copies of the contract). Boyne's arrival created a great deal of enthusiasm—



The land fronted Mountain Road and ran down to Gillies Avenue. Geographically it featured an area of regenerating bush which grew on a ridge of basalt rock which was formed by the 19,000-year-old lava flows from the erupting Mt Eden. Thomas carefully nurtured the forest, supplementing it with native seedlings of mangeao, titoki, pohutukawa, puriri, totara, rimu and miro. With the assistance of a gardener and a stonemason he designed and built stone walks through the native bush, and formal walls, pillars and walkways in his garden. A large area was laid out in formal gardens, and a long paddock set aside for cows. It was here, in his own garden, that he discovered 'living fossils', the primitive plants Phylloglossum and Tmesipteris, both thought to be extinct from carboniferous times, growing in his ornamental rock tunnel. His research and papers on these topics were of considerable scientific interest around the world.

In his expeditions around New Zealand Thomas had made many friends, including various run-holder families such as the Aclands and Barkers. Among the students who became great friends were E.K. Mulgan, (later Senior Inspector in Schools) C.T. Major, (later headmaster of King's College Auckland) and F. L. Armitage. One young student, who later became world famous as a war-time plastic surgeon, was Harold Gillies, nephew of Thomas's friend, Judge Gillies. With their Mountain Road property tamed and at its best, the Thomases held a garden party at Trewithiel, to entertain leading citizens, members of the University Senate and friends. Despite the demands still made on his time, Algernon had widened

*Thomas indulging his interest in growing daffodils*

Photo: From the manuscript by M.J. O'Sullivan.
See *Sources* on page 59.

In response to the request for advice on a grass-grub problem in Canterbury, Thomas researched that creature's life history and made recommendations for its control. The research in which he sought scientific control of the problem of the rabbit nuisance by introducing a disease to rabbits was published as a series of government reports. Through the press he drew the attention of farmers to the danger of feeding uncooked meat to dogs, warning that hydatids could become a menace to the colony. Further requests came from local councils and commerce on various matters seeking advice on varied topics such as water bores, qualities of diatomaceous earth from Oamaru, borings for coal, advice concerning the foundations for the Westfield Freezing Works, and from J. J. Craig about a bore-hole through a coal seam. Information was also given to the London Dairy Company in Newton, Auckland, on how to treat milk to kill the bacterium causing tuberculosis. There were many requests from schools around New Zealand, and from general citizens fascinated with his work.

The professor was known to have a good wit. He was not above practical jokes, having once slipped a cow bone, complete with muscle, into a box of moa bones belonging to Julius von Haast. His biographer, M. J. O'Sullivan, says Thomas was also a born crusader, and once on his hobby horse he would continue until he had said all he wished to say. He was a strong advocate of preserving the Waitakere Ranges as a bush reserve. His enthusiasm for this cause resulted in him leading a deputation to Auckland's City Council in 1894, asking it to persuade the government to set aside 3,500 acres in the Nihotupu area. With added weight from (Sir) John Logan Campbell the government acceded to the request and in 1895 vested the desired 3,500 acres and several smaller areas of the Waitakere forest in the City Council, as reserves for the conservation of native flora and fauna.

When the proposal was made to cut the Domain Drive through the Auckland Domain, Thomas, as member of the Scenic Protection Society and as a botanist, led the opposition against this action, having foreseen that this would mean the end of the forest on the eastern slope.

Algernon Thomas had been able to secure his own personal piece of native forest when he purchased 10 acres in Epsom in 1890 and established a new home, Trewithiel, for the family which eventually included four children: Acland, Norman, Wynfrida and Arthur.



billboards and placards everywhere announcing his arrival. The public really expected too much from him. He played for several weeks for the reserve team and Baker was at the famous Villa Park when Boyne made his first appearance in the first division against Sunderland, substituting for England's International centre forward Harry Hampton. He did not do very well that day. He later played many games for the second division. WWI interrupted his career as well as Baker's and many others, and during that period Boyne worked on plane manufacturing where he met his wife and played for Lincoln City.

Reg Boyne returned to Morvern Road, Epsom, after the war and played for North Shore and with Baker was an Auckland selector for some time. He was, with Baker, a champion bowler at the Epsom Club, and his son Harold of the Eden Soccer Club represented Auckland for two seasons.

WWI put an end to a lot of sportsmen's careers. Baker was on active service for three years and returned to play for Northcote and Auckland, although he settled in The Drive, Epsom. Everton was disbanded, as sadly many of their stalwarts did not return. Baker joined the AFA executive in 1922 and with others was instrumental in the formation of Blandford Park in Grafton Gully. He played senior cricket for Varsity and was an Auckland swimming sprint champion.

Incidentally, after 60 years of playing and watching soccer, Baker always considered the Auckland team he managed to Wellington in 1926 was the greatest team ever to represent a New Zealand province (yes, provincial soccer was a big deal then). Each of the players except Lucas represented NZ at some time. This team, selected and coached by Phil Neesham, comprised Lucas, Gerrard, Reid, Tinkler, Kissock, Jones, Innes, Dacre, Spencer, Hislop and Kay.

I personally remember dear old Blandford Park in the 1930s with seven or eight thousand at Club, Provincial, Navy and International games. It was a great little ground, nestled snugly in Grafton Gully. It opened on 9 May 1925 with 6,000 watching Auckland defeat Waikato 4–2 and the same crowd a week later watching the first club game—Tramways and Thistle. The park's main entrance was right at the bottom of Grafton Road. On its far side a winding wooden staircase dropped down from St Paul Street. This was the Scotsmans Grandstand where a lot of newly arrived (probably) UK and Scots supporters would keep

up a barrage: 'Keep it on the Island' when the ball went out or: 'Hang 'im on the wire' when some poor player was hurt. At the top of the steps almost, was the Wynyard Arms, where their supporters had probably enjoyed a liquid lunch. In the front of the wooden grandstand you were so close to the touchline you could almost touch the players. In fact, you could touch them as they came out of the tunnel. There, feeling shy instead of important, we Bakers had reserved seats because of Dad's connection (chairman of Control Board, later Life Member). Dad never sat with us though. He was in a little office higher up at the rear next to a little wooden shop displaying in large letters 'MINTIES'—a great contributor I know to many dentists' incomes in later years.

Nestled in the southeast corner was the caretaker/groundsman's old house on the edge of the bush, from where spectators commanded a great view of the ground. Reporters in the '30s were George Pearson (*8 O'clock* and *Star*) and Jack Sibbin (*Herald*). They sat in a little area tucked in behind the back wall, high up in the stand.

The far—western—side of the ground was a mysterious area rarely occupied because of its lack of sun in the late afternoon. There was a small grassy area that merged into the bush and the trees of Grafton Gully. Mysterious because we kids were told (and it could be true) not to venture in there as unsavoury characters lurked there. In fact, there was the odd whare in there still occupied. A long shaky old wooden fence stretched along the Grafton Road side of the park—often covered in posters, etc (no graffiti then!). In fact the whole park seemed to be wooden—as wooden tiered terraces stretched right around the northern end. If back high on the terrace you dropped your programme or Minties, it was almost impossible to squeeze down between the seats to ground level to retrieve them without causing a lot of hassle to those squeezed in beside or in front of you. Blandford Park, the home of soccer, was so close to Carlaw Park, the home of rugby league, that when a cheer went up from one ground it could be heard clearly at the other. The first live broadcast of a soccer match was made from Blandford Park in 1925.

Yes, it was a homely ground. It was where Dad lost a lot of money (in those days) from unredeemed debentures—a sore point always with Mum. Of course, on occasions I'd rather have been at a Saturday cowboy and serial matinée at the Regent (Lido), but Dad always insisted it



in-laws was a parcel of mining shares. Emily shared his interest in natural sciences, joining him on his expeditions to collect specimens. On one tramping trip in the summer of 1886–7 she and her companion Mrs McCosh Clark became the first European women to ascend Ngauruhoe and Tongariro. Emily also joined the tramping parties organised by her husband for his students, often to the Waitakeres, and would prepare a fine hamper for refreshments. Shortly after their marriage the young couple moved into a home in Portland Road, Remuera. Together they played tennis, attended opera and dances. They enjoyed reading, and took up bicycling.

New Zealand offered a fascinating whole new world to the young scientist. Its geographic features, flora and fauna were an intriguing novelty to him, and one he found was rewarding physically, mentally and financially. Scientists around the world, both amateur and academic, were avid for scientific, biological and botanical knowledge of the young country, and also for items to add to their collections. It is known that Thomas sent many specimens overseas, to his father, to a taxidermist at Caversham, near Reading, and to others. These included tuatara, kiwi and other, now rare, birds. He erected a lizard house on his own property to breed the tuatara and kiwi for scientific purposes. He was closely acquainted with Andreas Reischek, the Austrian adventurer and naturalist who amassed an enormous ethnological and natural history collection, the principal recipient of which was the Vienna State Museum. Thomas was only too aware that New Zealand wild life was at risk from human predators. He had a distaste for dissection and gradually became more outspoken on the preservation of nature.

As well as carrying out his formal professorial duties Thomas was in constant demand as a public lecturer on a wide area of scientific and technical subjects, making known his belief that science is essentially trained and organised common sense. He was a vigorous advocate of practical education. Widely accepted as an expert in geological, biological and bacteriological matters he was often called on to carry out specific research and produce reports. Following the 1886 eruption of Mt Tarawera, at the behest of the government, Thomas journeyed to the affected region to inspect the effects, gather samples and to produce a full scientific report. Enthusiastic public citizens from distant areas forwarded samples, measurements and dates to him, relating to volcanic dust which they had gathered following the eruption.

was able to move into a small building, part of the old post office in Princes Street, conveniently situated next to the old museum site. In 1890 Thomas and the other professors moved once more, this time to the Provincial Assembly building at the corner of Parliament and Eden streets.

Algernon Thomas chose to purchase his first home at Narrow Neck where his sister Lucy kept house. Thomas was quickly absorbed into the wider community. He attended the local Anglican Church where he had his own pew and was generous when the collection plate was passed. He also contributed towards the building of the Devonport wharf in 1884. Activities included taking dancing lessons and playing tennis. He joined the Dramatic Society and the Society of Arts, and became a member of the Northern Club and the Auckland Institute and Museum, in the course of which he became friendly with prominent Aucklanders.

In 1883, having observed an abandoned Maori canoe lying on the beach at Orakei filled with sand, Thomas, with the Rev Dr Arthur G. Purchas, negotiated its rescue. They built a shelter to house this great Maori canoe, Te Toke a Taipori, which became the beginning of the 'Maori Court' at the old museum in Princes Street. Despite their age difference, Purchas (who would have been aged 62 at that time) and Thomas took pleasure in each other's company. Together they inspected land at Waikaraka which they chose as suitable for a cemetery site. They also visited Dr John Logan Campbell's olive groves at One Tree Hill, and noted that some of the trees were heavily laden.

In 1886 he was honoured to entertain Sir George Grey to lunch. Judge Thomas B. Gillies was also a close friend. Together they prepared the conditions of the Sinclair Scholarship in zoology and botany, endowed by Gillies in memory of his second wife, Agnes, and her uncle, Dr J.A. Sinclair, the former Colonial Secretary and a notable biologist.

The young man courted Emily, daughter of solicitor J.B. Russell of Marivare, the home which stands on land at the corner of Manukau and Ranfurly roads in Epsom (now hidden behind housing), where many exotic trees were planted in 1884. Part of this land, edged with mature oaks, is now a public reserve. On 19 November 1887, on a beautiful day, at a fashionable wedding at St Andrew's Church, Epsom, Emily Sarah Nolan Russell, aged 20, and Algernon Phillips Withiel Thomas, were married by Bishop Cowie before a large gathering. A fine gift from his



was better by far to be out in the fresh air—and possibly he was worried about my morals as a growing lad. After the game we were always last to leave, as Dad and other committee men wrapped up the afternoon with a little refreshment from the top drawer.

Again, the trip home was always the same in our Vauxhall 14. It was always interrupted with Dad stopping at the Newmarket Hotel to have a 'spot' (or two or three—and you never hear that word 'spot' now) while us, the family of Mum, sister Fay and me, sat impatiently in the car outside. However, he usually stopped a little further up Manukau Road at Ravlic's fish and chip shop on the corner of Green Lane Road to buy a bottle of oysters in a vain attempt to placate Mum. Yes, fish shops always remained open late on Saturday afternoons, and that is why with six o'clock closing on the 'drunks' tram' you'd see so many passengers unsteadily carrying newspaper parcels of smoked fish. But often these parcels never lasted the distance and were consumed by 'mates' on the tram.

Later, I must admit I followed Dad's tradition by visiting the Newmarket Hotel (a great sportsman's hostelry) on most winter Saturday afternoons after sport. This meeting place was central to Eden, Blandford, Newmarket, Carlaw and Hobson (hockey) parks. In its earlier years Blandford Park was used for motor bike races under floodlights, and in its later years in summer for softball.

Blandford Park closed in 1964 to make way for motorway construction, but happy times were spent at Olympic Stadium, later Newmarket Park. This became soccer headquarters in 1964/5 and there I spent a few years in the Press Box reporting soccer for an earlier *Sunday Herald*.

However, the history of Newmarket Park (earlier used for athletics) is another story, culminating of course in July 1979 with a large part of it slipping into a gully—a part where my son and I had been sitting a few days earlier. This was the end of another great soccer venue, once described as the Wembley of the South Pacific.

# Places in Epsom registered with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust

*By Bryan Boon*

This is the second part of an article published in *Prospect* 2007 pp.16–20. Before reading it you may wish to refresh your memory by referring to its opening paragraphs, which apply to Epsom as well as Mt Eden. You may also, if you choose, walk the talk as the 'places' have been described in a logical sequence.

**Auckland Grammar School:**
**Main building and war memorial** (Category One)
Built between 1914 and 1916 in the Spanish Mission style, the main building is regarded as the finest example of this type of architecture outside California and Mexico. We may note the influence that California has had on New Zealand architecture during the first 50 years of last century. The building's features are self evident without any further explanation.

The war memorial in front of the school was designed by the noted architect William Gummer in the early 1920s, and added to following World War II. The bronze statue 'Endeavour' atop the shaft was designed and made by the Epsom sculptor Richard Gross in 1924. (See also *Prospect* 2002, p.2)

**Stoneways, 46 Mountain Road** (Category Two)
Directly opposite the main gates of Auckland Grammar, Stoneways was the home of William Gummer, whom many considered to be the finest and most important architect in New Zealand during the 1920s to 1940s. Stoneways was built in 1926 and could be regarded as his own personal statement.

The style is described as picturesque Georgian, and the house is built of reinforced concrete, with a plastered finish painted white. It has five bedrooms, a sunroom, formal lounge and conservatory. Regarded as one of Auckland's 'great houses', it was probably one of the first to reflect Aucklanders' need for a home that made provision for an indoor–outdoor lifestyle.



Algernon had initially planned a career in medicine, and at Balliol College, Oxford, he took his BA in 1878, then his MA in 1880. However, the scholarships he won along the way directed him towards geology and the natural sciences. In 1881 he visited volcanic districts in the Alps, Italy, France and Germany, studied botany at the University of Marburg, and returned to England with the ability to read and speak Italian, French and German fluently.

Engaged as a demonstrator in biology at Oxford University Museum, he undertook research into the parasitic liver fluke which at that time was causing liver rot in sheep, with enormous losses in British flocks. His discovery that the larval stage of the fluke passed through an intermediate host, a snail, before infecting the sheep was a major breakthrough of great scientific and economic importance. This was largely responsible for the success of efforts to subdue the pest which until then had been accounting for sheep losses of up to 10 per cent per year.

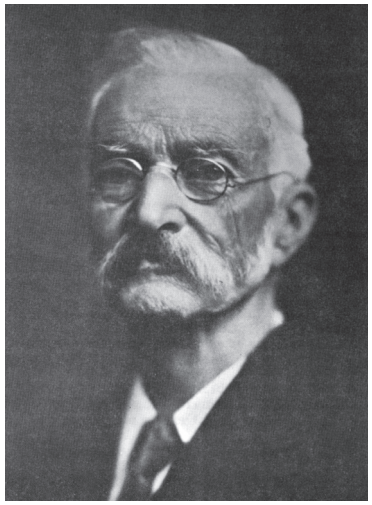
Encouraged by his success the young scientist was emboldened to apply, at the age of 25, for a professorship at the soon-to-be-established Auckland University College. At the time of his appointment to one of four professorships at the college, he was said to be the youngest university professor in the world. His arrival at Auckland on May Day in 1883 was hardly auspicious. On that very day another distinguished professorial appointee, George Walker, had gone out in a small boat with a colleague, Professor Thomas Tucker, to fish off Shelly Beach. Walker was drowned and Tucker was rescued by some boys.

Despite the new appointees having been shown a photograph in London of the old Government House as the new University College, in fact no buildings at all had been made available for their use. In the company of the chairman of the University Council, (Sir) G.M. O'Rorke, Thomas's first duties included seeking out rooms in the town suitable as temporary lecture rooms. He found space at the old District Courthouse in Eden Street and commenced work on 21 May. The situation for staff and students was hardly ideal. The rooms offered poor light and damp conditions with the result that books became damp and labels fell off the chemical bottles. Within his teaching province were the subjects of geology, botany and biological science. Because of the loss of Professor Walker, Thomas was also required to share the teaching of mathematics. Despite the compounded difficulties, his students achieved great success. Eventually, in 1889, the professor

# Citizen and Scientist

A brief tribute to Professor Sir Algernon Phillips Withiel Thomas

*By Valerie Sherwood*



*Algernon Phillips Withiel Thomas*

Photo: From the manuscript by M.J. O'Sullivan. See *Sources* on page 59.

From the earliest days the city of Auckland has been fortunate in counting among its citizens a considerable number of benefactors. The most commonly known would include Sir George Grey, whose valuable collection donated to the Auckland library was augmented by the bequest of James Mckelvie of an extensive collection, along with a capital sum. Another was Edward Costley whose generosity provided public hospital wards at Auckland and Greenlane hospitals, and bequests to the Parnell Orphanage, a sailors' home and the Auckland Institute. The memory of James Dilworth is kept alive through his bequest of a large sum which ensured the lasting success of the school he founded to educate boys in need of help.

To the city's great benefit, Sir John Logan Campbell did not believe in leaving a large sum for descendants. Thus his large estate was willed to various institutions and to the trust which has provided funds for a myriad of causes, including the maintenance of Cornwall Park, which he had gifted to the city in 1901. Fewer people, though, would know how much is owed to another of the prominent citizens of former years, Professor Sir Algernon Phillips Withiel Thomas, the man who secured extensive recreational areas of native forest for the use of New Zealanders.

Algernon Thomas was born at Birkenhead, Cheshire, in June 1857, the fifth of eight children of Edith Phillips and John W. Thomas, the senior partner in an accountancy firm which was involved with the building of the Manchester Ship Canal. His parents were sufficiently prosperous to provide a good education for all their children.



Gummer was in London between 1908 and 1912, and trained under the great architect Edward Lutyens whose style was known as Arts and Crafts, and emphasised the importance of craftsmanship in the face of increasing industrialisation.

**House at 74 Mountain Road** (Category Two)
This is on the corner of Rockland Place opposite Clive Road. It is a large home built in 1913, clad in weatherboard and again described as being in the Arts and Crafts style. On closer inspection there are interesting window features, and it is one of a row of high quality houses in Mountain Road, opposite Auckland Grammar.

**Rannoch, 74 Almorah Road** (Category Two)
Although it cannot be seen from the road, Rannoch is set in grounds most of which is unspoilt bush. It was built between 1913 and 1915 for Dr Frederick Rayner, a rather flamboyant character who arrived in Auckland in 1900 with his heiress wife. He named it 'Moose Lodge' after his Canadian background. Following his death in 1931, the house was sold to Sir Carrick Robertson, a distinguished surgeon, who renamed it 'Rannoch', his place of birth in Scotland.

Now extended to four storeys, Rannoch has a base of volcanic rock, timber shingled walls and attractive leadlight windows. Almost all of its original decor, fittings and features are still intact. There is extensive use of dark-stained timber and a fine entrance atrium with staircases and balconies.

The present owner, James Wallace (a patron of the arts), has filled it with his collection of paintings, sculpture, ceramics and art works which are held in trust for future generations.

**Clifton House** (Category Two)
A short distance above Clive Road we come to Castle Drive and 'Clifton House', popularly nicknamed 'Firth's Castle'. It is best viewed looking downwards as you drive to the summit of Mt Eden. Built in 1871 by Josiah Clifton Firth, the original timber dwelling is of heart kauri. Shortly afterwards, to accommodate a growing family and to demonstrate his importance in the community, he added a ferro-concrete tower and other extensions. Originally set in 18 acres of

gardens, lawns, orchard, meadowlands and plantations, the home has 15 bedrooms, a ballroom and all the other necessities of grandiose living. Briefly used as an orphanage between 1910 and 1916, the home has been in private ownership ever since.

**Stone Field, 127 Mountain Road** (Category Two)
This fine home was built in the 1890s and displays the best traditions of late Victorian architecture. It is two-storeyed, has wide verandahs with tasteful decoration above and around them, bay windows, high studs and eight fireplaces. It has been restored and maintained to the best standards of modern living.

*Stone Field, 127 Mountain Road.*
*Workmen can be seen carrying out repairs on the verandah roof.*
Photo: John Denny, April 2008



North], an annual event steeped in history and timed to coincide with the Dominion Day holiday each year by those most patriotic of all NZ'rs, the legal profession. [Signed] A humiliated country practitioner.

In contritely acknowledging Mr Ryan's criticism, it seems convenient here also to identify certain other relics of New Zealand's quondam, but far from servile, Dominion status. Dominion Road, a major Auckland thoroughfare formerly known as Mt Roskill Road, was so named to mark the attainment of that status. Elsewhere, South Canterbury observes Dominion Day as its local public holiday while the Inter-Dominion trotting championships (first held in 1936) mark the rivalry between the two former trans-Tasman dominions. Interest in fathoming its meaning has also endured, despite the scoffers. To that end the Prime Minister, Helen Clark, hosted a symposium at Parliament on 26 September 2007 to mark the centenary, and Professor David McIntyre has recently published a book on the subject. Like the moa, then, New Zealand's being a Dominion may have had its day/Day, but intriguing reminders of it remain. And if there is a lack of unanimity about precisely what that status signified that is no reason for dismissing it as 'cosmetic'. Indeed, the evidence strongly suggests otherwise.

Note: in a comparable act of politically-driven national re-branding, on 2 July 1997 the independent (formally so since 1 January 1962) state of Western Samoa legislatively re-designated itself 'Samoa', much to the chagrin of its cousin, American (or Eastern) Samoa. Neither people saw the change as being 'merely cosmetic'.

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PS My attention has been drawn to a recipe for a steamed DOMINION PUDDING which appears in several editions of the iconic *Edmonds Cookbook*.

Members of Parliament for lunch and in the evening held a garden party for 2,400 people. If this evening's gathering is of a more modest and less euphoric kind there are two likely reasons for the difference. First, one would like to think that it is not because Their Excellencies have been in any measure persuaded by the arguments of Scott and Sinclair, or because they share the sentiments of W.F. Massey about the worth of the occasion; but, rather, because they have a more balanced appreciation of the even pace with which legal formalities have consistently tended to follow political practicalities in the unhurried course of New Zealand's constitutional history. The second reason, one would like to think, is that when planning the event they felt inspired, in a literary moment, to give literal expression to W. S. Landor's elegant metaphorical dictum: 'I shall dine late; but the diningroom [sic] will be well lighted, the guests few and select.' Speaking for the latter (seventy of us) I am sure I can say, borrowing words from St Peter on the Mount of the Transfiguration, 'Susan and Anand, it is good for us to be here, acknowledging Dominion Day.'

In conclusion, at the risk of sounding ungracious, let me say that the most conspicuously cosmetic feature in the constitutional story of New Zealand appears to concern the designation of our Vice-Regal representative. In 1917 the Governor of New Zealand became the Governor-General. This was not because there were subsidiary Governors under him, as in the federations of Canada and Australia, for there were none in this unitary state, but because the title Governor-General sounded grander, and so put the New Zealand incumbent on an honorific par with his peers. Perhaps, that is a prime example of aggravation but, in the light of established usage and dutiful performance, it would be ungenerous to wish for any reversal in our present form of gubernatorial designation.

***Post scriptum***

On 21 September, having read the foregoing text, A. J. ('Tony') Ryan, a former District Court Judge, Chief Justice of Western Samoa from 1990 to 1992, and now practising as a barrister in Cambridge, emailed the following aggrieved comments on it to the writer.

> A rather incomplete summary, if I might say so. Not a single mention of the Devil's Own [a golf tournament held in Palmerston



**Florence Court, 6 Omana Avenue** (Category Two)
Regarded by many as Auckland's finest home it is easily seen from the road. It was built in 1901/2 for Richard Hellaby, who with his brother founded R&W Hellaby Ltd, notable in the meat industry. The grounds originally ran down to Mountain Road, but much of the land was acquired by the City Council in 1925.

Described as being in the neo-Gothic style, the home originally had ten bedrooms inside and another four in an adjoining cottage. During its ownership by the Seabrook family between the 1940s and 1970s splendid gardens were maintained, and the home was filled with antique furniture and furnishings. It has had various misfortunes since then but its present owners, who bought it in 1997, have restored it to its original glory. (Refer *Prospect* 2004, pp.39–42)

**Highwic, 40 Gillies Avenue** (Category One)
Hidden from the road near Newmarket, the earliest part of this splendid home was built in 1862 for Alfred Buckland, a stock and station agent and one of Auckland's earliest settlers. Described as being in the rural Gothic or English manner, later additions have included a ballroom and separate detached billiards room. Highwic was the scene of a very busy social life, especially for those interested in horse racing and outdoor pursuits, as well as being the home of Buckland's 21 children from his two marriages.

It was purchased from the remaining members of the Buckland family in 1978 jointly by the Auckland City Council and the Historic Places Trust Board, and is now open to the public, providing a delightful venue for many social events.

**Rocklands Hall, 187 Gillies Avenue** (Category One)
Thomas Bannatyne Gillies built the original part of this home in 1866. He arrived in Dunedin from Scotland in 1852, and had already qualified as a lawyer. In 1865 he moved to Auckland, established a law practice, bought 10 acres of land in Epsom and contracted to build his home. He was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court in 1875. After his death in 1889 the new owners added a verandah, tower and ballroom. Since then the building has had a chequered life, having been used as a private hospital, a hostel for trainees at the nearby Teachers Training College, and more recently a backpackers hostel.

**The Gazebo, Diocesan School for Girls, Margot Street**
(Category Two)
This charming whimsy was in the garden of the Hesketh home which was built about 1873, and is now the administrative headquarters of the school. The original school, founded in 1903, was housed in the Hesketh home and the gazebo, then called the summer house, was built between 1880 and 1890. Octagonal in shape, it had fixed and opening leadlight windows, and six panelled leadlight doors. All have now been removed. It served no doubt as a focal point for elegant outdoor social occasions in the late Victorian era.

*Gazebo at Diocesan School for Girls*
Photo: John Denny, April 2008

**The Chapel, Diocesan School for Girls, Clyde Street** (Category Two)
Dedicated to St Barnabas, the chapel had been built for Bishop Selwyn's private use in 1864/5 as part of the original Bishopscourt complex in St Stephens Avenue, Parnell. Constructed of heart kauri it became redundant in 1910, and was then moved to the Diocesan school six years after it was founded. It soon became inadequate for the size of the school, seating little more than 70 or 80, and later one side was opened up to join an addition directly beside it.

**The former Epsom Post Office, Manukau Road** (Category Two)
Located on the corner of Manukau Road and Kimberley Avenue, it was built in 1909 and closed in 1990. Since then it has been used as business premises. A solid and dependable-looking building, it is stucco clad, with a decorated tiled roof and the obligatory flagpole. The upper story housed the postmaster and his family, and although standing alone, it



Even so, it must be admitted, there was still room for some legislative tidying-up in order to make style accord with substance, and to get form to reflect fact, if New Zealand's sovereignty was to be unequivocally manifest. In 1931, therefore, solemnizing the Balfour statement of 1926, the British parliament issued The Statute of Westminster. By this it not only denied itself the power to make laws for the Dominions, but also acknowledged that they had 'full power to make laws having extra-territorial operation'. It is conventionally held that only when it adopted the Statute sixteen years later, on 25 November 1947, thereby erasing the last traces (a few entrenched powers) of the 1852 Constitution Act, did New Zealand attain true sovereign independence.

But the narrative of incidental, evolutionary variations proceeding from the Act challenges that opinion. R.O. McGechan argued in 1944 that New Zealand's political status was determined in 1926 and that status is the measure of legal capacity and that that capacity exists whether it is exercised or not. Accordingly, it would seem that in choosing to delay adopting the Statute New Zealand was asserting its sovereignty as freely and fully as it did when it eventually chose to do so. Thus 25 November 1947 appears to mark an event no less 'cosmetic' in character than various others that have, since 1854, helped substantially to define the legal entity that is New Zealand. Even while favouring it as 'the day of New Zealand's independence', David McGee, the Clerk of the House of Representatives, conceded in 1997 that 'any answer is tentative or contentious'.

In the absence of consensus, contenders for a high place on the scale of significance are numerous. They could include the discarding of the title Dominion in 1946, and they might even extend to the rule, introduced on 2 April 1974, that British and Irish migrants henceforth required permits to settle in New Zealand. And they would certainly include its becoming a Dominion. That would be so even if, in deference to Scott and Sinclair, and, to employ a word used by the Colonial Secretary, Lord Elgin, at the 1907 conference in its sixteenth century sense of 'add weight unduly', one were careful not to aggravate the value of that event in order to justify our being here this evening.

At this point of the proceedings, it is appropriate to observe that in celebrating, albeit in anticipation, the centenary of Dominion Day we are following an admirably congenial precedent. In Wellington on 26 September 1907, the Governor, Lord Ranfurly, entertained the

> who have had most to do with the aspirations of the peoples of the colonies, that there is a tendency to look upon the colonies as places where criminals were deported to.

And that was the view that prevailed when the votes were counted on 16 July. Consequently, on 9 September, by proclamation from Buckingham Palace of 'The King's Most Excellent Majesty in Council', it was decreed that from the 26th day of September 1907 the title 'Dominion of New Zealand [be substituted] for that of the Colony of New Zealand as the designation of the said Colony.'

### *Aftermath*

So, what had really happened, apart from prompting the publication of the first issue of Wellington's morning daily newspaper, the *Dominion*, on that day? Is it to be taken as self-evident that there was not an atom of constitutional substance in the name change? After all, the proclamation may not have added anything, but nor did it take anything away. It is thus to be seen as positive rather than neutral, contributing at least to constitutional understanding by highlighting, and making more explicit, something that was already implicit. Did anything need to be added?

This constructive view was affirmed in the Balfour Report at the Imperial Conference of 1926. Admittedly composed after New Zealand had freely shared in Britain's going to war against Germany and had joined the League of Nations in its own right, that document defined the status of the Dominions by declaring that they were 'autonomous communities within the British Empire . . . and freely associated as members of the British Commonwealth of Nations.' And if further evidence of national individuality be required, New Zealand had already itself become an imperial power, having annexed the Cook Islands and Niue in its own right as early as 1901, having administered Western Samoa under licence from the League of Nations since 1920, and having taken over Tokelau in 1925.

All that, then, should have dispelled any doubts about effective independence. That is, despite the fact that W.F. Massey, admittedly with an entirely proper and pragmatic concern for preserving solidarity in matters of national security and Imperial defense, resolutely maintained the dissent over nomenclature that he had first aired in 1907.



was a busy centre when a visit to the Post Office and the Post Office Savings Bank was a regular weekly event for many people.

**Marivare** (Category Two)
Now not visible from the road as a result of subdivision, Marivare (originally named 'Windermere') was built in the early 1860s. Surrounded by gardens, three tennis courts, a croquet lawn, and fields for horses and cattle, it has always been one of the centres of Auckland's social life.

Marivare has great strength and solidarity of construction with 12-foot (3.66-metre) ceilings on both floors. It has ten fireplaces. A 48-foot ballroom with a sprung floor was added later (now in the process of being restored) which has a sitting out bay and a conservatory attached. Eight or nine magnificent trees have survived through the creation of the Marivare Reserve on the corner of Manukau and Ranfurly roads. The reserve was originally part of the Marivare estate.

**John Logan Campbell monument, Manukau Road** (Category One)
The statue and fountain were unveiled on 24 May 1906, during Campbell's lifetime, and he was closely associated with the project. One-and-a-half times lifesize, Sir John is holding out the deeds of his gift of Cornwall Park to the people of Auckland.

The statue base is constructed of slabs of basalt rock quarried from Mt Eden. The circular surrounding pool and massive granite statue pedestal were designed by Charles Arnold, the architect of Huia Lodge in Cornwall Park.

**House at 37 Claude Road** (Category Two)
This notable house was designed in 1915 for a member of the Winstone family by William Gummer soon after his return from England. Of generous proportions, everything is of the best quality both inside and out. Situated at the top end of Claude Road, the home butts on to Cornwall Park.

**House at 6 Emerald Street** (Category Two)
An imposing and impressive house obviously built to the highest standards. It has a Marseilles tiled roof, and the ridges are capped with decorative tiles to match. There is a very elaborate brick chimney, and an interesting corner entrance with wide verandahs on either side. We see hooded bay windows and embellishments of elaborate lacework, together with the necessary brackets.

**House at 18 Gardner Road** (Category Two)
This was constructed in 1925 and designed by Hugh Grierson, another of that era's leading architects. It is two-storeyed and has the influence of the Arts and Crafts movement, with a tiled roof and distinctive Georgian-style windows. Although it has been extended it has been preserved to maintain its original design, but unfortunately most of it cannot be seen from the street.

**St Andrew's Anglican Church, 100 St Andrews Road** (Category One)
The original church was built in 1867 and consecrated in 1868 by Bishop Selwyn, his last official act before returning to England permanently. Worship had previously taken place on the site in a small adjacent building which also served as a schoolroom during the week.

St Andrew's is one of Auckland's architectural treasures, built in what is known as the 'Selwyn' style. We see a high-pitched gabled roof with wooden shingles, and exterior vertical wooden board and batten cladding. The dark-stained interior roof beams and trusses contrast with the white-painted roof lining. A fine carved wooden chancel screen is always admired. Increased population growth meant that extensions were made on three occasions: 1896, 1914 and finally in 1926. In each case the original style was faithfully maintained, giving the church as it stands a completely uniform appearance.

**Auckland Electric Power Board Substation,**
**62 The Drive** (Category Two)
Built in 1930, the reason for its inclusion as a historic place is the impressive quality of its brickwork. (See cover illustration.)

**Huia Lodge, Cornwall Park** (Category One)
The lodge was originally the park keeper's house and it was here that Sir John Logan Campbell ceremonially opened the park on 26 August 1903. It is now used as the park information centre.

**Acacia Cottage, Cornwall Park** (Category One)
This little house, lived in by Campbell and his business partner W.H. Brown, was built in Auckland town in 1841. It was transported to its present site opposite Huia Lodge in 1920.

**The Obelisk, One Tree Hill** (Category One)
An Auckland landmark, the obelisk was erected in accordance with a bequest in Campbell's will as a permanent record of his admiration for



the Mother Country at Imperial Conferences to discuss practical concerns of common interest, such as defence and trade. 'So far as the Colonies represented here are concerned, I wish we could drop the word "colonies" and try to invent something that would strike the imagination more,' said Wilfred Laurier of Canada at the Conference in April 1907. Taking a generic term and transubstantiating it into a status marker, he suggested 'Dominion'. Alfred Deakin of Australia and Joseph Ward of New Zealand concurred, with the approval of an ambitious young Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Colonies named Winston Churchill.

### *Parliamentary debate*

The matter was subsequently debated in the New Zealand Parliament in Wellington in July. Some members opposed any change of name. William Massey saw no reason for it. Nor did Henry Scotland from Taranaki. He was not ashamed to be a 'colonial', and did not want to be styled a 'dominioner'. John Rigg of Wellington thought it was just a 'frill'. John Findlay, the Attorney-General, however, in gentle dissent, judiciously considered that there was sufficient—if qualified—reason for the change: 'Colony is honourable,' but 'it implies to some extent a lack of independence, and something short of full statehood.' Then, echoing words already uttered by Laurier, he went on more firmly, 'Does New Zealand wish to belong with Bermuda, Barbados, Leeward Islands and the numerous dependencies of the British Crown?' among which he could also have included Fiji and the Solomon Islands, along with others such as Hong Kong and Mauritius and the Falklands.

Then there was Charles Major from Hawera, who was trenchantly in favour of the change. 'What', he asked, 'is in a name?' He then proceeded to answer his own question, in language not unlike some of that later used at the United Nations in 1960 in support of Resolution 1514, which anathematised colonialism:

> There is a great deal in a name. A man who is called Brown or Jones [or even Satyanand?] would sooner be called by one of those names than Muggins or Juggins, as the case may be. Although it may not appear on the surface, still deep down there is something offensive about the term 'colony'. It is almost a synonym for the offence of felony. It is well known, particularly among those people

category of 'significance' outweighs the more empirically palpable category of visible 'importance' in this matter. Ostensibly, nothing but the letterhead on government stationery may have changed, and even that took considerable time, but that does not mean Dominion Day was ineffably nebulous; or that 'cosmetic' equates axiomatically with inconsequential.

Rather, the change is to be interpreted as an outward sign—a salutary reminder—of inward plenitude. That is, it was emblematic of a political and legal process that might be likened to that of continuous creation or to the expanding universe. In other words, becoming a Dominion is not to be understood as a singularly discrete event in the story of New Zealand's constitutional emergence. Instead, it should be viewed as a point on a continuum, or on a spectrum of possibility, that flows logically from the Constitution Act of 1852. Reading that Act in the light of Aristotelian ideas, subsequent constitutional developments—such as that which Dominion Day commemorates—can be seen as being already there in potentia, ready and waiting to be actualised or unfolded as might be deemed expedient from time to time.

### *Early days*

Thus, Representative Government in 1854, the first fruit of the 1852 Act, led almost immediately to the demand—with which the Attorney-General, William Swainson, concurred—for Responsible Government, which was instituted in 1856. So few and so light were any Imperial constraints on the elected legislature that it might not be unreasonable to contend that New Zealand was de facto independent from that date. On the other hand, the 1852 Act did allow Britain to veto laws passed in New Zealand. But that power, which was exercised in 1855, was largely waived by the Colonial Laws Validity Act of 1865, and was only used once again thereafter, in 1867. So, by lapse of time, a convention was established that such power would not be exercised.

All of which leads to the question, 'why fiddle about with a name change'? The answer is that by the later nineteenth century the overseas territories affiliated to Britain were of two clearly different kinds, self-governing and non-self-governing, and that a sentiment had emerged among the former that they ought to be labelled differently from the latter. The issue was made more acute by the desire to have a collective term for the select sibling nations that periodically joined



the achievements and character of the Maori people. Its completion was intended to be in 1940, to celebrate the centenary of the signing of the Treaty and the founding of the town of Auckland, but the project was suspended during the war years and it was not unveiled until 1948. The statue of the Maori rangatira was designed by the Epsom sculptor Richard Gross.

# Ruth Mary Coyle

***22 June 1908–18 June 2007***

*By Ian Thwaites*

Eulogy given at Ruth's funeral service, St Andrew's Church, Epsom, 23 June 2007

My association with Ruth goes back to the early 1980s, when as Auckland Museum Librarian I arranged an exhibition of brass rubbings which Ruth had collected during several trips to England. I was introduced to Ruth by my colleague and friend Rie Fletcher, who had known her since 1942.

While visiting 142 St Andrews Road years later with Rie, Ruth said to us: ' I wish someone would write something about the Rutland Group and I want to read it before I die.' At this stage she was 92 years of age. Rie and I thought about this and agreed very quickly that it had to be done—and somehow saying no to Ruth didn't seem an option!

This was the start of what turned out to be a very large book on 100 Rutland group artists and over two hundred others, titled: *We Learnt to See: Elam's Rutland Group 1935–1958: A Biographical Journey with Auckland artists*. Without Ruth there would probably have been no book, not from us anyway, and much biographical information would have been lost.

For the next two years we avidly gathered information, and many visits were paid to Ruth, drawing on her memories, along with her scrapbooks and other material. Ruth, aged 94, and Sina Woolcott, 95, opened the Rutland Group Reunion Exhibition at Kinder House in 2002 and yes, she did get to read the book in 2004. The essay on Ruth is, appropriately, the longest in our book.

Ruth always wanted to be an artist. Her earliest recollections of drawing date back to the family's time in Bournemouth from 1912–22.

Then, when the Innes family came back to New Zealand, Ruth got into drawing and painting at St Cuthbert's College which she attended from 1923–26. Unfortunately, all they did at the time according to Ruth was 'copy pretty pictures'. This wasn't good enough for Ruth and she got her parents to agree to her taking lessons at Elam School of Art. (Not that Ruth wasn't a good pupil at St Cuthbert's where she came away with annual prizes, and passed her matriculation with special passes in physics and French.).

Elam School of Art was really a secondary school where young students could actually receive their entire education from age 12 onwards if desired. Ruth loved it at Elam, not the least because of the inspirational qualities of its handsome new director, A. J. C. Fisher, whom she always recalled looking 'dishy', when she and other students first set eyes on him in 1924. At this time Ruth was living at 24 Victoria Avenue and attending lectures on Friday nights and Saturdays.

Ruth loved every minute of her five full-time years at Elam, 1927–31. Here she made lasting friendships with Neci Cairns, Vida Vickers, Guy Mountain and especially a lifelong bond with Blanche Hazelwood, later Mrs Wormald. There were picnics at the bach belonging to Edna Clayton's family on Waiheke, and many other delights. The Elam students of those days didn't set too much store on being 'artists'—rather they just relished every minute—drawing, sketching and painting, with little or no thought of remuneration, and at the end of it all more than likely nothing except a reference or a prize and certainly no diplomas.

In 1932 Archie Fisher gathered some of his former students around him at Elam before the school moved to its new home in Symonds Street and said in effect: 'I don't like what the Auckland Society of Arts is doing—they are just promoting the production of pretty pictures—(there's that phrase again!)—I would like you to start a group which sets out to raise the artistic standard in Auckland.' And so that was the beginning of Rutland Group, named after the old Elam building in Rutland Street. For approximately 20 years it became the focus for a group of former Elam students who met regularly, mainly in Jack Crippen's Swanson Street studio. They exhibited works with a guest critic present to appraise their work and also held annual exhibitions, and there were lots of enjoyable social occasions too. For a few years Rutland Group and Auckland Society of Artists were the main groups of artists in Auckland. And, by the way, relations with ASA were



# Dominion Day: was it 'merely cosmetic'?

*By Hugh Laracy*

An address delivered at Government House, Auckland, on 14 September 2007, in the presence of Their Excellencies the Governor-General of New Zealand, the Hon Anand Satyanand, and Susan Satyanand, at a dinner 'in Anticipation of Dominion Day', and to acknowledge the forthcoming centenary of that occasion.

Your Excellencies, at a very elementary level of explanation we, your honoured guests, have assembled here this evening in loyal response to a summons from you as our Sovereign's vicegerent. In explicitly not requiring a formal reply, your invitation conveyed a majestic expectation of compliance. That lofty tone of command, though, should not go unremarked. For it does not accord with the opinions of certain influential commentators who would deny the significance of the occurrence that we have happily been called to celebrate. However, in endorsing a contrary view, which I assume you share, I hope to show that they were misguided in their dismissive disdain for an event that can, as an evolutionary adjustment, be read as being of some moment in the unfolding of our constitutional history.

Certainly New Zealand's becoming a Dominion, on 26 September 1907, has not commonly been acknowledged as an occasion of particular solemnity. But it did mean enough for a substantial parliamentary majority to vote that their country no longer be styled a Colony. It thus warrants serious and sympathetic attention and, arguably, celebration.

In his history of New Zealand's identity as a nation, Keith Sinclair dismisses Dominion Day as an attempt by the then Prime Minister, Sir Joseph Ward, to 'invent' a national day. The change of name, he writes, 'was not accompanied by any constitutional change . . . . It was merely cosmetic.' On that point, lawyers, who might not be moved by the view of a mere historian, might be swayed by the authority of the legally-trained K. J. Scott who in his book *The New Zealand Constitution* notes that the change of name was 'devoid' of any legal effect or meaning. Certainly, the Day marking the change was not accorded the distinction of being gazetted as a statutory holiday, although it was for long marked by the closing of government departments, banks and legal offices. Yet, with all due respects to Sinclair and Scott, the more subtle

when Chase Holdings purchased the business. They planned to first subdivide and sell the sections adjacent to Mt Eden Road (Three Kings Road) after which when backfilled the rehabilitated quarry site would in turn be subdivided and sold. The sharemarket collapsed in 1987 taking the Chase Corporation with it. Danske Møbler Furniture Limited acquired and completed the rehabilitation of the quarry site.

Today (2007) this rehabilitated land area, at the end of Hunter's Park Drive, contains 29 residential housing units, called 'Providence on Eden', as well as the Perron Storage warehousing facility.

It would be fair to assume that the obliteration of Koheraunui (the Big King) began in 1900 when Roger Lupton allowed H. Kinloch access to this cone to 'take scoria' and ended in 1973 when it is said that the ingress of ground water into the quarry site was starting to cause mining problems.

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mended before very long and there was free interchange between the two groups. Ruth herself became an active working member of ASA from the early 1940s.

As far as we can ascertain Ruth was one of the founder members of Rutland Group and she participated where she could during the next 20 years. After she met Arthur and was married in 1932, the demands of bringing up her family meant that she actually did not exhibit very much with Rutland Group until the late 1940s and early 50s. Rutland Group gatherings were happy occasions—a much younger Rutland Group member Mavis Porter (later Mrs Patterson) recalled that Ruth always brought along very healthy and tempting foods. Mavis also remembered that 'fairly strict critical standards were applied and hackneyed or derivative paintings were sometimes politely but firmly turned away.'

Ruth never stopped drawing and painting. She regularly went out sketching with a group of friends which mainly comprised Blanche Wormald, Olive Gillon, Peggy Spicer, Tui Gifford, Louise Tilsley, the indomitable Phyllis Crowley, Hilda Read and May Gilbert. This was particularly during the 1950s when she lived in Goodall Street, Hillsborough.

After she and Arthur shifted to St Andrews Road, the Monday Nighters became a focus. This life study group met regularly at Nancy McGregor's home in Gillies Avenue, and Ruth was a great support for Nan. Rie Fletcher and I have documented some of the history of this group in our book. Here she regularly rubbed shoulders with no fewer than 13 Rutland Group colleagues including her former Elam teacher Louise Tilsley, Arthur Hipwell, Bill Buckley, Jack Crippen, Phyllis Crowley, Jean Horsley, Alison Pickmere, Ron Tizard, and two special friends Joan Smith and Hilda Read. Among other Monday Nighters were Nelson Thompson, Gerald Mahon and younger artists including Judith Moore and Pamela McGough.

Family and friends know how much Ruth loved England and Scotland, as evidenced by her sketchbooks, and many of us have enjoyed the privilege of reading some of her diary entries. Most people take photographs, but Ruth, naturally, did not and instead produced lovely sketches and pastels during several trips home.

Ruth never claimed to be the greatest artist around. However, she also never forgot Archie Fisher's teaching of sound basic principles.

'I know what good art is,' she would enthusiastically expound, and the standards she set herself were high. Like her friend Hilda Read, however, she was not afraid to experiment, as some of her paintings of the early 1950s show.

In 1965 Ruth had her first lesson in enamelling, This was something new and she was quite a pioneer. Many Aucklanders, and others, own some of her enamel icons, scenes and natural history motifs—items which have given real pleasure to their owners. Over the past 30 years Ruth's enamel work has become well known and sought after both in NZ and overseas—one example being the NZ Craft Council's choice in 1982 of a piece for the Swedish royal family.

Of course her faith was central to Ruth Coyle. Many others know better than I her continued generous support for annual art exhibitions and other activities at St Andrew's, the church which was so dear to her. The affection felt for her by parishioners and clergy who kept in touch was evidence of that. Precious to her also were her reference books about saints and Christian symbols which formed the inspiration for many paintings and enamels.

Above all, Ruth shared her art. Over the last few years she generously gave paintings, books and other items to friends and relatives, surely an object lesson on what to do with possessions in old age. Despite failing eyesight Ruth knitted peggy squares for blankets for Rumanian orphans, and here her innate sense of colour still managed to shine through. The measure of Ruth as a person was the steady stream of visitors who regularly visited this gallant old artist, looked after so well by her caregiver Annie Araroa. Friends such as Margot Cole and Beverley Sinclair kept in touch and of course she always looked forward to her weekly phone call from her son Ewen in Perth.

My favourite photograph of Ruth appears alongside a feature article about her in the magazine *Newsview*, September 1951. It shows a vibrant, attractive young woman and the text makes it plain that her restless, creative and enquiring mind was at its peak. Ruth was a great friend to many and one who made a substantial contribution to the Auckland art scene.



*Above: Three Kings Quarry, September 1998, looking north. Drainage to the Manukau was installed later to remove water from the site.*

*Below: Winstone's Quarry, 2007, looking north. Piles of scoria are awaiting transportation.* Photos: Jeanette Grant

In 1953 Winstone's commissioned a 'Vibrapac' block-making plant on the Three Kings site. In 1980 this particular plant was closed and moved to a more suitable site: pumice had become the aggregate of choice for making this sort of block.

In 1984 Brierly Investments Limited took control of Winstone Limited. They onsold to Fletcher Challenge in 1987. In 1995 the land titles of the Three Kings quarry and all other Winstone quarries were transferred to Winstone Aggregates—a division of Fletcher Concrete and Infrastructure Limited.

In August 2007 Winstone Aggregates announced that they intended closing the Three Kings quarry by 2009. Rehabilitation would then begin by backfilling the quarry pit to the level of Mt Eden Road. Estimates are suggesting the need for one million cubic metres of approved backfill, and a time period of 10 years. The future use of this site will without doubt become a subject of public debate, argument and frivolous ideas.

### *Gordon Hunter Limited*

('Hunter's Quarry' 1945 to 1973, being the western part of allotment 81)

Allotment 81 was purchased from the Crown by John Dalzeil (entrepreneur) in the June of 1845 as a 20 acre block 'more or less'. It was onsold in 1861 and resold again in 1878. By May 1885 this allotment had been subdivided into two parts by the now owner J. W. Carr. Carr sold the western portion (16 acres) containing Koheraunui to James & Euphemia Lamb. A mortgagee sale resulted and Carr resold (1890) to Benjamin & James Berry. Nine years later (1899) Sarah Berry, now a widow, sold to Roger Lupton (butcher).

Nine months later (May 1900) with a 'matching agreement to purchase', Roger Lupton allowed Hull Kinlock (blacksmith), 'who shall be at liberty to take scoria and other materials therefrom and to use same as a scoria pit.

In 1905 Kinloch 'purchased the property outright'. During 1927 Kinloch leased 6 acres to William McQuoid (contractor) for 20 years. A further lease of 4 acres for 18 years followed in 1928. These leases were de-listed in 1932, whereafter Kinloch sold the property to Ellen Agnes Wintle—11 acres 'more or less'.

January 1945: Gordon Hunter purchased the property from Wintle. A 28-year epoch of continuous scoria mining began, closing in 1973



# That Takes the Biscuit

*By Helen Laurenson*

*James Mennie*
Alexander Turnbull Library 001547

Biscuits were in the news last year with newspaper headlines: 'Humble biscuit brushed aside for gourmet treats by Air NZ'. An overhaul of in-flight services led to the withdrawal of the complimentary biscuit, to be replaced by the option to purchase a variety of snacks. In the *New Zealand Herald*, just before Easter 2007, a headline '$250,000 recipe for perfect biscuit' caught the eye. Leeds University researchers had spent three years and £91,000 ($250,000) of public money working out just how to bake the perfect biscuit. Their research was published in the *Journal of Food Science Technology* and had been funded by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and by United Biscuits.

By offering a few biscuit-baking tips gleaned from a lifetime's work, James Mennie might well have been able to save those scientists years of research, money and presumably, weight-gain from those numerous test batches. *The Auckland Industrial and Mining Exhibition Official Handbook & Catalogue*, published in 1898 for the first industrial exhibition to be held in the Queen City, has an amazing inventory of the biscuits produced by the firm of Mennie & Dey. Mennie took advantage of this commercial opportunity to advertise his products, and to seek further markets, renting a stand at the exhibition to promote his wares. His firm proudly baked:

> . . . pearl biscuits, Zealandia, ginger, ginger nuts No.1, Osborne, almond drops, oswego, cream coffee, union, ratafias, dessert, Shrewsbury, afternoon tea, vanilla, rice, African shoots, round wine, cracknells, vanilla wine, kapai bread, Spanish drops, cream crackers, ruby drops, Viennois, Marie, butter biscuits, Macaroons, Prince of Wales, Abernethy, charcoal, queen drops, society biscuits, digestive, milk, finger drops, thin butter, round lunch, square saloon, American wafers, spice nuts, five o'clock tea, jubilee

biscuits, cocoanut [sic] drops, settler's bread, people's mixed, rich coffee, rice biscuits, round saloon, savoy, sultana, nicknacks, captain's, sporting biscuits, Crimean rusks, best mixed, Victoria, water crackers, toy cracknells, water biscuits, prior, floral, ginger nuts No.2, French fingers, lemon rings, lemon biscuits, oatmeal, picnic, coffee, Excelsior, Osborne crackers, lemon cakes, French drops, Madeline, Queen coffer [sic], round cabin, bath, Nile.

Not only did Mennie, produce a mouth-watering selection of biscuits—over one hundred varieties—but he also offered jams, jellies and preserved fruit, together with an amazing selection of confectionery. He employed between eighty and one hundred people in his busy Auckland factory where during the summer season it was noted that £5,000 to £6,000 was paid to local fruit-growers for produce used in preserving and jam-making. Some supplies were even imported from Tasmania, but other fruit might well have been grown in the outlying suburbs of Epsom and Mt Eden. Nothing more delicious could be purchased at grocers' shops than Mennie & Dey's 'pure guava, apple, quince jelly, strawberry conserve, and quince, raspberry, damson, plum (all kinds), strawberry, apple, blackberry, Cape gooseberry, peach, blackcurrant, and Pond's seedling jams'. Six tinsmiths were permanently employed at the factory making the containers required for packing goods, which were also supplied in glass jars and bottles.

James Milne Mennie, the producer of those delectable preserves, biscuits and confections, was born c.1843 at Methlie, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. He was apprenticed as a baker, working in Deeside, Aberdeen, and London, before moving to Melbourne in 1868. The following year he sailed to New Zealand to seek his fortune in Thames which, with the gold-fever of the late 1860s, had grown to be larger than Auckland at the time. Many other Scottish settlers also headed towards the Thames and Coromandel area. Although one brother, John, had remained in Scotland, James's brother Alexander and his sister Isabella had settled in the Auckland Province, and both married in the 1870s, Alexander to Mary Hamilton in Waiotahi, and Isabella to David Watson Pitkethley in Thames. James travelled back to Australia to marry Isabella Irvine Andrew at Argyle Square, Melbourne, on 18 December 1874, and the couple returned to New Zealand; their only child, a daughter Agnes Dey Mennie, was born in Thames on 8 April 1877.



| KOHERANUI — BIG KING<br>YEARS QUARRIED — ALLOTMENT 81 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. H. Kinloch | 1900–27 | 27 years | Owner |
| 2. D. McQuoid | 1927–32 | 5 years | Lessee |
| 3. A. Wintle (Mrs) | 1932–45 | 13 years | Owner |
| 4. G. Hunter Ltd | 1945–73 | 28 years | Owner |

However, a 10 acre piece of land at the southern end of allotment 84 on the western part of the 60 acre property had been 'cut off' by Conelly sometime between 1879 and 1883. It too was scoria rich. The first purchaser was a man by the name of Brierly (August 1883). In May 1893 Brierly sold to Brookfield, who in 1903 onsold to Olesen. Olesen (1916) sold to Moore, who resold to Hughes in 1921 with Morgan buying what was now a quarry in 1924.

A partnership, Morgan & Docherty (quarrymen) was formed. Fourteen years later (September 1938) the partnership was declared insolvent. As a consequence Winstone Limited acquired the business in 1938 from the Bank of Australasia. This purchase allowed Winstone's to have almost full access to Taurangi's scoria. Effectively, they were now owners of 37 ½ acres of workable scoria, the largest deposit in Auckland.

| ALLOTMENTS 83 & 84 | |
|---|---|
| W. J. Conelly & estate trustees | 1878–1921 |
| Marriner & Thomson | 1921–22 |
| Winstone Ltd | 1922 (first purchase) |
| Brierly | 1883–93 |
| Brookfield | 1893–1903 |
| Olesen | 1903–16 |
| Moore | 1916–21 |
| Hughes | 1921–24 |
| Morgan & Docherty Ltd | 1924–38 |
| Winstone Ltd | 1938 (second purchase) |
| Winstone Aggregates | 1922– |

Road Board quarry in allotment 85A and an enhanced scoria pit on the late W. J. Conelly's farm—both on Taurangi, with the third quarry possibly being that of H. Kinloch on Koheraunui.

- 'In 1914 there were quarries on the north, east and south sides.' By conjecture—Taurangi 2 quarries, Koheraunui 1 quarry.
- 'By 1928 all cones were being quarried except BIG KING.' Ideally this statement should read, 'By 1928 Taurangi and Koheraunui as well as other small scoria cones and mounds were being mined for scoria except GREAT KING (Te Tatua). This cone located in allotments 89 & 90 belonged to the Wesleyan Church, (1845–1939) who, in 1927, gave it to the Crown for preservation.' The Church's historical records always speak of it as the Great King and NOT as Big King.

### *The Mount Roskill Road Board Quarry*

(Borough Council & Public Works Department Quarry, 1880s–1970)

This has been reported as being of 2 acres, but increasing over time to 5 acres in size (Auckland Town Planning Association 1923). As stated, this quarry site was originally designated 2 acres metal reserve, and 3 acres recreation reserve.

### *Winstone's at Three Kings*

(Winstone Limited—1922 to 1994; Winstone Aggregates from 1995.)

Title deeds confirm that allotment 82 was sold to Thomas Hallimore in the July of 1845, with Joel S. Polack purchasing allotments 83 & 84 in the same month. Allotments 82 & 83 contained parts of the flanks of both Koheraunui and Taurangi as well as some large and small scoria cones and mounds. In 1850 Hallimore and Polack jointly sold their allotments as a 'single parcel of land'. This parcel of land was onsold eight times until purchased by W. J. Conelly in the May of 1878. In 1900 he combined the three titles into one.

After his death in 1902 and upon the resolution of his will, his farm for the purpose of sale was divided into two parts and the eastern portion (20 acres) was sold and subdivided into residential sections. The 27 acres on the western side of Three Kings Road which embraced Taurangi was bought by partners Marriner & Thomson (gum merchants) in June of 1921. Seventeen months later, November 1922, they sold to Winstone Ltd.



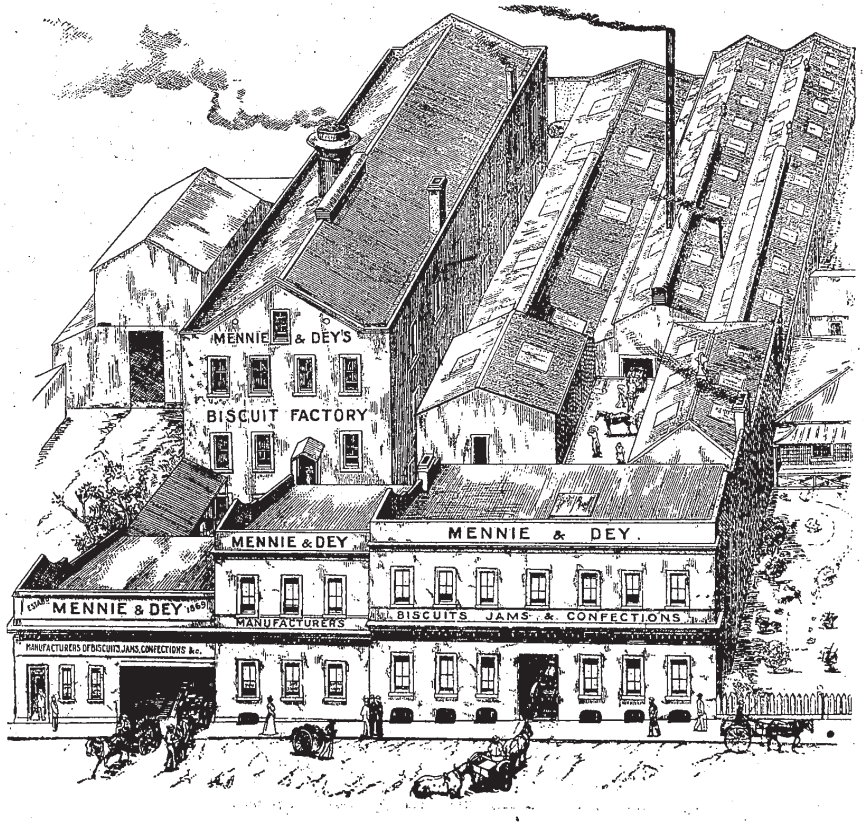
Well established in Thames as a bread and biscuit maker, with premises in the local Queen Street, Mennie had been joined by William Dey, a baker. Dey had also served his apprenticeship in Aberdeen, and following a similar path, had moved to London, then to Melbourne, and to Auckland in 1868. As young men, they had no doubt made each other's acquaintance during those adventurous career moves. After some fourteen years of active partnership, Dey moved to Hamilton in the 1880s where he was later to serve as mayor for two terms.

By 1881, imports of biscuits into the colony had markedly decreased and most of those consumed were locally made. The biscuit manufacturing industry was developing rapidly. In 1884 Mennie brought the business, the Thames Steam Biscuit Factory, to Auckland, and under the name Mennie & Dey, opened a biscuit, confectionery and jam factory at 22–30 Albert Street. He chose a difficult time to make the transition. Russell Stone has noted that 'the city of Auckland in 1885 was free from the depression which had troubled the greater part of the colony of New Zealand since the early part of the decade. By early 1886, however, the prosperity had gone. Auckland passed into as harsh a decade as any experienced in the one hundred and thirty years of its European existence.' Mennie's hard-working enterprise was successful despite those difficult times, and his move from Thames to Auckland, though risky, evinced good business strategy.

Geographer G. J. R. Linge's study of the diffusion of local manufacturing noted that during the initial period of settlement from 1840 to 1855, when Auckland's population grew to 15,000, most dwellings, commercial establishments and early industries were concentrated on the Ligar Valley and the port. In that area there was ready access to imported raw materials, labour and market. He noted that during the second phase from 1856 to 1900, the town of Auckland gradually expanded from the central valley into neighbouring gullies. With the wharves and a spreading network of transport, a good labour supply and growing market, the central city and its environs still continued to attract most of the industrial enterprises set up during the latter part of the nineteenth century, apart from those engaged in 'noxious trades' or needing a plentiful supply of water.

Mennie founded his business during this second stage of Auckland's commercial development. He chose a site in Lower Albert Street at the foot of one of the ridges that overlooked the busy heart of the city, but

was also close to land and sea transport; for by the end of the nineteenth century, Mennie & Dey's trade extended not only throughout the colony, but also to the islands of the South Pacific.




*The Mennie & Dey biscuit factory*
From the *New Zealand Graphic*, 4 October 1901, p.667

The firm gained four gold medals for biscuits, confectionery, jams and preserves at the Auckland Mining and Industrial Exhibition of 1898–99, but only a few months later, in May 1899, experienced a major set-back. A fire broke out in the third floor of Mennie's factory, which occupied the block between Albert Street and Mills Lane. The fire brigade managed to limit the flames to the top level where the confectionery section was situated, but Mennie suffered considerable loss of stock,



Tatua a Riukiuta, Koheraunui, as well as Taurangi, along with their accompanying large and small scoria cones and mounds, would be quarried away. Fortuitously the third cone, Te Tatua, belonged to the Wesleyan Church, which in 1927 gifted it into the care of the Crown.

Appropriate to this article about the quarrymen of the Three Kings are allotments 81 to 84 (see diagram page opposite), also 85A.

Presumably, after Mathew's map titled 'The Harbour of Waitemata, New Zealand, and of the adjacent Country' was published, ongoing, more methodical and detailed mapping of the isthmus would have been carried out by surveyors in the employ of the Crown.

One of the blocks of land that Hobson had purchased from Ngatiwhatua on behalf of the Crown (1841) was the Waitemata to Manukau Block of 12,000 acres. This block of land, to the south of Auckland town, contained within its boundaries Te Tatua a Riukiuta.

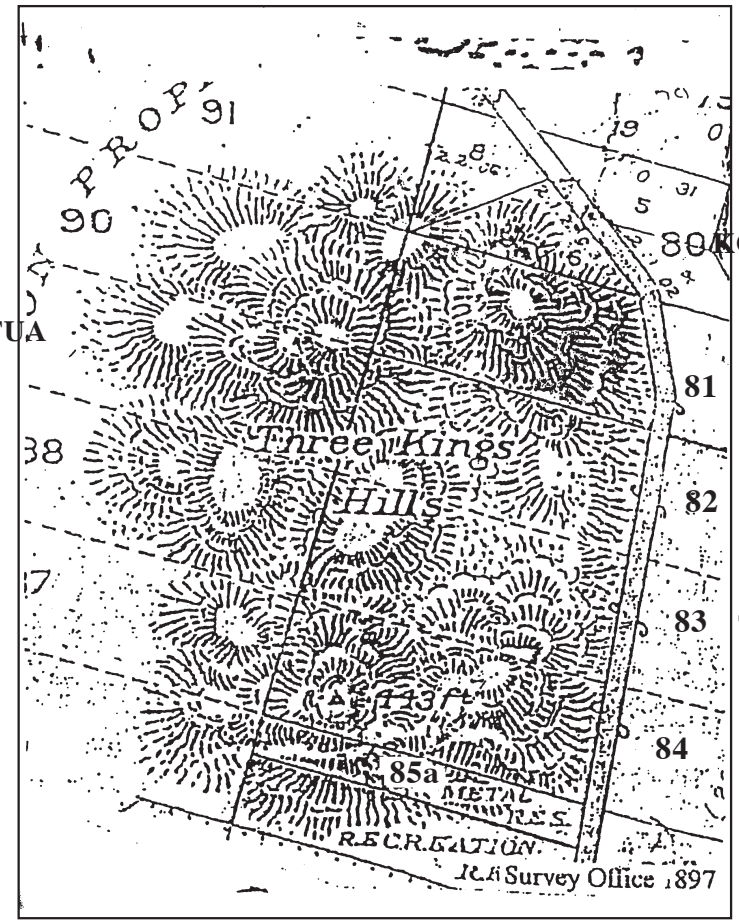
Governor Robert Fitzroy (1842–45) was therefore able to sell the following Crown Grants at Te Tatua a Riukiuta to:

1. John Dalzeil, Allotment 81, June 1845
2. Thomas Hallimore, Allotment 82, July 1845
3. Joel S. Polack, Allotments 83 & 84, July 1845
4. Allotment 85A appears to have remained in the name of the Crown

Each of these four allotments was described as being 20 acres more or less in size, with their sale being registered with the Secretary of the Land Commission for the Surveyor General. With the continuing development of the Province of Auckland, local land sales were recorded as being 'situated in the Parish of Waitemata, within the County of Eden, Section 10 of the Suburbs of Auckland'. These records of sale were filed with the District Survey Office at Auckland, later with the Department of Lands and Survey and now with Land Information New Zealand (LINZ).

In 1992 the Geological Society of New Zealand vaguely reported in their miscellaneous publication 'No 61' about the quarrying activity of Three Kings as follows:

- '. . . by 1891 a two acre quarry reserve was designated on the south side'. Was this the metal reserve allotment designated 85A on the SSW side of Taurangi?
- '. . . three small scoria quarries were present in 1905'. Possibly the Mt Roskill




**TE TATUA A RIUKIUTA (THREE KINGS)**

**What is scoria?**

Scoria is cellular lava, or fragments of it. It is formed during a volcanic eruption, when hot mobile liquid rock (magma) becomes frothed up by released gases, water and steam. When sprayed into the air it cools rapidly, and as it falls builds up cones of scoria around its explosive vent.



much of which was uninsured, as well as valuable equipment. It is reported that he had already experienced an earlier fire at his Thames factory.

Mennie was not daunted by such disasters. On a trip to England, he inspected the largest biscuit and confectionery-making enterprises and purchased machinery of latest pattern so that his factory, by September 1900, was 'without doubt the finest plant of the kind in New Zealand'. Returning via America, he also secured the sole Australasian rights for machinery used in the making of 'that exquisite line of confectionery, "Cupid's Whispers" so popular throughout the trade'. Experts were sent from America to set up the plant and soon Cupid's Whispers were spreading their sweet messages far and wide.

The Auckland public was kept well informed about the recent discovery of the nutritious properties of chocolate. News spread about Queen Victoria's Christmas gift to 'Tommies' in South Africa of over 100,000 tins of this wholesome treat, to help sustain energy and strength in the fight against the Boers. The daily newspaper reassured everyone that the entrepreneurial Mennie was importing machinery to enable his firm to produce chocolate from the raw bean, in addition to the 100 varieties of sweets already manufactured. Until 1901 the value of imported confectionery had exceeded that manufactured by local sweet-makers. At this point, however, the balance began to change and New Zealand firms provided the greater proportion, with sugar supplied throughout the country by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company in Birkenhead.

Despite its advantages, central city manufacture produced problems as well as profits. With so many industries centred around the Queen Street valley, concerns were often expressed to the City Council about unpleasant smells, waste products and other problems related to processes that existed close to the growing retail and business area. Complaints about smoke emission from Mennie's Albert Street factory chimney were noted early in the twentieth century, but after he had fitted a 'smoke apparatus', the City Engineer gave the all clear in January 1904.

Mennie was becoming fully involved in the civic life of Auckland. Sharing Sir John Logan Campbell's Scottish heritage, he and his wife were among the specially invited guests at the unveiling of the statue of Campbell on the Manukau Road frontage of Cornwall Park

on Empire Day, 1906, where the venerable 'Father of Auckland' was honoured by the city. Mennie was elected as a city councillor from 1909 until 1915, attending many civic functions including the opening of Grafton Bridge on 28 April 1910. A member of the Auckland Harbour Board, the Hospital and Charitable Aid Board, the Drainage Board and the Licensing Committee, it was noted that 'he was very useful on committees where his sound commonsense showed to more advantage than at the meetings of the corporation as he was not fond of speaking in public'.

Mennie had also invested in substantial residential property. In 1903, he took 50-year leases on two lots of land in a block between Grafton Road and Wynyard Street, which had been subdivided by the Auckland Grammar School Board. Architect Charles Le Neve Arnold was commissioned to design two houses, which were built by Ebenezer Morris. Until 1924, the Mennies occupied No. 8 Grafton Road and No.10, a rather more impressive building, was rented.

*Statue of Robert Burns (donated by Mennie) in the Auckland Domain*
Photo: Eric Laurenson

When James and Isabella's daughter married and moved to Australia, they frequently travelled to visit her and in later years made trips to Europe, North and South America, Canada and Scotland. A proud Scotsman, James's love of his homeland was reflected in the donation of the Robert Burns statue which stands in the Domain, and also in the Scots Hall, built in Upper Symonds Street as a social centre for the many people of Scottish descent in Auckland (this has now been demolished). Mennie was a member and past president of the St Andrews Society and one of those who guaranteed financial assistance to the 'mother' church of Presbyterianism in Auckland, St Andrew's in Symonds



# The Quarrymen of Three Kings, Auckland (*Te Tatua a Riukiuta*)

*By C. E. Keith Fuller*

Twenty thousand years ago the volcanic structures which we know as the Three Kings were created. Today this name is a misnomer as only 'a single scoria cone and very extensive lava flows containing caves beneath suburban Auckland are all that is left of this miniature, yet once comprehensive, collection of volcanic structures. The rest have been quarried away.' (*Lava & Strata*, Lloyd Homer et al, 2000).


**Keywords**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Koheraunui | The Eastern King | BIG KING |
| Taurangi | The Southern King | HIGHEST KING |
| Te Tatua | The Western King | GREAT KING |
| Te Tatua a Riukiuta | The Kings (1341–1848) | THREE KINGS (from 1848) |
| Tamaki-makau-rau | Auckland Isthmus | |
| Waitemata | Auckland Harbour (from1841) | |


Felton Mathew, the acting Surveyor-General (1840–50), responding to the instructions of Captain William Hobson RN the Lieutenant Governor of New Zealand (1840–42), completed and published (1841) a map of his trigonometrical and chain survey of Tamaki-makau-rau. Hobson inspected and chose a site on the Waitemata, which was to become the founding settlement of a town to be called Auckland (18 September 1840).

Following the first sales of Auckland's town allotments (April 1841) and with an increasing population, settlers began to spread out across the isthmus, 'following the roads across to Newmarket, Mt Eden and Onehunga. Much of the land was soon in cultivation providing meat and wheat for local consumption' (Richard Wolfe). As a consequence of this ongoing sprawl the inherited volcanic cones of the isthmus began to be quarried for their scoria and used for building Auckland's basic infrastructure of roads and drainage, and later railways.

Over the next 100 years, two of the three major cones of Te

walking distance. A former source of income for the club had become a liability.

One of the last presidents thought that by converting more space into a function room, they could increase patronage. This action proved to be an added drain on resources. Money had been borrowed to finance it, and the club's benevolent fund had been used as security. Unfortunately for the future of this RSA branch, none of the committee members seem to have had the financial knowledge to realise what a hole they were digging for themselves. The Companies Office website shows Eden–Roskill RSA was first registered as an incorporated society in 1972. It was struck off in 2003.

Numbers attending over the last couple of years were often in single figures. Economies were tried—sacking the bar staff for instance—but these were only drops in an ocean of debt. Newly elected Eden–Roskill club president Leonard Tolley found the finances in an alarming state. He finally forced the issue and outlined the club's financial woes at a meeting on 26 March 2006, but the club members rejected an executive board motion recommending it cease trading. Mr Tolley resigned his position after that meeting.

The club closed on 4 April 2006 but remained in limbo, not trading but not yet closed down, until a special general meeting was held on 30 April, chaired by Auckland District RSA Vice-president of Welfare Matt McMillan, where Eden–Roskill's fate was decided. It was believed to be $400,000 in debt although that has never been officially stated, and Gerry Rea Associates were appointed as liquidators. RSAs in Pt Chevalier, New Lynn and Avondale offered to transfer Eden–Roskill memberships so no Eden–Roskill members were left out of pocket by the closure. If they had paid their membership for the year, they were able to transfer to any other RSA for the rest of the year.

***Postscript***

The Eden–Albert Community Board stepped in to run the 2006 Anzac Day service at the eleventh hour and offered to do the same in 2007, but the Auckland Regional RSA specifically requested the board not to do so as the RSA had ceased to exist. However Mr Johns and hall manager Ted Alexander were determined to mark Anzac Day and opened the hall's shrine from 11am to noon on Anzac Day that year for people who wanted to pay their respects.



Street, when it was under threat of closure. His pleasure in music led him to contribute two band-stands in city parks, with one in the Domain featuring in the 1913 Auckland Exhibition, and still bearing a plaque attributing its origins to Mennie. Enjoying the game of bowls, he was a member and past president of the Auckland Bowling Club.

Mennie's wide interests had also included taking 200 shares in the New Zealand Flying School at Mission Bay when it was floated as a limited liability company in November 1917, and being appointed as one of the directors. No financial return for this investment was expected or gained by Mennie and others who bought shares, for it was considered at the time as a contribution to the war effort, as New Zealand pilots were trained there for service in World War I. Although aware of the difficulties under which the school was operating by the 1920s, he did not live to see it finally taken over by the Government in September 1924. He had retired in 1919 after 50 years of successful business and died at his home on 14 January 1924, aged 81 years. Isabella moved to live with their daughter Agnes Dey Williamson in Sydney, and died there on 24 September 1926. Her funeral was conducted at St Andrew's, Symonds Street, and she was buried at Purewa Cemetery with James.

In generous legacies Mennie bequeathed a total of £54,000 to various charitable institutions in Auckland, a major beneficiary being the Presbyterian Church. The Auckland University College Council received £4,000 for commercial education, and the Parochial Board of the Burgh of Turriff, Aberdeenshire, where his brother John had died in 1886 in his mid-forties, £5,000 for the 'deserving poor'.

James and Isabella's home was bought by Edward Sharman, the first of the city's port health officers, and both he and his wife Juliet were known for their hospitality. Upon their deaths, in 1956, their daughter Betty Sharman turned the home into a popular coffee house that provided for doctors and professional people in the area. Later as the university extended, the clientele changed and she catered for students and staff, with biscuits no doubt featuring largely on the menu during all those years of entertaining. No.8 was sold to the government in 1970, and with No.10 is currently used by the University of Auckland.

After Mennie's death his business continued through the 1930s, with an additional factory established at 24–26 Stanley Street. In a *Metro* article on Parnell, Rose Hoare noted that in former times '. . . tea rooms on The Strand catered to a large workforce from Mennie's

biscuit factory, where you could fill a pillowslip with broken biscuits for thruppence.'

What delicious selections from the 1898 list might that pillowslip have contained by the 1930s? One hopes that the rather grim-sounding 'Crimean rusks' might have disappeared; 'charcoal' biscuits seem darkly medicinal and desiccative—hardly appetising; 'African shoots' would have offered adventure without accompanying risk; but surprisingly there was no Scottish shortbread. A 'Zealandia', possibly a forerunner of the Anzac biscuit and one of New Zealand's favourites, might perhaps be among those broken biscuits?

The name of James Mennie, one among the numerous hard-working Scottish settlers who helped to shape Auckland, has largely been forgotten. We honour an early producer of delicious comestibles who made life sweeter and tastier.

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a bottle of beer. For several decades, the RSA throve. The women's division was very strong, and under chairwomen like June Nichols took an active part in organising events and fund-raising. There was far more to the RSA than cheap beer. Regular dances, darts competitions, etc, brought people out regularly.

However as the years passed, attitudes to drinking changed and the RSA lost its virtual monopoly. All branches found their finances deteriorating drastically and more than one was forced to close. The introduction of 'the pokies' met with a mixed reception. The clubs' demise has been blamed on cheap supermarket liquor prices, and a crackdown on drink-driving. Even the anti-smoking laws put an additional strain on many as they had the option of losing their smoking members or spending money they could not really spare on providing comfortable outdoor smoking areas.

Several clubs have closed in recent years, for example in Thames and Queenstown—although Queenstown later re-opened—and National RSA president John Campbell, a Vietnam veteran who served a 12-month tour of duty, has predicted more mergers in the future. Membership numbers have climbed to nearly 140,000—the highest since servicemen returned from WWII, but half the current club members are only associates: relatives or friends of veterans. Campbell described it as 'a sign of the times'. In Newmarket the RSA, which had been hit hard by dwindling membership, suffered two major blows when an employee embezzled funds and then it was fined $9,500 for operating eight unlicensed pokies for more than a year. In 2007 it sold its 74-year-old clubrooms and expects to have to merge with an existing club soon.

In Eden–Roskill, normal attrition had seen membership drop as older members died off. This was not unexpected. The charter under which the RSA used its rooms in the War Memorial Hall had anticipated this and spelt out that the rooms would revert to other uses if and when the RSA ceased to exist. New members were proving hard to attract. This may be partially attributed to the changing ethnic structure of the area, as increasing numbers of Asian families moved in who had no emotional ties to or interest in the RSA as such. The location on the fringe of the Balmoral shopping centre proved to be a disadvantage for the restaurant. It now found itself competing with a KFC next door and a large number of takeaway and ethnic restaurants within easy

The uniform returned to true navy in 1992, and with some changes is that worn today, navy culottes and striped blouse for summer and navy tunic and blouse and jumper for winter.

The 7th Form wore a different uniform for the first time in 1970. For many years these girls chose the uniform for their year.

Sports uniforms have always been worn, from the gym (drill) tunic worn all day to the rompers of the 1950s and 60s to the well-designed, attractive variety of today. The school now competes in over 40 different sporting codes, and uniforms reflect the requirements of each.

### *Music and drama*

Music and drama as class subjects and as extra curricular activities have always been an important part of school life. Although the original hall building had a stage, it was not until the Marjory Adams Hall opened in 1967 that the school had a space for public performances. Choirs, orchestra and instrumental groups have developed through the years, many achieving national and international acclaim. Annual school concerts, drama festivals between classes, musical productions with Auckland Grammar School, and now a variety of performance events in the Raye Freedman Arts Centre, continue this tradition.

## Decline and Fall of the Eden–Roskill RSA, 1958–2006

*By Jeanette Grant*

The Mt Eden War Memorial Hall was funded by public subscriptions to honour the fallen from the two world wars. On 16 August 1958, the Eden–Roskill RSA moved from their old premises in Dominion Road opposite Grange Road, and celebrated the official opening of their new club rooms in the basement of the new building. Forty-eight years later, the organisation went into receivership. What happened?

The year 1958 was still the time of the 'six o'clock swill' when pubs closed at 6pm. RSAs were thus very popular, as they were private clubs and therefore not restricted to these hours. Moreover Mt Eden was a 'dry' area and the nearest pub was in Symonds Street. However this meant that you could not buy beer directly for cash. The RSA operated on the 'locker' system. You bought a ticket and then exchanged it for



## Epsom Girls' Grammar School 1917–2008

*By Christine Black*

### *Beginnings*

EGGS was established in February 1917 as a single-sex girls' school, and the third of the Grammar schools. Continuing the tradition, the motto is 'Per Angusta Ad Augusta' (usually translated as 'through trials to heights') and the colours are blue (usually navy) and gold.

The school had rather a low key beginning. By 1915 Auckland Girls' Grammar had a larger than expected roll and was continuing to grow. The remedy of an 'overflow' of third and fourth forms at Epsom was suggested and this idea came into practice in February 1917 with a roll of 174.

At the start of 2007 the school held a reunion to mark its ninetieth year with a large group of old girls and the current school community. EGGS has good reason to celebrate as it has acquired and maintained an impressive reputation for academic, sporting and cultural success through those 90 years. A new book on the history of the school is in preparation, and this article will record the inspirational work of the first four principals who developed the school through its first 50 years.

### *Miss Annie Morrison MA (1917–29)*

Miss Morrison was the first principal. She had been First Assistant at AGGS the previous year and it is clear that she brought a good understanding of the academic, sporting and cultural traditions of the Grammar schools immediately into the new school.

The restrictions of WWI meant that the Auckland Grammar Schools Board decided to build a temporary wooden building, which they could afford without a government grant. The school was forced to 'make do' with an existing house and an undeveloped 'sports' field. The old house on the Silver Road property was altered to include two classrooms, headmistress's study, book room and staffroom. The new wooden building included a hall and four classrooms—not, it proved, enough! Epsom Girls' Grammar School was built, fitted and furnished for £4,597. The early school magazines are full of witty accounts by

pupils of the difficulties of makeshift classrooms and rocks on the cricket pitch. Tents were used as form rooms for several classes in 1919.

In the cyclostyled first School Magazine (1917) Miss Morrison exhorted her students to 'Be honourable, hard-working, and helpful; cultivate character, intelligence, and kindliness; endeavour always to do your duty to God and man. If you keep these aims before your minds, you cannot fail to win true success both in school and in your future lives.'

There was a 5th form in 1919, and the senior school developed accordingly. The roll continued to grow steadily to 344 in 1920 and 515 in 1925; 1921 had the first 6A class of four and Joyce Potter became the first University Scholarship winner in the same year. The Old Girls Association was established in 1921. Electric light was installed in 1929.

Sport in the early years was cricket, tennis and netball. Competition was keen between EGGS, AGGS, St Cuthbert's College, Diocesan School and later Takapuna Grammar. The annual school concert began in the 1920s. The first girls gained university degrees in 1924 with three attaining a BA and two a BSc.

### *Miss Agnes Loudon CBE, MA (1930–47)*

Miss Loudon began with 642 pupils. She continued to be plagued with inadequate and makeshift buildings and worked hard to keep the need for improvements in the mind of the Board. Another World War intervened, and it was not until 1946 that a two-storey brick classroom building and science wing was completed. For some years extra classes used rooms at Newmarket School in Gillies Avenue.

She also achieved considerable improvements in the grounds and sports fields. Hockey was introduced in 1930. There was a steady growth in clubs, such as the art club and tramping club. The war also increased extra-curricular activities with gardening, sewing and knitting circles. First aid classes and a number of fund-raising efforts contributed to the Benevolent Fund. In 1931 the first teacher trainees visited the school. In 1942 the Governor General, Sir Cyril Newall, and Lady Newall made the first vice-regal visit. The girls were granted a holiday.

The school song, with words by 6A and set to music from 'Aida' was first sung in 1944.

> A school cannot remain inert, wrapped in its traditions. The time never comes when it can stand still, thinking that its achievements



*Above: The new summer uniform, 1952*
*Below: The winter uniform, 1956*

### *Uniforms*

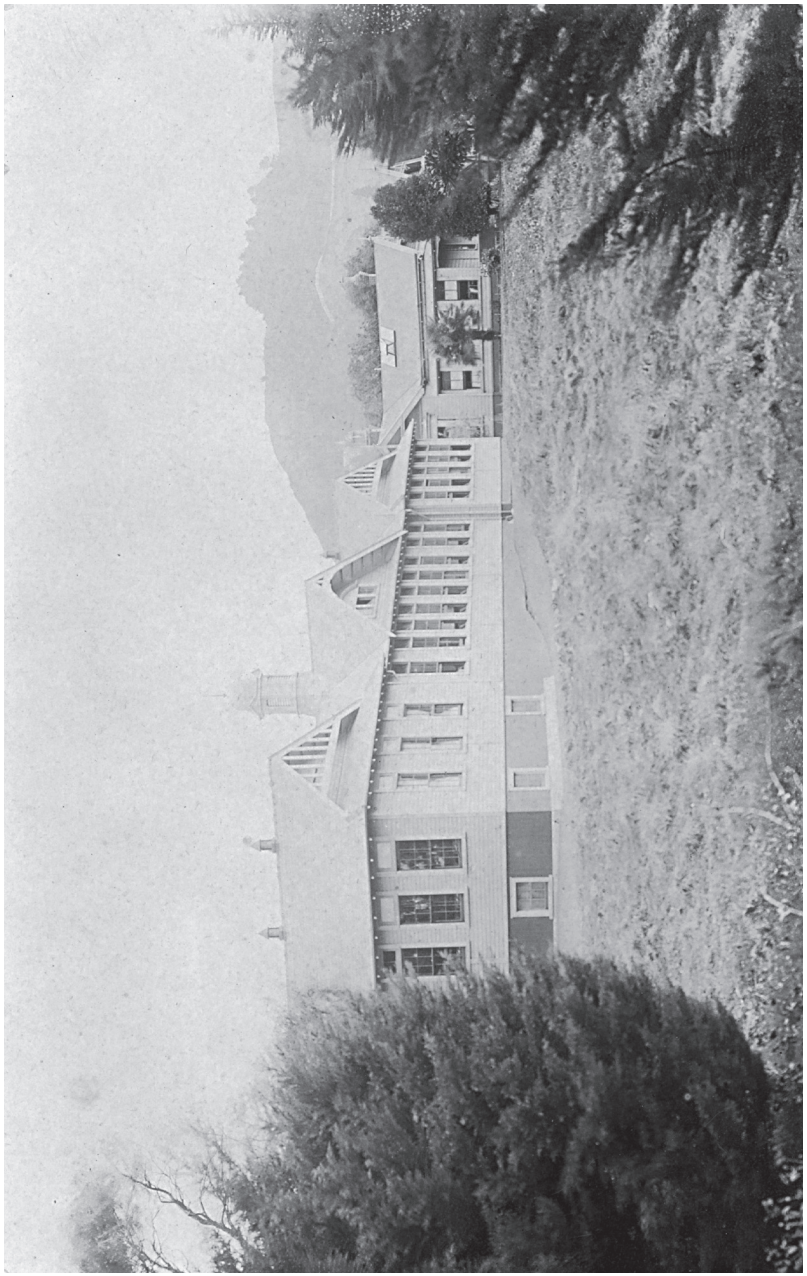
The Grammar schools have always had compulsory uniforms and have used navy and gold as colours with a gold lion, and Epsom Girls as the third school followed the tradition. EGGS girls had a uniform that was smart, practical and not too expensive.

*The first EGGS uniform, 1917 — all year*

There have been three main changes of uniform in the school's 90 years. The first, worn all year from 1917–51 and as a winter uniform until 1971, consisted of a navy gym dress, white blouse, navy and gold tie, navy blazer with gold lion on the pocket (and brass buttons!), a navy felt hat with school hat badge, and gloves. The very early years show considerable variation, but by the 1920s the students wore a uniform that was definitively EGGS.

A summer uniform was introduced in 1952, consisting of a light-weight 'V' neck navy tunic with short-sleeved open-necked white blouse, white socks and white panama hat. Another change occurred in 1972 with a 'V' neck blue tweed tunic, pale blue blouse, royal blue blazer, tie and jumper. Hats and gloves were dropped. For summer there was a pale blue, striped shirt dress with front zip and white collar.





*Epsom Girls' Grammar School main building, 1920s*

have earned it the right to halt. It has been open to constructive change to suit the ever changing spirit of the community, and always ready to progress with time. VIb Editorial, *Epsom Girls' Grammar School Magazine, 1938.*

### *Miss Margaret Johnston MA (1948–52)*

The post-war years saw another leap in student numbers, up to 960 by 1952. Miss Johnston arrived with a fine reputation as an English scholar and teacher, and continued to encourage the excellent academic achievements of the senior students. During her time she extended and improved the library. The 'modern' course which included homecraft and clothing was developed, and girls were able to sit School Certificate in these subjects.

> One of our ideals of education is to produce citizens capable of thinking and judging for themselves. It is an admirable quality of Miss Johnston's that she has always appealed to her pupils' reason, by pointing out that school rules and standards of good conduct are made because it is for the greatest good of the majority that they should be observed. Valedictory, *Epsom Girls' Grammar School Magazine,* 1952.

### *Miss Marjory Adams MA, MSc, Dip Ed (1953–71)*

The roll had reached 1001, and Miss Adams fortunately brought valuable administrative experience. As usual the new principal was surprised to find a shortage of classrooms and lack of proper offices and specialist rooms. She oversaw the completion of the gymnasium (1953), the art and geography building (1955), the administration, staffroom and library building (1958), the sports pavilion (1959), the three-storey classroom block (1965) and the hall—completed for the 50th jubilee (1967). During these years, the number of prefabricated classrooms continued to increase and many became a permanent fixture. The Parent Teacher Association was founded in 1953 and has continued to assist with fund-raising for many years.

The school population became more diverse in post-war years, but Miss Adams encouraged girls to stay at school for five years and to achieve an external exam pass. The 1950s was a time of significant development in girls' education. More girls stayed for their senior years



and more went on to tertiary education. In 1964 there were 60 girls in 6A (year 13) and excellent results were achieved in School Certificate, University Entrance, Bursary and Scholarship.

> . . . I am always impressed when I come to write testimonials by the great range and variety of out-of-class activities that many of our senior girls have managed to experience in their four or five years here covering a number of sports, life saving, music in choir or orchestra, drama, and languages club, Natural History club, Polynesian club, and they still find time to give the school a great deal of service as well. Principal's annual report, School List 1963.

The subsequent principals have been: Miss Ailsa Blakey (1971–79); Miss Gaye Griffiths (1979–88); Mrs Verna Dowdle (1989–96); Mrs Margaret Bendall (1997–2005); Miss Annette Sharp (2006–07).

### *Boarding*

EGGS was an attractive choice for country parents who wanted their daughters to get a good education. In the early years girls made private boarding arrangements with family or friends, and before long there were local women who had small groups in their homes each year. By 1923 there were 45 girls living away from home, and the school recognised a clear need for a proper school hostel. In 1925 'Melmerley' in St Georges Bay Road provided accommodation for 20 girls. Madame Creugnet opened a second house in 1933 on the corner of Remuera and Bassett roads, with 19 girls. She moved to 45 Owens Road in 1936, and all 41 boarders were finally under one roof. Space was still short, and after discussion with the Auckland Grammar Schools Board the first school hostel, School House, was established at 21 Owens Road. Upper House at 99 Owens Road was added in 1946.

Epsom House, which can take 120 girls from all levels, was newly built on 21 Owens Road and opened in 1962, and this has been refurbished several times. Threatened with closure in 1996, intense lobbying from parents and past boarders convinced the Board of Trustees of the continued value of boarding at EGGS. For many years the boarders had a uniform for church and outings.