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# A heritage betrayed

By Paul Waite

At the north-eastern base of the highest of the volcanoes in Auckland, Mt Eden, lies a substantial area of native forest on a 19,000-year-old basalt lava flow, the largest surviving patch of volcanic material thrown up by the mountain. A part of this rock forest from Almorah Road to Gillies Avenue is recognised under the Auckland City Council's Schedule of Significant Ecological Areas. This area is in the part of Epsom to the immediate south of the motorway, southwest of Newmarket.

On the eastern edge of this rock forest, the Rev Walter Lawry purchased Allotment 23, comprising seven acres, from the Crown in April 1845.<sup>1</sup> In December 1850 he sold the property to Thomas Osborne.<sup>2</sup> Osborne grew garlic and walnuts, getting £20 a year income from the nuts. He also had a small number of cows.<sup>3</sup>

In 1873 Osborne sold the northern two acres, the entire future Gillies Avenue frontage of his farm, to John Slatter.<sup>4</sup> By 1899 one of the executors of Slatter's will, land agent William Aitken, obtained title to Allotment 23.<sup>5</sup> The two acre part of Allotment 23 was surveyed and subdivided into seven sections, with sections 6 and 7 sold in July 1899 to Archibald Hill.<sup>6</sup> In June 1903 the then mayor of Auckland, Alfred Kidd, purchased both these sections from Hill with the address of 28 Domain Road (later to become 74 Gillies Avenue).

Adjoining Allotment 21, Allotment 22 of six acres and two roods was issued to John Kelly and Frederick Whitaker on 21 December 1844. This land was transferred to John Edgerley on 15 December 1851. On 10 June 1848 John Edgerley had already obtained Crown Allotment 30 of five acres adjoining the Kelly/Whitaker grant to the west.

John Edgerley had spent the years 1834 to 1841 at Horeke in the Hokianga as gardener/botanist for Lieutenant Thomas McDonnell, who had been appointed an additional British Resident in New Zealand.<sup>7</sup> There are records of John Edgerley sending plant specimens to Kew Gardens, Mr. A. B. Lambert for the Duke of Bedford, and the Earl of Mountnorris. Two uncommon New Zealand shrubs bear Edgerley's name. *Pomaderris prunifolia* Fenzl var. *edgerleyi* and *Pseudopanax edgerleyi*. When John Edgerley sailed for England in 1842 he took back a collection of New Zealand plants for Kew Gardens.<sup>8</sup> In return the

how it slipped my memory. It was when they decided to remove the wall between the scullery and the washroom. What a surprise for us all when they cut through the pipe coming up from the hot water cylinder under the house! There was water everywhere. What a mess! By the way, the hot water cylinder is still under the house as there is nowhere else to put it.

The washroom had a double set of kauri wash tubs. The tubs have finished up, not as firewood, but at the Athenree historical homestead near Tauranga. It is nice to think there's a little bit of me still serving a useful purpose somewhere else. While the tubs were in the washroom there was no room for a washing machine, which is why the second owners decided to put the laundry on the back verandah and make the scullery into a bigger kitchen.

The second owner also reminded me that the original bath was at least 6 foot 6 inches long! Having a decent bath in it emptied the hot water cylinder. So the bath went, and the space left was large enough for both a bath and a shower to be installed. The original triangular wash basin, in one corner of the bathroom, was as small as the bath was large and was also replaced.

The floor in the bathroom and the toilet was thin red concrete, laid over the floorboards. The edges sloped up to contain any floods and there was a plughole in the centre for any floods to drain away. This concrete floor is still in the bathroom, covered with vinyl, but that in the toilet was removed by the present owners. That was painful to say the least, as it needed the use of a sledgehammer. Shook my old bones, I can tell you. But in retrospect, the tiles they have laid are really much nicer than the old concrete.

I talked about the awful old flowery carpet. Actually, it was an expensive rose carpet, imported from England by the original owners. Just goes to show how one's ideas change with time. But I must admit that after being down about 60 years it was showing its age, but also its quality, having lasted so long. I know I was ready for a change.

Unfortunately I was unable to contact the original owners, which was a pity. I wonder of what they could have reminded me of. But that was a long time ago, as I am eighty-nine years old now, and thanks to those who have cared for me so well, I am feeling great.

‘Taking an interest in the team’s professional and personal development and helping them move towards their goals is a great motivator. Taking them to business conferences and shows gets them involved in the business itself, and when they build the credibility and trust that they deserve, they are rewarded with responsibilities such as managing the shop. Being flexible as an employer really creates opportunities and opens doors. For example there are a huge number of well-educated women out there who can bring huge benefits and experience to the business if they can work the hours that best suit them.’

In 2004 Time Out won the prestigious national ‘Independent Bookshop of the Year’ award for ‘outstanding achievement in the New Zealand book industry’ (THORPE-BOWKER Book Industry Awards). In 2009 they were awarded the Metro Magazine Best Bookshop of the Year and the Penguin Independent Bookstore of the Year. In 2010 and 2011 they were runner-up ‘Independent Bookshop of the Year’ in the THORPE-BOWKER Book Industry Awards.

No-one lives upstairs now. There is an office there and the rest is one BIG room which is available for community groups to use; no politics, no religion. Book groups, art groups, philosophy groups are among the appreciative local users.

Time Out Bookstore’s opening hours are from 9am to 9pm seven days a week—New Zealand’s original open late bookstore.

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## A postscript to my story of a bungalow

*Cynthia Landels*

Do you remember that I wrote my story in the 2011 *Prospect*? Since then I have had a letter from the second owner and she has reminded me of some things I had forgotten.

The first was so traumatic at the time it happened, I just do not know

director of Kew, Sir William Hooker, undertook to provide him with a wide range of flowering shrubs (six casefuls) for setting up his nursery on this land in Epsom. Edgerley requested the following plants:

Rhododendrons, camellias, arbutus or strawberry tree, laurustine, Portugal laurel, common laurel, azaleas, a plant or two of lilac, wisteria sinensis, tree paeonia, with a few plants of fuschias—corymbiflora if you can spare it, ribes sanguine, magnolia grandiflora, deutzia scabra, box for hedging, with a few good roses, white moss if you can spare it, ajuba japonica, cedar of Lebanon, jasminum . . . acorns, chestnuts, hawthorn berries or any other seed you thought would germinate, also a small collection of good flower seeds with fir cones.<sup>9</sup>

Although roses, flowering seeds and annuals had been imported by early missionaries, their planting concentrated on practical plants such as fruit trees, shelter trees and crops. Certainly this was the first importation of rhododendrons, camellias, azaleas, lilac and wisteria into New Zealand.<sup>10</sup> In May 1846 Edgerley advertised Eden Nursery on the Epsom site with commercial sales of fruit trees. By 1848 he was advertising 24 types of apple trees, 6 types of plum trees, 24 types of cherry trees, 4 types of pear trees, 5 types of peach trees, 7 types of nectarines and 3 types of apricot trees, as well as a variety of other plants.

Edgerley died on 9 June 1849, and by March 1856 his widow Sarah had six cattle and ran a milk supply on the property. In October 1869 his sons John and William were declared tenants in common for their father’s holdings of Allotments 22 and 30. In 1903 William Edgerley sold part of his northern land to mayor Alfred Kidd for £180, a plot that adjoined the property that Kidd had bought from Archibald Hill in the same year.

Kidd had held the licence under, and then bought the lease of, the Commercial Hotel from fellow city councillor James Stitchbury who lived at *Clovernook*, further along Domain Road. Alfred Kidd was one of the oldest sitting members of the Auckland City Council (ACC), having been elected in 1885 as a Parnell Borough councillor, and he lived in a large two-storey house at 61 St Stephens Avenue. He had resigned in 1888, when his project for developing 159 acres at Ellerslie in the southern part of Remuera fell victim to a property crash, and he filed for bankruptcy. However by liquidating his assets, including

selling his St Stephens Avenue home, he paid his creditors in full and the bankruptcy was annulled. He was re-elected and held his seat until he became MP for Auckland in 1905. He was acting mayor during the term of David Goldie, as Mr Goldie was often ill. In 1901, during the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York and Cornwall, Sir John Logan Campbell made it a condition of his accepting the mayoralty that Alfred Kidd be acting mayor again. Later that year, Kidd was elected mayor in his own right for three years, working tirelessly to create the new electric tramways, new sewerage systems and roads. He followed very popular movements, promoting workers' rights and opening up Maori land, and was then pressured to go into Parliament. It was suggested that he was the only man who could control Richard Seddon the Prime Minister.

The MP for Auckland from 1905 to 1908, he was chief whip in the Seddon and Ward governments. Kidd ensured that the new Auckland post office was built (now the site of Britomart station), and introduced several bills, including an important bill that restricted gambling to racecourses. In addition he was chairman of the Auckland Harbour Board (in which role he laid the foundation stone of Admiralty House), Charitable Aid Board, trustee Auckland Savings Bank, Board of Governors Auckland Grammar School & Auckland College, Board of Governors Veterans' Home, chairman of Auckland Drainage Board and member of the Costley Trust Board.

Mr Kidd's money came from mining companies with successful land and stock market speculation. At one stage he was a director of 22 mining companies. In 1896 it was reported that although he had lost all his money in the property slump of 1888, he had made over £30,000 from a recent mining boom in Thames. It was stated that he was going to use some of this money to rebuild the Commercial Hotel (now Debetts).<sup>11</sup> He also owned 2000 acres of farming land around Waiuku, then known as the Aka Aka Swamp, said 'to be second to none in the North Island'. Kidd collected early New Zealand literature, described in a newspaper letter to the editor of 1886 as 'the best private collection of books on New Zealand that is probably to be found in the city' and 'the finest private collection of New Zealand literature (touching this colony, that is) extant' in an article in the *New Zealand Graphic*.<sup>12</sup> Estimated in 1887 to comprise over 500 books on Polynesian and New Zealand history, upon his death he left to the Auckland University College a collection

Sue called it 'Time out, Books & Music'; Joy called it 'Time out Bookstore' and used a shell logo; Wendy has it as 'Time Out Bookstore Ltd'—with a cat logo.

Since Wendy bought it she has never had to advertise for staff. Some have been recruited at the age of 13 and gained work experience in school holidays before entering the fulltime workforce. Many are university students, and as the shop is open 12 hours a day, every day, she needs a large staff.

### *What is her philosophy?*

'As a bookshop we really needed to consider what our point of differentiation was from other retailers and this included web based and high street competition. Of course being both "local" and welcoming and knowledgeable helps but we also employed some other tactics:

- Non-mass market—this meant staying away from mainstream novels and reference books. We felt these were available anywhere or were very expensive to stock so we focused on quality books that captured the browser's imagination.
- Children are a real market opportunity and books are a key development and education tool, so we created a Children's Room and have someone dedicated to buying kids' books. This allows us to capture both ends of the market and also cater for children whilst parents browse for themselves.
- Extended opening hours—9am to 9pm seven days provides access to more customers, it's that simple. Our local customers now know we're open late and so we have become convenient for last minute purchases. Plus if there are customers in the shop past closing time we don't close until they are satisfied.
- Many people choose books as gifts so it made sense to offer a "gift wrap" service. In business the little things really do make a difference.
- Usually bookshops have one buyer. We involve everyone in the selection and buying process ensuring that our stock choices are representative of a diverse market. This even includes the anecdotal feedback and recommendations from customers.'

Basically however, she believes in people and that the success of her business is dependent on the people who run it. 'You can't run a passionate business without passionate people,' says Wendy.



*Wendy Tighe-Umbers*

Joy was there for ten years before Wendy Tighe-Umbers abandoned a career in education when she saw the shop advertised for sale in 2002. Like Sue, her purchase was unpremeditated and arranged very swiftly. When Joy went, Oscar the Tonkinese stayed. He was more than a mascot as he had lived in the shop all his life and firmly believed he was in charge. He had to be fed as soon as the first employee arrived in the morning, as he had learned how to disconnect the computer to show his displeasure. Arranging the window display always involved leaving him a comfortable place to curl up. He had regular visitors and after word spread on Facebook of his death from diabetes, bouquets were left at the shop and over 70 people came to a memorial service.

One really unusual feature of the shop front is the list of white words inscribed on the side window. They are not a current directory. They are the remaining section of an artwork by John Reynolds. The security tape disfiguring it is an unfortunate necessity as eagle eyed staff cleaning the window one day noticed a series of small holes drilled in the glass and the police confirmed their suspicion that someone was preparing to cut out the glass and steal the entire artwork.

of 304 books in an inlaid wood bookcase, the earliest volume being dated 1773.<sup>13</sup>

Kidd was well known for blushing, his immaculate dress sense and his interesting, clever conversation. He and his wife Christina were hugely popular figures, and he was publicly petitioned several times to stand for mayor before he accepted. After his wife became ill in 1902, he commissioned George Selwyn Goldsbro' to design a residence to be built in the middle of the volcanic rock forest on the hillside of the former Osborne land, with the garden to be laid out on the former Edgerley property. He called the house *Hounslow* after his birthplace.

Both the house and the garden at 74 Gillies Avenue are important. The house was designed by Goldsbro' of Fripp and Goldsbro' who were the first architects to work in the Arts & Crafts style in New Zealand. They designed in a derivation of Australian Federation architecture, introducing the use of shingles, curved bay windows and terracotta roof tiles to New Zealand, all of which they used in Kidd's new house.

It is difficult to date the Edwardian garden and confirm whether Alfred Kidd or the first or second of his wives created it, but the main design elements and planting were in place before Kidd's death in 1917, as evidenced by photographs. This garden is very important in its entirety, as it shows the transition of New Zealand gardens from 1900 through the influence of the Arts & Crafts movement. For the first time, gardens were not created by being burnt or blasted out of the native forest then re-sown in exact versions of the English homeland, but the native forest was incorporated as an integral part of the garden and even encouraged by under-planting. To incorporate native forests is very much a part of the English Arts & Crafts theory of 'woodland' as expounded by William Robinson (the founder of two gardening magazines, *The Garden* and *Gardening Illustrated*) in his book *The Wild Garden* of 1870. These theories of a 'natural' landscape were taken up by Arts & Crafts garden designers such as Gertrude Jekyll and brought into New Zealand usage by educated amateurs such as Alfred Kidd.

Equally important to the social use of this type of garden were flat spaces that could be used for decorative pools, long borders, croquet or lawn tennis. The Kidd property was able to utilise the former Osborne market gardens and Edgerley family fruit tree nursery for this purpose. As this area was large, flat and had such good soil, it proved an excellent site for the reflecting pool in a sunken rose garden, the 50-foot pergola,



*The circular garden  
with the rose arbour behind it*

Photo: Kidd family collection

straight and winding paths with herbaceous borders, various specimen and exotic trees, two tennis lawns, and many shrubs and urns. There were also greenhouses, a goldfish pond, arbours, planted arches and a large rockery of volcanic rock covered in alpine plants and succulents.

Mrs Christina Kidd died in 1904. At St Andrew's Church Epsom, in April 1907, Alfred Kidd married Miss Ethel Anne Bridgeman (b.1876), who was matron of the Cambridge Sanatorium. They took a month's honeymoon in Australia.

Mrs Ethel Kidd was a highly active person in Auckland society. She was three times elected president of the Trained Nurses' Association, president Auckland Trained Nurses Association & Civic League, Dominion president Registered Nurses,

Dominion president New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union for five years, founder of Auckland Hospital Auxiliary and then president for nine years and a member of Auckland Hospital Board for ten years. She represented the New Zealand Council of Women at the Women's International Peace Conference in Copenhagen in 1924 and represented New Zealand at the Women's International Peace Conference at Budapest in 1937. She was made a JP in 1933, received the MBE in 1938 and was the holder of Coronation and Jubilee medals.

In 1910 Mr and Mrs Kidd travelled to England and spent two years touring Britain and the Continent.<sup>14</sup> During this journey, Alfred Kidd told a reporter: "I have travelled largely over the continent and I still hold that there are within our own Dominion better sights and scenes than any I have seen on my travels." Mr Kidd was presented to His

Sometimes there were unexpected consequences. At the launch of Dick Scott's book *Years of the Pook Bab* in 1991, they had Cook Island girls dancing in the window. Result? A three-car pile up caused by distracted drivers.

Three years later, an item in *Metro* #116 said:

After three years in business Time Out is better than ever. The window displays are still terrific, there are still fresh flowers and fresh coffee. And the selection of books, mainly paperbacks, is impressively chosen.

Owner/manager Sue Lees, 25, is one of the most energetic and entrepreneurial women in the book business. She now sends her Time Out reading catalogue to let her clientele know about the best books in stock; she brings in the English *Sunday Times* (it arrives in Mount Eden only three days after you can buy it in Oxford Street) for customers to read while they drink their free coffee in the newly-opened espresso bar and bookshop extension upstairs; she gives away Time Out postcards, bookmarks and bookplates; puts together the most imaginative window displays in town; and she now carries around 3000 titles. Although the music section has changed from classical ("We couldn't compete with Marbecks") to become more middlebrow, the magazine section is as hip as ever, including titles like *Tempo*, *Blir* and *Tension*. Lees has recently started wholesaling and plans to move into publishing proper in the near future.

Time Out, 432 Mount Eden Road. Phone: 603-331. Open seven days 10-6 weekdays, 10-2 Saturday and 11-3 Sunday.'

To begin with, Sue and her partner lived upstairs for a year before buying a house. Then a new carpet firm—"Talk of Turkey"—began up there before moving next door. After four years, Sue sold out to Joy Draper who moved in upstairs, where she shared the premises with her big English sheepdog Brie, and Oscar the Tonkinese cat. Where Sue's emphasis had been on art and photography, Joy's interests were more varied. At one stage when she had a window display of art books from the German publisher Benedikt Taschen, the *Central Leader* wrote a critical article describing some as 'risque' and as a result the 'raincoat brigade' started arriving. (They were extremely beautiful and extremely expensive books. Wendy sold the last off cheaply to get rid of them and the voyeurs they unfortunately attracted.)

Some people remembered No. 432 as a barber shop for some years, but looking at the Wisers Directories it seems more likely that this was at No. 430, as in 1915 it was 'Radd, Thos Hy—hairdresser' while the 1930 directory lists a Mrs Emily Eckman—hairdresser at No. 430 and in 1955 it was 'Wilson B—hrdrsr'.

Initially No. 432 was a chemist's shop—'King, Harold Trevelyan—chemist' in 1910 and 1915, but after that it was a draper's—although the name of the proprietor changed frequently—1927 & 1930 'Miss Elizabeth Rodie—draper'; 1936 'Edw Crawford—draper'; 1938, 1940 & 1946 'Mrs A Smith—draper'; 1955 'Altman O & H—draper'. Many people today remember it in the 1980s as 'Cushla Kelly's Wedding-dress Designer Shop'.

And what happened then? Well in 1988 Sue Lees happened. According to an interview in the *NZ Herald* some six weeks after she opened Time Out she said, "I want to create a shop that encourages younger people to read and at the same time take the intellectual snobbery out of good books."

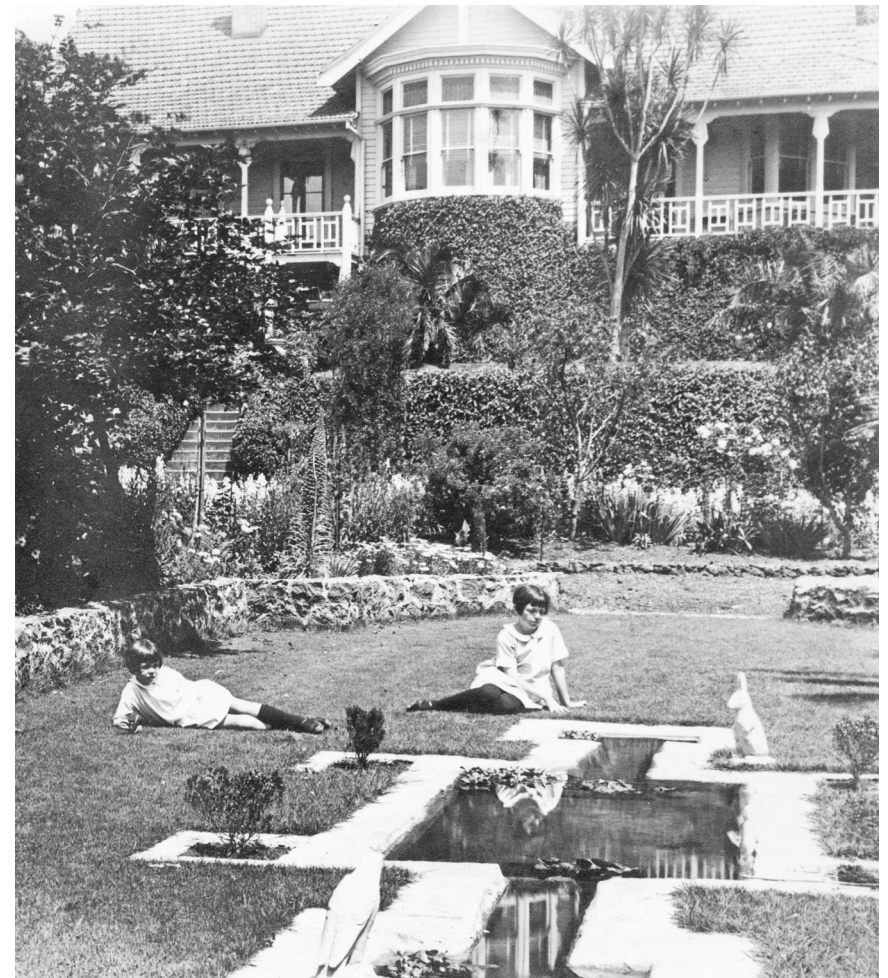
Opening a bookshop was her long-term goal which eventually happened by chance. She was only supposed to be home for three weeks after two years in England, but when she saw the shop advertised, she decided it was the right time. Her goal was to sell both books and music and she applied to become a booking agent of theatres and musical



*Sue Lees in her shop, late 1980s*

shows as she wanted the shop to be associated with all the arts.

This was her first business venture, and it was a learning curve. One incident she joked about later involved her power bills. At first she thought a \$600 bill was normal but when family comments spurred her to get the AEPB to check, they found that the TV repair shop next door was wired through her meter—and it had TVs going in the window all day and all night. No wonder the bill was huge.



*The Kidd children by the pond c.1920:  
Lindsay (born 1913) and Malcolm (born 1908)*

Photo: Kidd family collection

Majesty King Edward VII on 2 March by Sir William Hall-Jones, the New Zealand High Commissioner, at St James's Palace. On 8 March Mrs Kidd was presented to the King and Queen by Mrs Lewis Harcourt, the wife of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, at Buckingham Palace. They returned to New Zealand on 7 May 1912.<sup>15</sup>



## Time Out

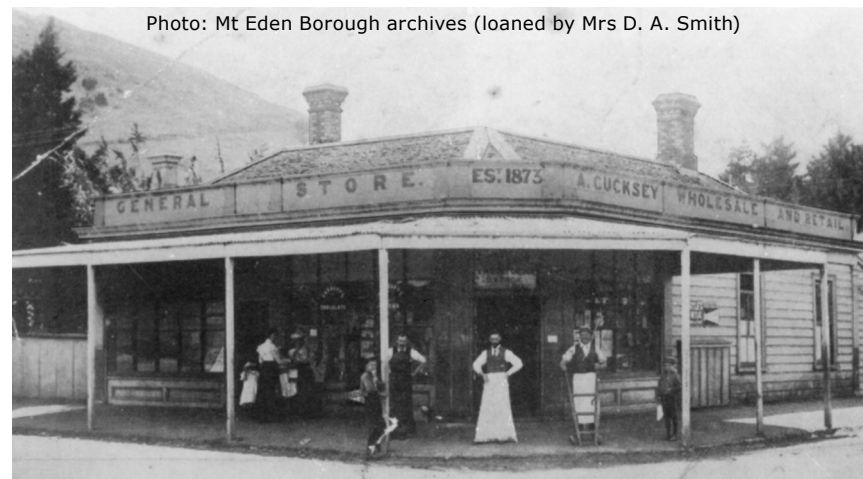
*By Jeanette Grant*

*Based largely on a talk given by Wendy Tighe-Umbers in 2012*

According to its website 'Established in 1988, in the heart of Auckland's historic Mt Eden Village, Time Out Bookstore is renowned for its excellent and eclectic books, occasionally weird window displays, haven-like children's book room, and in-store cat.' How did it all start?

In 1873, Alfred Cucksey built Cucksey's Store on the corner of Mt Eden and Stokes roads. It was only one storey and built of wood but sold a wide range of products, and in 1886 provided the first post office in the area, including a daily mail delivery on horseback. The photo below clearly shows two sets of large windows. Those on the left precede the premises today occupied by Time Out at No. 432. The building was expanded and rebuilt in the 1920s as the two-storey brick building seen on the site today. The Wises Directories did not initially use street numbers. For instance in 1900 there were four businesses and in 1920 there were nine businesses listed between Oaklands Road and Stokes Road. The corner shop remained a grocer, although the name changed from 'Alfred Cucksey—grocer' to 1915 and 1927 'Dawes & Son—grocer'. In 1930 it was 'Cornes & Sons, Jno E—grocer'. By 1940 street numbers had arrived and No. 434 on the corner was the 'Farmers Trading Co—grocer' and again in 1946 and 1955.

Photo: Mt Eden Borough archives (loaned by Mrs D. A. Smith)





1887 with the degree of LLD from the University of Melbourne. The trustees of Wesley College Queen Street were pleased to record in May 1892 that Queen's College under Dr McArthur was prospering, but their satisfaction was relatively short-lived.

In June 1893, the trustees received a letter notifying them that the Wesleyan Conference Committee on Higher Education had resolved to use Wesley College again as a denominational school. It was intended that after the Christmas vacation, it would open for boys only at first. This was greeted with a measure of indignation and resistance by the trustees, and through 1894 Queen's College continued in the buildings under Dr McArthur. Finally the Wesley College trustees agreed to the new venture and the school, which was to be known as Prince Albert College, opened on 12 February 1895. Dr McArthur transferred Queen's College to a site in Ponsonby.

Prince Albert College, too, became uneconomic, and closed in 1907. It was yet another casualty in the growing number of private, un-endowed educational institutions in Auckland which struggled to survive during the years from the 1870s onwards.

Wesley College's centrally sited buildings, its trustees, and those who leased them through this time, nevertheless can be seen to have had early links with several schools which were to become important educational establishments in their own right. The distinctive structure on the hill, which featured in so many views of Auckland, and was later to offer hospitality as the Salvation Army's People's Palace and from 1960 as the Rembrandt Hotel, also played a notable role as host for the development of education in the city. The building was demolished in 1982.

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In 1915 Alfred Kidd bought a further three quarters of an acre from the Edgerley family. Greenhouses and a further ten-foot rockery with a waterfall were built on the site. Kidd died in 1917 but in 1918 the owners of *Clovernook*, a house in Domain Road dating from 1850 (destroyed for the motorway in 1965), sold part of their garden to Ethel Kidd to extend her gardens. This was when the garden was at its largest, and family lore tells us that it was over five acres. In 1928 the *Hounslow* stables were sold to the Carlton Bowling Club for an additional green. At that time part of the property adjoining Edgerley Avenue was subdivided and partially sold.

After Ethel Kidd's death in 1947, the property passed to her son Dr Lindsay Robert Kidd GP, who continued to be active in Auckland's social world and to open the garden for charitable and political fundraising. Dr Kidd was prominent in the care of the elderly, and looked after several old people's homes. He was also a designated medical examiner for the Civil Aviation Division of the Ministry of Transport and for many years he was the honorary medical officer for the New Zealand International Grand Prix. He was on the board of the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust and many horticultural societies, and was a friend of other horticulturalists such as Sir Russell Mathews at *Tupare* and William Cook at Eastwood Arboretum.<sup>16</sup> He continued to add to the garden, planting the Dawn redwood at the western boundary. This tree was only rediscovered in China in 1943, and the specimen at 74 Gillies Avenue is noted in S. W. Burstall's account of northern New Zealand's historic and notable trees as being 'prominently sited and the finest of this species seen in Auckland'.

In 1965 the Newmarket Viaduct was created, destroying the view down the valley to the sea and making Gillies Avenue into a motorway on and off ramp. Several homes in Gillies Avenue and a whole street of houses below it were demolished. The noise caused many residents and the Carlton Bowling Club to move.

Dr Kidd died in 1971. His widow, Mrs Mary Kidd, became president of the Auckland branch of the Plunket Society, chairman of the National

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*Upper left: The dining room, probably pre-WWI*

*Lower left: A garden party, c.1928*

Photos: Kidd family collection



*The house appearing top right in an aerial photo taken for the Empire Games in 1950, where the bowling took place at the Carlton Bowling Club*

Photo: Waite/Donati family collection

Party Women's organisation and the first female member of the Nature Conservation Council. She continued to use the house and gardens to fundraise for charity, and maintained a full-time gardener until 1980.

A letter from ACC dated 15 June 1995 notes:

. . . the house situated at 74 Gillies Avenue is surrounded by many mature trees that contribute much to the splendid visual appearance of the property. A large number of these trees are protected under the general Tree Protection Control . . . In particular there is a Dawn Redwood tree located on the subject site listed for protection in the Operative District Plan's Schedule of Trees.

In July 1995 the property was offered for sale and an article on 26 July described the house as

. . . a notable Epsom landmark. For many years it was a high profile mayoral home, its stylish gardens a venue for civic and charity functions. In earlier years the grounds might have ranked among Auckland's celebrated English garden settings. It is still outstanding

In 1876, he cancelled his lease of the college property and was appointed as priest to Mauku. Despite the seeming initial success of his undenominational school, Rev Taylor had been experiencing financial difficulties and was looking to the trustees to grant a 'fair sum for gas fittings (cost about £18), hen house (£8) and improvements to the stable (£10)' as part of a rent settlement. The trustees of Wesley College were again looking for a tenant.

In 1876, the Three Kings Wesleyan Native Institute had reopened after a break of seven years, under the name of Wesley College, Three Kings. The trustees of Wesley College in Queen Street contributed to the costs of opening and supporting this educational establishment for Maori which, for some time, also trained Pakeha students for the ministry. As suburban development in Mt Eden extended southwards, Wesley College moved from Three Kings to Paerata in 1922, where it has remained.

In December 1876, arrangements were made for the college to be leased to the Board of Education for a 'High Class School for Girls'. This forerunner of Auckland Girls' Grammar School, named the Auckland Girls' Training and High School, opened in January 1877 in the Wesley College building under Miss Stothard, who resigned in April 1878, and was replaced by Neil Heath as headmaster. By 1883, the Board of Education had approached the trustees about purchasing the property but the latter, after due consideration, declined the offer.

In 1884 Heath resigned to become headmaster of the Napier Boys' High School, and John F. Sloman was appointed headmaster of the girls' school. With a roll of 245 pupils at its peak in 1880, numbers were steadily declining, dropping to 115 in 1887. With the lease of the Girls' High School expiring at the end of 1888, in September of that year, the 78 girls and their five female teaching staff moved to a distinctly separate portion from that occupied by the boys and male staff, in the new Auckland Grammar School buildings in Symonds Street. Among their number was sixth-former Annie Morrison, who was to be appointed as the first headmistress of Epsom Girls' Grammar School in 1916.

In February 1889 Dr Alexander McArthur took over the lease of the former Wesley College buildings and established Queen's College. Dr McArthur had been appointed as first principal of the Auckland Training College from January 1881 until his resignation in 1886, when he returned to Australia. He had come back to Auckland by September

was opened in Howe Street on 17 May 1869, 68 of the boys from the Collegiate School's roll of 115 accompanied Dr Kidd to enrol.

By 1870, and committed to Auckland Grammar School, Dr Kidd had given up the lease of the former Wesley College and Mr Baird was operating the building and grounds as a 'high class Commercial school'. Despite its description, this school did not seem to be a commercial success, for Mr Baird was unable to pay his rent, and in July of 1872 the minutes of the trustees reported that 'Mr Baird has left the country by the last steamer'.

Rev William Taylor, master of St Matthew's School from his arrival in New Zealand with his wife and six children in May 1865 until December 1870, next took up the lease of the property from August 1872. At the end of November 1870 he had been ordained as a deacon in the Anglican Church and appointed to the Bay of Islands, but his resignation from that position was recorded on 1 October 1872. In November 1872 and again in May 1873, Taylor wrote to the Auckland Education Board to offer his services in providing a Training School for teachers in the province, at his establishment, Auckland College, on the Queen Street site. This offer was not taken up by the board.

In June 1873, Taylor advertised in the *Church Gazette* that he was assisted at the college by Rev Robert Kidd, for the latter had resigned from his teaching position at Auckland Grammar School in February 1873. Upon that school's move from its Howe Street site to the grim stone building of the Albert Barracks in May 1871, Farquhar Macrae, former head of Auckland High School, had been appointed headmaster of Auckland Grammar School with Dr Kidd as assistant master. Dr Kidd had taught at the Grammar School for 18 months under Macrae's leadership, but the situation had become too difficult for the former to continue. Fees for Taylor's Auckland College were from 10 guineas upward, according to age, for board and tuition per quarter. Weekly board was £9 and day board and tuition £4.6.0. Tuition at the 'Collegiate School' was £1.11.6 and at the 'Primary School' 13/-. Music, French and German were extras and Mrs Taylor was responsible for domestic arrangements.

William Taylor was ordained in 1874 and during his time with the college also held the office of itinerant priest for the Papakura, Drury, Runciman area. He requested and received 10/- for the hire of a horse on the Sundays he rode from Queen Street, through Newmarket, and down Great South Road to take services in those outlying districts.

with areas of sunken gardens and nooks but its features are now park like, thanks to the maturity and variety of its tree species.

In a March 1996 visit by John Wakeling, Arborist for City Environments ACC, he describes the garden as 'spectacular, there are superb views framed by large stately exotic trees—a copper beech and a Kashmir cypress are two of the most memorable. This is an historic house and garden in the original form.'

The property's Landscape Significance is described in an August 1997 report by the ACC.

This is an intact original Edwardian estate, which is now considerably rare in Auckland. Many of the trees on the estate are part of the first planting, or precede the formation of the landscape. They include several rare and unusual species, both native and exotic.

The report identified eight trees that met the criteria for a scheduled item including a copper beech, that was described as 'the outstanding feature of the garden, it was planted by the original owner c.1900 as part of the original garden design. The sunken garden is a feature beneath it.' Because the zoning was 6A, the report says 'it is possible to permit such development to the rear of the property whilst maintaining access from Gillies Road access point and protecting the house and the immediate landscape around the house.' The planning committee recommended that the house and surrounds be listed as a Category B building and to schedule the eight trees. But the trees were never scheduled.

On 13 May 2002 the property was sold to Regis Property Ltd who proposed that 74 Gillies Avenue be subdivided into two lots. Their contractors, Dimension Surveyors, wrote to Auckland City Environments on 4 July 2002 that: 'the entire existing site is a Heritage property in terms of Plan Change 8 and the subdivision of the vacant Lot 2 will have no effect as Lot 2 is considered to be "site surrounds" and will retain its heritage designation because of this.' And 'any future development of either of the subdivided sites would require a resource consent in terms of the heritage rules.' In an internal ACC email sent from Ian Grant to Michael Wong on 15 August 2002, Grant confirms that Chris Hook of Regis Properties had a conversation with George Farrant where Hook was 'prepared to leave both Lots 1 and 2 within their scheduled surrounds definition'.

On 14 October 2002 in the Report on a Non-Notified Discretionary Subdivision Resource Consent Application for 74 Gillies Avenue by Michael Wong, Subdivision Consents Officer to R. G. Miller Team Leader—Subdivisions, it states:

Auckland City Council Heritage Division Planner, Ian Grant, has assessed the property for its heritage status and has informed that the property is one of the few remaining untouched 'Edwardian homesteads' within Auckland City. Heritage has assessed that there are historical, social political and architectural design significance to the house and gardens on the site. There are a number of (statutorily protected under the District Plan rules) trees on the site.

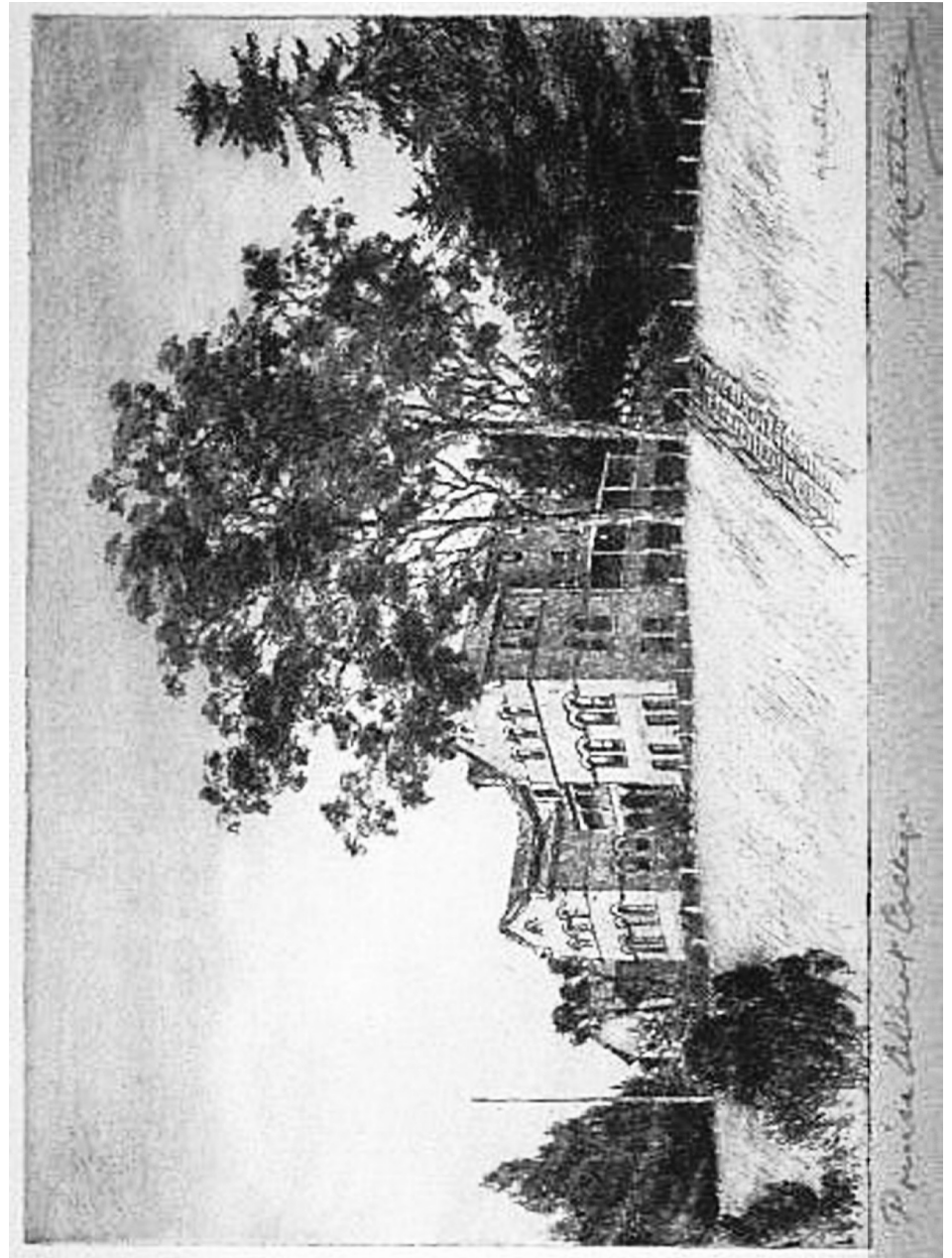
Consent was granted to the subdivision on 15 October 2002 dividing the property, leaving 74 Gillies Avenue with the house, and 76 Gillies Avenue with almost the entire garden. In a report by Soil Engineering Ltd dated 24 October 2002, the building platform area was identified on 76 Gillies Avenue as being 225 sq m only.

On 9 December 2002 the ACC approved the subdivision with a covenant to protect newly created 'area C' in the new subdivision. This is the small north-eastern corner with native trees and volcanic rock walls. This area was protected with the understanding that the remainder of trees on the property, both the remaining volcanic rock forest in the south-eastern corner and the mature exotic trees planted in 1900 on the eastern section of the property, would be protected by the statutory tree protection rules.

A fax dated 9 March 2003 from Chris Hook of Regis Properties accepts that permission was not granted to remove the Kashmir cypress and Hook writes, 'Our plan is to enhance the quality of the environment, not remove trees just for the sake of removing them to maximise development options of the site'. Yet on 10 March 2003, five trees (a firewheel, maple, pohutukawa, puriri, and pine) were granted removal and on 23 June 2003 the property was sold by Regis Properties to A & C Shaw Ltd.

On 12 March 2004 Plan Change 80 became operative; thus the house at 74 Gillies Avenue became a scheduled heritage item in Appendix 1 of the Isthmus section of the Auckland City plan with Category B status, but not the garden setting.

On 2 March 2006, George Bernard Shaw of A & C Shaw was



*Etching by M. Matthews (1889-1948) of Prince Albert College, Queen Street*

Supplied by Helen Laurenson

# Early schools in Auckland

*From Wesley College, Queen Street, to Prince Albert College*

*By Helen Laurenson*

Wesley College, on its commanding Queen Street site overlooking the growing heart of Auckland City, served as home for several educational establishments through the quarter-century from 1868 to 1895. The trustees of Wesley College continued to lease and maintain the premises throughout those years, and many of the occupants of the property can be seen to have had significant links with the development of education in Auckland.

Some 18 years after its opening on 1 January 1850 as a school to educate the children of Wesleyan (Methodist) missionaries in New Zealand, the South Pacific and Australia, Auckland's mid 1860s economic depression had been reflected in a falling school roll and dwindling fees. Wesley College closed its doors on Thursday 17 September 1868. The College trustees had hoped that the trustees of the proposed new Grammar School 'could be induced to take the College and its stock as a foundation for their future operations', but this was not to be. The premises were, therefore, offered 'to be let . . . for a school or any other purpose of which the Trustees can approve'.

The Rev Robert Boyd Kidd LL.D had left a living in Suffolk to emigrate to New Zealand. He became editor of the *New Zealander*; and two years later opened a school in the Upper Queen Street/Karangahape Road area in 1866. Joseph N. Flower, who was operating a commercial school in the former Wesleyan Chapel in Hobson Street, joined Kidd, and the Collegiate School was the first tenant to lease the Wesley College premises. By 1869 that school was regarded as among the largest and the best in the province. On 25 January 1869, the Collegiate School at Wesley College was offering tuition in 'English etc' at £2.10.0 per quarter with a reduction of 8/- for advance payment. 'English, classics, etc' was £1 dearer, while learning French with Monsieur Direy or drawing from Mr Hoyte added a half guinea to fees. If pupils were under twelve years of age, full board cost £12.10.0, rising to £15 for those who were older, with weekly boarders at special rates.

Only three months later, in April 1869, however, Dr Kidd was appointed from a group of 25 applicants as the first headmaster of Auckland Grammar School. When this new educational establishment

convicted of removing a large protected pohutukawa tree on his property at Mt Smart in January 2005. The case received a lot of media coverage, not least because Shaw, facing a gaol term, cried at a public meeting of the Maungakiekie Board. Because Shaw had already been convicted on four charges of a similar type in 1997 and admitted to an un-consented removal of trees at a property in Alpers Avenue in 1993, he was fined \$80,000 plus another \$20,000 to purchase 200 more trees with the condition that he must participate in the tree planting. He called in sick when he was required to plant the trees.<sup>17</sup>

A & C Shaw Ltd was given permission on 21 December 2006 to remove a camphor tree of 22m in height, for which removal consent had previously refused. This enlarged the building platform again from the 225 sq m as approved in the 2002 subdivision.

On 10 September 2007 A & C Shaw Ltd submitted a proposal to Plan Change 196 to rezone the property at 76 Gillies Avenue from 6A to 8C, stating it 'has been excluded from the plan modification despite it being contiguous vacant land'. It further stated that the rezoning would 'enable integrated site planning and redevelopment'. This was contrary to Newmarket's Future Guiding Principles as outlined in section 32—Report Plan Change 196—'Retain and enhance the historic, cultural and natural identity and amenity of the area'. Additionally residential 8C—in the same report—is supposed to be applied only to residential areas already identified in the district plan as suitable for high-density development zoned Residential 7.

The neighbouring properties were all zoned residential 7A, so it is logical that they would be proposed as changing to 8C. The garden at 76 Gillies Avenue was designated 6A deliberately to preserve its features, such as the large mature trees, and its relationship to the Grade B listed house. Neither the Newmarket Heritage Study (Report to Focus Newmarket group, Dinah Holman, February 1996), A & C Shaw's submission nor Historic Places Trust's submissions make any mention of the Grade B listed Alfred Kidd house on the adjoining land to 76 Gillies Avenue, nor the fact that the 'contiguous' land was in fact an integral part of the Edwardian garden of 74 Gillies Avenue and still retains trees and garden layout relating to the Grade B listed Alfred Kidd house.

Permission was granted on 11 April 2008 to remove a Persian ironwood, variegated Kermadec pohutukawa, Italian cypress, Arizona

cypress, and to prune Kashmir cypress, karaka, puriri, and Holm oak at 76 Gillies Avenue.

On 24 February 2009 I bought the property at 74 Gillies Avenue. The LIM Report makes no mention of the plan change in zoning to the former garden at 76 Gillies Avenue but states that it is 6A and does not say that it is under consideration to change to 8C, so I was unaware of this impending alteration. In the decision of 26 February 2009, under amendments to Plan Change 196, submission 26/1 to alter the zoning from 6A (one residence per 1000 m) to 8C (highly intensive high rise of up to six storeys) was accepted. This decision was not communicated to me by the council as the adjoining property owner.

The government announced in September 2009 that changes would be made to existing tree laws and that any trees not listed in the district plan would not be protected after 1 January 2012.

In researching the history of the house and garden through ACC files in February 2010, I discovered the zone change to the former garden of the house at 76 Gillies Avenue. I wrote to the ACC and the senior architect in ACC Heritage replied on 9 February 2010 'I have had no dealings with this site for a long time and have had no part to play in PC196. I was not made aware of any proposed zone changes on adjacent sites to 74 Gillies Avenue nor was the heritage team asked to provide any expert advice on the Plan Change.' On speaking to the council officer in charge of Plan Change 196, Alistair Cribbens, he said he had lived in the house at 74 Gillies Avenue as he was a friend of the children of Mr Hook of Regis Properties.

I engaged a Resource Management lawyer and found that I could not legally dispute the process, as submissions had closed, but I could attach my claim to an existing appeal by Peter Buchanan. An Environment Court hearing was scheduled for 15 April (NV-2009-AKL-000199 Buchanan v Auckland City Council). On 13 April 2010 Peter Buchanan withdrew his application upon receiving a payment from A & C Shaw Ltd, thus the hearing was cancelled and I was unable to appeal the zoning change, but I still had to pay the lawyer for drawing up the appeal.

Further, I found that one of the property developer owners of 74 Gillies Avenue had removed not only half the copper guttering from the house, the rare birds in a glass case and chandeliers from the interior but also all the urns from the garden. I was told by the tenants that

Ironically, despite having voiced this opinion, Sinclair himself made liberal use of Domett's verses as epigraphs heading chapters in his own work. A disdainful Patrick Evans, writing of the epic in 1990, declaimed, 'Like a stranded whale, the poem lies rotting on the beach of New Zealand literature, an embarrassment that no-one knows what to do with.' In 2006 Iain Sharp, book reviewer, and a poet himself, made witty comment on early New Zealand literature in verse:

Alfred Domett makes me vomit  
Pember Reeves makes me heave  
And even Blanche Baugham makes me yawn.

Immersed in London's literary world, Domett was glad to renew old friendships as he devoted himself to poetical writing, from which two further collections of verse were published. He came to miss New Zealand greatly, and in particular the 'fine little library in Wellington'. Longing for recognition for both his service to New Zealand and his poetry, he applied for an official acknowledgement of this. The hoped for knighthood did not eventuate, but he was awarded the CMG. Domett died in 1887.

Epsom, in Auckland, is not alone in having a street named in Domett's honour. This privilege extends to at least 25 streets, roads, avenues, etc, in New Zealand. A farming district near Cheviot, north of Christchurch, bears his name, as does Domett Mountain at the southern end of the Domett Range within the Tasman Mountains in the Buller district. Each is a fitting memorial to a man who himself endowed districts, highways and byways with names giving honour to outstanding men.

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been a relief to some. An event was reported by Mary Richmond, in which her father and Domett discussed Tennyson at length, walking about the room quoting favourite passages, at times snatching the book one from the other, to find a favourite passage, which they would then recite.

Over these years Domett had also enjoyed the friendship of Governor George Grey. From him he had received copies of Maori legends translated into English prose. Greatly enamoured of the tale of Hinemoa and Tutanekai, he chose to develop the story. With adaptations, plus additions of work by contemporary New Zealand writers, this was presented as poetry which would convey the drama and meaning to English readers, in the form of an epic poem. Apart from Domett's family, Grey was the only person in New Zealand who was shown the work, which was titled *Ranolf and Amobia*. The new storyline focuses on the love between a shipwrecked English sailor and the daughter of a Maori chief, elaborating on Maori legends, traditions, philosophy, arts, history and culture, as well as descriptions of the New Zealand landscape.

On his retirement Domett returned to England with his wife, son and stepson, and presented his epic poem to the literary world. To his delight the work was well received by his contemporaries. In particular he valued the kind words of Browning's critique. English newspapers, including the *Sunday Times*, the *Spectator* and the *Illustrated Evening News* commented with enthusiasm. The Princess of Wales requested permission to have the work translated into German for her personal use. Less impressed, though, was Tennyson who found Domett's descriptive excesses made the work a 'little difficult to read'. Its author, however, was heedless of this last advice. When a further edition was published in 1883 the epic had been extended by the addition of a further 4000 lines.

In New Zealand the work was warmly acclaimed. Grey, who greatly favoured Domett's renditions of Maori waiata, saw it as a 'great poem'. Sir George Bowen, a previous governor of New Zealand, believed the poem would establish Domett in New Zealand's literary world. Twentieth and twenty-first century critics, however, have treated his poetry less kindly. Keith Sinclair, in *The History of New Zealand* claimed that anthologists were still making implausible attempts to discover merit in the ramshackle and prolix epic poem *Ranolf and Amobia*.

when they moved in, a team of men appeared in the lower garden and measured all the trees. All trees and shrubs under the statutory protected height were chopped down and then the pergola, rockery, urn stands, dovecot and all garden plants were bulldozed into the swimming pool.

The 2002 application to subdivide was approved based on a suggested maximum development area of 225 sq m and the knowledge that the land was zoned 6A, with large trees that were statutorily protected. These three factors ensure that when the site was developed with new housing, enough of the original garden remained so that it still related to the house. Because 11 trees were removed from the southern boundary, the building platform became considerably larger than when the application to subdivide was approved. With the use of the covenanted garden as offset green space, the development will be intensive and will use the maximum height of six storeys, thus ruining the views of the house from across the valley, and towering over the house and small remaining covenanted garden.

In July 2010 the former garden of 74 Gillies Avenue, at 76 Gillies Avenue, was sold by A & C Shaw to Roncon Pacific Hotel Management Holdings, a China-based development company with principal director Donghua Liu. Along with the former Carlton Bowling Club at 13 Alpers Avenue, the Boulevard Hotel at 15 Alpers Avenue and 21 Alpers Avenue, the deal for the entire site was in the region of \$22 million.

On 9 March 2011 I received a letter from the mayor's office, dated 24 March, to say that process for Plan 196 had been carried out in an acceptable way and there was no need to reassess the change to the zoning of the garden of 74 Gillies Avenue. I was informed that Mr Cribbens had left the council. On 7 July 2011 Auckland Council gave permission to Roncon to demolish the former Carlton Bowling Club clubhouse building and greenkeeper's cottage at 13 Alpers Avenue. On 12 July 2011 the Auckland Council gave permission to allow Roncon to demolish the Edgerley homestead at 11 Edgerley Avenue.

On 5 August 2011 Archifact produced a report on the area, recommending that the Edgerley homestead, the Moodabe house and the former Carlton Bowling Club clubhouse and greenkeeper's cottage be all listed Category B on the heritage schedule. This was submitted to the council, but on 11 May 2012 Auckland Council gave permission to Higate International Property Ltd to demolish the former Moodabe house at 14 Edgerley Avenue, despite the Archifact report stating that



*The house in 2010*

Photo: Sait Akkirman, Waite/Donati family collection



*The ruins of the garden from the top of the steps, 2013*

Photo: Waite/Donati family collection

thoughts he could not offer adequately in a speech in the House. As a defence technique to calm the growing Maori unrest, one of Domett's plans was to bring 20,000 immigrants into New Zealand, borrowing £4,000,000 to settle them on the frontier. This proposal was rejected at the time, but was taken up in a modified state in the 1870s by Sir Julius Vogel, who received political acclaim for 'his idea'. During his time as Premier, Domett took a great interest in the formation of the General Assembly Library and has been given the title of 'Father' of the important collection of literature which is now known as the Parliamentary Library.

Although romantically drawn to traditional Maori philosophy and poetry, Domett's attitude towards the Taranaki conflict was coloured by his mindfulness of the Wairau affray. His ministry took a hard line approach. Funds previously dedicated by the imperial government for the 'civilisation of the natives' were directed to be spent on their conquest. Further, Domett urged that Waikato and Taranaki lands most suitable for European settlement should be confiscated for that purpose. When, in 1863, war erupted again and spread to involve the Waikato tribes, South Island settlers voiced strong opposition to using expenditure on war in the north against the Maori. With rising opposition to Domett's ministry, the government collapsed in October of that year.

Domett returned to his administrative career, though continuing in his political role as Secretary for Crown Lands, which then became a civil service position. In January 1864 he also became Land Claims Commissioner; then, in 1865, the role of Registrar General of Lands came under his jurisdiction. In June 1866, when he took up his seat in the Legislative Council, the Crown Land Office was melded into an efficient regulatory agency which oversaw the implementation of all government land agencies, apart from Maori land proceedings which remained under the jurisdiction of Native Affairs.

For over 30 years Domett was committed to civil service and political matters involved in the setting up of the new colony. In his inner self, however, he clung to his identity as a poet. Among those whom he counted as his close friends were the politicians Christopher Richmond and Arthur Atkinson. At the latter's home, one night after dinner, he read *Paradise Lost* to the group present. The long performance ended only when the oil in the lamp ran out at about 11pm, which may have



persisted in his attentions to Mary. She was never 'received' in Wellington, though her daughter Bessie was supported by the family of Christopher Richmond, who took her under their wing and ensured that she was introduced to the 'right' people. It was not until 1856, on the death of her husband, that Mary George and Alfred Domett were free to marry. Four years later Bessie, too, was wed. The Bishop of Nelson conducted her marriage to Charles Taylor, M.H.R., the second son of General W. Taylor of Her Majesty's Madras Service.

In 1853 Domett was sent to Ahuriri where he became both Resident Magistrate and Commissioner of Crown Lands for Hawkes Bay. With virtual control of the management of the province he had free rein on, among other matters, the naming of districts and streets, at first drawing on the names of British officers in India, such as Clive and Napier, and noted Indian regions. When these names were exhausted he turned to literature, indulging whimsically in his own personal interest. This trend is witnessed in such street names as Shakespeare, Chaucer, Dickens, Tennyson, Milton, Carlyle, and that of Domett's close friend, Browning. His considerable talents in administration were once again demonstrated in Napier, and with the assistance of William Colenso, who was at that time out of favour with the Church Missionary Society, much was achieved over the two short years before a new position was then taken up as Commissioner of Crown Lands in Nelson.

Although he had seldom visited Nelson, in the intervening years his reputation in that province was high. He served on the Nelson Provincial Council and for a short period found time once again to resume the editorship of the *Nelson Examiner*. In 1860 he became the elected representative to Parliament for Nelson, a seat which he held until 1867.

Though of a relatively short duration, Domett's parliamentary career was significant. When the crisis in Maori affairs brought down the Fox government in July 1862, Grey, as a 'second time governor', asked Domett to form a ministry. His government was made up largely of men from the previous ministry, and included such men as Francis Dillon Bell, Henry John Tancred, Walter Mantell, T. B. Gillies (later of Gillies Avenue in Auckland), Thomas Russell and Frederick Whitaker. Domett's speeches in the house were marked by common sense rather than grace or culture. Never a good debater, he would instead retreat for a few days to produce an astute paper, presenting the

it should be listed Category B. Although Auckland Council said that it would offer the building for removal, there were no acceptances and so in August 2012 the former Carlton Bowling Club was demolished.

On 3 August 2012 the Independent Commissioners of Plan Change 305 agreed that the trees on 76 Gillies Avenue should be protected. Two groups were identified, those at the southern end of the property, which are mostly natives, and the exotic trees on the lower former flat garden of 74 Gillies Avenue to the east of the house. This was officially released on 5 December 2012. Of the 2800 trees put up by the public of Auckland, the council arborists narrowed the list for consideration by the commissioners down to 732 on 373 sites. Only 460 were approved. However my Resource Management Act lawyer tells me that no request for tree removal under 8C zoning, even protected trees, has ever been refused.

As at this date Mr Donghua Liu is waiting for government approval, under inward investment rules, for \$75 million from China, with which he wishes to develop the land. As the Prime Minister John Key and local councillor Cameron Brewer attended the opening of the refurbished Boulevard Hotel in Alpers Avenue in September 2011 to view the plans for the entire site, including the former garden at 74 Gillies Avenue and the former Carlton Bowling Club, Mr Liu, a New Zealand resident since 2004, issued the following statement to the press: 'My vision is to create buildings and open spaces that fit with Newmarket's already proud heritage and community and help promote New Zealand tourism to visitors from China and elsewhere.'<sup>18</sup>

Auckland Councillor Cameron Brewer's own website says: 'The PM recently opened the refurbished Boulevard Hotel in Alpers Avenue, Newmarket. The Boulevard is stage one of a redevelopment project which will transform the derelict site around the old Carlton Bowling Club. Stage two will be a five-star hotel and high-end apartments; Stage three will be three blocks of 80sqm-plus apartments, plus retail facilities and a school. Stage two alone will inject \$75 million into the local construction industry. Go Mr Liu.'

#### *Four points worth noting*

To summarise: for over 150 years, from 1848 and possibly from 1843, there was a garden with botanical specimens on this site. The garden is horticulturally important because the former botanist to the British Resident started it at the time of the founding of Auckland. It was

improved by his children for 50 years; then the Kidd family developed and maintained it as a showpiece garden for over a century. From 1903 until 2000 there was an annual garden party held for different charities, which included Plunket, Red Cross, Tree Society, Disabled Citizens, United Way and many other organisations, such as fundraising events for the National Party. The garden was last opened for the Holy Trinity Garden Festival in 2000. So the garden is socially, historically and politically important.

When the garden was subdivided by the ACC in 2002, it was zoned 6A, despite surrounding land being zoned 7A. This was explicitly stated to preserve the relationship of the garden to the house, and limit the scale of development close to the house. Under Plan 196 in November 2011 the surrounding 7A zoned land changed to 8C. No zoning change for 74 or 76 Gillies Avenue was originally in Plan 196 and it was not notified to Paul Waite in his LIM report. Alistair Cribbens of ACC Planning (who is friends with the Hook family, whose Regis Properties bought 74 Gillies Avenue, then requested subdivision in 2002, and lived in the house at 74 Gillies Avenue as a tenant for some time after 2002) agreed to the zone change from 6A to 8C without asking advice from the Newmarket Heritage Study, the Historic Places Trust or the ACC Heritage Division.

Jointly Roncon Pacific Hotel Management Holdings and Higate International Investment Pty Ltd own a huge property that will all be 8C—the Carlton Bowling Club site and most of the houses on both sides of the west end of Edgerley Avenue—under Plan Change 196. Retaining the trees at 76 Gillies Avenue will not ruin the chances of profiting from such a large and intensive development.

Despite the new owners of 76 Gillies Avenue being called Roncon Hotel Development Corporation, their intention (as stated to me by the Thresher Urban Design, who have been retained by Roncon to assist them with putting their proposals through the council) is to retain none of the existing trees or buildings but to build intensive high rise flats along the lines of those built over the Newmarket railway station. The site is to be developed, built and sold on. They wish to build a five star hotel, a high rise retirement village, a school and three blocks of apartments as well as shops and parking on the site. This is a purely commercial speculation by Chinese nationals, not a long-term investment.

involved in the public affairs of the Wakefield settlement. Inspired by his new environment, his responses flowed from his pen. The *Nelson Examiner* became the recipient of his erudite accounts of farming and bush experiences.

Domett at first held a romantic view of the Maori but this hardened with the June 1843 Wairau confrontation between settlers and Maori, in which many participating settlers were killed, one of whom was the editor of the *Nelson Examiner*. As a result Domett became an obdurate critic of Governor Fitzroy and the humanitarian policy of the Colonial Office. At this time he stepped into the role of editor of the newspaper, setting up a campaign against Fitzroy whom he judged for not taking sufficiently strong action against the Maori participants in the affray. The petition he drew up for the recall of Governor Fitzroy was regarded by judges in the House of Commons as a masterly document.

The arrival of the new governor, George Grey, gave an impetus to Domett's career which saw him moved through a series of civil servant roles. Grey was impressed with the young Domett whom he saw as 'a useful young man to have on his side' and when, in 1848, the governor divided the country into two provinces, New Ulster and New Munster, he persuaded Domett to become Colonial Secretary for the Cook Strait Settlements, an appointment he held for five years. Concurrently he was a member of the Legislative Council until 1852 when the Constitution Act was implemented.

Despite his growing friendship with Grey, Domett was largely responsible for New Munster's refusal to implement Grey's Education Ordinance which favoured denominational schools. Domett's own ideas, foreshadowing later policy, agreed on compulsory schooling for six- to ten-year-olds but, due to his fear of conflict between various religious groups, he was against religious instruction in schools.

In Wellington, the presence of many young bachelors gave Domett the opportunity to enjoy social life in the nascent town. When a chance call for heroic action saw him rescue a Mrs Mary George from a house fire, this dramatic incident led to his falling in love with the lady. Unfortunately, she happened to be a married woman with two children, who had been deserted by her husband and forced to earn a living by keeping a small school, supplementing this by carrying out needlework. Undeterred by the gossip and even by open challenges which emanated from within that Victorian settler society, Domett

# Alfred Domett

By Valerie Sherwood



Alfred Domett

Photo: Wikipedia

On 20 May 1811 Alfred Domett was born in Surrey, England, the son of Nathaniel Domett, ship owner, and his wife Elizabeth. He was the sixth of nine children. He attended St John's College, Cambridge, but did not take a degree, choosing instead to travel abroad, spending two years in various activities, including surveying and conveyancing, in the United States, Canada and the West Indies.

On returning to England in 1835 to read law, he also devoted time to what was to prove to be his lifelong interest: the writing of poetry. His first volume of poems had been published in 1833, the second in 1839. With friends Joseph Arnold and Robert Browning (who gave him the soubriquet, 'Waring') a literary group was formed, calling themselves 'The Colloquies'. His friends were very supportive, believing he would achieve great things as a poet. Though called to the bar in 1841, he suddenly chose instead to emigrate to New Zealand. In this he was perhaps influenced by the departure of his cousin, William Curling Young, for the colony. Domett sailed in April 1842 for Nelson on the *Sir Charles Forbes*, at which time Browning expressed the loss he felt at the departure of his close friend in a poem, 'What's become of Waring?' and subsequently continued with a succession of poetical works which were apparently a response to the receipt of mail from his friend in New Zealand.

Domett's initiation to New Zealand was not fortuitous, for his cousin William Young had drowned prior to Domett's arrival. Drownings were so common in the early days of settlement that they were labelled 'the New Zealand death'. Then, while negotiating rough land, Domett himself fell, breaking his leg, which was slow to heal and remained troublesome throughout his life. When the farming venture in which he had invested proved to be unsuccessful, he became more

## Notes

- 1 CG 3G.1545, Application file 3506, LINZ records.
- 2 24D.258, Application file 3506. The land at Alpers Avenue was acquired through the Rev Lawry for £70 in December 1850.
- 3 Email received from Ray Osborne, direct descendant of Thomas Osborne, 14 April 2011
- 4 23D.711, Application file 3506
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- 10 Dawson, *A History of Gardening in New Zealand*.
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## Under threat

By Jeanette Grant

*'Australian termites pose a significant biosecurity risk for New Zealand. Although current import health standards for timber mitigate the risk of new introductions, historically introduced colonies are still being discovered in this country.'*\*

New Zealand has three species of native termite, but they do not form large colonies and are not considered destructive. Incursions of five different species of Australian termites have been reported in New Zealand, and there have been numerous interceptions of termites at the border in imported Australian hardwood timber.

In 1939 termites were found in the Auckland area. Reporting to Parliament,

The Minister said that at the foot of one of these poles the termites had a nest and they had tunnelled under the ground for half a chain to reach a building. It was one of the State houses and had not been erected two years. The pole in the street had not been in the ground two years. Mr. W. J. Broadfoot (National, Waitomo): Did the house have to be completely destroyed? The Minister: It had to be taken down and entirely destroyed.

Between 1940 and 1980, about 50,000 North Island sites were inspected for invasive termites, with around 110 infestations detected and

In 2011, a police spokesman said that the number of applications for gun licences is now around 9500 a year, a 90% rise over five years. He attributed this to several factors. The growing number of vineyards and lifestyle blocks has increased the need for bird scaring and pest control, while hunting has had a recent upsurge in popularity. Women are applying for licences much more than in the past, and hunting for actual food, rather than just trophies, is on the increase. Also there is the usually un-admitted feeling that having a gun for protection might be a wise thing.

Today? Today I still own an air pistol and two air rifles. I fire them occasionally to make sure I can still aim straight. I am glad I don't live in America where they are fixated on guns, but I still like having some in the house.



*Jeanette aged four with her cousin Diana Dodd  
and the results of an hour's shooting at Waitetuna in 1944*

Photo: Reay Clarke

rifle. Whoever saw a rat loaded the gun, opened the window and shot it. We were firing downhill into grass at the base of a hedge which had grown over an old paling fence, so there was no risk of the pellets doing any damage or ricocheting. We solved the rat problem quite quickly and the rifle went back in its case on top of Dad's wardrobe.

Laws about gun ownership have changed. It used to be that the gun, not the owner, was registered, like a car today. I remember when Dad sold a rifle about 1950, the new owner never completed the paper work and one evening a policeman came round to ask why he had not renewed its licence. Dad, being Dad, had kept the receipt and details of the new owner's name and address so he was not in trouble, but the incident made a lasting impression on my child mind.

When Dad died in 1980, I inherited his current BRNO .22 rifle and some time later I investigated what gun ownership meant legally. I had to get myself a firearms licence. That involved actually going down to a police station in Newmarket and sitting an exam. In theory, you had to have the licence before you acquired the gun, but I was doing it all in reverse. Anyway, on 5 September 1984 for the cost of \$11, I got my Firearms Licence—which had no expiry date—put the gun in its wooden case under my bed and almost forgot about it. However, when asked for ID in a shop, just for fun I used to produce that licence instead of my driver's licence. In those days before photo IDs were common, the driver's licence was almost the only form of ID available.

Then about ten years later the government, in its wisdom, realised that it could get more money if gun licences had to be renewed annually. A fat form arrived in the mail with a bill for—I think—\$80. I filled in the form, got out my chequebook, put it away, wrote 'I have a lifetime licence' on the envelope and filed it away at the back of my desk.

About seven years later, the relevant government department finally caught up with me and a police officer appeared at the house. I was given two options. Pay the fees for the past years and an annual fee of around \$200 in future—or get rid of the rifle. I asked him if it would be acceptable if I gave it to my brother-in-law who was a farmer, had a gun licence and a proper lockable gun safe to keep it in. I rang him in the presence of the officer, and once he stopped laughing at the story, he said he would take it over, and gave me his licence number to pass on.

And they checked! I had three days to get it into his hands and they checked with him on the third day to make sure it had arrived.

successfully treated. Due to the number of termite interceptions and incursions, stricter border controls for imported timber were imposed, including compulsory fumigation.

Invasive termites are most likely to be associated with historically imported timber such as railway sleepers, now commonly used for landscaping, and utility poles used for power and telephone lines. Subterranean termites are likely to extend their activities from this material into nearby trees, buildings or other wooden structures. As termites excavate timber internally and leave a thin external layer, damage is often not obvious, although it may result in the bubbling of timber surfaces. With subterranean termites, the most obvious signs are mud leads across open surfaces and mud packing between layers of landscaping timber or inside wall cavities. Their subterranean tunnels are usually found in the top 20 centimetres of soil. Winged reproductives fly from their parent colonies en masse on hot, humid



*Elaborate 'leads' created by subterranean termites  
in their efforts to reach the timber*

Photo: Google

summer evenings. They are attracted to light and may enter houses or become caught in spider webs close to light sources. However, native termite reproductives will also be flying in the same conditions. Colonies inside living timber could also be found while cutting down trees or splitting wood.

When the tramlines were extended along Mt Eden Road from Pencarrow Avenue towards Three Kings, for over 30 years trams ran every ten minutes along a set of tramlines in the middle of the road, laid on sleepers of Jarrah imported from Australia. Unfortunately, some of those sleepers bore passengers whose unwelcome presence finally made itself felt in the 1940s. Termites!

I believe their presence was first revealed when a power pole on Mt Eden Road near the intersection of Plunket Avenue just fell down. The authorities were appalled at the potential damage that termites could do to the predominantly wooden houses of the city. Borer were bad enough! A termite inspector was appointed and the area immediately around the affected pole was closely scrutinised. Luckily, the infestation proved limited although one house—a wooden villa on the corner of Mt Eden Road and Plunket Avenue—was found to be so heavily infested that it was condemned, demolished and burnt on site! The building which replaced it was a block of three flats—built of brick!

For many years after that, the official council termite inspector continued his search. His tools of trade were a strong torch and a bayonet. With these he inspected every property in the borough once a year. He went under houses and checked their foundations and he examined every tree. I don't think he found many more trouble spots, for when he finally retired he was not replaced.

However the Mt Eden Borough Council had taken additional steps and altered the building code. My father, Reay Clarke, was building a garage in Mt Eden Road in 1952 and the walls had to have a 14 inch high concrete foundation so that any termites trying to come out of the ground to reach the wooden framework would have to build a readily visible clay tunnel over this concrete base.

Tools developed in recent years are making it easier to detect and treat termite infestations. Thermal and microwave imaging can be used to detect the heat or movement of termites inside wood. More selective insecticides and targeted delivery systems have resulted in more effective and environmentally acceptable eradication.

allowed to fire the rifle but it was years before my interest was taken seriously. Then, when I was fourteen, Dad bought me a BSA air rifle of my own!

We used to stand in the back porch and fire at a target against the bank where the carport is today. If anyone missed, their pellets just went into the dirt. If it was raining, we set up a target under the house and fired along the length of the front verandah — over 25 feet. We all used the air rifle and within five years it wore out. The spring broke so I took it into town to get it fixed. By this time, I was going to university. If I had morning lectures I would drive in to town with Dad who parked up by St Patrick's Cathedral, and I would then walk down Wyndham Street and up through Albert Park. One day I took the air rifle under my arm and walked down to Tisdalls in Queen Street. And no-one turned a hair! If I tried it today, the Armed Offenders Squad would intercept me before I got halfway there!

Those were the days when every farmer had several rifles and shotguns, when most men had done military service in one of the world wars; secondary schools had competitive shooting teams and eighteen-year-olds were called up for compulsory military service. However handguns and automatic weapons were almost unknown in the country, and the idea of armed police was unthinkable.

After that, we bought Dad a Walther air pistol for his birthday which Mum and I learned to use also. I got pretty good; could shoot the flame off a lit match. This was one of the few things I ever did that impressed Grandad. (I still have that air pistol.) When I married John, he had grown up in England and Canada. He had, and still has, no experience with guns. None of our sons was very interested in shooting, and not very good at it when they had a go. However, they were not allowed to use the pistol unsupervised. It belonged hidden in my bedroom, and when I fetched it out, I locked the door so they never knew exactly where it was kept.

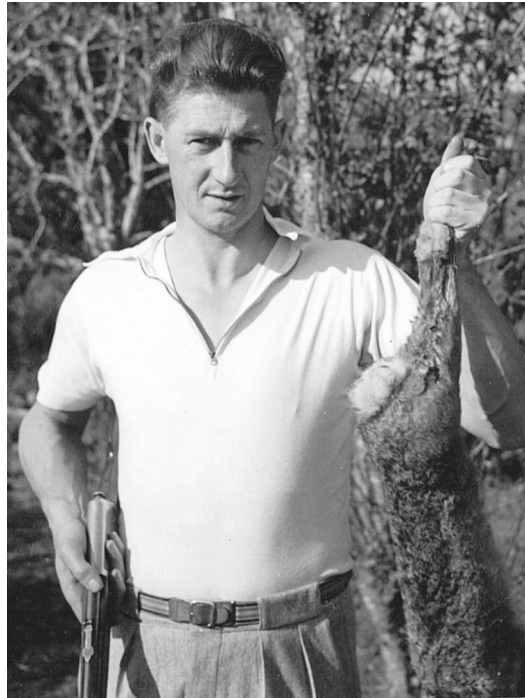
About 1970 the last family in the Mt Eden neighbourhood stopped keeping fowls, and all of a sudden the local rats had lost their main source of food. When we threw crusts out for the birds, we would see a rat coming out of the base of the hedge to get it. Soooooooo for a few months, the .22 rifle stood in a corner of the dining room with the ammunition and bolt up on the mantelpiece out of reach of small boys. Dad bought some unusual ammunition—shotgun shells that fitted the

with the kettle boiling. About once a month, we would drive out to the farm at the end of Hunter Road for Sunday lunch—cold beef and salad—and afterwards my sister and I would spend the afternoon on the loose, wandering the farm with our two cousins. We explored the old quarry, picked blackberries in season, swam in a deep part of the creek, dug dams and channels in the swamp and came home filthy, exhausted and happy.

Sometimes Dad would bring his .22 rifle out, and in the late afternoon he and Grandad and Uncle Monte would go shooting rabbits. It was a real treat

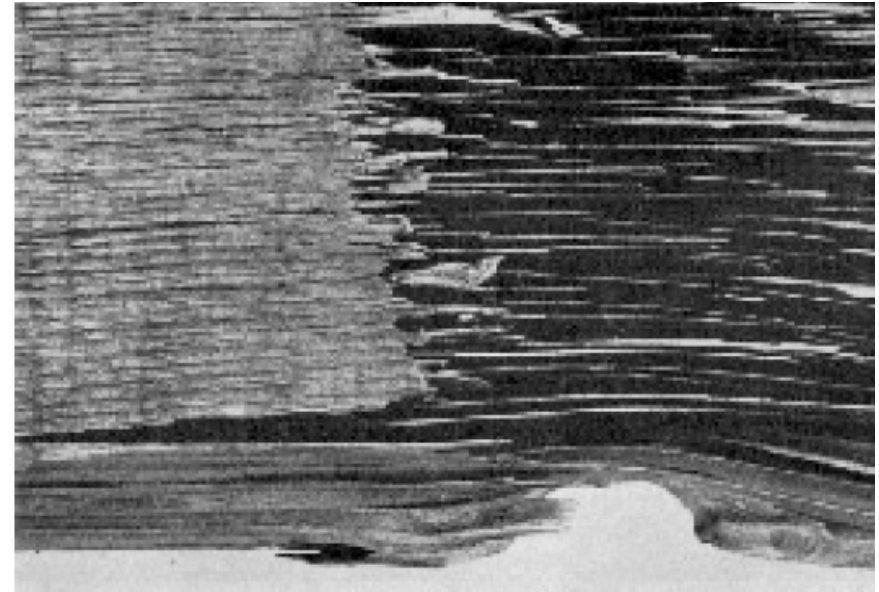
to be allowed to go along and carry the corpses back. We all thought rabbit was a tasty treat; much nicer than chicken! I can just remember the days when they were sold in fish shops—hanging naked behind the counter. Then selling them was made illegal in the vain hope that there would be more incentive to control their numbers if they had no monetary value. There was a bounty on their skins if you brought them in, and my grandfather usually had a row of furry strips which included one ear and the tail drying like scalps on the fence alongside his glasshouse. When doing family research, I discovered that one of my other grandmother's brothers had made a living as a rabbitier in the nineteenth century.

My mother sometimes came too. She had grown up on farms and was also an excellent shot so I took it for granted that all grownups could shoot, and I was always keen to have a go myself. We were occasionally



*Reay Clarke after a rabbit shoot*

Photo: Clarke family collection



*Termite damage, showing how they prefer sap wood.*

Photo: Google

***Two examples of recently discovered infestations are:***

- Nelson, 2006: Termite damage and activity was detected in the wall timber of a house, in railway sleepers in the garden and a tree stump at a neighbouring property.
- North of Auckland, January 2007: Termite damage and activity was detected in the wall of a dwelling, followed a few days later by winged reproductives swarming out of a nearby planter box constructed of Australian railway sleepers.

Both infestations were treated with hexaflumuron baits, and termite activity has ceased. However, the sites will be monitored for five years before eradication is officially declared.

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Personal memories.

## A Christmas holiday in Central Otago

*By Valerie Sherwood*

*Memories shared at the final meeting of the EEDHS for 2011*

Holidays for the Sherwood family were few in the stringent days of the 1930s, but around 1940, once a motor vehicle had come into our lives, summer holidays in Central Otago became an annual summer event.

The first sign that the Christmas holiday was imminent was the sudden enthusiasm shown by my Dad in rearranging his garage, in preparation for giving the 1935 Pontiac a full check. He took pride in having an inspection pit which enabled him to check and service the car. The heavy, oil stained planks over the pit were lifted and the Pontiac driven in over the great hole. Dad would disappear under the car and carry out his meticulous check of its nether regions, draining the engine oil and doing other mysterious things. Then he would emerge to lift the car's bonnet and clean the engine, revving it occasionally and making adjustments.

Somehow Dad had saved up enough petrol coupons for the trip. Meanwhile my Mum would be baking plum duffs, boiled in a cloth; one for Christmas and one for New Year, and a large Christmas fruit cake. And there would be a once a year purchase of biscuits—a large tin of shop-bought ones, Aulsebrook's fanciest, to take along for when the home baking ran out.

My parents weren't too sure that Santa Claus would know exactly where we were planning to holiday each year, so they arranged for him to call at our home one or two nights before our departure.

Packing the car was a major undertaking. There was a folding metal grill attached to the rear of the car, immediately behind the spare wheel. Once unfolded, a wooden box packed with tents and camping gear, as well as the food, was tied firmly onto this. The tent poles were tied on a roof rack. Inside the rear of the car, in the foot space immediately behind the front seats, were two suitcases of clothing, etc. On the back seat, carefully packed, were light mattresses, blankets and pillows, so that as we travelled my brother and I would be perched very high above the normal sitting level. On one Christmas journey I remember us lying full length, sideways, for there was nowhere, really, to sit comfortably.

## Growing up with guns

*By Jeanette Grant*

I was born in January 1940 and grew up overhearing talk about the war. Dad was in the Home Guard and in 1942, at the age of 40, was finally called up. My first ride on a train was going down to visit him in camp at Papakura. He was a very good shot and won competitions in the army. I remember him saying that as a boy he and his brother had an air rifle and used to go and ask a local farmer if they could pick up windfalls in his orchard—windfalls they had created by shooting through the apple stalks!

He spent the next couple of war years stationed on the guns on North Head, and on one memorable occasion when he was off duty took us down to Tamaki Drive to watch these guns and the one on the point by the Tamaki Yacht Club being fired. They were having a practice shoot at a target being towed off Rangitoto and I remember him saying later that the towing vessel was in more danger than the target. Afterwards we went up the steps on the cliff face and inside the cliff to the generating room which served the searchlights. The bricked-up doorway is still visible in the cliff near Mission Bay.

From somewhere I had acquired a cap gun and holster and a sheriff's star, and it was a permanent frustration that I had no brothers to play 'cowboys and indians' with. I can vividly remember at the age of four deciding that when I grew up, I would be a sniper. Apart from the assumption that there would still be a war on 'when I was grown up', I find it very interesting looking back, that I should choose a solitary role like that which required skill and independent decision making. At that age, the rights and wrongs of killing were irrelevant. I can quite see how children become warriors.

After the war, one of the most exciting things we did was to visit my mother's sister Evelyn and her husband Monte Dodd on their farm. In 1947 they had moved from Waitetuna to Taupaki so we saw them more regularly. They used to come into town every Monday to shop and visit doctor, dentist, accountant, etc, after which they would come out to our place in Mt Eden Road for afternoon tea. During the years that Mum was teaching at Maungawhau School, they knew where the key was hidden and she would get home about 4 o'clock to find them waiting





*Passing visitors boil a kettle and share 'tea for two' outside the kiosk building*

Photo: Helen Laurenson, 2013

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*Dad (Jack) and Mrs Smith wringing out swimsuits at the edge of the Naseby dam*

Photo: Sherwood family

We thought that was great fun.

One year that stands out was when we camped at Naseby. From Dunedin we travelled first via the northern road, then branched off on to the 'pig route'. Once a gold mining village, Naseby had become a green oasis of trees, shrubs and grass. Plantations of dark pines clad the surrounding hills. In the village general store my big brother John and I were enthralled by the tales told of old men from mining days who voiced their strong opinion that the best vein of gold in Naseby still remained in the ground, right under our feet, in a seam running along the main road.

Having set up camp, a priority activity was to explore the township. Mum and Dad were familiar with the local geography, having visited often in the past. Naseby is fortunate in having a dam, set among sheltering trees,

where the water is warmed by the sun for swimming in summer, but freezes over in the winter, affording the locals the opportunity to skate or curl on the ice. When we reached the ancient hotel, we children sat on the bench seats outside with Mum, sipping soft drinks which Dad brought out to us.

The camping ground was a long, narrow field, with room for tents on each side and a wide area of grass between the two rows. The facilities

consisted of tapped water, a long drop and simple grilled fireplaces. In the tent opposite us was the Cotton Family. The father, Bernie, worked with Dad at the engineering firm of Reid and Gray. They had three children: two girls and a boy. Mrs Cotton, feeling unsure that the water from the campground tap was safe, opted to walk down to a sparkling little stream below the grounds to fill the water jars. It was only at the end of the holiday that it was realised that this stream flowed from a local septic tank!

My parents had friends, a Mr and Mrs Strong, who had a cottage there. Mrs Strong's grandparents (the Jopsons) and my Dad's grandparents (Mr & Mrs Willis) had been friends since their shared voyage to New Zealand on the *Corona* in 1874.

On New Year's Eve there was great excitement. We children were allowed to stay up to see the New Year in. Together we walked to the village. Having arranged to meet the Strongs at their home, we then all went on to the post office where the local brass band had assembled, and what appeared to us to be the total population of Naseby gathered around. I had no idea just what was planned, but there were words that sounded like 'first footing'—whatever that was. At midnight the bandsmen struck up the 'Invercargill March', and marched off, with the gathered populace following behind. To my surprise they approached a house, went in the gate, knocked at the door, and after a few words, were admitted. The crowd followed in after them, calling out, "Compliments of the Season" and "Happy New Year" and even "Lang may ye lum reek" to the owners. The house was crowded and the overflow had to go out the back door into the garden. 'Auld Lang Syne' was sung with gusto. A small drink of sherry, a glass of ale or a soft drink was presented to each well-wisher, and a small piece of Christmas cake or shortbread. Then off the band went, playing Scottish airs at full volume, with guests trailing along behind. Some left small lumps of coal, or a silver coin of small value on the kitchen table or mantelpiece; some also left a bottle of ale or sherry. And on we went to the next house.

I cannot remember how many homes we entered, probably only about five, before our parents took us back to the camping ground and bed. The rest of the gradually dwindling group continued on to celebrate further. It was apparent that the visits had been prearranged with the hosts. Certainly it was a very happy event.

The next morning, New Year's Day, was the day on which the annual

renovations made to the kitchen and storage areas. A conservatory-like extension, designed by architects Juventin and Partners, replaced the garage on the eastern side in 1976 and added more dining space.

G. & S. Langton Ltd, later Langton's Restaurant Ltd, operated successfully until the lease was transferred to Marina Caterers Westhaven Ltd in 1983, but the venue continued to be known as Langton's Heritage Restaurant until the lease finally expired in 2005 and was not renewed.

In 2006 Ngati Whatua o Orakei gained the right to negotiate its claim on Maungawhau/Mt Eden, and maintained that restoration work on the summit was a priority. Other iwi also made claims to a share of ownership in the iconic mountain, resulting in a debate over how Maungawhau/Mt Eden should be managed, as more than a million visitors continued to visit the summit each year.

By 2008, sadly, the future of the vacant, vandalized and dilapidated Mt Eden tea kiosk was in question. It was an earthquake risk and was closed following a structural assessment which found the building did not meet building standards. With its future use not determined, most local Mt Eden residents believed the building should be converted into a visitor centre and café, but the final decision would have to wait until co-governorship had been established for the mountain. In 2012 Maungawhau–Mt Eden became one of 14 volcanic cones included in a deed that vested their ownership in the Tamaki Collective. Under that agreement the mountains were to be co-governed by the collective, a group of iwi, along with council and Crown representatives. Auckland Council moved forward with their \$3.5 million plan to turn the once-charming tearooms into a visitor centre—an 'interpretation centre' focusing on geological, spiritual and historical aspects of Maungawhau–Mt Eden, and a base for transport to the summit. Strengthening work began to make it safe and to restore it while maintaining the historical integrity of the kiosk so that it could be reopened to the public.

The kiosk, first opened 'in the days of the three-tier cake-stand', has served Mt Eden well and been host to countless significant and happy occasions in the lives of Aucklanders and visitors to the city for nearly 90 years. Strengthened and equipped for the new century and 'combining stability . . . with the charm of antiquity', may it continue to provide a great service to the public who visit the iconic site of Maungawhau.<sup>5</sup>

on the slopes of Mt Eden. As a 1972 letter to the borough engineer from the town clerk stated: 'One of the major difficulties is that the Councillors do not really know what they want except that they do not wish to invest any money in the proposal but will expect the developer to meet the full cost.' Plans for rebuilding were replaced by proposals for renovation, and several round-about changes of kiosk management occurred during this busy period. The Jaggers assigned the lease to Mr Edwards, who in 1958 negotiated with Mr and Mrs Gauntlet-Curtis, who remained until 1962. They were replaced by Leonard Francis Walker and his wife Irene Maude until 1968, when the Gauntlet-Curtises again took over.

Extensions to the east and south of the kiosk ensued for the new leaseholders George C. Langton and his wife, who signed a lease for an annual rent of \$2782 in 1972. The Langtons had been in the catering trade for many years with George's firm of G. & S. Langton taking over the business from his father in 1970. He was subsequently elected as a Mt Eden Borough councillor so that whenever the council discussed kiosk business, George always had to remove himself from the meeting. By 1975 the Borough Council were discussing the fact that the building had developed into a centre catering for private functions and receptions, whereas it had originally been intended for use by visitors to the reserve. The demands for its facilities also outstripped the seating capacity of approximately 100 people and the facilities did not comply with the then current fire, food and hygiene regulations. It was reported that 'the Kiosk was originally designed in the days of the three-tier cake-stand and consumption habits have changed since those days'.<sup>3</sup> The building was not earthquake proof since it was built before the then current regulations. 'Since the structure is single storied and would be costly to upgrade no great significance need to be given to this condition except to note that an element of danger exists. Additions to the building will of course have to meet the earthquake code.'<sup>4</sup> A statement that is familiar to owners of many older Auckland buildings in 2013.

A survey found that there was an urgent need for repairs and redecoration, and deferred maintenance alone was estimated at \$12,000 to \$16,000. Architects Rigby Mullan designed an upgrade to the facilities, with existing toilets removed and a new block built on the south side. A sizeable lounge was created from the former small rooms, originally living quarters, adjacent to the main reception room, and additions and

summer games were held. This was a popular Central Otago attraction and a highlight for my big brother who was on his way to becoming a keen athlete. I was proud that he had success in the running and jumping events.

Our cat Woostles would always accompany us on our holidays. He would spend the hot days stretched out on the grass below Mum's camp bed in the small tent which I shared with her. At around 5am each morning, to her horror, Mum would be woken with terrible flutterings and tweets, or squeaks, as puss would proudly bring in birds, mice and even a baby rabbit, always depositing them under her bed.

After the first week of lovely weather there was a storm in the night. We woke in the morning to find a stream of ankle-deep water running through the camp, with Mum's fashionable little blue hat, and a shoe or two, floating about within the 'ladies tent'. Woostles was safely ensconced on Mum's bed. The camp owner came around and offered accommodation in an empty old house next door which he and his family had recently vacated, so several of the mothers and children slept there the next night. The parents must have been concerned by the flood but for the children it was another adventure.

On the eve of our return home the Cotton children and I gathered some playmates together and presented a farewell concert, performed in a little glade of trees below the camping ground. The stage curtain was a blanket tied up between two trees. The parents applauded enthusiastically after each item and had the foresight to have armed themselves with bars of chocolate to award to each child.

It had been a great Christmas holiday, but we looked forward to home. After all, our Christmas presents were still there waiting for our return.



*My Mum, Mary Sherwood, wearing the little blue hat which floated in the tent*

Photo: Sherwood family

## The first Mt Eden Collegiate School 1887–1892

*The intriguingly opaque tale of two women from Yorkshire*

*By Christine Black*

In 2011 I received a query at St Cuthbert's College archives about two sisters who had attended Mt Eden Collegiate in 1889. Confidently assuming that the researcher had the date wrong, I replied saying that MEC was not established until 1895. (Bews school in Stokes Road, 1895–1914.) Back came an email including a Papers Past piece clearly indicating that a school called MEC was running in Valley Road, Mt Eden, in 1889.

The following is the subsequent research that I carried out, mostly through Papers Past, but also New Zealand electoral rolls, England census records through Ancestry.com and contact with Lis Smith, Dept of Special Collections, Library Annexe at St Andrews University, Scotland, and Anthony Hughes, archivist at Bradford Central Library, Yorkshire.

In 1887 two women of good education and considerable teaching experience left Saltaire in West Yorkshire and came to Auckland. They were Minnie Matthews and Roanna McHarg.

(Rosa) Minnie Matthews was born about 1855 in Caernarvon, Wales, and baptised in December 1855. The census of 1871 indicates that she lived with her family in Salford, Lancashire, England. She attended St Andrews University and graduated in 1882 with an LLA (Ladies Literate in Arts) in comparative philology, English Honours, history and biology.

Rosanna McHarg was born about 1848 in Birkenhead, Merseyside, England, but does not appear in the UK census of 1871. She also attended St Andrews and although not attaining the LLA degree, she received Honours in Education.

The census of 1881 shows these two ladies at the same address, 7 Albert Road, Shipley, Yorkshire, and teaching at Saltaire Girls' High School.

I have been unable to identify the date and ship of their arrival in Auckland, but the earliest record of the school was an advertisement in the *Bay of Plenty Times*, published 1 May 1877. The same advertisement

building of a garage on the eastern side in 1954. The foundations of the building were causing concern and needed strengthening, as evidenced by cracks that had been appearing in the walls for some time. When the kiosk had been built pre-1931, 'reinforcing of foundations was practically unheard of in this class of structure'. Architect Watkin reported that the extent and consequent cost of any strengthening work was linked with future policy in relation to the building. 'In all probability the present structure will prove inadequate in both size and design in the near future. Available space for side extensions is very limited and we are in agreement that the cost of adding an additional story [sic] would prove out of proportion to the extra area gained.'<sup>1</sup> Accounts for 1953 and 1954 show significant amounts spend on 'underpinning' the building.

Despite its dodgy foundations, the venue remained very much in demand for wedding receptions in the 1950s and 1960s. A recent exhibit of wedding fashion at Te Papa, Wellington, featured the then unusual and 'eye-catching' glowing yellow Thai silk wedding gown and going away outfit of Velma Turner (née Harris) who was married at St Andrew's Church in 1961. The ensemble, designed by her friend Beverley Gordine, was dramatic, with a removable over-skirt, the back of which formed a train leaving an 'elegant and very wearable knee-length dress, suitable for After Five . . . Following the marriage service, the newly-wed Mr and Mrs Turner and their guests adjourned to the Orchid Room, a popular venue in Mt Eden, for their reception. At some point in the proceedings, Velma slipped out of her wedding dress into her equally interesting "going-away dress".'<sup>2</sup>

Although such fashion scenes were trend-setting and even 'eyebrow-raising' in their time, the old kiosk was itself showing its age, and plans for major change were needed. During the 1960s the council was unsure whether to replace the building with a new one or renovate the existing structure. In 1962 a proposal to replace the kiosk with a two-storey building resulted in architects Sargent & Smith and Partners preparing a concept design for a much larger Orchid Room that would function as a first class restaurant, nightclub and reception centre. Featuring a roof shaped in a parabolic curve, extensive windows to capture the view, and a dance floor of 2,500 square feet, it bore some resemblance to a large flying saucer.

Fortunately this particular flying saucer and another similar circular building proposed in 1968 by Gröhe Holdings Ltd never did land

There were continuing changes in management. By 1934 Mr E. F. Barnett was in charge, but Mrs Rosina Amy Bird took over the lease from her friends Hans Grau and his wife in July 1937. The outbreak of World War II in September 1939 brought difficult times for Mrs Bird. As war was declared, she applied to the council for a reduction in her rental as 'since the war started I have hardly any trade and also had most of the weddings cancelled.' After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour on 7 December 1941, and new lighting restrictions, the mountain was closed to cars at night. On 1 May 1942 the kiosk was officially taken over by the army, which proposed to use it for the housing of troops, and it was not vacated by the military until 19 July 1943. A notice in the 'Lost and Found' column of the *Auckland Star* in July 1943 advertised for a 'wallet lost by American serviceman vicinity Mt Eden Kiosk or Mobile Hospital Grey Lynn'. By the end of 1943, the army having made good the damage the building had suffered during its occupation, the kiosk was again in use as a refreshment stop for the public and a venue for wedding receptions. In 1945 the lease was assigned to Mrs Bird's friend, Mrs Nancy Duffy, who managed the kiosk for almost eight years.

Various renovations to the inside and outside of the kiosk were undertaken, particularly in response to the government's 1948 Health (Eatinghouse) Regulations. In that year, as post-war work on Mt Eden's infrastructure continued, the kiosk was finally connected to the borough's sewerage system. Architect C. B. Watkin organized much of the work as the main hall and kitchen were redecorated, ventilators were added to the ceiling in the main hall to prevent condensation, and by 1949, rusting metal window frames in the dining room and kitchen were replaced by wooden ones.

Early in October 1952, with the prospect of an increase in rent, Mrs Duffy terminated her tenancy. A new era began as the kiosk was rebranded the 'Orchid Room: the Room with a View' and managers Mr A. and Mrs Vera E. M. Jagger signed the new lease at a rental of £10 per week, continuing to manage the venue until 1958. For morning and afternoon teas in 1957 the silver three-tiered cake-stands were offering freshly-made buttered scones, with blackcurrant jam and whipped cream, buttered gingerbread and a selection of cakes with a pot of tea for 3/-; lunch provided even more substantial fare.

When the Jagers took up the lease, they had required significant alterations to the facilities, which were duly upgraded, including the

appeared in Auckland papers during the next few years. This example is from the *New Zealand Herald* of 29 December 1886.

As can be seen in the advertisement, much emphasis was placed on a curriculum of 'proper' academic subjects, physical exercise and moral training (usually Christian).

The Misses Matthew and McHarg established their school in Mt Eden in an environment where education for girls was considered highly desirable and was increasingly developed. Although at that time boys' schools were receiving a greater share of resources (good teachers and money spent on equipment) there was a

clear intention to meet the same standards for girls. The first State secondary school for girls in Auckland was Girls' High School (est. 1876) in Upper Queen Street. This closed due to financial difficulties in 1888, and the students were accepted at the Grammar School in Symonds Street.

By the 1890s there was a growing number of girls' private schools in the suburbs immediately surrounding the central city—Grafton, Remuera, Mt Eden and Parnell. Most had small numbers of pupils taught by women with teaching experience and commonly, a good education. By 1900 there was a significant and unstoppable change as the small, under-resourced schools closed and the larger schools grew. These included Auckland Girls' Grammar School, St Mary's College, Ponsonby, Mt Eden College (Stokes Road) 1895–1914, Ladies' College, Remuera 1880–1934, Prince Albert College 'the buildings include

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**MOUNT EDEN COLLEGIATE**  
**SCHOOL FOR GIRLS,**  
 VALLEY ROAD, MOUNT EDEN, AUCKLAND.

Principals -  
 MISS MATTHEW, I.L.A., St Andrew's University  
 MISS McHARG, Hon. in Education, St. Andrews.

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**FIRST TERM WILL COMMENCE FEB. 8, 1887.**

**SUBJECTS OF INSTRUCTION :**

English Language and Literature  
 Mathematics  
 Languages - Latin, French, German  
 Science - Botany, Physiology, Chemistry, etc.  
 Drawing, - Pencil and Oil  
 Music - Singing and Harmony  
 Calisthenics and Musical Drill

**EXTRAS**

Lessons in Music, Painting, Dancing, Scientific Dress-making, Swimming, etc

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**AIM.**—This school will be conducted on the Public School methods, and will place within reach of the inhabitants of Mount Eden and the surrounding districts the opportunity of obtaining for girls a sound and thorough education, under trained teachers, at a moderate cost. Omnibuses will run from the chief suburbs of Auckland to the School for the accommodation of pupils, to whom free passes will be given.

Prospectuses and terms for boarders on application.



*Staff in the entrance hall c.1885*

*Left to Right: Miss Matthews (Principal), Miss Leithead, Miss Spencer (First Assistant), Miss McHarg (Matron), Miss Kirk.*

Photo: Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries: 1133-6  
The caption above is the one which appears under the photo in the collection.

separate, finely equipped Colleges for Boys and Girls' (Upper Queen Street) 1894–1907, Melmerley (St Georges Bay Road) 1898–1920s, with growing rolls and a more professional reputation. In addition, as the State school system grew and flourished, it became unnecessary to pay for girls' education.

Little is known about Mt Eden Collegiate but there are several mentions in Papers Past reflecting a school that was running as expected.

In August 1888 a report of the Benevolent Society annual meeting records a good attendance of members and amongst special efforts put forward in aid of the society, item (6) 'A quantity of useful clothing made by pupils of the Girls' High School. The girls of Mt Eden Collegiate School are following this good example.'

In December 1889 it was reported that: 'A very pleasant entertainment was given by the pupils of the Mt Eden Collegiate School for Girls on Friday afternoon in the grounds attached to the school, near Mt Roskill (now Dominion) Road. The entertainment was given in the

true, had been practically destroyed and could never be replaced, but others could be saved and they would become invaluable assets.' About 150 residents retired from the gusty weather and enjoyed afternoon tea indoors by the fire, while admiring the rooms and the view from the wide and spacious windows.

In late 1927, with the Auckland Artillery Band playing nearby on Sunday afternoons, the kiosk was a popular venue. As well as being open daily to the public for refreshments, it was already a fashionable place to hold private dances, parties and wedding receptions. The Borough Council minutes recorded with satisfaction that 'a wonderful view is obtained from the Kiosk as well as from the top of the hill, a view that has few rivals the world over. The kiosk is easy of access, being only a few minutes' walk from the entrance to the mountain.' The Three Kings tram route brought visitors close to the foot of Mt Eden and, as private ownership of cars became more widespread in the 1930s, further parking areas by the kiosk were provided.

By 1938 'leaky building' problems resulted in a report from architect Lew Piper suggesting actions to be taken to reduce the impact of the weather on the brick walls which had been roughcast and lime-washed, with the interior plastered. He also suggested incorporating the open verandah at the front of the building into the main room and moving the entry to the western side, sheltered from the prevailing wind. Those alterations were completed the following year, with attractive rose gardens formed in 1940.

*Mr. & Mrs. Minchin Rudd*  
*request the pleasure of*

*company*

*at the marriage of their Daughter*

*Lyndall*

*to*

*Eric Arthur Crabtree*

*at the Mt. Eden Methodist Church, on*  
*Wednesday, February 15th, 1928.*

*at 3 p.m.*

*and afterwards at the Mt. Eden*  
*Tea Kiosk.*

R.S.V.P.  
19 Pencarrow Av.,  
Mt. Eden.

A successful poll of ratepayers was held on 15 September 1926 to raise a Special Loan of £110,000 with £2000 of that sum assigned for the kiosk. The tenders, however, came in higher than expected, and the architect was asked to trim back some of the expense: he suggested omitting the wooden panelling, making the steel-framed windows square headed instead of semi-circular, internal partitions to be wood, lined with wallboard instead of brick, and the ceiling height to be reduced by a foot; but despite being listed as yet another optional cut-back item by the architect, the large fireplace in the main room backing on to the small one in the manager's living quarters was retained by council.

The lowest tender of £2,274, taking account of all the cuts, was from W. R. McLaren who had reduced his earlier price of £2,713; but the price of the fireplace had to be added, bringing the final cost of the building to £2,350.

Construction proceeded apace, and by February 1927 the grounds in front of the kiosk were being levelled and the road leading into the grounds filled. By April a septic tank and drainage had been completed as there was then no sewerage system adjacent in Hillside Crescent.

**Morning and Afternoon Teas**

Ice cream in rooms 6d and 1/-;  
Outside from 1d to 1/-  
All drinks 6d. If bottle taken away 8d;  
when returned 2d refunded.  
Strawberries and cream in season 1/-  
Morning and afternoon teas to  
comprise: scones, sandwiches and  
cakes or bread and butter if needed.  
If luncheon is required at any time it  
shall be given and prices charged  
accordingly.  
Ham and salad; poached eggs, boiled  
eggs or scrambled eggs with toast or  
bread and butter. with tea, coffee or  
cocoa 1/6

The kiosk's operation was to be undertaken by private contract. The rent was set at £180 per annum with the hours of opening to be 9am-10pm. Mrs Jean Allen's application for the lease, provided there were some additions to the kitchen, had been accepted. Her schedule of prices (inset left) for the tea kiosk was approved.

With work on the rockeries, steps and parking area continuing, the kiosk was opened by the mayor of

Mt Eden, Ernest Henry Potter (of Tanfield Potter & Co) on Saturday 9 April 1927, just a week before Easter. It was a cool, blustery day with the site buffeted by westerly and south-westerly winds. Mayor Potter spoke of the need for preserving the volcanic cones around Auckland for the use of the people and the benefit of posterity. 'All these hills would lend themselves to wonderful landscape treatment. Mt Albert, it was

open air and with a fine afternoon tea and pleasant surroundings, those present enjoyed themselves thoroughly. . . . Refreshments included tea, coffee and cake.

'There was a large attendance of the friends and parents of pupils and others interested in the educational establishment of Misses Matthews and McHarg.'

The programme commenced at 3pm with a selection 'of singing, acting scenes from Shakespeare, a display of needlework and drawings and a pupils' display of exercises with dumb-bells and clubs. The Rev. C M Nelson then distributed several mementos to girls leaving the school . . . The proceedings terminated with the singing of "God Save the Queen" and three cheers for the teachers.'

Pupil Tomasina Ball passed the Pupil Teacher exam in 1891. However, the next mention we have is that Miss Matthews has been appointed principal at Napier Girls' High School, Miss McHarg was accepted also and they took up teaching there at the beginning of 1893.

The following advertisement appeared in the *Auckland Star* on 26 May 1892.

**TUESDAY, MAY 31,  
Two o'Clock Sharp.**

**MOUNT EDEN COLLEGIATE SCHOOL**

**LOUCH, SON, AND CO.,**

Land Agents,  
Have instructed Mr C. E. Paget, Auctioneer, to  
sell by public auction, at their  
SALE ROOMS, 91, QUEEN-STREET,  
10, VALLEY ROAD, MOUNT EDEN.—That  
valuable property known as the MOUNT EDEN  
COLLEGIATE SCHOOL BUILDINGS, lately  
occupied by Miss Matthews, LL.A., (who has  
been appointed Headmistress of the Girls' High  
School, Napier). Large allotment, stable and  
carriageshed, etc. To those engaged in scholas-  
tic duties, this property affords a rare oppor-  
tunity to acquire a renowned and well-es-  
tablished school business, and completely-fitted  
school premises.

11. THE SCHOOL FITTINGS in same, con-  
sisting of Chairs, Desks, Benches, Blackboards,  
Maps, Gymnasium Fittings, Spring Boards,  
Drawing Models, etc.

12. SALTIRE HOUSE—That portion of the  
building lately erected as an addition to same,  
consisting of Four Bedrooms, Bathroom, Corri-  
dor, etc.—(FOR REMOVAL.)  
Note The furniture of Saltire House will be  
sold in auction early in June. See future  
advertisements.

**LOUCH, SON, & CO., Land Agents,  
91, Queen-street, Auckland.**

The quantity of property for sale suggests a school of perhaps 30–40 students.

Unfortunately much of the history of Napier Girls' High School was lost in the 1931 earthquake, but it is known that Minnie and Rosanna returned to Auckland in 1901 to set up/take over Devonport Ladies' College. The electoral rolls show that they were both registered to vote in the Hawkes Bay electorate in 1896 and 1900, and in Waitemata in 1905–06. Then they returned to the UK on the *Kuamera*, arriving on 11 April 1908. The England census of 1911 shows that they were living at Bossinney, Tintagel, Cornwall.

Minnie Matthews died in Camelford, Cornwall, in late 1929 and Rosanna McHarg died in Wandsworth, London, in 1922.

The two questions I would still like to answer are:

- Whereabouts in Valley Road was the school situated?
- It seems too much of a coincidence that the Bews sisters opened a school called Mt Eden College three years after Mt Eden Collegiate closed. Did the Bews sisters and the Misses Matthews and McHarg know each other before leaving the UK?

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## Two for tea: the Mt Eden tea kiosk

*By Helen Laurensen*

Once upon a time, so the story goes, the little cottage now at 17 Hillside Crescent South, and possibly built around 1857, was transported from Onehunga by bullock cart, before additions were made to it in subsequent years. With spectacular views, it became the first privately-owned tearoom on the slopes of Mt Eden, probably at some time during the 1870s and 1880s. A *Weekly News* photo taken in January 1916 shows the words 'Tea Rooms' still faintly legible on the corrugated iron roof, and in earlier days that sign would have been clearly visible to thirsty adventurers above on Mt Eden's grassy incline. By the twentieth century, however, the cottage was no longer offering refreshments, and by 1916 the name of the street had been changed from its original Cromwell Street to Melton Avenue, then to Hillside Crescent.



*This building, still standing at 17 Hillside Crescent South, housed the first privately-owned tearoom on the slopes of Mt Eden, not far below the kiosk. The original small cottage has been added to over the years.*

Ray White photograph 2013

As an increasing number of people visited the mountain to see the wonderful vistas of the growing city spread around them, offering refreshments and other services to the public presented a unique opportunity for the Mt Eden Borough Council. In 1914 the council had been appointed as the Mt Eden Domain Board, with authority to administer and control the land subject to the Reserves and Domains Act. Councillors agreed in September 1925 that a site on the reserve land, well above the old tearoom in Hillside Crescent, would be the most suitable for a tea kiosk. Plans for a building of 9-inch brick with a roof of Marseille tiles were submitted in October 1926 by English born architect Arthur Sinclair O'Connor, who lived in Victoria Avenue, Mt Eden. (Victoria Avenue later became Nicholas, and finally Horoeka Avenue.)

As well as blocks of shops, two in neighbouring Sandringham, and other notable Auckland buildings including Tanfield Potter's elegant premises in Queen Street, O'Connor designed the 'Cheapside' shops and apartments, built like bookends on the corners of Halesowen and Calgary avenues and Dominion Road. They too were planned in 1926 and reflected the same popular Spanish Mission style as the tea kiosk.