PROSPECT

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Foote prints in Epsom

by Judith Wallath

In January 2022 a substantial building in Epsom, on the corner of Mountain and Seccombe roads, was demolished. Its original purpose had been to provide accommodation for 34 nurses and it was opened in December 1915 as the Trained Nurses Residential Club. I not only passed this building regularly, but had a remote family connection with it, which inspired me to do this piece of research.

My father Godfrey Le Clerc's eldest brother was Benjamin Robert Le Clerc of Helena Bay on Russell Road in Northland, New Zealand. In 1905 Ben married Maria A. B. P. Powell, daughter of Dr Powell of nearby Opuawhanga. Her sister Winnifred Powell had married a farmer—James D. G. Foote of Ngahau, Helena Bay, in 1892.

The Foote family had an interesting history. Originally sawmillers from Poole, England, they set up a business at the settlement of Exploits, Newfoundland. In 1864 William and Elizabeth Foote bought a share of the brigantine *Clara* and sailed to New Zealand with their sawmilling machinery and their family of seven sons and six daughters. The family settled at Huia on the Manukau Harbour, and worked the kauri at Whatipu before establishing themselves at Whananaki on Northland's east coast.

Their daughter, Jane Dalton Foote, known as Jean (1860–1916) began training as a nurse in Auckland at the age of 37, and after receiving her registration in 1902 went to Melbourne for maternity training at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. She was among the earliest intakes of trainee nurses in New Zealand, as nursing training had started in Wellington only in 1883, with a second training school established in Auckland the following year. Previously, all trained nurses in New Zealand had been trained overseas—and even in England nursing training was in its infancy. It was only because Florence Nightingale's actions during the Crimean War made such an undeniable difference to the death rate that nursing was even considered a responsible and respectable job.

Returning to Auckland in 1904, Jean Foote purchased land in Grafton Road where she built a three-storey nursing home, naming it Rawlingstone. For many years she managed this well-known and popular hospital until her death in 1916.

By 1915 she was the president of the Auckland branch of the Trained Nurses Association and worked with Dr McGuire, Mrs Kidd and Mrs Moss to buy the site in Mountain Road for the erection of a nurses' hostel. A loan of £2,500 at 6% was raised from the Auckland Savings Bank. The architect was Herbert Clinton Savage. Constructed by J. J. Holland, the new building was very up-to-date for the time, being fitted out for electric lights during construction.

Since 2000 it had operated as the Northern Health School, one of three New Zealand health schools, responsible for the educational support of students too unwell to attend their regular schools. It provided both community in-home and hospital teaching.

Jean was not the only nurse in the Foote family. Her sister, Nurse Ivy Foote, served in Egypt during the First World War at No.15 General Hospital in Alexandria. Here the patients were under huge tents the size of football fields, and typically a sister would look after 260 beds. She would have two nurses and eight to ten orderlies who together would do all the bandaging, washing and general work of nursing.

In 1903 their parents, William and Elizabeth Foote, moved into a villa named 'New Hope' in Gillies Avenue on the corner of the Ranfurly Road extension.

Outside his family, William Foote's main interest in his later years was his church—St Andrew's of Epsom. In 1910 a new vicarage was built, and in the same year he and other members of the congregation successfully petitioned the Auckland Synod to create St Andrew's as a separate parish. William Foote died in 1919 at the age of 98, and is interred in the family plot at Purewa Cemetery in Remuera.

In 1935 William's son Walter Foote inherited 'New Hope', and with it came the vacant lot next door. He built a new home for himself and his family on the vacant lot and rented out the old home. The new house cost £600 and was built entirely of kauri. At that time, kauri at 30 shillings per 100 super feet was cheaper than rimu, which cost 35 shillings.

Walter prepared a detailed quantity survey of his house plans and took the complete cutting list to the Kauri Timber Company mill in Railway Street, Mount Eden. This was unusual as precut houses were most uncommon at that time.

In the late 1980s, the Footes' house in Gillies Avenue was demolished to

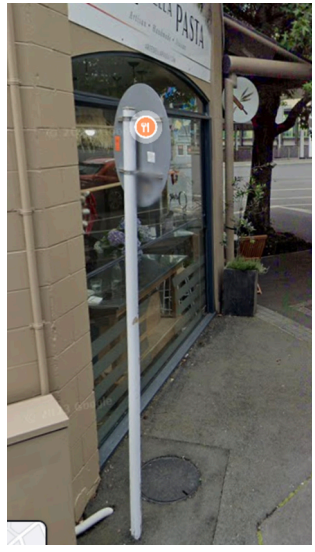
make way for modern flats. Rawlingstone nursing home (which ran as a boarding house from 1932) had also been demolished in the mid-1960s to enable more modern medical consulting chambers to be built.

Judith Wallath wishes to acknowledge and thank Bill Haigh of Kerikeri for allowing her to use material from his wonderfully interesting book 'Foote prints among the kauri'.

A MYSTERY TO SOLVE

Can anyone tell us why there is the following quote from Shakespeare's Troilus & Cressida set into this circular metal plaque in the pavement outside Arte della Pasta in Newmarket?

"*The heavens themselves, the planets, and this centre observe degree, priority, and place*"



- How long has it been there?
- What is its significance?
- Who authorised it and paid for it?
- Is it a survey peg?

13 Kakariki Avenue

by Jeanette Grant

This project started very simply. I wanted to know when my house was built, but it proved to be more than just a simple matter of ringing up the Council and asking . . .

The house is a villa—a style which was built over a period of half a century—but its nearest neighbours are bungalows and obviously younger. The surviving Mt Eden Borough Council records are now in the Auckland City Archives beneath the Public Library in Lorne Street. They provided some very interesting maps and photos of the area. Lands and Deeds provided copies of the transfers of title (at a price), while from 1909 various Wises Directories gave an indication of who actually lived in the houses.

Among other things I found that before 1938, Kakariki Avenue was called Chamberlain Avenue and that my own property is what is left of an original 1½ acre Right of Way (ROW) section fronting on Mt Eden Road. My curiosity was whetted, and the search expanded to become a look at the street itself and the circumstances of its creation and growth. This is what I found:

In September 1840 Captain William Hobson, the first Governor of New Zealand, bought 3000 acres on the south shore of the Waitemata Harbour to found a capital city for the newly acquired colony. Felton Matthews, Acting Surveyor-General, surveyed the site using the deserted pa site of Maungawhau as the survey station. A cairn and plaque mark the spot.

In these early days the future suburb of Mt Eden was a rough rock-strewn wilderness with patches of swamp and scrub. There were a few early settlers who had bought land direct from Māori, and were living in tents or raupo huts. These sales were investigated and many disallowed. The government bought the land around Mt Eden and subdivided it into allotments which began selling in 1842. Not all were bought by intending farmers. The speed with which many sections were resold shows that land speculation was thriving in the new settlement.

The earliest roads in the Mt Eden area were Dominion Road, Mt Eden

Road and Normanby Road plus Balmoral Road, which was known originally as the Mt Albert–Epsom Road. Mt Eden Road itself is the boundary between two survey sections known numerically as Section 6 to the east and Section 10 to the west. Because of this, some allotment numbers are duplicated. The area was subdivided into allotments averaging 20 acres in size. Most were sold in a series of auctions between November 1842 and August 1856 at prices ranging from £19 to £83 each.

What is now Kakariki Avenue appears on Proposed Plan E08, DOSLI Map 100 and Property Map V2350/2C. It crosses Allotments 72, 73 & 74. The first two were among properties bought by William Mason and Thomas Paton on 30 November 1842. Mason was the first architect to live and work in New Zealand. He came to Auckland from the Bay of Islands with Hobson, and thanks to the prefabricated cottage he erected at Official Bay, claimed to be the first to sleep here under a roof.

As Colonial Architect, he organised the erection of the first store, the first Government House and other government buildings, but tendered his resignation on 31 July 1841 on the grounds that his office gave little scope for architectural practice. He started an auctioneering firm with a partner, Thomas Paton, who also resigned his post as Postmaster.

In November 1842 their firm advertised for sale "the village of Epsom on the Manakao Rd". Mason bought one 19-acre lot himself and three more in partnership with Paton—the area today bounded by Mt Eden, St Andrews, Windmill and Glenalmond roads. Mason cultivated the land north of the Mt Albert–Epsom Road and Paton the land to the south.

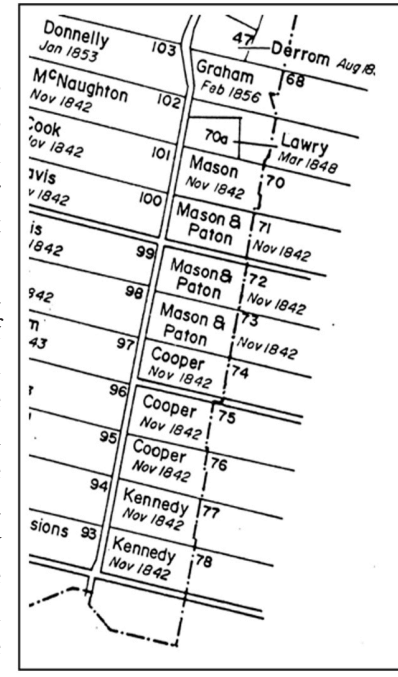
Farming here was more cropping than grazing; wheat and maize were grown, and the land produced 70 bushels to the acre. In 1844 Mason bought two acres adjoining his land and built Auckland's first flour mill (Eden Mill) which gave its name to Windmill Road. Formed by the government in 1848, it was the only new road constructed in the area at this time.

He built his house—Eden Grove—on the high land between Mt Eden and Penrhyn roads, but it was destroyed by fire on 6 December 1845 when a piece of paper thrown on the fire was carried up the chimney by a strong draught, landed on the thatch, and set it alight.

In 1847 Mason sold land and mill to the Rev Walter Lawry, the Superintendent of the Wesleyan Mission in New Zealand. This became one

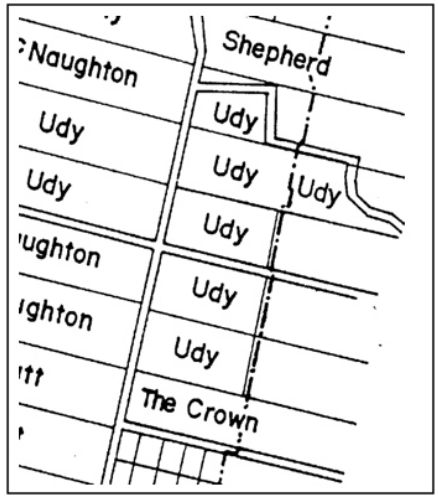
of the two largest farms in the area. Five years later Lawry sold the mill to John Bycroft who renamed it Bycroft's Mill. In 1853 Lawry gave the land to his son Henry Hassel Lawry, who sold it in 1863 to George and John Udy, after whom the reserve on the corner of Mt Eden and Balmoral roads is named.

The Udy farm originally included allotments 100 and 101 to the west of Mt Eden Road but these were sold in June 1875 to M. E. McGarry. In 1890 he subdivided them into 32 residential lots ranging in size from ¾ of an acre to 1½ acres along Balmoral and Kingsview roads. The rest of the Udy farm continued to shrink with the subdivision of 70 in 1897, when Pencarrow Road was formed. The farm had disappeared entirely by 1910.

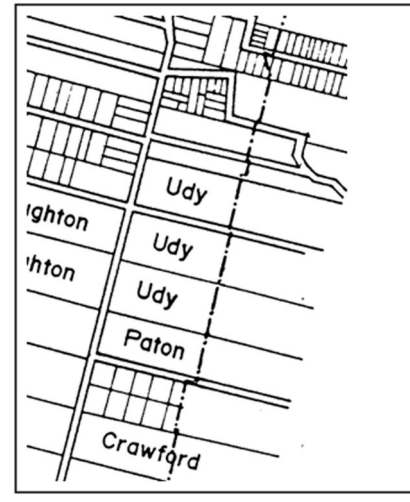


The 1840s

On 7 November 1902 the Udys sold Allotments 72 and 73 to Benjamin



The 1860s

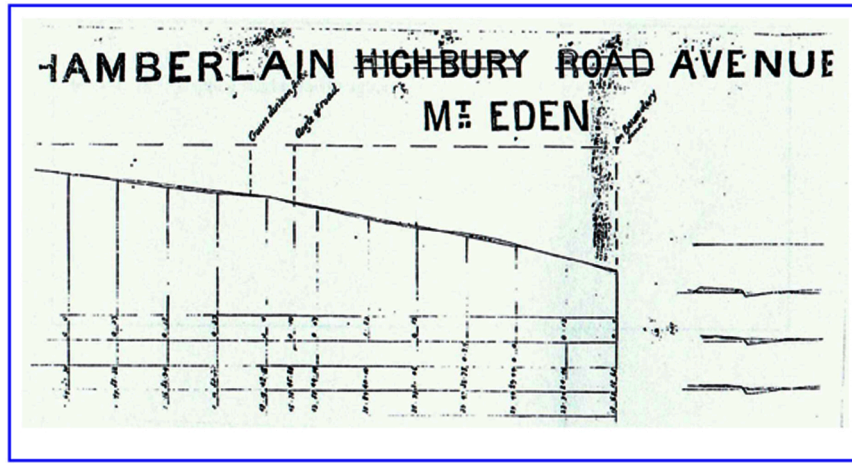


The early 1900s

Hawkins, who dedicated Chamberlain Avenue. According to a map in the archives, the original intention seems to have been to call it Highbury Road and the whole area the Highbury Estate. The name Chamberlain was used only until 1938 when it was renamed Kakariki Avenue as part of a programme to reduce the number of duplicated street names in Auckland. Māori names were becoming fashionable, and a kakariki is a green parrot.

Hawkins had previously been in partnership with Alexander Keyes. They had bought the northern half of Allotment 104A and subdivided it into 28 sections along Grange Road. This time the partnership consisted of Benjamin Tapscott Hawkins, orchardist; Alexander Keyes, builder (both of Birkenhead); and Robert Wladislas de Montalk, architect. They sold sections in Chamberlain Avenue until 1909. As this map shows, the initial plan had been to call it the Highbury Estate.

Unlike a modern subdivision, where all roads, footpaths and services

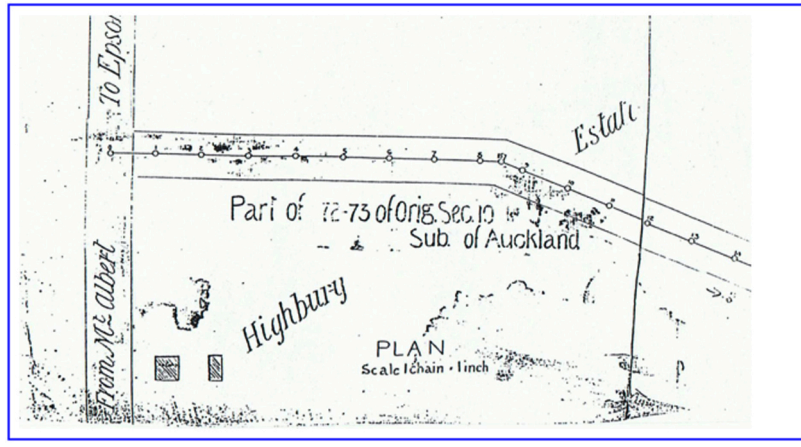


have to be provided before actual house construction can start, Chamberlain began as just a road, 15 chains long and 66 feet wide. John Udy was one of the original members of the Mt Eden Highway Board which had been formed on 11 April 1868. To supplement the money available from rates, toll gates were placed on Mt Eden Road near the railway bridge and on Dominion Road near Balmoral Road. Toll money to go towards the repair of the roads was collected from contractors carting scoria and ballast outside the district at the cost of sixpence per dray load. This continued

until 1895, when they were replaced by an annual £15 traffic licence fee.

The 1898 regulations stated that a road was to be 66 feet wide of which 12 feet was to be road and 11 feet the footpath on either side surfaced with scoria ash. Old photos show that this left an untidy unsealed strip between sealed roadbed and footpath. The archival maps show the road profile of Chamberlain Road.

Initially Chamberlain Avenue was a No Exit street and ended in the south at the boundary of Allotment 74. Numbers 74, 75 and 76 were



originally sold to George Cooper, a Collector of Customs, for a total of £201, far above the normal price. Cooper was soon bankrupt and his land was sold by the Supreme Court to pay an outstanding debt to the Crown of £4000. In September 1848, allotments 74 & 75 were bought by the Rev Arthur Purchas. He subdivided 75 into one acre sections along Watling Street and sold 74 to a settler called William Coldicutt. It subsequently became part of Thomas Paton's farm. It was not until 1924 that his widow, Anna Paton, subdivided the neighbouring Allotment 74, and at this time Chamberlain Avenue was extended south at a slight angle to meet the new Glenalmond Road. Mason had designed a house for Paton called 'Eden Hill' at 5 Morvern Avenue which remained in the family until the death of Miss Mary Paton at the age of 99 years in 1955. She was the last survivor of his family of seven, and the last of the Paton land was then sold and the house demolished.

Mt Eden was fortunate in having a ready source of scoria and basalt rock for roading, and the borough's roads were strongly built formed on a foundation of packed stone or original rock at a reasonable cost, using materials supplied by prison labour. Today as Kakariki Avenue, it is fully sealed with concrete footpaths and is 329 metres long with a legal width of 20.12 metres. Chamberlain Avenue first appeared in the Wises Directories in 1906, but there were no street numbers used until 1919. (Uneven numbers are in the lefthand column.)

WISES DIRECTORY		1906	
		LAVER, Robt	builder
STRAHAN, Wm Afd	butcher	LAVER, Ernest Wm	builder
AVERY, Frank	cabinet maker	GILES, Joseph	surgeon
AVERY, Miss Mary Jane		HEMMING, Arthur Jno	carpenter
COYLE, Alfred	cabinet maker	COYLE, Wltr Thos	bootmaker

The building styles in the street give a rough idea of the order in which they were built. Villas are basically a 19th century style which were still built in the very early years of the 20th century. Bungalows were more modern and were the most popular style built between the wars. Four were replaced with brick & tile blocks of 'sausage flats' in the late 1960s. As most of the street was built up before the Second World War, the only really modern houses are on subdivided backyard sections, although most have been 'modernised'.

In the original subdivision there was only one ROW section. This was our one-and-a-half acre block which went right down to Mt Eden Road and was used by the Strachan family as their residential address. There is no obvious reason for the property to need any link to Kakariki Avenue at all. There was no letterbox there until 1981, and I have often wondered if this was a way to avoid having an unlucky 13 in the street.

The original block came into the hands of a lawyer, John Morrison Melville, in 1927, and he proceeded to split it into two large sections sharing ROW access to Kakariki Avenue, and another large ROW and four small 566 sq metre sections on Mt Eden Road. However in 1946 the contemporary owners of 13 & 15 (aka 662a & 664a Mt Eden Road)—Mr E. Reay Clarke and Mrs Frances Foote—obtained a legal document from Mr

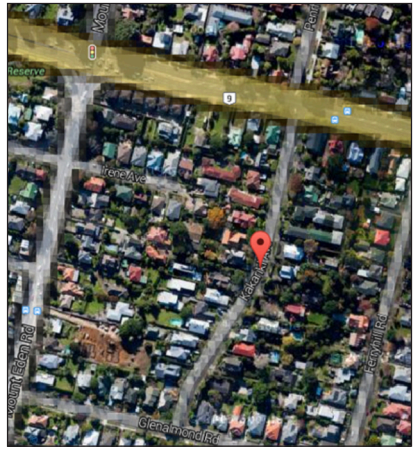
J. M. Melville guaranteeing those properties perpetual right-of-way access between 662 and 664 through to Mt Eden Road itself.

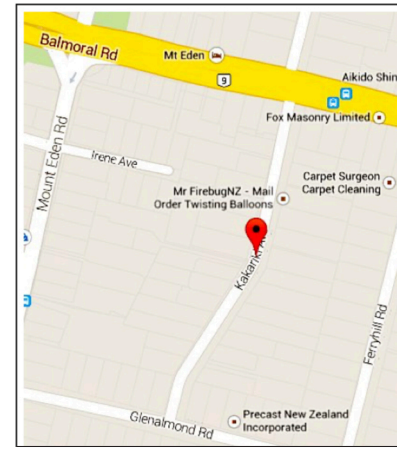
Until recently there had been comparatively little subdivision, probably because of the essentially long narrow shape of the sections. The rears of 5 and 7 had become new sections at 11 and 9 Irene Avenue in 1937 and 1939, while the section now 1 was created from the rear of 40 and 42 Balmoral Road c.1947. The rear portions of 27 (1964) and 29 were surveyed, but instead of being given separate titles they were sold to form part of Dr Victor McGeorge's large adjacent property at 690 Mt Eden Road.

Later, three new ROW sections were created: 11a was created from the two tennis courts at the rear of 9 and 11 in 1964; then 3a at the rear of 3 and 25a at the rear of 25 in 1995. On the other side of the road 4a was created in 1970 from the rear of 4 and some of 2, while 24 now has a 24a at the rear and 28 is the front portion of 26.

The most recent new buildings have been 17a and in 2014 two new ones—19a and 19b were built at the rear of 19 and 21. Another is currently (2021–23) under construction at the rear of 12.

A problem occurred in 2018 when we found that our driveway was appearing on Google maps as a road. We theorised that because so many vehicles have GPS systems, and there are frequent courier vans calling at 15, the increased amount of vehicular traffic had fooled the relevant computer into thinking it was a public thoroughfare. In 2019 we made what we hope will be a permanent correction.





Location location location

A look at the map shows that Kakariki Avenue is really very centrally located. Within two kilometres you have a choice of churches, hospitals, schools and shopping areas unequalled elsewhere in the city. Even when the street was dedicated in 1903, the advantages of its location were obvious. In those days before the motorcar had come to dominate transport, local shops were of major importance. Today, its proximity to Mt Eden and Balmoral roads allows its residents easy access to the city centre as well as to all the motorways.

Even in 1902, it was in an advantageous position. Mt Eden and the Mt Albert–Epsom (Balmoral) roads were comparatively main thoroughfares. There had even been a form of public transport along Mt Eden Road provided by the brothers Johnnie and Cornelius Keir, who had their stables in Windmill Road and ran a horse-bus service from there to Queen Street from the late 1870s. The Mt Eden railway station had opened in 1880, giving the district easy access to other areas by way of 'mixed trains'—goods trains with a passenger carriage at the back.

However the most significant stimulus to the growth of settlement in the area was the extension of the electric trams to Pencarrow Avenue. The first electric tramway in Auckland had been opened on 17 November 1902 with the switching on of the current at the Hobson Street power station by Mayor Alfred Kidd. Sir John Logan Campbell then drove the first electric car up Queen Street. Red and cream became the fleet colours after 1912. The standard gauge was 4ft8½in, and the English firm of J G White & Co laid 27 miles of track in Auckland within 14 months using pick and shovel, horse-drawn drays and steamrollers!

The extension to Pencarrow Avenue was started on 14 October 1907, and the service began in May 1908. Later the tracks were extended to Rewa Road in October 1930 and to Mt Albert Road in March 1931. These trams served Mt Eden well until the last one ran on 22 May 1953, the system then being replaced by trolley buses.

The trip into town from Balmoral Road was three sections, each approximately a mile long. (The sections ended at Khyber Pass Road, Lovelock Avenue and Ellerton Road.) It cost fourpence for an adult and twopence for a child to travel three sections, and my memory insists that you could rely on a tram to come rattling along every ten minutes between 6am and 11.20pm. The seats were unpadded—just wooden slats with backs

which could be flipped over to face the other way when the tram reached the end of the line. The trams were double ended so that the driver just took the tiller handle he used for steering to the cab at the other end and changed the overhead arm so that it trailed on the other set of power wires. You can still experience tram travel at MOTAT: the vibration, the clattering, the need to keep your balance while straphanging.

The trams themselves ran down the middle of the road, and all vehicles had to pass with caution and be prepared to stop whenever the tram stopped to allow passengers safe passage to the footpath. Only in the city were there 'safety zones'—raised concrete platforms alongside the tracks where passengers could wait to alight and descend in safety. In 1913 the Mt Eden Borough Council resolved that there should be a 15mph speed limit for cars and motorcycles, with a 5mph limit on corners.

I remember as a child hearing a terrific crash and going down the drive to see what had happened. A tram had been stopped by the shops on the corner of Wairiki Road. A fire engine coming down the hill could not pass it on the left because cars had also stopped to let the passengers off. It tried to pass on the right only to encounter a car coming the other way. The crash we had heard was the fire engine smashing through the front of the **stationer's/barber's** shop on the southern end of the block.

Tram conductors passed along the carriage selling tickets, and inspectors hopped on the trams at random to make sure everyone had paid, and paid for the right distance. The Mt Eden tram went along Symonds Street, Anzac Avenue, Customs Street and Hobson Street and then out to Pt Chevalier where it reversed itself for the return trip to Mt Albert Road, Three Kings. The trams would wait at the time clocks in Customs Street until it was time to leave on schedule.

Mt Eden Road had a concrete roadway on either side with the tramlines running down the centre tarsealed section. More than one cyclist had a wheel caught in the groove of the tramlines, and I have even heard of a baby Austin whose tyres were so narrow one slipped in and the driver found herself following a route she had not intended.

The tramlines were laid on heavy timber sleepers—many of which were imported from Australia. Around 1946, termites were found to have invaded a villa on the corner of Mt Eden Road and Plunket Avenue. Their source was traced to some of these sleepers. A search of the power poles in

the area found some of those were also infested and they, and the unlucky house, were razed and burned. The Mt Eden Borough Council appointed a termite inspector, and for many years afterwards he roamed the borough searching for any sign of the unwelcome pests. His tools of trade were a torch and a bayonet. He crawled under houses and inspected foundations and checked power poles, fences, trees etc, and thanks to his dedication Mt Eden is again free of termites. (See 'Under Threat', *Prospect* Vol 12, 2013.)

The tram service was not without its problems, and in fact was forced to cease running on several occasions. In October 1913 strikes by the Huntly miners and Wellington shipwrights brought out other trades including the waterside workers, and for several weeks business was at a standstill. Even the trams stopped running.

Strikes recurred in 1919, and the shortage of coal meant that public services such as gas and electricity were affected. Remember that this was in the days before the large-scale generation of hydro-electricity and long before natural gas was found. The gas used for street lighting, etc, was coal gas stored around the city in huge circular black gasometers, and electricity supplies depended on coal-fired steam generators. In 1920 the lack of fuel caused the complete suspension of both trams and gas supplies. On two occasions—31 January to 13 February, and 25 September to 11 October, the trams ceased running.

Chamberlain Avenue residents did not have to walk far. A block of five shops on the corner of Wairiki Road was built about 1930 and contained a stationer, greengrocer, the Betsey Ann home bakery, a dairy and a butcher. By 2014 only the butcher was still in operation. The bookshop had displayed vintage clothing since 2008, the greengrocer's became a computer software business and then a children's clothing specialist; the bakery was a hair salon for over 30 years. In July 2014 the property changed hands, the rents went up and the dairy closed down. Two others closed soon after. The building was remodelled with the shops' living quarters turned into independent flats. The butchery survived—but at the opposite end of the building.

A few yards further south was a pair of small shops—one a men's hairdresser and tobacconist; the other, another dairy. These are now combined as another hair salon. A few yards further south again, a larger shop served as a grocer—for many years one of the Four Square group.

Deliveries were made after school hours by 'the grocer's boy' using a delivery bicycle with a LARGE basket on the front, but the shop is now a pair of garages serving the houses at the rear. The dairies are no longer the money spinners of the 1950s. It used to be believed that a family could take over a dairy and live above the shop, open from 6am to 11pm with all the family helping out in the shop and after three years of hard labour would have made enough to buy a house and enjoy an easier lifestyle. More than the competition from supermarkets, it has been the growth of food shops at petrol stations that is making them unviable.

On the southern corner of Ellerton Road, the Misses Williams (?) ran a near approach to a country store. The shop had an uneven floor and piles of ancient stock were stacked on counters and in corners. In the 1940s and '50s it sold sewing materials, and was a source of terror to the local children who regarded the proprietor as a witch. She in turn had a running feud with the boys, who raced their trolleys down the steep slope of Ellerton Road. She also had a phobia about people standing under 'her' verandah while they waited for a tram, and she is reputed to have taken a watering can and watered the feet of such offenders. This building later became the foundation shop of the Jansen's pet shops, before they became Animates.

Further north up Mt Eden Road, on either side of the intersection with Kingsview Road, was a larger block of shops which contained another dairy, men's hairdresser/tobacconist, a stationer, chemist, haberdashery and tearooms. More recently they became mainly takeaways, restaurants or antique shops but the complications of Covid-19 has meant that several are currently sitting empty. The main shops at Mt Eden Village were nearly a mile away and included the Mt Eden Post Office—now a restaurant/bar. There is still no supermarket there, and most of the shops are takeaways, restaurants or beauty shops of some kind..

A look at the map shows that within a two kilometre radius, Kakariki residents in the 21st century have a choice of significant shopping centres—Balmoral, Mt Eden, Newmarket, Royal Oak, Mt Roskill, St Lukes, Three Kings and Valley Road. The assumption is that you go shopping and fill up the car. The days of little old ladies towing trundlers to the local shop are gone, although the arrival of Covid-19 has seen a revival of home delivery.

The earliest settlers depended on natural water supplies, soon supplemented by wells and rainwater tanks, but the demand increased steadily. In 1872 a drought saw water-hawkers selling water in the streets. The council arranged to pump 30,000 gallons a day from Seccombe's Well in Khyber Pass Road, and it was stored in a small reservoir on the top of Domain Hill. After prolonged negotiation, the council bought Western Springs in 1875 for £20,000, and this pump station supplied the city for many years. In 1877 a reservoir was placed on Mt Eden, and others were added there in 1912. Disaster occurred in 1929 during excavation of the site for a new reservoir. The wall of the original tank had been uncovered but while unsupported proved incapable of standing the outward pressure and burst at 5.30 on a Monday morning, sending thousands of gallons destructively down the mountain. The only witness was a milkman making deliveries in Hillside Crescent who thought an eruption had started.

The first Waitakere dam, storing 220 million gallons, was finished in 1906, and by 1923 two more dams at Nihotupu were complete, storing 69m and 540m gallons respectively. Dams in the Hunuas have followed, and water is even taken from the Waikato River. New water mains were slowly laid in 2013–14.

The early residents of Chamberlain Avenue were fortunate in not having to wait for gas and water. The early water supply was carried in 4-inch cast iron mains which inevitably rusted and leaked. In the 1980s these were 'concrete relined'. Most houses have by now replaced their individual cast iron water supply pipes with modern plastic pipes. In the early days, a house's electricity supply was commonly earthed through the water pipes. This no longer works with plastic.

The first gas pipe was laid in the street in 1903. The custom was to dig a single trench and lay the domestic gas pipe about two feet deep and the water pipe a foot higher. Ninety years later they were still in use but leaks were occurring. The solution was to insert a plastic inner liner in both the mains and feeder pipe to each house. This solved the problem without the disruption of digging up and replacing all the gas pipes.

Street lighting in Mt Eden had begun in 1899 when the Auckland Gas Company was contracted to light the district. Every sunset, a man went round to light the lamps which were then extinguished at midnight. Road names were painted in white on the lamp posts. Gas was the only power

available in Chamberlain Avenue until the arrival of electricity on 13 July 1923, when the first power pole was erected there.

The earliest form of sewage disposal was the simple smelly long drop. This was followed by the use of the euphemistically named "honey buckets" and from 1884 there was provision for collecting 'nightsoil' and removing it from the district. Other houses installed septic tanks. As early as 1878 plans were under way for a waterborne sewerage scheme, but sewers did not reach this part of Mt Eden until 1921. Thirty years later at 13 we began to notice a smell. On investigation the plumber found that they had simply put an overflow pipe from the existing septic tank to the new sewer. This had worked for 30 years but eventually it choked up, and the old tank had to be emptied and filled in properly.

In forming Chamberlain Avenue the road followed the gentle ridge line, and the sections sloped away on both sides. The sections to the east sank progressively steeply into a little valley with a stream which ran to the south. As late as the 1960s, some of these sections still flooded after prolonged heavy rain. The sections on the west sloped down towards Mt Eden Road, and as sewerage lines were installed they were placed near the lowest boundaries and flowed south. During the Great Depression the MEBC used the unemployed to work on the sewerage scheme which was difficult work as much of the tunnelling was through solid volcanic rock.

As in most of Auckland, these were combined sewer/stormwater lines and originally just discharged into the sea. In 1914 the Auckland and Suburban Drainage Board constructed the Orakei system with an outfall at Okahu Point and storage tanks now used by Kelly Tarlton's Underwater World. The growing population and an awakening of concern about the long-term pollution of the harbours led to long-drawn-out scientific and political debate on the merits of the Browns Island sewerage scheme.

This controversial scheme was planned in 1932, but largely owing to the campaign mounted from 1945 by the future Mayor Sir Dove Myer Robinson, the scheme was abandoned in favour of the Manukau Sewerage Scheme. This was a system of sewers and pumps conveying sewage from all parts of the isthmus to a single purification plant by Puketutu Island. Methane gas was produced and used to supply power. Unfortunately the oxidation ponds also produced fumes which assaulted the nostrils and the paintwork, while midges multiplied by the million. While capable of coping with normal loadings, the heavy downpours which Auckland

suffers at unpredictable intervals still resulted in outpourings of untreated sewage into both harbours. Even if only 0.1% of waterborne sewage is solid waste, this is still unacceptable. In 2023, work is still in progress on a major 'interceptor' scheme to pick up a multiplicity of old sewers.

During the 1970s and 1980s a large low-lying area of the borough of Mt Eden was declared a 'deferred development zone' by the Mt Eden Borough Council. This was an attempt to limit the amount of runoff by stopping any increase in the area of roofing and sealed drives etc. The houses on the west side of Kakariki Avenue were at the head of this problem catchment area. The MEBC was busy laying separate stormwater drains and building an emergency ponding area on the playing fields of Maungawhau School. In October 1989 the relevant property owners in Kakariki Avenue were circularised to get their permission for the council to construct stormwater drains across their property. Unfortunately when the MEBC was absorbed into Auckland City, the funding for this work was not seen as a priority and it failed to be included in the city's budget.

It was not until August 1993 that funding was finally made available, and property owners were informed and given a plan of the work as it affected their property. The drains were emplaced but very few house-owners took the expensive next step of actually connecting their downpipes to the new system. Rather than cause a furore by making such an action compulsory, the council notified them in May 1996 that it would fund the cost of connecting private stormwater drainage to public stormwater reticulation. There was no cost to the property owners provided permission was granted by 11 October 1996. The work was completed by the end of the year.

The creation of the Greater Auckland City has brought many changes, but not everyone believes that bigger is necessarily better. The creation of a single valuation system sounds logical but it has been an excuse for dramatic rises in property values. For instance, our annual rates at 13 are now three times the value of the actual purchase price in 1944. The land is valued at ten times that of the 'improvements'. The only properties in Kakariki Avenue now valued at under a million dollars are some of the individual units in the blocks of flats.

What would Benjamin Hawkins have thought?

Hydrotherapy

—or getting into hot, and cold, water

by Basil Hutchinson

Based on a talk given to the Auckland Medical History Society in 2005

This all began when I discovered a book which had belonged to my grandfather, in my late father's collection. It was, and is *Practical Hydrotherapy* by John Smedley [1], and this 7th edition was published in London in 1864. Grandfather Charles Hutchinson emigrated to New Zealand in 1872 at the age of 23, so whether he brought this book with him, or it was sent out to him from England as being a 'useful tome', I don't know. Nor do I know if my father ever read it as I don't remember him talking about it, and I didn't discover it until many years after his death, when in 1991 my mother had to move into a rest home.

John Smedley was a non-medical person—a retired businessman in fact—who was somewhat scathing of treatment administered by doctors at that time. Smedley ran a Hydropathic Establishment at Matlock Bank in Derbyshire, about half-way between Sheffield and Nottingham, and obviously treated many patients. But we'll leave him for the moment and look further back in history.

Hydropathy can be simply defined as 'medical treatment by external and internal application of water' and is what we would now call Hydrotherapy, or 'the water cure'. A part of this is Balneology, 'the scientific study of bathing and medicinal springs' and the term 'spa' refers to a 'place where there is a curative medicinal spring.' Spa comes from Belgium, being the name of a town in Liege province, famous since the 14th century for its mineral springs. It has given its name to similar centres elsewhere, as in Bath, Cheltenham, Harrogate and Leamington in England.

Water is one of the four elements of the Ancients, and as we know is essential to life. It has been used in the treatment of ailments for thousands of years, both internally and externally. Let us look at my subtitle: 'Getting into hot, and cold, water'. Smedley used both hot and cold water in his treatments, but it was my colleague Kaye Ibbertson who asked me to include the 'cold' as he retains vivid memories from his boyhood of

compulsory cold showers at boarding school. Many of us probably remember those, but did the girls have them too? Why cold water? One can advance a number of theories:

1. To fully wake the slothful schoolboy;
2. To cool the ardour of rampant testosterone;
3. To save money on electricity or gas required to heat the water;
4. To save water and time, as one was unlikely to linger under a cold shower; or
5. Because it was good for us, and the masters had it when they were boys!

The ancient Greeks and Romans made great use of baths, and the Greek physician Asclepiades of Bithynia, who came to Rome c.124BC, may have been the originator of the Roman penchant for baths, both hot and cold. Hot baths, or thermae, were established and can be seen in ancient maps of Athens, Rome and in Sicily [2]. When the Romans came to Britain they were delighted to find the hot springs at present-day Bath [3], which they named Aquae Sulis, the baths being in honour of the goddess Minerva (or Athene of the Greeks). Other parts of the Roman Empire in North Africa, southern Gallia or Gaul (now France) and regions of Italy had Aquae, or medicinal springs. The Greek therma hudata or Thermae of the Romans, were warm springs or baths, natural or artificial.

Spas and hydroponic institutions were perhaps at their height when New Zealand was colonised in the 1840s, and settlers soon found hot springs were pleasant to bathe in. Many would have thought they had curative properties, and there were mineral waters to drink. The Māori certainly used thermal springs, and Laurie Gluckman's book *Tangiwai* [4] has several references. John Johnson MD, New Zealand's first Colonial Surgeon, described the springs at Ngawha and found sulphurous acid, aluminous salts and iron were constituents in the water. He stated "The natives make use of these springs in cases of a venereal nature, glandular swellings and skin affections [sic] by digging holes in the clayey ground, lining these with the flax plant and immersing their bodies in the water which rises on them or sitting over the stream of the very hottest springs." He made many observations on the composition and uses of thermal springs.

He gave a lot of thought to the Rotorua thermal area in the late 1840s. On 6 January 1848 he tested springs at Ohinemutu with litmus, lead acetate and turmeric and a "few more chemicals" and found all "were more or less acidulous". All contained sulphuretted hydrogen or sulphur in solution. He said, "I did not discover the presence of any free alkali, neither lime or iron." He made further analyses near Rotomahana and believed the thermal waters "possess valuable medicinal qualities both for internal use and external application, as the uniform heat is the most active agent in the cure." However he, and Colenso earlier, believed cooking with these waters corroded the teeth of Māori. Johnson also saw the danger of hot pools with accidental falls and scaldings.

I began listing the hot springs round New Zealand that I could remember and found the number surprisingly large. The *New Zealand Encyclopaedia* of 1966 [5] shows no less than 61: 50 in the North Island and 11 in the South. Some of these were developed and some were not.

European settlers soon saw the potential of New Zealand's hot mineral springs and there were high hopes of setting up spas in the European style which would have splendid hotels and facilities which would draw people from round the world. But we were a bit far away for that, in view of the long journey here and an insufficiently wealthy local population to make such dreams economic. However, we did have our spas and many of them have lasted, if not in a medical way. The first volume of the *New Zealand Medical Journal* in 1887 and 1888 contains a series of three papers entitled 'The Hot Springs of New Zealand'. The first paper is 'Te Aroha' by Dr Alfred Wright [6], the second is 'The Thermal Springs of Rotorua' by Dr Alfred Ginders [7] while the third is 'Hanmer Plains' by Dr D. Colquhoun [8].

I shall quote from Dr Wright's paper [6]:

> From time to time Te Aroha has numbered among its visitors medical men from all parts of the Australasian colonies, and I notice in the 'visitor's' book which is kept at the office of the Hot Springs Domain, the names of several disciples of Aesculapius who have wandered here from as far as Europe and America. Without exception, wherever an opinion has been expressed by these my professional brethren, who have had the opportunity of personally investigating the medicinal

> and therapeutic properties of the water it is found to be of a highly favourable character.
>
> Having myself come from England with the intention of settling in New Zealand, I was induced to take up my abode here, chiefly on account of the many natural advantages which the place possesses and the growing reputation it is gaining as a health resort. Bring myself a sufferer from rheumatism as well as liver troubles, I felt a personal interest in testing the properties of the Te Aroha Hot Springs. Last May I stayed here for a month and during that time I had under my care, cases of rheumatism, gout, eczema and dyspepsia, all of which were undoubtedly greatly benefited by these waters and baths. Since then I have returned to Te Aroha, determining to make the place a permanent home and here to practise my profession.
>
> It is impossible for me to extol too highly those remarkable potable waters and natural hot baths, for their value in the treatment of the diseases mentioned before cannot be over-estimated. I have been quite astonished at the success which has attended the use of the baths by the patients who have taken them under my direction, when assisted by treatment pursued on ordinary lines.
>
> Te Aroha is a very picturesque township 120 miles south of Auckland from which city it is reached by train in about eight hours, no change of carriage being necessary; in fact, for the more comfortable accommodation of invalids visiting this watering place, the railway authorities provide specially constructed carriages, so that the journey is accomplished with a minimum amount of trouble and fatigue. The ease with which invalids are thus enabled to reach this place gives it a great advantage over others which possess similar hot springs, but which are not so accessible; hence this health resort is eclipsing Waiwera and is a formidable rival to Rotorua . . . .

Many of you, like me, will remember visiting our hot springs as children. These resorts were still very popular then. I don't think we visited them for medicinal reasons; it was more pleasure and social. I enjoyed the hot pools as a small boy and I remember Waiwera—it was quite a journey from Papakura to Waiwera in 1936—and Rotorua, Te Aroha, Okoroire and on one memorable occasion when I was five, up the east coast from Gisborne to Te Puia Hot Springs where we had a wonderful holiday. Looking back at Okoroire—we were all blissfully unaware of amoebic meningitis then!

I have a particularly soft spot for Te Aroha, however. We went there

several times, and in 1936 Te Aroha needed more hot water for their baths. My father Ken Hutchinson, who was a well-driller, was contracted to put a bore down in search of hot water. This he did, and at a depth of 240 feet (or 73 metres) he struck an artesian supply of hot water which provided an adequate flow of hot water which also became what was dubbed 'the only soda water geyser in the world'. My mother and I must have been there when they broke through, as I can remember seeing the hot water spouting up by the derrick of the machine, although I was only three years old. The bore hole has been reamed out since—in 1945 by my uncle George Hutchinson, who was also a well-driller. One could say it is an artificial geyser, but it is still functioning very well, spouting every half-hour, and the run-off water supplies the hot pools.

Our daughter, son-in-law and family now live in Te Aroha, so we visit the spa town once more. The old bath house is now the Te Aroha and District Museum, housing some quaint relics of its early spa days. However, the water treatment is still promoted. A recent Te Aroha Mineral Pools pamphlet is advertising:

> The world's only Soda Spa geyser, five self-contained spa baths, choice of wooden or stainless steel aromatherapy baths with en suite change rooms, a traditional bathhouse ideal for private group bookings, Aromatherapy Spa oils and take home packs, a 20 metre outdoor freshwater leisure pool, children's tepid paddling pool, an outdoor spa pool, etc . . . . People come from all over the world to experience Te Aroha's uniquely therapeutic Soda Spring Water.

In spite of Dr Wright's campaign Rotorua, with its wide range of thermal attractions, soon eclipsed Te Aroha in popularity and became more like a European spa than other New Zealand areas. Dr Ginders [7] who was Medical Superintendent of the Government Sanatorium in Rotorua, wrote about it in 1887 and detailed the scientific aspects of spa treatment and the use of thermos-mineral baths.

> As a good deal of misconception exists in the public mind touching the *modus operandi* of thermos-mineral baths, and more especially as I find the professional mind not wholly free from similar error, it will be well, I think, to preface my remarks with a hasty survey of the present state of scientific opinion on the following points: 1. The nature of thermal water *per se*; 2. The nature and cause of thermal heat; 3. The

absorption of water by the skin; 4. The absorption by the skin of saline and other substances in solution and suspension.

German spa physicians have been much too prone to give undue prominence to the effect of hot water to the ignoring of the numerous other factors equally concerned in their cures. If they do not entirely ignore, they art least subordinate, the influence of climate, scenery, regimen and rest. The high-flown rhapsodies in which they indulge are sometimes amusing . . . .

He goes on to say

. . . we find all sorts of absurd theories promulgated to account for cures, which are, no doubt, in many instances remarkable. The chemically indifferent water of Gastein in Austria, for example, which contains only 2½ grains of solid matter to the pint, has been gravely asserted to be represented by the chemical formula H_3O, a theory which certainly will not 'hold water'. The water of a thermal spring *per se* differs in no way from that of ordinary water. Meteoric in its origin as that of any other spring, it has found its way to a certain depth in the Earth's crust, where, aided by heat, pressure and certain gases—notably carbonic acid—it has been able to dissolve out of the rock with which it comes in contact the substances we find in it, transforming them in many instances, as when the silicates, for example, are converted into carbonates . . . .

And so on. With regard to his own spa he says

Rotorua has the advantage of every other health resort in the known world in the number and variety of its hot springs. Fifty-five are already used as baths and this is not a tithe of the number existing in the district . . . .

He states

. . . investigation . . . in this district . . . enables us to enumerate seven chemically distinct thermal waters: 1. Saline. 2. Alkaline. 3. Alkaline silicious. 4. Sulphurous. 5. Acidic. 6. Saline acidulous chalybeate. 7. Boracic.

Thus he was one up on Te Aroha, which he claimed had only one type of water! His paper then continues with much detail of the facilities and patients treated.

Some years later, in 1905, Dr Arthur Wohlmann [9] also wrote in the *New Zealand Medical Journal* about "the scope and limitations of balneological treatment" and an extract from his paper was published in the *NZMJ* in recent years. Dr Wohlmann was Government Balneologist in Rotorua from 1901. In 1907 the *NZMJ* contained advertisements for "Government Health Resorts" [10] and these included Rotorua, Te Aroha, and Hanmer, which Dr Colquhous [8] had written about in 1888. The Rotorua Bath House, which is now the museum, contains much history about Rotorua's role as a spa and hydrotherapy centre. By late 1902, Dr Wohlmann and others had drawn up the plans for a grand new bath house. The successful tenderer was W. Hutchinson of Auckland—no relation I am afraid—and the new building opened in 1908. The first Blue Baths had been opened in 1885. Enthusiasm for medicinal waters had waned by the 1940s, and the Health Department took over in 1947, the spa closing a few years later. In 1963 the Rotorua City Council took control of the Bath House and all treatments were transferred to nearby Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

While doing the early research for this talk, I found a splendid book, *Taking the Waters*, written by Ian Rockel [11] in 1986, and this covers Awakeri, Hanmer, Kamo Springs, Maruia Springs, Morere, Ngawha, Okauia, Okoroire, Parakai, Rotorua, Taupo, Te Aroha, Te Puia, Tokaanu, Wairakei, Waiwera and others in great detail. Rockel states:

> Waiwera was the first spa in New Zealand; Rotorua was, for several reasons, considerably the most important, but Te Aroha was the first geothermal water area to receive many thousands of bathers annually. It was, for several years, ahead of Rotorua.

He goes on to say:

> Unlike Hanmer, Te Aroha has retained its spa appearance. Of all New Zealand's geothermal areas, the Domain at Te Aroha looks much as it did in Edwardian times. Some of the old bathhouse buildings remain, and the formal gardens have been only slightly altered; they are not dotted with barbecue grills, and hydroslides don't loop their way downhill.

Of course we still promote our thermal springs, and nowadays you can look them up on the internet. Try www.nzhotpools.co.nz and you will find it all in colour. Sally Jackson [12] has written a book, *Hot Springs of New Zealand*, which has now sold out its second edition.

But let's leave the hot bathing and return to Hydrotherapy proper, as practised in England by John Smedley [1]. It was very ritualistic, there being more than 230 different regimes of baths, wrapping patients in dripping sheets, wrapping parts of them with cold compresses, warm compresses, hot compresses, different types of wrappings, etc. Here are a few examples:

> ANOTHER CASE OF RHEUMATIC FEVER – A case of rheumatic fever was cured by the following treatment. On rising, a fomenting pack followed by a dripping sheet or shallow bath, at first not quite cold, say 65 degrees, forenoon, a vapour bath for ten minutes and a dripping sheet after nearly cold; three o'clock a wet pack for one hour, followed by dripping sheet as above. The fever generally returns about night, and if this be the case, give another wet pack of half an hour from seven to eight o'clock. Wet a napkin in cold water and wear it round the head night and day, frequently renewed in cold water. Shallow baths are better than dripping sheets, where they can be had, rubbing the body well while in the bath. Wear a wet body bandage night and day; diet as in former case, omitting flesh-meat if the fever be high. No stimulant of any kind nor medicine to be taken. We have never found this treatment fail in soon effecting a cure, repeated daily until the fever is subdued and then fewer baths are needed.
>
> I have had cases removed to my free hospital in a cart, in the middle of winter, on straw, with a blanket or two to cover them, and in three weeks have sent them home entirely restored to health. We consider such cases the most simple and speedily cured of any we have; allopathic doctors find them the most difficult of any of their cases, and never thoroughly cure them.

He ran a good sanatorium by the sound of it, with good plain food, no alcohol, no stimulants, no smoking and patients really were looked after in a pleasant rural environment, so there were good reasons why many would recover or improve. Conventional medical treatment in the 1860s did not have a lot to offer! Let us look at Smedley's schedules. There are more than 230 different items of treatment ranging from No.1, Cold Dripping Sheet through 51. Steam Bath, 79. Throat Pack, 111. Spinal Rubbing, 199. Galvanism, 222. Soap Blanket to 230. Spray Bath.

He reported the treatment given to such cases as "Age 22, Epilepsy; under treatment he had only one attack shortly after he came and has had none since."

"Age 22, last stage of consumption. Gave him great relief and prolonged life."

Is such therapy still available? Probably some of it is. I was amazed to read in the *Central Leader* a few years ago that Colon Hydrotherapy offers powerful cleansing for the body [13], so it seems you can have a good wash-out to fix your 'toxic colon' which, it was claimed, can manifest itself in many ways. [The Colon Care Centre was founded in 2003 and 20 years later still operates from New North Road, Morningside—Ed.] I think I would prefer one of Kaye Ibbertson's cold showers—and of course today you can have a spa bath in your own home, and they are even advertising portable ones!

I thought I'd finish up with a few wise sayings, but my *Dictionary of Quotations* [14] doesn't have many relating to water. Paul's first epistle to Timothy, Chapter 5 verse 23, tells us "Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine oft infirmities" while G. K. Chesterton in *Wine and Water* said "I don't care where the water goes if it doesn't get into the wine."

But those are not relevant to the topic in hand. More suitable is the Greek quotation from Pindar, which is inscribed over the Pump Room at Bath:

αριστον υεν υδωρ – "water is best" (ariston men hudor)

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First impressions of Auckland Grammar School

by Alex Grant (in 1983)

I recently discovered the following account of a 3rd former's first impressions of Auckland Grammar School in 1983, and felt it was worth adding to the memories we have had in earlier issues. It was written as part of a school assignment and his teacher's comment on this particular section was:

"Some very pertinent comments on AGS in your impressions. Yes a large school does run a danger of being impersonal in the classroom."

And his mark for the whole assignment? B++

First impressions of my new school

My preconceived idea of AGS was that they went around caning people all day. My older brother's stories may have done little to dispel this idea. Proof was given when two boys in our class were caned early in the first week.

I would walk around the playground, expecting to be attacked and **poled** or **flushed**. I was lucky; nothing happened to me though I saw it done to others.

As for homework! I had never, ever believed I would have so much work to do in one night. We were given more homework in one week than we had been given in an entire year before.

Another thing I discovered was that teachers *do* hand out heaps and heaps of detention, often punishing the whole class for disruptions caused by only one or two people.

It looked like it would be a VERY long year.

Return to AGS

Well, I was right! It was a long year, with English, French, Latin, Social Studies, Science and Maths to do each night, as well as some lengthy projects to do. Fortunately I was wrong about poling and flushing, but not about caning or detention.

Most teachers' attitude seems to be that they are teaching subjects, not people. The syllabus is so big that they usually do not have time to attend to individual problems. Very few of our teachers have had good control over class discipline. This makes it hard for those boys who really do want to work.

I found it particularly frustrating when teachers would ignore questions about aspects of the work I had not understood. Finally I resorted to desperate measures. I deliberately talked when the teacher had threatened the next talker with a detention. That way, I got a chance to talk to him individually after school and sorted out several of my problems.

In general, it has been a year I would not have missed.

BOOK REVIEW

Voices of World War II: New Zealanders share their stories

by Rene Hollis, published by Exisle Publishing in 2021

This is the kind of book you can open at random and read on, as it includes memories and anecdotes covering a multitude of topics. There are childhood memories of air raid practices at school, stories of the submarines seen around the coast, women's reactions to the conditions they encountered as WAAFs, American soldiers' descriptions of Kiwi life, and of course, many war and prisoner-of-war stories. It is lavishly illustrated with contemporary photos and advertisements, and gives a genuine insight into the way the war affected various elements of the New Zealand population.

Jeanette Grant

The Tunnels under Albert Park

Jeanette Grant

Part One

Albert Park is a very popular central Auckland location, but today few of the people enjoying its ambiance are aware of the history under their feet.

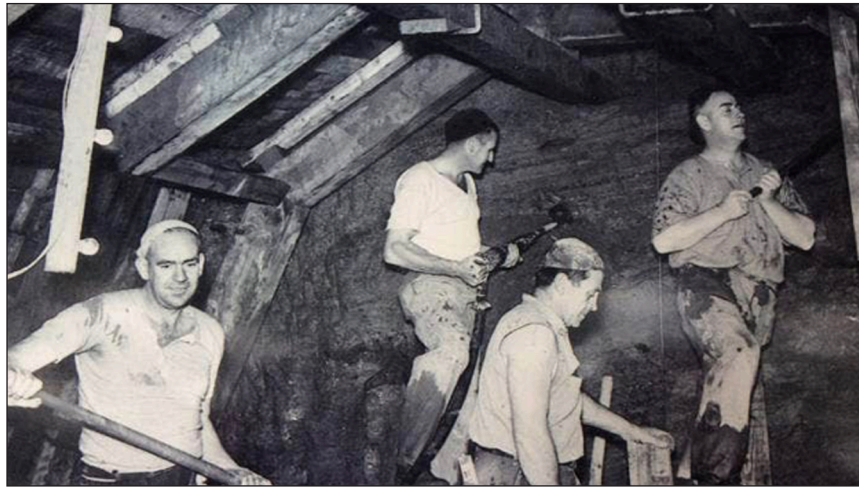
Geographically, Albert Park is situated on the remains of Ranipuke, a volcanic cone overlooking the centre of the city. It covers approximately half of the area formerly defined by the walls of the 1840s Albert Barracks. Little is known of the area's earlier years, and there is no indication that it was one of Auckland's pa sites, although it is only a short distance from Te Reuroa ('the long outer palisade'), a pa where the High Court now stands. It is also on the ridge running down to the former Point Britomart, where a pa known as Tangihanga Pukeaa ('the sound of the war trumpet') was recorded.

After the removal of the military barracks, the 1872 'Auckland Improvement Trust Act' saw the section of the site now known as Albert Park and the land within it classified as 'unalienable', meaning that no part may be separated from the rest of the park—and potentially sold to a private individual or organisation.

In December 1941 Japan entered the Second World War. The Auckland City Council panicked and set about constructing an air-raid shelter system of trenches and tunnels to shelter civilians in the city in the event that the Japanese actually invaded. Work began promptly, and by January 1942 16,300 feet of slit trenches had already been dug around the city. These varied from the simple trenches provided at most schools to the actual tunnel excavated at Titirangi School, and from lava caves cleared to use as shelters in Three Kings and Ellerslie, to the construction in 1942 of an elaborate complex of tunnels under Albert Park and the University of Auckland to serve the central business district. Additional shelters were created in basements, the Domain, Grafton Gully, and the old Parnell railway tunnel.

Auckland city centre had a daytime population of 70,000, and experience in Britain during the Blitz indicated that deep shelters provided greater protection than trenches. Due to its topography and central

location, Albert Park was chosen as the site for a major construction. In 1942 a large complex of tunnels and shelters was established under the park, capable of sheltering 20,400 people. The 3.5 km network of tunnels, which runs through both sandstone and volcanic rock, took eight months to dig, mainly by hand by a team of 114 council workers, most of whom were middle-aged men considered unfit for war.



What was the complex like? The tunnels were designed by city engineer James Tyler, and were estimated to cost £120,000 (about £6 per head), with £90,000 of the cost to be met by the government and the rest by Auckland City. With planned shifts running 24 hours, the work was expected to take four to six months. Work began in February 1942, with men in gangs working three shifts a day, six days a week. They worked with picks and shovels and carried out spoil in small wagons on rails which ran back to the entrance, where the spoil was hoisted into a hopper and then discharged into waiting motor trucks.

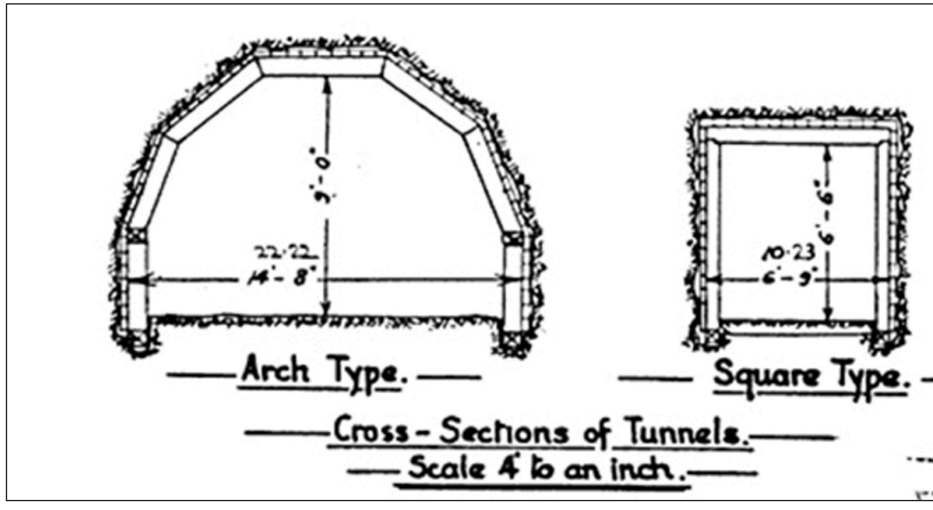
The actual digging was completed in August, and carpentry and plumbing, at additional cost, was added over the following two months. A reservoir holding an emergency water supply of 100,000 gallons for fire-fighting was included in case the main supply should be interrupted. A diesel engine from an old meat-works powered the ventilation fans and emergency lighting, as well as a loud-speaker system. The tunnel complex,

unlike many other air raid shelter complexes, did not have blast doors, but instead had baffles. These were blocks in a tunnel constructed from wood, lead and stone to absorb the shock wave in the event of a bomb blast. The small tunnels around them allowed passage and reduced the shock with the perpendicular reflections.

There were no known deaths during construction, although rumour claimed that an American serviceman was lost in the complex and '*his body was never found*'.

There are more than 3.5 km (2.2 miles) of these tunnels, reaching from the foot of Constitution Hill in the east to Wellesley Street. They included a network of shelters, sanitation facilities and first aid posts, all ventilated by air shafts, with a total of nine entrances. The main tunnel runs 660 metres, all the way from the eastern end of Victoria Street through to Churchill Street, overlooking the Stanley Street intersection where the motorway ends and the tennis courts are sited—and wide enough to drive trucks down. The tunnels were lined with over 975 km of New Zealand native timber, including kauri, heart rimu, larch and New Zealand stringy bark. A total of 315 people were involved with this project.

The central arched access tunnels were 9 ft high (2.7 m), 15 ft wide (4.6 m), and 3,700 ft long (1,100 m); the grid of accommodation galleries—totalling 6,000 ft (1,800 m)—were 7 ft (2.1 m) square and provided with wooden seating. The floors were covered with scoria. Seven main and two



subsidiary drives were made from points around the perimeter of the park, and an extensive system of cross tunnels was included to avoid the possibility of people being trapped underground through any one of the entrances being blocked by a direct hit. The tunnels were officially opened by mayor John Allum in October 1942.

However, the feared air raids did not happen, and with the prospect of increasing maintenance costs in the unused tunnels, it was decided in February 1945 to seal them to prevent vandalism or misuse by the public, and as a protection against carbon dioxide build-up or tunnel collapse. Rather than spend £119,000 on preserving the tunnels by lining them with concrete, they would spend £58,000 on backfilling them to prevent subsidence as the untreated native timber of the tunnel supports decayed. They anticipated using 1.8 million unfired clay blocks to do the job but in reality over 8.5m were needed. (They were 10"x 10"x4" in size and made by Crum Brick and Tile in New Lynn.) The plumbing and wiring were ripped out. It took 15 men twelve months to complete this back-filling process, and the last of the nine entrances was sealed on 28 February 1946. Blocked entrances can be seen at the top of Victoria Street—hidden by a decorative wall—and the steel door present at the foot of Constitution Hill. Three other blocked entrances are located behind the park's gateway sculpture.

Part Two

What has happened to them since? Construction workers have entered one tunnel on the corner of Kitchener Street and Bacon Lane (see next page) and reported that these clay blocks are still in good condition. They also found wooden sleepers and metal dog spikes used to keep rail tracks in position on the sleepers.

Over the decades a number of schemes have been proposed to make use of reopened tunnels, but none have so far eventuated. In the 1960s there were newspaper articles proposing ideas, and then interest was renewed in the 1990s by two groups. Firstly by Bill Reid, a businessman seeking to open them as a tourism venture, and secondly by a senior lecturer in architecture at the University of Auckland, who together with a team of students proposed the opening of some of the tunnels as underground transport corridors to offer a solution to Auckland's traffic problems. However, this idea died with the lecturer.

Tourism promotor William (Bill) Reid's interest in these tunnels was sparked in 1954–55 when, as a pupil at Seddon Memorial Technical College (then in Wellesley Street), he noticed that Albert Park was dotted with green tin domes. On enquiry he was told that these were the air vents for tunnels—whose entrances he tried in vain to find. Then in late 1955 the domes themselves disappeared and the tunnels also seemed to disappear from general knowledge. He, however, remembered.

He became serious about reopening and using these tunnels in 1986, and has spent a vast amount since then on investigation and planning. In 1988 the Auckland City Council gave him the sole right to develop them, and he has a 63-year lease of the tunnels, renewable every seven years. His rights are not actually restricted to the 'perimeters and parameters' of the tunnels themselves, so he has in effect the right to develop the whole area under Albert Park. Among the uses he envisaged for the tunnels were guided tours, a museum, underground shops, a glowworm grotto, blackwater rafting, and thermal pools to make use of the hot water produced as a byproduct of the air conditioning. He planned to use some of the clay blocks to pave the tunnels. However, disagreement over future development halted progress of the project in 1988.

On 4 March 1996, the city council gave him permission to unseal the first 62 metres of the tunnels and perform an inspection, with a view to developing a tourist attraction. A report said:

> The tunnels are in remarkably good condition. There has been flaking off the ceiling, but most of these pieces are less than 10 cm thick. The old timbering has decomposed—some of the beams can only be found because of the position of the iron mounting brackets. Over the years, the tunnel has been used on several occasions—some of the drink bottles were 5–10 years old, but some of the graffiti was fairly fresh. If development of the tunnels is undertaken, it would be good if some sections of the tunnels were left in their current condition, for adventure caving. If some of the air vents were opened a flow of fresh air would be ensured.

In October 2001, Judith Tizard announced that "The Auckland Improvement Trust Amendment Act enables the Auckland City Council to develop the tunnel complex under Albert Park and Alten Road Reserve . . . to explore, develop and reconstruct areas beneath Albert Park that include historic air raid shelter complexes built during World War Two . . . ."

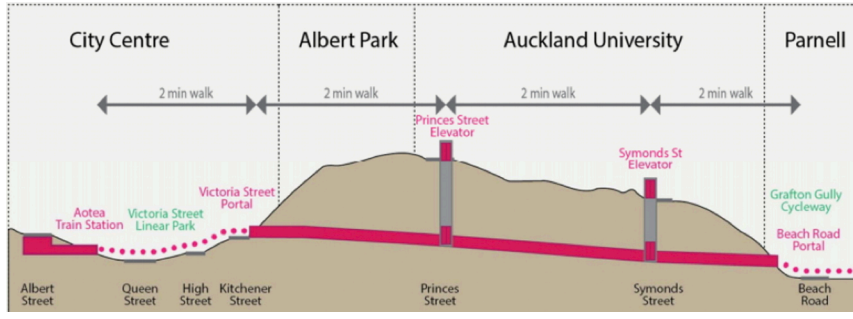
It gave the council the power to lease the subsoil underneath for a limited period, and enables excavation of the tunnels for commercial work but does not allow more entrances to be built. One thing has always been considered vital to any plans—the surface of Albert Park must not be affected. Not even air vents will be allowed to intrude, and a thirty-foot exclusion zone around every pohutukawa tree was planned to avoid any damage to their root systems—but nothing happened.

In 2005 subsidence occurred within the park, due to the collapse of infill soil within the old ventilation shafts. As of June 2012 two Auckland residents, Bill Reid and Mark Howarth, were working on plans to have the first 25m of tunnel five excavated in order to create a museum depicting its history. However, Auckland Council advised that no investigations had been carried out with regard to work required to reopen the tunnels.

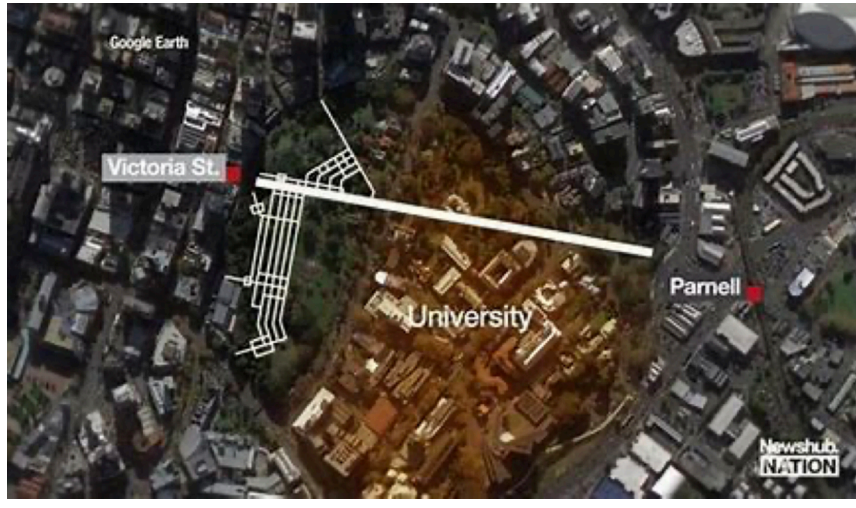
In 2017, Reid and his business partner Nick Andreef were engaged in meetings with Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development (ATEED), and campaigning for the tunnels to be reopened as a tourist attraction and as a direct link for walkers and cyclists between Victoria Street and Parnell. At the time ATEED spokesman Steve Armitage said opening the tunnels was an interesting concept, however the idea was in its infancy and more work would need to be done.

A 2018 presentation to Auckland Council by a group that again included

Bill Reid costed the opening of the main tunnel at $15–$25 million. The basic concept was to re-open the tunnels and turn the main tunnel into a walking and cycling route with connections to the university via some lifts. Doing so would provide a much easier grade than up and over Symonds Street and Albert Park, while improving connections from the city centre to locations such as Parnell. They've called this Te Ara Tomo—The Underline.



Importantly, it would link in perfectly with existing and planned walking, cycling and PT networks. For example, it would create a new cross-town cycle link, connecting the Grafton Gully cycleway into the



Aerial view of the proposed 'Underline' tunnel

Victoria Street Linear Park, which also happens to be connected through Queen Street where light rail will one day run, and to the future Aotea Station. The lifts at Symonds Street would also hook into the Symonds Street buses. Given the potential it offers, they've estimated that conservatively, it could see 3,000–3,500 entries per weekday or over 750,000 per year. While the walking and cycling through the main tunnel is the key concept, it's not the only one. There are after all 3.5 km of tunnels under there. Some possible ideas for use include:

- historical displays and a mini museum
- art displays
- tourist and retail opportunities, such as: a wine cave, showcasing New Zealand wines at "cellar door"
- a cheese cave, showcasing some of New Zealand's premium dairy products
- a Waitomo Caves style glowworm encounter

'They say' McConnell Dowell have prepared some costs to reinstate the tunnels and install the lifts, lighting, etc. 'They say' the main tunnel and lifts would cost around $14 million, an extra $2–3 million for additional space for the other ideas mentioned above, and $1–2 million for planning, consenting, traffic management and tunnel surfacing. All up it would be around $17–19 million. They are also looking at doing this commercially with users paying a small fee to use the tunnels, along with money from the other activities.

In 2021 Auckland Mayor Phil Goff said the council was supportive of the concept of reopening the tunnels, but was focused on investing in critical transport, housing and environmental infrastructure the city needed.

> The impact of Covid-19 on council finances also constrains our ability to invest in non-essential projects . . . . We have asked officers to investigate the feasibility of a private sector-led approach which would be self-funding and could potentially include development of a walking and cycling path and commercial activities such as retail, hospitality and tourism.

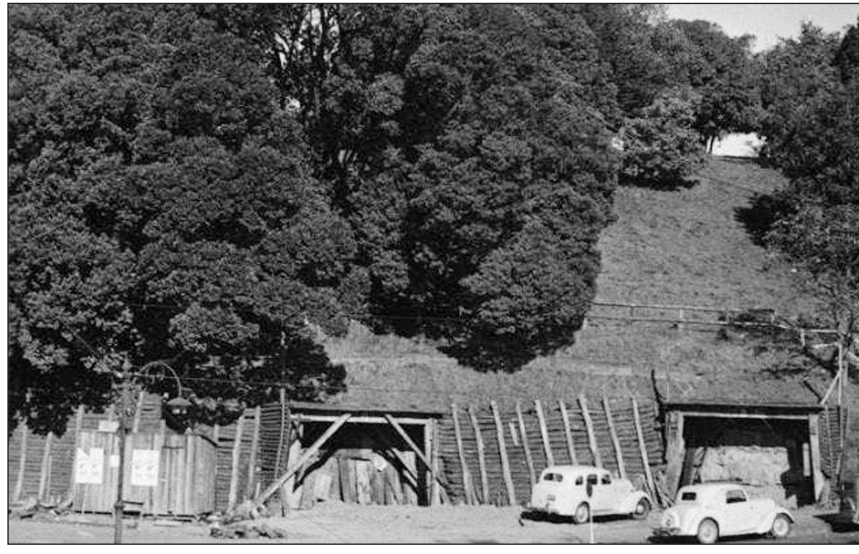
In 2022 Auckland mayoral candidate Viv Beck, who is chief executive of

Heart of the City, while promising to resurrect the plan, has since updated the cost of $25m to $35 to reflect inflation, saying it would be funded by the council and central government. However, as of 2022, none of these proposals has yet progressed to the point of getting Resource Consent.

Karl, an explorer from The Urbex Crew NZ (a group of urban explorers dedicated to preserving history through photography), is one of the few who have entered the tunnels in more recent years (2020) through an entrance he describes as a "rabbit hole". He said:

> You have to crawl into the tunnels and I wouldn't recommend anyone try it as it's pretty dangerous. Once you're in, it's about three or four feet high so you have to crouch down and it's completely dark. We were unable to make it into the main tunnel complex, it was too dangerous and hard to breathe because there's not much oxygen in there."

Karl said the Council was "losing history" by leaving the tunnels in their current state.



Looking across Kitchener Street towards Albert Park, showing entrances to the tunnels under the park in the 1940s

Kitchener Street, September 2022

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Eileen Loo Obituary 1932-2023

by Frances Loo

Eileen Loo was born as Chan Oi Leen on 6 July 1932 in the small rural island village of Har Gee, China. Eileen was the third daughter to Chan Fat Bow (aka Peter Bow) and Low Sai Ying.

Har Gee is part of Jung Seng county and Guangdong province. Geographically, Har Gee lies about 43 km away from the city of Guangzhou and 145 km from Hong Kong. The Chans of Har Gee had a historical connection with New Zealand dating back to the 1890s when the first men from the village arrived in New Zealand to work and send money back to their families in China, travelling between the two countries, and relying on New Zealand re-entry permits.

Peter Bow left his wife and his two oldest daughters Gee Har and Seel Foon in Har Gee to do the same, working in Masterton (where his eldest sister lived), then Ohakune and later settling in Rotorua, where he opened his own business in partnership with the Kai Fong family.

Peter returned to China to spend time with his family, and Eileen was born in 1932 followed by her brother Chan Jing Kong (aka William Bow) in 1934. Peter then travelled back again to New Zealand to work. Owing to the discrimination against Chinese immigrants in New Zealand at the time, it was not possible for Chinese men working in New Zealand to be joined by their families owing to both the poll tax, which had increased to £100 (around one year's earnings), and also restrictions on the number of Chinese who could land (only one Chinese immigrant was allowed for every 200 tons of cargo).

Things changed, however, when Japan invaded China in 1937. Due to the second Sino-Japanese war and successful lobbying by the Chinese in New Zealand, the New Zealand government agreed in February 1939 to allow for the temporary (two years) bonded (£500 with an upfront deposit of £200 required) entry of the men's wives and children under the age of 16.

Eileen was therefore able to leave China for Hong Kong (walking at night in order to avoid the Japanese war planes and soldiers) and then travel to New Zealand (via Australia) as a 7-year-old war refugee together with her mother (who suffered bad sea sickness) and her younger brother William. Unfortunately, because of New Zealand's age restrictions, Eileen's two older sisters Gee Har and Seel Foon had to remain in China. Eileen reached New Zealand on 10 October 1939 on the ship *Westralia*, reuniting with her father Peter. Because of New Zealand immigration and paperwork mixing up the first and last phonetic Chinese names of her father Peter Bow (rather than Peter Chan), his family was also given the Bow surname and so Eileen became known in New Zealand as Eileen Bow (rather than Eileen Chan). The Bow family settled in Rotorua where they lived in Peter's new house on Amohau Street (across the road from the railway line) and where they had a fruit shop on Tutanekai Street.

A couple of years after Eileen's arrival in New Zealand, her youngest sister Lily Bow was born, with whom Eileen shared a room and developed a very close bond over the subsequent years. Initially, the New Zealand government allowed Eileen, her mother and her brother a two-year visa. But, as the Sino-Japanese war persisted, time passed and the temporary visas were renewed. New Zealand eventually decided to allow the Sino-Japanese war refugees to become permanent residents. The Bows were granted permanent residence in 1947; but it wasn't until 1952 that the New Zealand government once again allowed Chinese immigrants to become New Zealand citizens.

Despite having to learn English, Eileen did very well at school. She graduated from Rotorua High School with high honours, which was a remarkable achievement for a new immigrant. However, after leaving school, due to the lack of tertiary education options in Rotorua, Eileen worked in her family's fruit shop until she relocated to Auckland, when she married Kong Chew Loo (aka K.C. Loo or Colin Loo) on 12 September 1953 at the age of 21.

Eileen and Kong were married by Rev Owen Baragwanath at St David's Memorial Church in Khyber Pass. They had their wedding reception at the Farmers Trading Company followed by another big dinner in a marquee at Shick Lung Loo's (Kong's father) market garden the next day. Lots of friends provided equipment and helped with the cooking.

Eileen joined her husband in operating his fruit shop business which became known as the iconic K. C. Loo Fruit Centre which was, and remains, a mainstay of Mt Eden village. The fruit shop was initially located at 429 Mt Eden Road (in one half of the building now occupied by Barfoot & Thompson—the Loo family lived upstairs for a while), then moved across the road when the Loos were able to purchase their own premises at 442 Mt Eden Road in the 1960s (previously a branch of the BNZ). It then moved again in the 1980s to the corner site of Mt Eden and Stokes roads (previously Gordon J. Rich's grocery store) which it currently operates from at 436 Mt Eden Road.

Mt Eden was very different when Eileen first worked in the fruit shop. The area was a bit shabby—the tram service had just come to an end—and there were no cafés. In the 1960s there were three fruit shops in Mt Eden village, which were owned by the Loo family, the Chin family and the Wong family. Hing's superette also sold fruit and vegetables.

K. C. Loo Fruit Centre operated five and a half days a week, which included a late night and Saturday morning. On Saturday afternoons in the 1970s, the Loo family would go out for a late lunch—usually to the Wun Loy café on Hobson Street. On Sundays, the Loo family would be at home in Mangere where they had built a house at 138 Coronation Road on land subdivided from Shick Lung Loo's neighbouring market garden property.

Eileen was a good cook. The family enjoyed her fish balls and egg rolls. They mostly had white rice and soong for dinner, but she did regularly make chow mein, por me farn, and roast dinners. Eileen also baked for the family, including big banana cakes and steamed Chinese sponges. Eileen and Kong had four children: Richard, Marlene, Frances and Glennis. She considered seven to be a lucky number and so she insisted that all of the children have 7 letter names.

During the working week, Eileen would drive a Volkswagen pickup truck early on Monday and Thursday mornings down to the wholesale fresh produce markets in Auckland's Viaduct Basin to collect the fresh perishables and anything that was urgently needed. Eileen's little red truck became so well-known to the traffic officer that he would hold up the traffic so that she could make her way through Fanshawe Street. Business became very tough for Eileen and Kong with the opening of Foodtown in Three Kings in 1968—sales dropped by a third—and as supermarkets

expanded, things were never the same for local fresh food businesses. Eileen and Kong worked hard and continued on. However, the deregulation of shopping hours in New Zealand and strong competition meant that by the time the business moved to its present location in the 1980s, it was operating seven days a week. When most people would have retired, Eileen was often at work from around 8 in the morning until after dinner, finishing at around 9 or 10 at night, and this was seven days a week.

Eileen did go overseas on holiday several times, including to China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Disneyland (California), Fiji, Hawaii, Noumea, and Sydney. But, in general, she wasn't a great person for going on holiday. She said that holidaying was harder work than actually working. Eileen also wasn't much of a window shopper. While she didn't mind shopping for something specific, wandering around a shop "just looking" bored her, and she would be done and out waiting at the shop door in a couple of minutes.

Eileen had a strong sense of duty and loyalty. When COVID arrived in 2019, Auckland went into lockdown. This came as a total shock to Eileen who was used to working 363 days a year. She was very upset, because she didn't want customers to be inconvenienced or unable to source their fresh produce. Eileen insisted that her daughter phone Jacinda Ardern to explain why our fruit shop should stay open. Her daughter had to explain that people couldn't just phone the Prime Minister, but that she was trying (unsuccessfully) to get through to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE).

Eileen became more relaxed about the lockdown situation after a few days had passed and the family found out that we could supply our dairy, superette and hospital customers, and that we could also do contactless home deliveries. Eileen was still concerned, however, about the reports of long queues at the supermarkets and reports also that people were struggling to get their fresh produce from them. She was especially concerned about the elderly. When Eileen was taking phone orders for home deliveries, she said it was just like the "old days".

While work took up most of Eileen's life, family connections were also important to her. She had an annual tradition that, if family were available, they were invited to a big yum char lunch at Hee's Garden that she hosted on Christmas Day, and she did this until she was physically unable to in 2022.

Eileen was an amazing and unassuming woman with a strong work ethic. She was married for 63 years (Kong died on 10 October 2016), served the Mt Eden community for almost 70 years and worked as a fruiterer for around 75 years. Eileen enjoyed good health until her final couple of years when she experienced a number of serious health issues, but she kept working and interacting with customers until past her 90th birthday. This probably helped keep her mentally sharp.

Eileen passed as she wanted, peacefully in her sleep at Auckland City Hospital on 26 February 2023. She had originally wanted her ashes to be scattered off Mt Eden/Maungawhau so that she would return to mother nature. However, this is not allowed by the maunga authority that manages Mt Eden. So the compromise she made was that her ashes would go to Eden Garden (which is situated on the eastern slopes of Mt Eden) so that she could be with the local community that she served for so long.

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What NZ was like when I arrived—1955

by John Grant

I was born in Bebington on the Wirral Peninsula—over the Mersey from Liverpool—in 1935. In 1955 I was a teenage apprentice mechanic, and had spent the past two years living in Toronto. Both my father, Jim Grant, and his brother-in-law, Frank Peake, were civil engineers, and the three of us were working for Cementation Construction Ltd, an English firm involved in the tunnelling for the Niagara Power Project.

When our part of the project was completed, Jim went back to England and Frank accepted the job of coming to NZ to establish a branch of the firm here with a view to bidding for a share of the Roxburgh Dam

construction. In order to get here promptly he flew from Toronto to Vancouver and then boarded a Pan-Am Constellation which was heading for NZ with refuelling stops at Hawaii and Fiji.

These were four-engined propeller planes which were originally built as military aircraft but continued in wide use after the war as passenger planes. However, they had a bad habit of shedding propellers—and if a blade went into the aircraft, that was the end of it.

All went smoothly initially on Frank's flight until they were well on their way to Hawaii when one engine lost oil pressure and had to be shut down. They made it to Hawaii on the remaining three engines but had to stay there for several days waiting for a replacement engine and service staff to arrive from the mainland. The airline had to find and pay for the passengers' accommodation while they waited.

When they finally continued their flight, they got just over the half-way mark to Fiji and another engine played up. As there would be far more difficulty in replacing an engine there, they turned around and flew carefully back to Hawaii. They were really lucky as a second engine was playing up by the time they made it back to land.

It proved to be third time lucky for Frank, as they finally made it all the way to Fiji and from there flew safely to the RNZAF Whenuapai Airbase, which had become a joint civil/military aerodrome in 1945. (It remained the North Island's international airport until the new Auckland International Airport was opened at Mangere in 1966.)

After my aunt sold the house in Toronto, I followed less dramatically on the *Oronsay* in mid-1955 with her and my cousin. I had no preconceived ideas about the country. In fact, I cannot even remember studying a map of it before my arrival

We arrived in Auckland from Vancouver on the *Oronsay*, walked off the ship on Princes Wharf and were driven out to Henderson where Frank had rented a house for us at the top of the Waikumete Hill. The city seemed very quiet after the large and bustling metropolis of Toronto. Looking back, it really was a different world.

Generations today who have grown up with powerful cars and good sealed roads will have no idea of the aura which surrounded certain local roads. The Silverdale Hill; the Albany Hill; The Waikumete Hill. These were roads which, once encountered, were hard to forget. All were

different. The Silverdale Hill was a short but very steep incline. The road up the Albany Hill wound round and round and the top always seemed to be round another bend. The Waikumete Hill was straight. It was not as steep as the Silverdale Hill—but it was a L O N G climb, alongside the Waikumete Cemetery.

Auckland's last tram made its final journey soon after our arrival, and trolley buses had taken their place on the inner suburbs. Outlying Glen Eden and Henderson however were served by some of the oldest buses in the Auckland Bus Company's fleet. They were pre-war vehicles with wooden bodies on a steel frame. Their maintenance had been poor and they were clapped out—always breaking down and not keeping to timetable. They were so lacking in power that if the bus was full it could not make it up the Waikumete Hill! Regular users were resigned to the fact that at some stage it would grind to a halt and a good proportion of the passengers would have to get out and walk the rest of the way to the top. Not the best way to end a busy working day in bad weather.

Cars here were overwhelmingly British—Morris, Austin, MG, Morgans, etc—and it was a rare family which had more than one. Buying a new car was difficult as you needed to have access to 'overseas funds', and many people waited years before getting one. In the meantime, kiwis became expert in keeping the old ones going. It was legal to tow two trailers behind one car.

Radar detectors did not arrive until the early 1960s. Seatbelts were rare. The real breakthrough with modern seat belts came after 1958 when Swedish engineer Nils Bohlin was hired by Volvo and invented the three-point seatbelt that better protects the driver and passenger in an accident. Up until this point, seatbelts in cars were two-point lap belts, which strapped across the body, with the buckle placed over the abdomen. There was, however, initial buyer opposition to cars with seatbelts fitted as standard, as they believed they must be dangerous if they were needed. Airbags had not been invented. There were not even bicycle helmets—apart from leather ones worn while racing.

House values are top news today. In the 1950s you could buy a villa for under £4000—and get a mortgage from the ASB at 3% for 25 years. Wages however were low: £20 a week was fairly typical but even that would mean a house cost around four times the annual salary. Internally, most houses

by now had electricity but the walls were likely to be covered in scrim. This had to be tightened before a new layer of wallpaper could be pasted onto it. As older buildings' internal walls were likely to have been made of wide (c.15-inch) planks with a centimetre or more gaps between them, on windy days the scrim and wallpaper could be seen rippling in the draughts.

Most houses were built on quarter acre sections; flats were rare. Hand mowers were still in common use and the reel-type powered mowers were just starting to replace them; rotary mowers were still a while off.

Television had been invented but had not yet reached NZ—and when it did, in the late 1950s, was only black and white and at first was only available for two hours in the evening twice a week. In your home you listened to the radio or records, not videos, CDs or DVDs. Tape recorders existed but were not in common use. I still have a tape of the infamous after-match speech at the 1956 game against the Springboks at Eden Park. I listened to it a few years ago and timed the crowd's laughter. It lasted for three minutes. For the younger generation who are not so easily shocked, I will repeat it. Peter Jones being interviewed after we had won the game said:"I hope I never have to play such a hard game again. I'm absolutely buggered"—and it went out live. The commentator commented, "That's the first time anyone has said that on the air"—and then had to wait for the delighted/horrified crowd to calm down.

There were no computers in private use although they were starting to appear in universities and research labs—large, cumbersome machines taking up a whole room; as did the early Xerox machines which preceded photocopiers. Laptops were unthought of. My in-laws had moved to Mt Eden Road in January 1944 and then tried to have a phone installed. They had to wait for a new exchange to be built in Mt Eden, and were finally connected in mid-1956, nearly 13 years later. Telephones had rotary dials and 'party lines' were still common in rural areas. When my sister-in-law married in 1962 and went to live on a farm near Taupaki in the Waitakeres, there were 15 (yes fifteen) households on their party line—and as for portable telephones/cell phones?—you needed to read science fiction to encounter such items.

Many homes did not have phones in those days, but if you did have one you could ring the post office operator from there to make a toll call—and it would cost less if you made your call between six o'clock in the evening

and eight o'clock in the morning. Otherwise, to make a toll call you needed to go to the local post office and give the toll operator the number you needed, or if you didn't know the number, the name and address of the person you wanted to call. When she (most toll operators seemed to be women) made the connection, she would tell you to go into a special booth to take your call. You could ask to have the charges reversed and if the person you were calling agreed to pay, you didn't have to.

Another way to get in touch with friends or relatives, either in your own town or across the country, was to send a telegram. To send one, you needed to go to a post office, where you would fill out a form with the address of the recipient and your message, give the form to the clerk at the counter, who would then calculate how much it cost, and when you had paid, send it away for you.

There was quite an art in writing telegrams. They had to be as brief as possible and yet easily understood by the recipient. There was a charge for each word you wrote, so being concise and clear was important if you didn't want an expensive message. Again, if you had a phone at home, you could send a telegram by phoning the post office and giving them the details of the message. The cost would then be added to your telephone account. If you needed a quick reply, you could make your telegram reply paid.

Telegrams always came on special yellow paper and would be delivered to the recipient by a telegraph boy on his bicycle. If it was a reply paid one, he would wait while you wrote your reply and take it straight back to the post office to be sent on its way. The telegraph boys wore a dark navy uniform topped off with a peaked cap with the post office service insignia on. It was also possible to send a telegram overseas, but then it was called a cablegram, because it went via the underwater cable system that connected various countries. No satellite system then.

At a more mundane level, ballpoint pens were so new that banks were refusing to accept their use on cheques as they did not give the variations in width that nibs gave to make signatures distinctive.

Many farmers were still using horses, but the early morning milk deliveries to city households were now mechanised. Instead of cash, which was too tempting to thieves, you bought 'milk tokens' at the local dairy and put them out in the glass pint bottles in your milk box at the gate.

The first supermarket in Auckland did not open until 1958—in Otahuhu. Butchers' shops had sawdust on their floors, wooden chopping blocks, whole carcasses hanging from steel hooks on rails at the back of the shop—and they closed at 4pm. A leg of mutton cost around twelve shillings and sixpence, and 'threepennyworth of cat's meat' (ie gravy beef) was enough to feed a cat for several days. There were no alternatives; no 'pouches,' no tins of jellimeat, no dried cat food; just real meat. Chicken was regarded as the meat for special occasions.

Banks had much shorter hours: 10am till 4pm, except on Friday which was the only 'late night' of the week; shops were permitted to open until 9pm but banks only till 8pm. In those pre-computer days, tellers hand wrote your transactions in your bankbook. Cashflow machines were undreamed of. The only businesses legally open in the weekends were dairies and garages—for fuel only, not repairs and certainly not the mini-supermarkets we see today.

And then of course, there was the notorious 'six o'clock swill'. Pubs closed at 6pm, no exceptions. The result was a rush of customers as soon as they finished work, drinking as much as they could manage before closing time. This is probably the origin of New Zealand's 'binge drinking' problem. Certainly it created an unpleasant atmosphere on public transport, and no-one who could avoid it caught a bus just after 6 o'clock. Women did not drink in pubs. The occasional one might have a separate 'ladies room' but in general drinking was a male pastime, while the whole idea of a 'licensed restaurant' was well in the future.

In fact, restaurants as we know them were in the future. If you were staying in a hotel, they probably had a dining room and sometimes non-guests could also eat there. If you had no way of cooking your own meals, your options were very limited. 'Fish and chips' was the basic takeaway. 'One shilling's worth' was a meal for one person. They were wrapped in white newsprint and then often had an extra layer of newspaper added to insulate the contents.

Chinese restaurants were just starting to open in the late 1950s—but not as takeaways. My wife, as a university student, remembers going to one in Greys Avenue where half a crown (2/6) bought a half-helping of fried rice with as many slices of bread and butter and cups of tea as you wanted. This 'half-helping' was more than enough for a normal appetite. Hamburgers

had been invented in America about 1885 but they were very slow to reach NZ.

Shops like the Four Square grocery sold the ingredients for making meals. There was a very limited choice of packets of jelly or soup and tins of peas and beans. Biscuits sat in the shops in tin boxes and were weighed out for the customer. You could buy the broken ones at a discount. The only cut bread were the 'sandwich loaves' used for making club sandwiches. Home bakeries supplied pies, scones, cakes of various sizes—and of course 'fly cemeteries', an extremely tasty pastry square with a filling of sultanas and a nickname which had come down through the generations.

Fruit and vege shops were more often than not run by Chinese who might also own the market garden supplying the crops. However, by modern standards the variety was very limited. A typical household meal would consist of meat and three veges—almost certainly mutton, mashed potatoes, peas or beans and carrots, swedes, turnips or pumpkin. Garlic was something horrid you had heard the French used. Salads were made from lettuce. Cabbage was always cooked.

Smoking was common—yes, even on planes and for pregnant women. Asbestos was being commonly used in the building industry. Suntans were considered desirable and sunburn was treated with baby oil or calamine lotion. The contraceptive pill did not arrive until 1961.

Going to church or town were occasions which required dressing up. You wore your best clothes which for women included stockings, hats and gloves. Even school uniforms required those three items. Many, even girls' schools, also required the wearing of a tie. Men were also expected to wear hats—and of course to take them off inside.

Sneakers had not arrived although their predecessor the 'sandshoe' was used by tennis players, school sports teams, gym classes, etc—but not in normal public wear. The range of shoes was limited and their comfort levels were low. Made usually of unyielding leather, it was considered normal for people to have blisters, bunions and/or corns as the feet attempted to adapt to the limited range of shapes and sizes available in footwear. The term 'cobbler' had almost gone but there were still shoemakers in business who spent most of their time repairing shoes. You could buy new soles and glue them on yourself, while it was advisable to add steel toecaps and heelcaps to reduce the wear on those vulnerable parts of the sole.

Instead of NZCA, school pupils had three levels of outside exams available to them: School Certificate which required a pass mark in four subjects (most children sat in five). University Entrance followed at 6th form level. Some schools were entitled to accredit their own pupils based on their internal exam results, but some like Auckland Grammar School insisted they all actually sat the exam, as some overseas universities would not accept accredited results. Only a minority stayed on for an extra year to sit for the University Scholarship. The advantage of sitting, even if not being one of the actual scholarship winners, was that if you got an average of over 50% you were said to "*be on the credit list for schol*" and permitted to sit four, instead of the normal limit of three, units of work each year at university.

In the late 1950s, a predecessor of the current Student Loan system was a far superior deal called a Studentship for intending teachers. This Studentship paid the university fees and gave a living allowance of £260 a year for the first two years and £360 for the following two. In return, the student taught for four years after qualifying—and any debt was wiped.

The *Auckland Star* was a serious rival to the *NZ Herald*. Lotto had not been invented. The nearest equivalent was the Art Union ticket. The only legal gambling was buying a raffle ticket or going to the TAB. Bookmaking was illegal—but of course it existed.

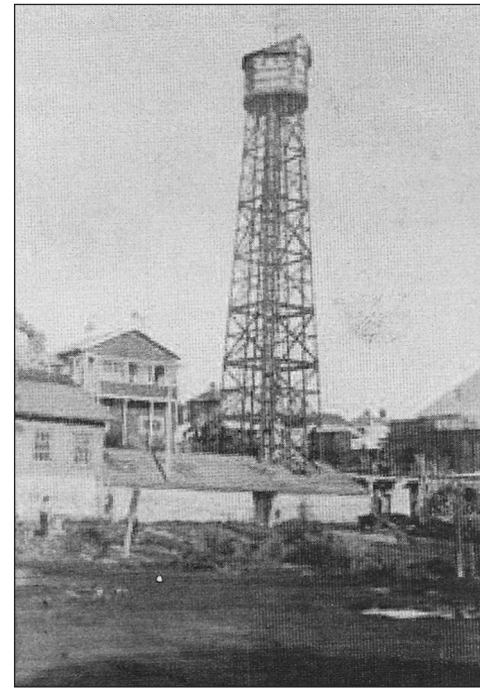
Two major differences must be mentioned. Decimal currency did not come until 1967, so in 1955 New Zealand was still using the old English system of pounds, shillings and pence. For the future generations, I should probably state that there were 20 shillings to one pound and each shilling consisted of twelve pennies. Coinage consisted of crowns (5/- but rarely seen), half crowns (2/6), florins (two-shilling pieces), shillings, sixpences, threepences, pennies, half-pennies and farthings. There were 100, 50, 20, ten, five, one pound and ten-shilling notes.

In the 1970s the simplification of calculations saw the adoption of decimal weights (kilograms) and measures (litres and metres), so we no longer use gallons, pints and quarts or miles, yards, feet and inches—and children no longer have to learn about acres, fathoms, furlongs, links and chains.

The end of the Mt Eden shot tower

by Judith Wallath

A side effect of Cyclone Gabrielle in February 2023 was Auckland's loss of another important iconic link with the past. The shot tower at 26–30 Normanby Road, Mt Eden, had marked the site of the former Colonial Ammunition Company (CAC) factory since its erection in 1914.



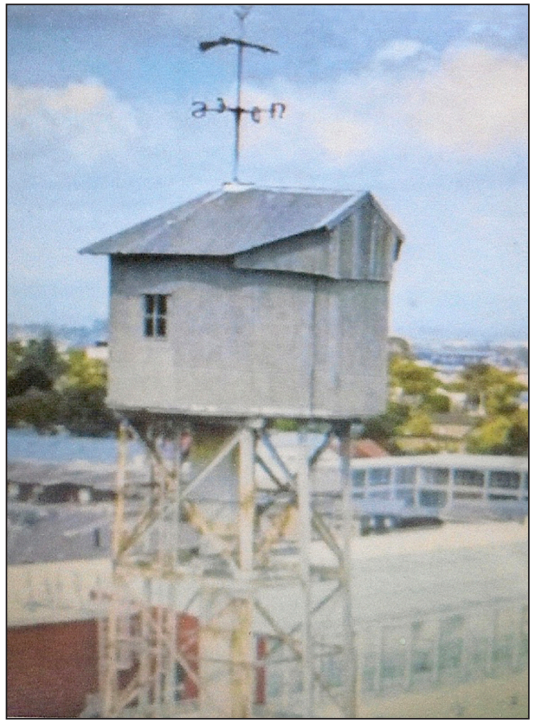
Colonial Ammunition Company premises Mt Eden Auckland circa 1920
Alexander Turnbull Library

CAC had been formed in 1885 by Major John Whitney and William Henri Hazard. This was the time of the 'Russian Scare' when Tsar Alexander brought some of his naval fleet into the North Pacific to Vladivostok, leading to fears that he was about to expand his empire. Fortifications were quickly built and the need for ammunition independent of the supplies from Britain became urgent. CAC was the first munitions factory in Australasia. It prospered, as apart from the needs of the military it provided bullets for hunters and shot gun cartridges for duck shooters.

The shot tower was built in 1914 to produce the small spherical pellets for shot gun enthusiasts. They had previously been produced in Nelson using a laborious and slow casting process, and the first operator of the new Auckland shot tower was the same Nelson operator, assisted by his two daughters. Lead blocks were raised to the top of the tower by a lift,

melted in a furnace and poured into a pan with many small holes in the bottom; small drops fell down the 30 metre height of the tower as perfect spheres which solidified in the air and splashed into soapy water at the base. They were polished and sized, with rejects being returned and melted again.

The Mt Eden shot tower was unique, as the light steel structure was built by an Auckland blacksmith, W. Wilson & Company. At the top of this tower was the shape of a rifle, with bayonet attached. Other shot towers, built in the 19th century, were constructed in the form of brick chimneys, including two in the United Kingdom, four in the United States and three in Australia.



CAC was an essential industry through both World Wars, each time expanded its manufacturing capacity significantly. When Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI) of the UK bought control of CAC about 1960, the general manager of ICI explosives in NZ was a Dick Hazard.

The shot tower had a narrow escape from demolition in the 1980s, but a public protest resulted in it being granted permanent protection through a Heritage New Zealand Category One listing. However, on 13 February 2023, ahead of the arrival of Cyclone Gabrielle, Auckland Emergency Management established a temporary exclusion zone around the tower prompting the evacuation, or partial evacuation, of several residential and commercial buildings. Around 50 residents in buildings around the shot tower were evacuated for nearly two weeks, as it was feared that stormy

The shot tower during demolition in February 2023

winds could bring it down. It was unable to be preserved in its entirety due to extensive corrosion and poor structural integrity. On 21 February 2023 demolition of the tower began—and another precious link with the past has been lost.

However, Tāmaki Paenga Hira/Auckland War Memorial Museum is acquiring the weathervane from the top of the shot tower to preserve a unique part of the city's heritage, while Unitec is also helping to record history by assisting in the creation of a virtual model of the tower using photogrammetry, a process that uses a large number of high-resolution images to create 3D models.

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Lancelot Eric Richdale DSc OBE 1900–1984

by Val Sherwood

It was away back in the dim dark ages of wartime 1942 or 43 that I first encountered Lance Richdale. As a visiting teacher with the Otago Education Board he visited Caversham School, in Dunedin, where I was a Standard 2 pupil. My memories of that day are clear. Mr Richdale took our class of 42 children outside on a sunny day to give us our first annual lesson in nature study.

Apart from the novelty of these being conducted outside, his visits were extremely popular because he was such a nice person that my memories of him were fond ones. Indeed, I quote Kate Guthrie, writing in her article 'Lance Richdale—first protector of albatross at Taiaroa Head' so many years later in December 2019, who says: "*he believed in taking children out of the classroom for hands-on interactions with nature. Many of his former pupils remembered those nature rambles for the rest of their lives.*" I was surprised to see this book in the Epsom Library, and to realise that his work in this field had become so important.

Lance Richdale was born at Marton on 4 January 1900 and educated in Wanganui where his father, Alfred, was a partner in a company producing aerated waters. Lance's career developed slowly with gradual steps. He gained a diploma from Hawkesbury Agricultural College, near Sydney, in 1922. He taught in a number of North Island rural areas from 1923–28, moving to Dunedin as an instructor in agriculture with the Otago Education Board from 1928. He married a teacher, Agnes Michie Dixon (1900–1998), on 10 June 1933 at Timaru, but they were to have no children.

Still seemingly feeling his way as far as his career was concerned, he studied history at Otago University, graduating MA in 1936, then obtained postgraduate certificates in advanced botany. Christopher Robertson, in his biography of Richdale, says: "*If Richdale had done nothing else but teach he would be remembered as a great educator by thousands of Otago city and rural students and their teachers. As 'The nature Study Man' he brought the wonder of nature to children, lifting their lives from the dryness of the*

classroom." In his weekends he studied botany, and was fascinated by alpine plants, focusing on a study area on the Maungatua mountain range.

It was some of the children that Richdale taught on Otago Peninsula who, in 1936, told him about the yellow-eyed penguins that lived there and offered to show them to him. Until then, like many people, he'd assumed that penguins such as these lived only in Antarctica. As Kate Guthrie writes, botany then took a back seat. Each weekend he would ride on his motor cycle to study the wild life of Otago Peninsula, in particular the yellow-eyed penguin and the royal albatross.

Over the next 30 years, as well as his teaching job (which included extensive travel away from home), he undertook field research in many locations, resulting in more than 105 scientific books, papers and popular articles on a wide range of birds, mainly focusing on sea birds.

He found it necessary to spend long hours guarding albatross nests at Taiaroa Head in order to protect the eggs. A small group of Northern Royal Albatross had been spotted as far back as World War One; sometimes as many as six adult birds were seen. In 1919 one of the birds laid an egg. A local resident ate it. Eggs laid in 1920 and 1923 did survive—but in a collection at Otago Museum! Many eggs are believed to have been taken by collectors. In 1935 one egg was known to have survived, hatching on 21 February 1936. It was the first baby albatross to hatch at Taiaroa Head in the 20th century. Ten weeks later, though, it was killed by a stoat, or perhaps a stray dog. But the birds kept returning to the breeding site.

In November 1936 Richdale decided to check the returning birds. This meant a long ride on his motor cycle then walking up the headland's harbour slopes. On reaching the site he was astonished to find, right on the grassy path, a male albatross incubating a large white egg. But that egg, too, was stolen by someone. He made up his mind to do everything possible the following season to safeguard the birds, their eggs, and hopefully their chicks.

He rallied support to erect a predator-proof fence to protect the birds from people and their dogs, gaining full support from the Otago Council of the Royal Society, who built the fence with shared financial assistance from the Royal Forest and Bird Society. The first albatross arrived at the protected site at 4pm on 8 October 1937.

By the end of the month there were four nests: three on the greased

paths of the slope and the fourth in marram grass in a dune behind the adjacent Pilots Beach. That summer during weekends and school holidays Lance Richdale camped out in a tent near the three hillside nests. One nest was abandoned before an egg arrived. The remaining two nests each had an egg, but one was destroyed by someone throwing rocks as big as a man's fist at the nest on a day when Lance was absent. He camped close to the nest with the remaining egg, naming it 'Sprogg'. All the while he made his usual meticulous observations of the adults; how they incubated the egg, their interactions with each other, and the timing of the change-overs.

A chick emerged on 3 February 1938, three days after it began chipping the shell with its egg tooth and from then until its fledging in September it had Lance's undivided attention whenever he was not visiting schools. He weighed, measured, watched and photographed, making sure that the ferret traps near the nests were armed. Guthrie notes that he documented the minutiae of the life of an albatross chick—observational research which was of unprecedented quality and detail. The chick and its parents were banded, some of the first NZ seabirds to be banded for research.

On 22 September 1938, unobserved, the now grown chick launched itself into the breeze and departed Taiaroa Head for its unknown destination. And in 1939 Lance Richdale published his first scientific paper on the albatross chick, launching his own scientific career as a seabird scientist. The northern royal albatross have been returning to breed at Taiaroa Head ever since.

Richdale had not neglected the study of penguins and petrels. His 1951 book on the yellow-eyed penguin, *Sexual Behaviour in Penguins*, drew an enthusiastic review in *TIME* magazine, which described him as the 'Dr Kinsey of the penguin world', while Robert Cushman Murphy, a leading international ornithologist, stated that "*There is probably no paper in the history of science that has involved such continuous, intimate and long-term recording of the behaviour of wild animals*." On Whero Rock, a tiny island near Stewart Island, he lived in primitive conditions, initially in a tent, studying a variety of small burrowing petrels, including the titi, or muttonbird. Over 1940 and 1950 he subjected himself to 50 weeks of isolation, spending 15–20 hour days studying the birds.

His devotion to the birds won a deserved international reputation. He was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship in 1950, allowing him to study at

Cornell University at New York, and on his return he received a Nuffield Foundation grant of £2000. He was an honorary lecturer at the University of Otago from 1940 to 1952, receiving a DSc in 1952 and the Hector Memorial Medal and Prize of the Royal Society of New Zealand. In 1982 he was appointed OBE for services to ornithology.

Richdale had retired from the education service in 1960, and spent three years in England on a Nuffield grant to prepare his work on petrels. On his return to NZ, with the onset of Parkinson's disease along with a damaged back, he announced himself to be exhausted. He and his wife Agnes retired to Hamilton, then moved to Epsom, Auckland.

At 14B Arcadia Road, Lance Richdale now became part of a trial programme to treat his Parkinson's condition, and was able to apply his observational skills to his own vital signs. He maintained his seabird interest, collaborating with John Warham (zoology lecturer at Canterbury University) on the writing up of Buller's mollymawk fieldwork at The Snares, which he had considered 'unfinished business'. In 1980 he and Agnes retired to the Everil Orr Home in Mt Albert, where he passed away in December 1983.

His wife and constant companion, Agnes, had made an unstinting contribution to his success, typing, editing and proof-reading his manuscripts, supporting Lance fully in every way while managing to maintain her own interests, especially literature and theatrical production. She died at Wesley Village in June 1998 and was buried with her husband at Mangere cemetery.

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My peripatetic grandfather

by Cynthia Landells

My grandfather, John Mutter, was born in Wales, the second son and third child of George and Maria Mutter who were from Somerset. George, who was illiterate, had gone to Wales for work as a stone mason. John was born on 31 January 1874 in Talawain. They stayed in Wales until after his sister's birth in 1876.

From here they went to West Sussex where George worked on the St Hugh's Charterhouse Monastery at Cowfold, which was founded in 1973. The family were living in Partridge Green, a nearby village. Here John started school at West Grinstead, probably in 1879.

By 1881, two years later, the family was in Newhaven living at 1 Horks Huts while George worked on the breakwater at Newhaven, John presumably having to move schools. Apparently, according to his son, John finished school when he was in Standard Two. John left home as soon as he could because of his father's drinking, but not before he had learned to be a bricklayer and mason like his father.

By 1891 John was back in Wales at Newport. On 26 November he enlisted and on 4 December of that year he joined the South Wales Borderers Regiment. His occupation was given as bricklayer. He was 5 foot 10 inches tall and weighed 142lbs, with blue eyes, light brown hair and a fair complexion. Obviously army life did not agree with him, as he deserted 1 August 1892. He still owes the army £1.13.11¼!

According to his niece he hid under haystacks and hedges until he came to a port, where he boarded a ship for South Africa. He went to Johannesburg first before settling in Capetown. Every family needs a mystery: from what port did he depart and what ship did he travel on? When did he leave England, and how did he pay for his passage? He probably had no money having been in the army for a year and owing them money. Did he work his passage or did he stow away? I guess we will never know.

Anyway we do know that he arrived in Capetown and to begin with was living in a boarding house. It was at the boarding house he met his future wife, Anna Martha Welham, who had come out to Capetown on the

The wedding photo of John Mutter and Annie Martha Welham

Pembroke Castle, arriving in 1893. She was from Ipswich, and as she had consumption (tuberculosis) it had been recommended she go to a warmer climate. They were married by special licence on 6 March 1897 at the Metropolitan Methodist Church, Capetown.

While in Capetown they lived in various houses, mostly in the southern suburbs, Newlands in 1897 and by 1905 in Claremont.

Lastly they moved to Upper Kloof Street in central Capetown until 1908. It was in Capetown that their five children were born, three daughters and two sons. John was working, leaving home on his bike, riding across the veldt at 6.30am and not getting home until six in the evening, and then had to attend to his vegetable garden. They also kept fowls. About this time John started to grow a beard, which amused his wife. About 1900 in a letter to John's mother, they said, "Things are awfully bad out here on account of this bother up in the Transvaal. I hope if they are going to fight, they make haste about it." They are referring to the Boer War which began in October 1899. Later, late in 1905, his wife wrote, "Things are so bad that our friend has helped him to pay his passage home and by selling all we could, we scraped up enough for him to get to

The Mutter house in Claremount, Capetown, with the two eldest daughters on the step

Canada." The Boer War had finished in May 1902, but living conditions were poor. As a result of the war, racial discrimination was introduced which created the basis of one of the harshest and most inhumane societies the world has ever seen. The story is told in the family that John came home to find the head one of his native workers on his doorstep, and he decided he didn't want his family living in such a place. "We have had plenty of troubles but we don't want to bother everyone with our troubles." John obviously had not been well because his wife wrote, "I hope you are feeling much better for the voyage. Take care of yourself and get some embrocation." His wife also told him that everybody at the works missed him very much.

So in 1907 John headed off to Canada, sailing on the *Cluny Castle*, and called in at either Plymouth or Cardiff, but he did not go ashore for fear of being arrested as a deserter. His mother and two sisters went down to the ship to see him, according to his niece. The ship then sailed for Canada, sailing up the St Lawrence where "the scenery is beautiful beyond description". John arrived in Quebec on 15 June 1907. From there the train ride to Montreal "was through the most lovely country and Montreal itself is one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen. There are avenues of trees everywhere . . . fine parks, most beautiful churches . . . and I have not been able to discover any slums so far. There is a lot of work here but there is [sic] also a lot of men to do it. It is a wicked shame the way they are pouring immigrants into the place. Thousands of them cannot speak a word of English and arrive here without money. They are simply dumped into the station and left to shift for themselves." John had a hard time getting work but was taken on by one of the largest builders and was promised a foremanship in a couple of weeks, receiving $5 a day.

In February 1908, John received a letter from his wife in Capetown to say that their youngest son, who had been born in April 1907, after John had left for Canada, had died of dysentery. John was upset at this news, saying how he loved the baby he had never seen. The family had now moved into Capetown itself.

Next he moved to Vancouver in March 1908, because the thought of the cold winter in Montreal frightened him and he had been told that Vancouver had no winter to speak of. He spent five days and nights travelling on a train across Canada to Vancouver. John was very impressed

by the scenery en route. He found trade was very bad in Vancouver but he was lucky to strike work at once, working on the Canadian Bank of Commerce. (It is now Burke's Jewellers.)

The Canadian Bank of Commerce, Vancouver, has a magnificent marble staircase. It is now dwarfed by the surrounding buildings.

But he decided not to stay, because the 'exceptionally good winter' he was told about was nothing but fog and rain and snow with the occasional hard frost thrown in. He said the climate was not agreeing with his health. However he also said, "It has been a very big struggle to get enough money to leave."

John left Vancouver on 9 October 1908 on the *Marama*. The first port of call was Honolulu. He loved the flowering trees and palms, especially coconuts. He spent a day ashore, visiting the aquarium and the Bishop's Museum and enjoying bananas and pineapples. The next port of call was Suva, Fiji. Disappointingly, there was no fruit in season when he arrived there, as he said that on board ship one gets a craving for fruit. He then took another ship from Suva to Lyttleton, arriving in New Zealand on 12

November 1908. He made his way to Christchurch and thought he would like it, as it was very much like England, but better!

The family, his wife and four children, arrived in Wellington from Capetown on the *Ionic* on 26 January 1909. They then made their way to Christchurch to reunite with John.

John worked for the building firm Hughes & Hansford in North Linwood, Christchurch. They lived in Livingstone Street, Linwood, from February 1909 until July 1916. By now John was working as a marble mason. One of the last jobs he did in Christchurch was assembling the Cassioli Altar for the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in 1916. It had

The High Altar in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Christchurch

come out pre-cut from the Carrera Quarries in Italy with instructions in Latin. However with the help of a Latin speaking priest, the job was done.

In 1916 the family moved to Wellington, living first in Harrold Street and then 72 Raroa Road, Kelburn. Here John had a house built where he laid mosaic marble paths using scraps from his various jobs. John's skills as a marble mason were put to good use in Wellington. Working for Hansard & Mills Contractors, his jobs were many and he left his mark. Hansard &

Mills had their own marble quarry in Takaka to supply the many buildings using marble. Probably one of John's first jobs was working on Parliament Buildings, carefully aligning marble slabs. It was occupied unfinished in 1918 and completed in 1922. Apparently during this time, John's son was the first to sit in the Speaker's chair and was severely reprimanded for being disrespectful.

The staff of Mills & Hansard who built the Parliament Buildings, Wellington. John is 6th from the left in the back row.

The next job he worked on was the State Fire Insurance Building on the corner of Lambton Quay and Waring Street, which was finished about 1923. In 1924 John wrote that he was "expecting to go to Auckland after Christmas for a big job, the new museum which is being erected as a war memorial and will take between two and three years to build and I hope to be back here before then." The museum was opened in November 1929, with magnificent marble throughout.

He was obviously back in time to work on the DIC Building (now Harbour City Centre) in Lambton Quay which was completed in 1929. Next John worked on the Massey Memorial, commemorating William

Ferguson Massey who was Prime Minister from 1912 to 1925. It is largely composed of marble, and was completed in 1930.

John's next job, the Wellington Cenotaph, was ready to have the bronze horse installed on the top of the column in 1931. The jib of the crane had had to be extended to reach the top, and the weight of the horse was such that it was considered to be an unsafe manoeuvre. It was planned to be done on a Sunday afternoon, so the crowds could watch. Instead the horse was mounted at 6am that day, with only the crane driver, the foreman and John present, together with a policeman and John's son who took some photos. Sunday afternoon provided a surprise for the people of Wellington as Pegasus was already in place. The Cenotaph was dedicated on Anzac Day 1932.

Wellington Cenotaph construction

At some stage a careless workman dropped a marble slab on John's left little finger. As a violinist John could no longer play, so he began to make violins as a hobby for which he imported timber from Europe. A violin has 74 pieces of timber and up to 16 coats of varnish. It was not long before John began to use New Zealand native timbers: kauri, Southland beech and rewarewa among others, to see what tone they produced. He said the most satisfying part was running a bow over a new instrument to hear what sort of tone it had. As well as violins John also made a viola and a cello.

John's last brickwork in Huntly

The depression caused by the stock market crash in 1929 triggered the Great Depression in New Zealand. Exports fell by 40%, and upwards of 700,000 people were unemployed. John was now in his mid-fifties, and with no money for new buildings, became unemployed. The family had to sell the house in Kelburn, and by 1938 he and his wife had moved to Featherston to live with his eldest daughter who was teaching there. In 1942 his wife, Annie, died. In 1943 he made his last move, this time to Huntly in the Waikato, to live with his youngest unmarried daughter who was working for the Māori Mission. It was here he did his last work, cladding their house with brick.

He died there on 27 September 1956. John, a remarkable and talented man, had ceased wandering at last.

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Anzac Day—the history of the poppy

by Levin RSA Historian Linda Fletcher

The familiar red poppy has been a symbol of remembrance in New Zealand for 101 years. In one of those funny little quirks of history, New Zealand's Poppy Day sets it apart from the rest of the world. While New Zealanders wear poppies to remember the fallen on Anzac Day, 25 April, you will see poppy sellers on the streets in England, Canada and Australia in November to mark Armistice Day, known as Remembrance Day.

The reason for this is simple: the poppies were made by widows and orphans in France, and the ship bringing them to New Zealand arrived too late for arrangements to be made to sell them for Armistice Day in 1921. The New Zealand RSA decided to hold them over until Anzac Day the following year, 1922, a decision that set us apart from the rest of the world and gave us our own unique Poppy Day. The first Poppy Day in New Zealand, 24 April 1922, was a "brilliant success" with many centres selling out of their supply of poppies.

The New Zealand RSA imported silk poppies from France until 1927, and then from the Royal British Legion. Today the poppies are all manufactured by volunteers in Christchurch, and it is an almost year-long job to make the close to one million poppies required to support the Poppy Appeal.

The poppy we wear today has been through a number of design changes since the first silk ones, originally made in France, to the flat felt and then paper poppy designed by British Commander in Chief Earl Haig which is sold today. Nowadays knitted and crocheted poppies also are being made in their thousands for Anzac Day displays.

The poppy is worn around the world in remembrance, but the red colour had no relevance to blood. The poppy symbolises the wildflowers that were the first signs of life to grow in the turned soil of French and Belgium cemeteries. The poppies with their red, paper-thin petals were the only things to take root in the lime-rich soils contaminated by the battlefield debris.

Poppy Day has been the RSA's major annual fundraiser for 101 years to provide welfare services for war veterans of all ages. It is held on the closest Friday to Anzac Day. This year it will be held on Friday 21 April 2023.

My early nursing days in NZ

by Rosemary Speer 1935-2022

Having graduated from Waikato Hospital as registered general nurses, a group of us decided to do our maternity training at Tauranga Hospital, which took six months, and enjoy summer at the beach. Then we would begin our travels overseas.

It was then discovered that I had staphylococcal tonsillitis, and my joining my friends was delayed as the offending tonsils needed to be removed; at 21 quite an ordeal. Unless this was done, no hospital would employ me. The dreaded staph was a big NO NO.

When I recovered, I went to Tauranga and worked as a staff nurse in the general theatre until I could join the next intake in maternity. At lunch one day, I suddenly realised I was the most senior nurse present that day, and everyone was standing, waiting for *me* to say grace.

As maternity students, we were formed into groups of three and stayed this way, moving together from ante- and post-natal wards, nursery and delivery suite. My misfortune was to be rostered with two ex-Auckland Hospital nurses, who, after a hectic shift, would help each other to finish and left me to cope on my own. I'm sure it wasn't deliberate, just a bit thoughtless.

On one occasion, a doctor came to visit an ante-natal patient. He came out of the room, saw me in the corridor and barked—"Go in there and take the patient's blood pressure—it's high and I notice that when it's taken by the staff it is perfectly normal." He wanted answers. 'Doctor-induced hypertension' I labelled it, and have called it this ever since. His concern was justified as the lady was in hospital for management of high blood pressure which can be dangerous if untreated.

Another episode was when we were observing our first delivery. The three of us were standing, positioned behind the obstetrician who was seated at the 'business' end of the bed, with me on his (R) shoulder. We were given a running commentary on the progress of labour, and all was progressing normally when the lady gave an almighty 'push' and junior shot into the world at such speed the doctor missed him altogether and the baby flew through his waiting hands. For some reason I instinctively acted

and caught said infant before any damage could be done. The joys of childbirth! There are no guarantees, and anything can happen at any time. The doctor later gave me a pair of stockings as a 'thank you'—quite a pricey gift in those days!

The fathers bringing their wives to the unit were divided into two groups: those that dropped the ladies off at the door and fled, and those who stayed and paced up and down in the small waiting room, smoking cigarettes. That was as far as they could go until the baby arrived; no sitting with the women or taking part as they do now.

We had a difficult time with our midwife tutors. One New Zealand trained, one from South Africa and one from Scotland—each teaching us their own way of doing things. At one point there were no tutors at all and our learning came from doctors and midwives on the job—which was much better.

We were each required to deliver five babies under supervision to qualify. I think I managed three; not counting the one I caught! However we all passed as it wasn't our fault there was a dearth of deliveries and tutors.

The nursery was a joy to be in. All babies had bassinets there which were lined up in rows. We wrapped them up firmly and laid them down on alternating sides with their lower arm brought forward so they couldn't roll onto their faces. The babies were taken to their mothers for feeding and a bit of a cuddle. Visiting fathers and grandparents were allowed to the nursery window and the babies (in their cots) brought to them to admire through the glass.

At one point the delivery suite was full to overflowing, and a hapless unmarried mother was given a bed made up of a board across a bath! Single motherhood was still unacceptable by and large. One young girl went on for hours insisting she didn't know how she became pregnant and had no insight at all of the process she was dealing with. One frustrated midwife gave her a very graphic explanation about the birds and the bees and even that made no impression on the girl. Sadly, babies of these girls were removed immediately they were born. Their mothers never got to see or hold them. The infants were bottle fed in the nursery and were adopted pretty much straight away.

I was prompted to write this story having just finished reading the book *Call the Midwife*, and although 'our way', especially with single girls, seemed harsh it was a far cry from the experiences of those working in the East End of London at the same time.

I enjoyed my time training as a maternity nurse and working in New Zealand and at Windsor, and feel privileged to have worked with some extraordinarily gifted and talented people, both patients and staff.

Fortunately my friends waited for me to graduate and we then set sail on our Big O.E.

A familiar image?

Does anyone recall having one of these 'printing outfits' as a child? Inside the box were several strips of rubber letters, numbers and punctuation marks, almost but not quite cut through so that they could easily be separated by hand into individual characters. Also included was a small stamp pad and a wooden typeholder with three wide grooves across its entire width. Into these, the rubber letters could be squeezed into place, thus making up to three short lines of text (set back to front of course); thence multiple copies could quickly be made using the stamp pad. This was one of the influences which eventually led to my career in printing.

John Denny

Obituary

Mary (Mollie) Dorcas Spackman, née Grove, 1916–2018

Mollie Grove, born on 16 May 1916 to Joseph Bertram and Amy Mary Grove, was welcomed into a family with strong links to St Andrew's Church. With her sister she was educated at St Cuthbert's College, walking each day to the school and returning home to practise piano playing.

One of her standout memories was taking part as a young woman in a voyage around the Pacific Islands with her father, an island trader, seeing the sights and meeting many of the interesting people she had previously learned of from her father. Much of the timber and other items stocked by the Groves Company was stored close to their fine home on the large property where they lived in Crescent Road, Epsom. Members of the Grove family were stalwarts of the church, spiritually and socially as well as materially.

Two stained glass windows are dedicated to the memory of the family. Mollie's uncle was superintendent of the thriving sunday school with Mollie herself holding a role as a teacher. Mollie's habit of sitting at the end of the second last pew on the left of the church arose from those days when she returned the children to the church and slipped back into the family pew. Over her long attendance at St Andrew's this was acknowledged as 'Molly's Pew'.

In the 1960s Mollie, her husband Edric Ian Spackman (1909–2001) and son Brian took up residence at the corner of Omana Avenue in Epsom, where they became deeply involved in the transformation of the abandoned quarry into Eden Garden. Each Saturday they joined the band of volunteers to plant, weed and nourish the soil to create a place of beauty. Bridge was a favourite pastime for Mollie, keeping her in touch with old friends, and she was a familiar sight walking to the Mt Eden shopping centre. A continuing sadness was the loss of her brother, who drowned.

Mollie spent her final years in the loving care of staff at the Edenvale Rest Home, living into her one hundred and third year. She died on 19 December 2018.

Val Sherwood

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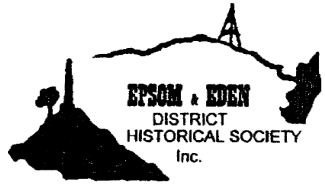

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Hilda Wiseman's friends, relatives, colleagues and many others—all part of her bookplate world

Part Two of the article by Ian Thwaites.

'Hilda Wiseman, artist, and her world of Epsom bookplates' appeared in *Prospect: The Journal of the Epsom and Eden District Historical Society Inc.*, vol.8, 2009, pp.63–72. It outlined Hilda's family history, her techniques, her remarkable output of bookplates, and other aspects of her life. Here we further examine the bookplate scene which meant so much to her. This article focuses on her close friends, relatives, neighbours, ex libris and artist colleagues and many others who were part of her bookplate world, not only in Auckland but elsewhere. Those for whom she designed plates are highlighted, together with many other bookplate artists. As New Zealand's best-known ex libris artist, the article further honours her considerable achievements.

It is not possible to mention all Hilda's acquaintances. However, many names are listed in two publications, *75 Years of Bookplates* and the sequel, *5 Years Further On* (2010), both compiled by Rie Fletcher and myself. Also, much detail can be found in my book *Biographical Journeys: 100 Favourite Bookplates* (2009) and reproductions of bookplates owned by AELS members are shown in my most recent publication, *Their Personal Bookplates: Bookplates of Auckland Ex Libris Society Members from 1930 to the present day* (2022).

Note: In most instances, the dates of Hilda's bookplates are shown in brackets. Many of the footnotes elaborate on entries in the text. I have not specified the medium used by Hilda for her bookplates—there were many linocuts but also a sizeable number of line drawings. Details can be found in the catalogue of her bookplates in my book, *In Another Dimension: Auckland Bookplates, 1920–1960* (2001 and 2nd edition, 2002).

First of all let us consider Hilda's close friends

Hilda was part of a close circle of relatives and especially artist friends, several of whom supported her as NZELS Auckland Branch members and some, who like herself, were foundation members. In this category were Ida Eise, Connie and Olive Lloyd and Una Garlick. The Lloyd sisters, in

particular, like Hilda, took their interest seriously. They designed plates themselves, held many meetings at their Clive Road home, and also attended regularly. Well-known lecturer and painter Ida Eise (39 Mackelvie Street, Grey Lynn) was also a faithful attender, but one suspects that her commitment was perhaps not as whole-hearted as with Connie and Olive Lloyd, and she appears not to have designed bookplates. A very busy woman with many demands made upon her at Elam School of Art, Ida nevertheless missed very few meetings, at least until the 1960s.

Although Hilda worked with photographer Una Garlick ('Avona', 55 Remuera Road resident until 1935) to produce the latter's bookplate, there did not seem to be much to attract her friend, and Una resigned at an early date, no doubt finding Auckland Photographic Society more in her line.

Dorothy Vallance-Young from Mt Albert was another friend, a fellow member of ASA, and it seems likely that it was Hilda who encouraged her to design a few bookplates (1).

A lasting commitment to the ex libris cause however came from her ASA colleague (372 Hillsborough Road resident) Louise Tilsley, who met regularly and exchanged ideas with Hilda and contributed a great deal to the bookplate movement. Louise was probably as close a 'bookplate friend' as Hilda enjoyed. She joined both Wellington and Auckland NZELS in 1937, and her Auckland membership only lapsed in the late 1940s.

Some of Hilda's relatives formed a major part of her bookplate world and these connections resulted in many bookplates and commissions to design plates.

She created plates for two of her sisters, Vella (1927) and Huia (1926) and also the famous colour linocut 'Moonrise' for her mother Harriot (1925). However, neither sister joined Auckland Branch of NZELS, and in general it can be said that immediate members of the family had little involvement in Hilda's bookplate activities over the years. As far as I am aware, Hilda never made bookplates for either her brother Douglas or her youngest sister Rona (later Mrs Alexander). On the other hand, two of her aunts, Mrs Olive Wilson and Mrs Jane Newcomb were both foundation members of Auckland Branch NZELS and both, especially Olive, made substantial contributions to the progress of the branch.

Olive Wilson (1927 and 1939), resided at 87 Mountain Road, Mt Eden,

and Mrs Jane Newcomb (1928) at 'Scott-Willoughby', Kohimarama, moving in the 1930s to 57 Victoria Avenue and later to Aldred Road. Olive and Fred Wilson's three daughters Mary (1930), Jean (1930 and 1934) and Ruth (1941) all received bookplates from their aunt, the first two for Mary and Jean being both very attractive colour linocuts. Ruth's design was a monogram device. Meetings were held at the homes of both Olive and Jane and it is not difficult to imagine that they may have encouraged other new members such as Mrs Winifred Fleming, 226 Remuera Road and Mrs Anne McArthur (95 and later, 151 Gillies Avenue). Mrs McArthur in fact chose Hilda to design her plate in 1937 when she won the first of two ballots among NZELS members in Auckland and Wellington.

There were several other family related plates.

Another of Hilda's aunts, Jessie Helen Wiseman, became Lady Gunson. In 1929 Hilda designed a plate depicting the Auckland War Memorial Museum for Sir James Gunson, who had been mayor of Auckland, 1915–25. It is also now believed that Lady Gunson suggested the plate for Lady Anne Walpole (1932), as the Gunsons and Lady Anne's parents, the Earl and Countess of Orford, lived close to each other at Manurewa. Violet (McCowen) Wilson (1935) was a cousin of Marjorie McCowen, who married Olive's son, William Scott Wilson (Violet's 1946 address was 4 Brighton Road, Parnell). John Gordon McLean (1957) was the father of Dorothy Espiner Wiseman (50 Empire Road) who married Hilda's brother Neville. (2). Dorothy and Neville's son Anthony Wiseman received a plate from Aunt Hilda (1957) for his 21st birthday. Another plate resulted from a more indirect family link and needed considerable research to unearth! This was Hilda's linocut bookplate for a young Australian girl, Fairlie Falconer, and came about when Alice Coombes, Hilda's mother's sister, came to stay in 1938 and commissioned a plate for her young friend. (3).

The largest single group of Hilda's bookplate designs are those with the 'St Cuthberts connection'.

There are approximately 25 plates with some link to either Mt Eden College (or St Cuthbert's College as it became). Hilda herself was a pupil at Mt Eden College as were Vella and Huia. Huia later attended St Cuthbert's (1915–20) as did her youngest sister Rona (1915–22). (4). In 1946 Hilda

designed plates for St Cuthbert's staff members Ida Gray (who lived with her sisters at 'Ellamore', 24 Essex Road), classics teacher Kathleen Goulding, and in addition a memorial plate for the founders of the school, the Misses Bews. (5). Irene Margaret Cook and Hilda were close friends at Mt Eden College, and from this friendship resulted the largest single family grouping in Hilda's listings, for the Austin and Murphy families, over 10 in all. (6). In 1945 Hilda designed a plate for Kathleen Lewisham (née Winstone) and her husband Edgar, and also for her son-in-law Russell Wood. (7). Phillip Stawell Herbert, an Australian, lived in Ridings Road, Remuera. Hilda's 1927 plate for him may have resulted from a link to Miss Constance Herbert, who taught music at St Cuthbert's College—she too was an Australian and came to New Zealand about the same time. The three Perrin sisters were all gifted in the arts and crafts field, and Phyllis in particular was always interested in bookplates. She received her plate from Hilda in 1945. (8). The link with St Cuthbert's was important for Hilda, and she put a good deal of effort into plates with these associations.

Neighbours.

There are also quite a few Hilda Wiseman designs which probably resulted from geographical proximity: Fred Burton Wallis (1926) lived at 32 Ranfurly Road Extension. The thermal regions theme of his plate may possibly be explained by some connection with artist Wilfred Stanley Wallis, although I have been unable to verify this; Harold James and Ella Harriet May Tuck, of 25 Disraeli Street, Mt Eden (1940); Cecily Roie Russell (1941)—the Russell home was 'Marivare', Ranfurly Road West; Jocelyn Hope Wells (c.1950) of 72 Mountain Road, Epsom; in 1948 Hilda produced plates for generous gifts of books to both Auckland Institute and Museum and Auckland Public Libraries by benefactor Edward Earle Vaile, of 151 Mountain Road; Marguerite Winifred 'Madge' Crookes, botanist and author (1947), lived at 31 Maungawhau Road, Epsom. She was an Auckland Branch NZELS member during the 1940s and was an ASA Working Member from 1941. Inevitably she must have known Hilda well, although she surely did not deserve to have her first name misspelt on her plate! Both Fred and Helen Ambler's plates were produced in 1947—the Amblers lived at 1 Hona Avenue, Mt Eden. (9).

Auckland Public Library associations

Chief Librarian and Art Gallery Director John Barr is the first name who comes to mind. He was a great support to Hilda, particularly in the 1930s, arranging exhibitions at the art gallery, taking pivotal roles in Auckland Branch activities, and no doubt encouraging Hilda to give her two talks the library. These lasting links surely influenced her decision to leave her collection to the Auckland Public Library. John Barr was an Epsom resident, at 397 Manukau Road for many years before moving to 84 Ladies Mile, Remuera (10); Miss Dulcie Haszard, resident at 17 Hamilton Road, Herne Bay, was a good friend to Hilda and a strong Auckland Branch supporter. An Auckland Public Library staff member from 1914–56, Dulcie was assistant secretary of AELS, 1960–65 when Hilda suffered from ill-health. She joined Auckland Branch in 1948 and resigned in 1966; Mavis Peat (1953), was children's librarian for several years until 1954—she resided 2 Wootton Road, Remuera. Robert Duthie, who followed John Barr as Auckland City Librarian, was a member from 1953–9. Although bookplates were possibly not an abiding interest, Bob Duthie, ever courteous and friendly, always got on well with Hilda. Dorothy Lyon (1949), a staff member from 1938–79, lived for many years in Greys Avenue before later relocating to Endymion Flats, 90 Remuera Road. Dorothy's plate was commissioned by her mother as a 30th birthday present. Dorothy, unlike her close friend and neighbour Mrs Una Smith, never joined AELS. Una, a member from 1959 until her death in 1992, was the daughter of Mrs Eve Winifred Moore of Rowlatt and Moore's Bookshop, Wellesley Street East. She was a staff member, from 1954–76, latterly as Music Librarian. And not to forget, Hilda designed four plates for special collections within the Library's Music Department: The Fenton Memorial Library, Auckland Chamber Music Society (1950); Harold Baxter Collection (1953)—Harold and Zoe (founder of the famed Auckland Children's Theatre) lived at 5 Glenside Crescent, later removed for the motorway; Dr H. L. Hersch Collection of Music (1956)—he was a Herne Bay resident and the Philip F. Prescott Collection (1972).

There were also a surprising number of ex libris links to Diocesan School for Girls, Epsom

Gwen Fullerton (1925) was a pupil at the School 1913–17. Her parents Dr

and Mrs F. W. Fullerton lived at 45 Orakei Road and then at 621 Remuera Road. Gwen (later Mrs Keith Manning) became an accomplished photographer; Miss Ethel Sandford, second headmistress of Diocesan School for Girls, Epsom (1927–32), was an Auckland Branch member. She was the driving force behind the school's Arts and Crafts Club. Fellow member T. V. Gulliver gave a talk about bookplates at the inaugural meeting in 1931 while Founding Auckland Branch President Dr E. B. Gunson spoke on aesthetics at the same meeting. Gulliver made drawings for a proposed Diocesan School Library bookplate but these plans were apparently never used; Mrs Diana Edith Masson, 24 Arney Crescent, was member No. 30 in 1932, and stayed until c.1947. She taught at the school, 1928–32 and it seems likely that she was influenced to join Auckland Branch through her headmistress, Miss Sandford; Hilda also produced bookplates for former pupils Beatrice Fay 'Betty' Goldie (1932), Hilda's cousin Ruth 'Olive' Wilson (1941) and Mary Ann Ward (1957). (11). AELS member Cynthia Stevenson (later Mrs Hyatt) was a Diocesan pupil as was Adrienne Houghton (later Mrs Bufton), daughter of Rev Percy Houghton. Her plate was designed by Hilda in 1948. (12). It is interesting to note that artist members Connie Lloyd and Nancy Steen also designed bookplates for former Diocesan pupils.

There are also interesting links with the printing firm E.F. Chandler & Company where Hilda worked

Mrs May McKendrick (1928), a qualified accountant and JP, was a director of Chandlers; her sister was nurse Alice Whalley (1928). (13). Mrs Henrietta Cornelia Evelyn Napier (1930), was perhaps introduced to Hilda through James Lombard Webb, general manager of Chandler's 1925–1956, as they both resided at Princes Court Flats (14); Stella Davis (1931 and 1935), the wife of Eliot Rypinski Davis, brother of Sir Ernest, also lived in this same apartment block and there was a further connection with the Davis family in 1960, when Hilda's prize winning design led to her commission for the Marion Davis Memorial Library bookplate—her 1960 design can still be found on the glass engraved doors of the library; Pascoe 'Pat' Redwood (1901–2000) was twice president of ASA, 1946–51 and 1954–5. He spent five years with Chandler & Co, 1916–21, studied at National Gallery Schools of Painting and Drawing in Melbourne 1923–8, and then taught at

Elam School of Art. Together with his brother J. A.(Addis) Redwood, Pascoe was involved for many years with Auckland Glass Company. He gave two talks to AELS on stained glass, and created two ex libris designs for himself, c.1931. Versatile Auckland artist David J. Payne was part of the Auckland art scene for over 50 years, many of them as a Chandler employee. Briefly an NZELS member, his bookplate designs included plates for James Lombard Webb (1930) and Auckland surgeon William Henry Horton (1928).

Auckland Branch connections

Noted architect W. H. Gummer (1930), was a foundation member of Auckland Branch and remained until pressure of work no doubt forced him to give this interest away—however, Hilda's linocut of an Ionic capital topped with books and laurel leaves won honourable mention at 7th Bookplate Association International Exhibition of Bookplates, Los Angeles, 1931. The Gummer residence was 20 Mountain Road, Epsom; architect C. Reginald Ford, Garden Road, Remuera and later 123 Long Drive, was an especially supportive member—with John Barr he facilitated the holding of several Auckland bookplate exhibitions throughout the 1930s at Auckland City Art Gallery and at Milne & Choyce Ltd (15); prominent radiologist Francis John Gwynne (1930) was Member no.14 and he also was an enthusiastic and supportive member for some years. Hilda's 1930 linocut for Reg was one of her favourite designs. His daughter Dorothy, who was educated at St Cuthbert's College, had her plate designed by Hilda in 1937, and her husband Reginald Gibson's plate followed in 1947. The Gwynnes lived at 128 Grafton Road (16); Mrs Winifred Fleming was an Auckland Branch member from 1932, and three years later her son Charles (later Sir Charles) was honoured with Hilda's colour linocut, appropriately featuring a pied shag (Karuhiruhi) and a shell (Buccinalium lineum); an early commission for Hilda was received from young Carterton poet and journalist Warwick Lawrence, who came to Auckland in 1934—Hilda designed plates for him in 1935 and 1937; (17).

Sandy Geddes (1 Douglas Avenue, Mt Albert) was another ex libris colleague who shared Hilda's passion for bookplates. Her celebrated 1934 linocut for Sandy identifies him as a popular 'man about town with cane

and spats'. She and many Aucklanders were saddened by his early passing (18); water-colour artist Elaine Goodfellow (1936) was an Auckland Branch member, 1932–49. A Golf Road, Epsom, resident, she was an ASA Working Member 1926–c.1960. David and Nancy Steen joined Auckland Branch in 1939 and retained their membership until 1961. David was Auckland Branch NZELS president in 1946 and 1947. They were Remuera residents, first at 43 Lillington Road, and later at 30 Upland Road. Nancy designed her own linocut plates although she commissioned Hilda to design her son-in-law Malcolm Waller's plate in 1957. Flower paintings (especially magnolias) were a favourite of Hilda's and she shared that interest with Nancy (19); Jock and Audrey Allen of 43 Market Road, had their daughter Judith's plate designed by Hilda. Jock joined Auckland Branch, c.1936 and took over as treasurer from Hilda in 1952, a position which he occupied until his death in 1975; solicitor Henry Ah Kew's son Brian's plate was designed by Hilda in 1946—Henry and his wife Mavis lived at 53 Mt St John Avenue.

Further Auckland Ex Libris Society connections—later years

Colonel Arthur Robert Percy Hughes of Matekeo, Swanson (1956), was greatly influenced by his friendship with Hilda Wiseman, and during the 1950s he was an effective spokesman for AELS and a key figure in acquiring the Neville Barnett Collection of Bookplates and Bookplate Literature for the Auckland War Memorial Museum (1956). (20); One Tree Hill mayor and prominent businessman, Brian Stevenson, 69 Market Road (1953), his wife Joan and their daughter Cynthia (later Mrs Hyatt) were also AELS members; John Seabrook, Orakei Road (1954 and 1958) was a member, 1955–9. Undoubtedly he too was impressed by Hilda's passion for bookplates and also encouraged by fellow member Arthur Hughes, as they were both prominent in the administration of the Auckland Museum Council. Two other members deserve special mention: Phil Prescott, a close colleague and friend, for whom Hilda designed three plates (1959 and two in 1972), surely a joy for her, as he was AELS secretary for many years and always such an enthusiastic ex libris member; Hilda provided a lasting legacy of teaching and encouragement and also one of her last plates for her young friend Robert Langholm (1972). His interest in bookplates has never waned, since joining in 1965 (21).

Footnotes

1. In September 1935 *Art in New Zealand* reported on a group show which featured the talents of Hilda, Connie Lloyd and Dorothy Vallance-Young. Hilda contributed watercolours (many flower studies), woodcuts, Christmas cards, pages of an illuminated manuscript and bookplates. In 1954 fifty of Hilda's paintings were featured in an ASA exhibition with Dorothy Vallance-Young and potter Olive Jones. Although Dorothy was not an AELS member, she did venture into bookplate design, with plates for herself, Dorothy Smith and Avondale resident, schoolteacher Mildred Spargo.
2. John Gordon McLean was the father of J. G. McLean, editor of the *New Zealand Observer*, 1931–41, and the noted sports writer Sir T. P. McLean.
3. Hawthorn, Melbourne, resident Dr Fairlie Anderson Springall (d.20.12.2003) was a general practitioner for many years.
4. At St Cuthbert's, Huia (later Mrs Maginness) won an art prize, 1919 as did Rona, who was awarded a Royal Drawing Society prize, 1917, and later became an artist.
5. In recent years book dealer and former AELS member Brendan Waters lived in the Essex Road property with his partner Katherine Redshaw.
6. Hilda designed a plate for Irene Cook's brother Ashley in 1941. His sister Gwendolyn (also a St Cuthbert's pupil) married Murray Austin. Their daughters Margaret (Mrs Hammonds) and Lyn (Mrs Murphy) and family members all received plates from Hilda.
7. Kathleen Winstone attended St Cuthbert's, 1928–33. In 1931 Hilda created a linocut design for Kathleen's mother, Violet Matilda Winstone, depicting the George Croft organ presented by the Winstone family to St Paul's Methodist Church, St Vincent Avenue, Remuera, where Violet was organist for many years. The design for Violet may have come about through Hilda's father, Alexander Wiseman, who was an accomplished organist.
8. In 2001 Phyllis generously gave me her album of plates which included her own designs plus several other beautiful items including the personal plate of Californian designer Ruth Thomson Saunders (1926), George Perrottet's colour plate for Grace B. Sibley (1937) and the line drawing for AELS member Dr Russell Tracy-Inglis by Auckland lithographer Charles Palmer (c.1932).
9. Frederick Norman Ambler OBE JP (1894–1983) is remembered by Fred Ambler's Lookout, Parnell. Auckland City councillor for 30 years, with many civic achievements, especially in improving Auckland's swimming facilities, Fred was Chairman of Ambler & Company, makers of Summit shirts.
10. John Barr's two woodcut bookplates, both punning or 'rebus' designs, were fashioned by engineer, graphic arts enthusiast and Auckland Branch founding

member Thomas Ralph de Vere 'Tom' Gulliver (1891–1933), one of the outstanding personalities during the early years of Auckland Branch.

11. Betty Goldie received art instruction from her uncle, C. F. Goldie, and also from Lulu Pickering of Parnell. Her brother Alan Abbott Goldie married Hilda's niece Jean Wilson. Further links. Mary Ann Ward's father was Edgar Oliver Blomfield Ward, and historian Angela Caughey, author of the invaluable *An Auckland Network* (1988), commented to me that many Ward family members owned paintings by artist Charles Blomfield. Mary married Dr Gerhard Vogt and lives in Tuncurry, New South Wales.
12. In addition to the line drawing for Adrienne Houghton, Hilda also supplied plates for her brother, Reverend Michael Richard Houghton (1948) and his daughters Mary (c.1958) and Margaret(c.1960).
13. May (real name Mary) McKendrick was the wife of Briton J. McKendrick, waste products merchant and sack manufacturer. She was also a tireless promoter of Health Camps and Health Stamps and secretary of the Auckland Community Sunshine Association.
14. Henrietta Napier was the daughter of E. W. Mills of Wellington, and the wife of Auckland solicitor and MP William Joseph Napier. Two sons served in WWI and consequently, Esmonde and Harley Roads and Napier Avenue can all be found in the Auckland suburb of Takapuna. After her husband's death in 1925 she lived for many years at 5 Princes Court Flats.
15. Reg Ford had many strings to his bow, as the saying goes. In his youth he was Warrant Officer-Storekeeper with Robert Falcon Scott's 1901–04 Antarctic expedition. Later positions included ASA president, 1933–6, a role which doubtless helped to advance the public profile of book plates at this time and president, Auckland Institute and Museum, 1938–40, and of course not forgetting his contributions in the major architectural practice of Gummer & Ford, 1923–61.
16. The plate for Warwick Smeeton (c.1947) may well owe its origins to his position as a teacher and Bursar at St Peter's School, Cambridge, where he was preceded by Frank Gwynne's son-in-law Reginald Gibson. Incidentally, colourful and controversial barrister Richard Arnold Singer was a close neighbour of the Gwynnes at 122 Grafton Road. His bookplate was designed by Arnold Goodwin.
17. Warwick Lawrence wrote for the *New Zealand Mirror*, *New Zealand Observer*, *Auckland Star* and *New Zealand Free Lance*. For further biography see his entry in *Biographical Journeys,* which is accompanied by Hilda's colour linocut depicting a window in Blake's Inn, Vulcan Lane, a favourite rendezvous for Warwick and his literary friends.
18. Sandy Geddes made a significant contribution to the Auckland cultural scene,

as ASA president, 1922–4, as a visiting member of the graphic arts interest group, the Quoin Club and as president, Auckland Branch NZELS, 1934 and 1935. Unforgivably, I unintentionally omitted his plate by Hilda from my recent publication *Their Personal Bookplates* . . . . Thankfully, there is a detailed entry for Sandy in *Biographical Journeys*, alongside a reproduction of Hilda's 1934 linocut.

19. Nancy Steen, known for her love of heritage roses, is remembered by the Nancy Steen Rose Garden in the Auckland suburb of Parnell. She did find time, however, to design at least six linocut bookplates, her own and five others, for her husband David, elder daughter Barbara, her artist friend Clarice Brass, former Auckland Diocesan pupil Norah Hall and Dr D. C. Macdiarmid.
20. Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Percy Hughes QSO JP GCLJ KMLJ (1900–92). Well-known for his involvement in heraldic matters, he was president, Heraldry Society (New Zealand Branch) Inc., 1973–80 and Grand Bailiff of the Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem in New Zealand. In addition to Hilda's 1956 linocut for her friend, Arthur owned plates designed by heraldic colleague J. J. Schell Lannoy, Thomas Alan King-Hill, Carlton Studio, Auckland, and the powerful design by fellow prisoner-of-war in Changi Gaol, Singapore, Australian war artist Vaughan Murray Griffin.
21. Bob Langholm has been AELS president on three separate occasions and was made an Honorary Life Member in 2003. Thought by many to be New Zealand's foremost authority on Bonsai, he was awarded the Queen's Service Medal in 2005.

To be continued in 2024.

PS New Zealand Ex Libris Society - NZELS

Ex Libris and Book Lovers' Society, New Zealand Ex Libris and Booklovers Society. The first general meeting of the Society was held on 15 April 1930, and first AGM in May 1931. A brochure was issued and the society's collection of plates numbered 350. The objects of the society were to promote and extend the use of bookplates; to establish permanent collections of bookplates; to hold exhibitions; to develop the artistic character of bookplates; to encourage the cooperation of artists; to assist exchanges of bookplates amongst collectors in NZ and elsewhere. The society changed its name in July 1954 to NZ Ex Libris and Booklovers Society. It was wound up in 1979.
SOURCE - https://natlib.govt.nz/records/22357064