



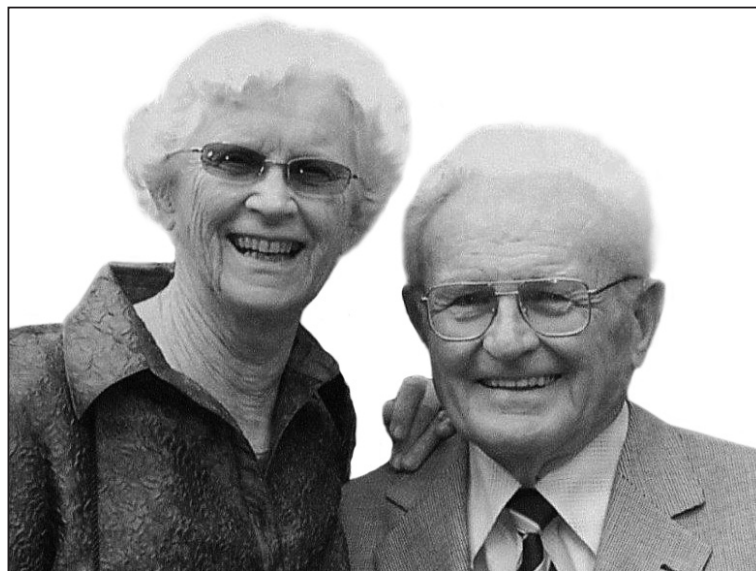
MOUNT ALBERT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Newsletter 22 • April 2013

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A Man of Outstanding Contribution & Integrity Arnold Turner

CMG, (Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael & St George)
LLM, Hon MNZPI



Marjorie and Arnold Turner

Since MAHS was formed in 2006, I have known and respected this friendly modest gentleman who always had gems and stories to impart on Mt Albert and that most of us know of him as a previous Mt Albert Borough Councillor and Deputy Mayor.

What I didn't know was what a true treasure we had in our midst until our Chair John Childs mentioned the debt we owed to Arnold in his work as the inaugural Chair of the ARA Centennial Park and Regional Reserves Committee, as the Chair of the No 1 Town & Country Planning Appeal and, after retiring from judicial office, as the Principle Planning Judge for the Planning Tribunal.

Arnold's father was the first minister of the Sandringham Baptist Church and Arnold was born in the Manse at 4 Taumata Rd in 1926. The family moved to North Canterbury the

following year and Arnold finished his high school education at Southland Boys High in 1942. In 1943 he joined the Public Trust office in Dunedin enabling him to start a law degree part time at Otago University. In 1946 his father's health declined and the family returned to Auckland. Arnold finished his LLM in 1949, joined a private law firm earning £6 per week and married local Mt Albert girl Marjorie Coles in 1950. The couple went on to have four children. Arnold continued working as a lawyer for the next twenty years specializing in administrative law including town planning.

In 1953 as the result of a conversation on the tram, Harry Anderson, another lawyer who was then Mayor of Mt Albert, asked Arnold to stand for E ward in the forthcoming Mt Albert Borough Council elections. Upon election, in that same year the 1953

Town Planning Act was passed by Parliament and Arnold's job was to get a new district scheme operating. From 1960 – 62 Arnold was a member of the Auckland Regional Planning Authority and worked with FWO Jones the authority planner who was keen to develop regional reserves. Arnold was appointed the inaugural Chair of the ARA Centennial Park & Regional Reserves Committee which led to the establishment of the regional parks. It is because of men like Arnold that today we have Wenderholme, Long Bay, Shakespear and the Manurewa Botanical Gardens to visit in our leisure time. There are not many men who give so much of their prime working and family time to have the vision of acquiring and preserving our natural heritage for the people of New Zealand. There was no such thing as remuneration for their services as there is so much of today,

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Arnold Turner cont'd...

it was done from a sense of civic responsibility, so much credit must also go to Marjorie in her support of Arnold and in shouldering the responsibilities of home and family.

In 1968 Arnold retired from the authority and continued his legal practise. In 1970 he became a stipendiary magistrate and was appointed Chairman of the No.1 Town & Country Planning Appeal Board (which later became the Planning Tribunal) of which he became Principal Planning Judge. He was made a CMG in the New Years Honours 1984. On his retirement in 1987 Arnold Turner was made an Honorary member of the NZ Planning Institute. Alice Wylie his

contemporary, says that he brought commonsense into town planning decisions without rigidity and with integrity.

He is quoted as saying "he didn't take any nonsense if people were speaking rubbish".

One of the many cases Arnold dealt with were those involving the water rights for the Huntly Power Station in 1973 and the Glenbrook Steel Mill. In the latter case, it was the Maori stand that the blood of one taniwha must not be mingled with another. Arnold had to eventually rule that spiritual values were not relevant in judicial decision making.

Arnold retired at 70. He and Marjorie have done a lot of travelling and continue to be very involved in their local Baptist church.

Over the past few years Arnold has supplied me with articles for the MAHS website enabling us to archive written records for future generations.

Auckland would like to say thank you Arnold for the time and knowledge you have given us, for your foresight and energy in helping develop the regional reserves, for your firmness and fairness as a judge and finally for the privilege of knowing you.

Mary Inomata, December 2012

THANK YOU

BIG Thank you's to the Kerr Taylor Trust for their grant of \$4000.00 and the Logan Campbell Trust for their grant of \$10,000.00 – both towards the writing of our MAHS book on the history of Mt Albert which is planned for publication in late 2016/early 2017 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Mt Albert Road Board in 1867.

MAHS VISITS AUCKLAND'S EARLY JEWRY

On Sunday 10 March 2013 the society went to town, literally, and visited the Synagogue at the top of Vincent Street. Our bus load of members was met by an official at the Synagogue who showed us about the building and explained many aspects of its architectural and spiritual significance. The building that opened in the late 1960s replaced the older architectural gem in Princes Street that had been built in 1885 by Auckland's Jews when the community was much smaller. Members were struck by the fact that a numerically small community had produced so many significant contributors to Auckland's growth. The first Mayor of Auckland when the City Council was established in 1871, P.A Philips, who went on to serve as Town Clerk for 25 years; his mayoral successor, H. Isaacs (1874); Arthur Myers (1905-9); Ernest Davis (1935-41); D.M. Robinson (1959-65 and 1968-80); and Colin Kay (1980-83) were all members of Auckland's Jewish community, not to mention many significant members of the business and cultural sectors of the city.

From the Synagogue we paid a brief visit to Myers Park. The land was purchased and gifted to the people of Auckland in 1913 by Arthur Myers who was now MP for Auckland East. The then Mayor of Auckland, James Parr, had persuaded Myers whose family made a fortune from beer, and was like many Jews, strongly philanthropically-inclined, to engage in some early slum clearance. The area had become the most densely populated segment of the city, home to Auckland's bubonic plague in 1900. A far-sighted man, Myers was an early advocate of parks, calling them the "city's lungs". The park opened in 1915. The following year the Free Kindergarten, also paid for by Myers, was opened. During the 1918 Influenza Epidemic the building was used for sick children.

The bus proceeded to the small Jewish Cemetery on the corner of Karangahape Rd and Symonds St where we identified those headstones that have survived the ravages of time and vandals. We then went down to the area immediately

surrounding the old Synagogue in Princes St and Waterloo Quadrant which housed many of Auckland's earliest Jews. We identified L.D. Nathan's first home where services were held and paused to look at the old Synagogue. Beautifully restored by the National Bank, it is now used by the university. We identified the university's administration building that was Arthur H. Nathan's home, and in later years Mt Pleasant Private Hospital. O'Rorke St which is no more because of the university's expansion also housed many members of the original Jewish community because of its proximity to the old Synagogue. Several of the remaining merchant houses in Princes St were once Jewish homes.

Our visit to a piece of old Auckland was arranged by Brian Stevens, and we were sustained along the way by a pleasant snack prepared by Judith Goldie and her assistants.

Dr Michael Bassett, April 2013

For further information on the Mt Albert Historical Society visit www.mtalberthistoricalsociety.org.nz

M.A.H.S Dates To Remember

13th July 2013 (Saturday) 2pm. Ferndale House, New North Road, Mt Albert. **Annual Midwinter Celebration.** For our midwinter celebration we ask that you bring along your favourite book of all time and tell us why you love it. As well as this, any articles or stories relating to Mt Albert will be most welcome. There will also be a discussion and update on progress of the MAHS book on the history of Mt Albert. **Debbie Dunford** a well known historian who is writing our book will be in attendance. Afternoon tea and mulled wine will be served. \$5 entry fee at door. Open to all.

24th August 2013 (Saturday) 2pm. Ferndale House, New North Road, Mt Albert. **Mt Albert Historical Society AGM.** Following the annual meeting **Mrs Jane Matthews** will make a visual presentation on "The Bungalows of Mt Albert". Jane Matthews is an architect with a specific interest in environmental aspects and her talk will incorporate features relevant to bungalows.

Early October 2013 (date to be confirmed)

Bus trip to Holy Trinity Cathedral, St Mary's Church and Selwyn Library.

TIDBITS

- **Mt Albert Croquet Club** has just celebrated its first one hundred years, 1913 – 2013. Alice Wylie who attended the event commented that "it was a beautiful afternoon with perfect weather. A gramophone played lovely old songs, afternoon tea was served from silver tea sets and men and women dressed in old fashioned clothes vied for a prize for the best dressed. All in all, the most superbly done afternoon".
- Another one hundred years, 1913 – 2013 were celebrated by the **Mt Albert Presbyterian Church.** The church's original site being on the corner of Mt Albert and New North roads. It currently sits on land purchased from the Fowlds family in 1921 to where it was moved by steam roller in 1922.
- On Tuesday March 26 there was a celebration to mark the **Mt Albert School Farm 99 year lease renewal** between the ASB and the Mt Albert Grammar School Trust. Not only has the bank renewed the lease but it has announced it will fund an annual scholarship for an agricultural student to attend Mt Albert Grammar School. What can we say but GOOD ON YA ASB!
- On the 25th April the MAHS Chair, John Childs, attended the **ANZAC Day service** at the Mt Albert Memorial Hall. Many organisations and community groups were represented and on behalf of MAHS, John laid a bouquet of flowers in honour of those who have served our country.

News from the Past...

THE HUNTING OF THE TANIWHA

Taniwhas were sometimes quite friendly if treated with respect. One of enormous dimensions, if the Maori tales are to be believed, was the guardian of the Ngati-Raukawa's stronghold on the Upper Waikato. Takere-piripiri was its name, and it lived in a cavern by the side of the river. Regularly every day it was fed with cooked eels, and in return for its board it ate any marauding or hostile Maoris who appeared in the neighbourhood to disturb the peace of the Ngati-Raukawa. One day, however, the chief's two children, who were entrusted with the task of carrying the daily basket of eels to the taniwha's cavern, played a dirty trick on their guardian. They themselves ate the most succulent part of the eels, leaving the taniwha only the heads. In high dudgeon at this offence to his dignity, the taniwha decided that the Ngati-Raukawa were no longer worthy of his protection. Scorning revenge by eating the tribe, as he might well have done, Takere-piripiri wandered away and took up a new abode elsewhere. But here no one fed him on eels, so he was forced when hungry to consume a Maori or two. It was not long before the Maoris in the

neighbourhood objected to this slow but regular decimation of their numbers, and a combined effort on their part closed Takere-piripiri's career.

Lake Taupo was inhabited by a famous taniwha called Horo-matangi, and there was hardly a lake or a river which was not the home of one or more. The sea, too, had its species of taniwhas. They seem to have been amphibious – as happy on land as in water.

The Maoris went about in mortal terror of being devoured by taniwhas, but fortunately there were charms or karakias which when recited could be counted upon to keep a taniwha at a safe distance, provided it did not get in first with a surprise attack. Very efficacious, too, was the use of a thread of human hair in keeping a taniwha at bay. For those contemplating the capture of a taniwha for the Centennial Exhibition, then, a study of Maori legend and lore is recommended. It must be remembered that a taniwha is as cunning as it is fearsome.

Evening Post p21 29th July 1939

Anna Lois White (1903 – 1984) New Zealand Artist

MAHS member Barbara Hyde shares her family connection with renowned New Zealand artist Lois White.

How often we hear of when someone endowed with genius talent passes away, they suddenly achieve the fame and acknowledgement that eluded them whilst alive.

In my opinion this was the case for Lois (pronounced as Loyce) White. Born in Auckland on 2nd November 1903, her parents were Arthur Herbert – a renowned architect – and Annie White. They lived in a double storey house designed by Arthur, 5 Richardson Road, Mt Albert. A family member has told me of the long shelled driveway leading onto considerable land and a huge fruity persimmon tree.

Arthur White owned 2 ponies and trap; this was his mode of travel to and from work in Auckland City. Like his father, he was born in New Zealand – they were early missionaries in the Hokianga and devout Methodists. He was a gentle artistic man who loved animals; sadly he died much too young at 56 years.

Annie White is remembered as being “very staunch who did not express warmth although she had an abundance of strength and energy, always wore black, and tied her hair back into a bun style”. About 1956 and with her daughters Lois and Gwen she moved into a small Blockhouse Bay fibrolite house, at number 73 Taunton Tce. She played the organ in St. Saviours Church.

After my husband Russell and I built and settled into 63 Taunton Tce, November 1959, we came to eventually know our neighbours “The Whites” namely Misses Lois and Gwen White.

Lois was a quiet, gentle and shy lady who spoke in a lovely manner, always polite and like her father, had a love of animals – particularly dogs. They owned a cute dachshund named Fritz and we would see one or the other sister taking him on his daily stroll along Taunton Tce. After Fritz came Franz and Hugo. She was an accomplished singer and swimmer, but how well I remember her amazing oil paintings she so meticulously completed in her small backyard art studio. I also recall the various numbers of students she encouraged and tutored from this studio.

One particular oil painting remains etched in both our memories and to this day remains a strong favourite – it was St. Francis of Assisi – Patron Saint of Animals – her was standing with arms open welcoming the birds. She gifted it to a neighbour and with great pride, they hung it over their lounge fireplace mantel. Magnificent painting, the colours were so vibrant.

As a thank you to Russell for some furniture repairs, Lois allowed us to select a painting – we chose a Flax and Fern oil and for many years it hung in our hallway (see below).



Lois was student at Elam School of Art teaching and lecturing and was still at Elam on a part time basis when we came to the street; she retired in 1963. I also remember her very long travel trip to Europe with best friend Ida, visiting many galleries. Her oil paintings ranged from contemporary abstracts to religious, American sailors, portraits etc. I recall her watercolours and pencil drawings. Some painting took on a distinct rousing look of anti-war – Lois spoke of being very anti-war and anti-poverty.

We viewed many of her paintings during a display of her works in 1994 at the Auckland Art Gallery and I have always believed and repeatedly said “Lois White was a painter well before her time”. Sadly Lois suffered a series of strokes that cruelly robbed her of any further painting and she passed away 13th September 1984.

Her older sister Gwen White was also very artistic and clever in embroidery and homecrafts – but not in painting. Although this little lady gave the impression of being upright and of strong character, she really did have a soft centre and like Lois, adored animals. Gwen died about 5 years before her sister, of a massive stroke.

Their home was moved in 1995 by the new owner to 27 Edwards Rd, Henderson and the art studio dismantled by the 2nd owners.

Barbara Hyde

References: Personal knowledge. Miss White's family acknowledgement.

MAHS newsletter Issue 9 April 2009 page 5 has further information on Lois White. This can be viewed on the MAHS website www.mtalberthistoricalsociety.org.nz

This painting had a strong wire on its back for hanging and for many years it sat on a hook in our hallway, until one morning when there was an almighty crash; the wire had broken and Flax and Fern had crashed to the floor. The next day we learned of Miss White's death – she had passed away at the same time as the fallen painting!! It has never been put back on that wall.