



MOUNT ALBERT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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Hunting, Shooting and Racing

This is the second issue devoted to pastimes enjoyed by local people over the years. Shooting covers the local archery club and early clay pigeon shooting. 'Hunting' includes snippets from old newspapers and 'Racing' is covered by some reminiscences about the Auckland Cup. The tennis edition provoked a lot of interest and stimulated more information which has also been included.

The Mountain Green Archery Club

The club maintains a presence on the ballast pit site of Mt Albert Owairaka. The main entrance to the upper mountain is from Summit Drive off Mt Albert Road. A ring road climbs up the north-east side of the cone past the northern face of the mountain. It provides access to the Mountain Green Archery Club through the old quarry entrance.(1)

According to the Mountain Green Archery Club website and, Maurice Roberts, the historian who wrote it, the club was started in the late 1940s. (2)The first Auckland Nationals were held in 1949 and the clubs can be seen in the photograph (top right) each wearing their distinctive uniform.(3) The Mountain Green archers wore a maroon uniform with a Robin Hood style hat complete with feather. This is supposition on my part so corrections, please!

The photo below shows archers taking aim before loosing their arrows. In the background one can see the original club house. This was probably the one that burned down in 1957. Cars parked nearby in the car park confirm the date to be in the early 1950s.



The third photograph (after) shows archers walking to record their scores and retrieve their arrows. Directly behind the targets, can be seen the results of the excavation for the ballast where loose stones could easily be collected. Close to the targets, one can just detect a stone arch, some stone benches and three terraces made from these stones. They were removed at a later date either when the clubhouse was rebuilt (and moved closer to the entrance) or when the cones surfaces were smoothed. Behind the clubhouse there was a grove of trees, possibly flowering cherries, that local residents liked to meander through.



Mountain Green Archery Club has a scrapbook that covers the 1970s. This was clearly a decade of great success for the club and so I have included here many of the names and achievements that literally leapt off the pages as I went through the old record. Many women

Shooting cont'

did particularly well. Jan Fortune, Anne Faulkner, Doreen Payne, Joan Litchfield, Ella Hill, Leslie Dixon and Leonie Moodie won many national archery prizes. Successful men included Tony Tucker, Gordon Subritsky, F Stauffer, P Folwell and B Raper. Peter Preston won the first 'telegraphic' archery competition in 1975. Scores were achieved at the archers own grounds and the results were then sent to Wellington where they were processed.

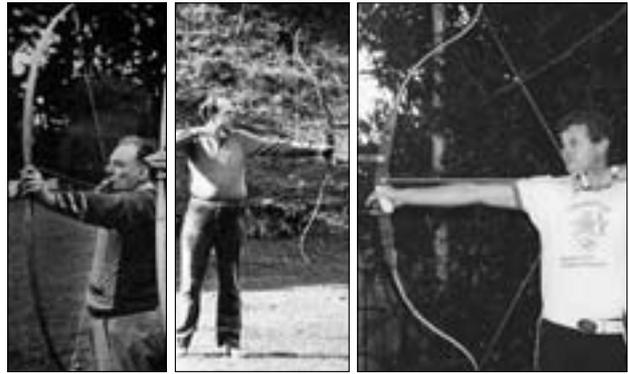


Club Opening Day 1976.

Sam Hill was described in 1978 as being the 'grand-daddy of the competition' because he was 79 when he participated in the New Zealand Archery Championships. Sam had been introduced to bows and arrows by an American soldier just after World War 2. He had been doing defensive work at Karaka, near Papakura when he came across the soldier shooting arrows in the bush. The soldier offered Sam a try and showed him how to shoot. That simple introduction took Sam to National Championships, tending the grounds and coaching for Mountain Green until 1980. Sam was one of the early members of the club which, according to the scrapbook article, was opened in 1950. It originally met at the May Rd Reserve but in 1953 found its home in the Owairaka Domain. The clubhouse was built in 1953 and rebuilt after the fire in 1957. (4)

Archers often built a practice target in their own back yard. Ron Lightfoot was an archery instructor on the mountain for many years gaining his Level One certificate in 1981 and the Level Two National Coaching Certificate in 1983. He gave the advice that the best targets were to be built out of telephone directories. These were to be piled up with the pages facing the archer, on edge, thus providing a good substrate for the archer's arrows to sink into. Dawn Soppett remembered following Ron's advice and, enlisting her brother's support, obtained 500 directories from Waiheke. Dawn was the Park Warden on the mountain for many years and was gradually enticed into joining the archery club. Eventually, she was made Patron of the club.

Three Generations of Lightfoot Archers.



Roy Lightfoot (left) is shown holding a lemonwood bow, Flemish twist linen string, feather fletched crested wooden arrows and pin-+-tape bowsight. Roy was Ron's father and Dale's grandfather.

Ron Lightfoot (centre) was a well respected coach to both adults and children.

Dale Lightfoot (right) was selected for, and attended, the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games. He was only nineteen years old at the time and, unusually, was a left handed archer. In this photograph he is wearing his Olympic T Shirt.

Another local man, Garry Wright, was selected for the 1980 Moscow Olympics but didn't go because Muldoon threatened to cut sports funding for any group that attended. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan had triggered the New Zealand government's decision. Garry also features prominently in the Mountain Green scrapbook. Although the Wrights weren't yet living in Auckland, Garry won at least three consecutive national titles and broke many national records and his achievements feature in many of the newspaper articles.

References:

- 1) Owairaka – Mt Albert Heritage Walks leaflet.
- 2) www.mountaingreenarcheryclub.co.nz
- 3) Forty Three years On. Auckland Archery Association publication. 1986(?)
- 4) Mountain Green Archery Club scrapbook. 1970s.

Observer 21 July 1883

The pigeon match held at T and J Kelly's paddock, Mt Albert, proved a great success. The following are a few of the most successful competitors:- G Potter, T Kelly and R Sadgrove and H Smith. Good shooting was had all through.

M.A.H.S Dates To Remember

7th May (Saturday) 2pm. Ferndale. 'Show and Tell'. This is a MAHS classic event. Stories and memories are always keenly listened to so get ready to share! Bring along any memorabilia, artefacts, photos or maps. You don't even need to talk about them! Just write a label and display on our table. Tea, coffee and light refreshments afterwards. Gold coin donation. Everyone welcome. Bring a friend!

2nd July (Saturday) 2pm. Belmont. 29 Stilwell Rd. Mid winter Christmas. Enjoy a glass of mulled wine and nibbles in this lovely historic home. There will be a brief description about its origins and a chance to peer around some of the rooms. Members only. Numbers limited so RSVP essential. Phone Suzanne 846 6569 or Jackie 846 6250. \$5 per person payable on entry.

27th August (Saturday) 2pm. Ferndale. 832 New North Rd. AGM followed by guest speaker Dr Michael Bassett. This is the perfect opportunity to come along, show your support and get more involved! Members only. Tea, coffee, light refreshments.

8th October (Saturday) 2pm. Ferndale. Following our successful screening last year from the New Zealand Film Archives. Specially selected film clips of local interest. Everyone welcome! Tea, coffee, light refreshments. Gold coin donation.

5th November (Saturday) 1pm. Senior Citizens Rooms. Bus provided. We will visit the **Oratia Folk Museum** situated in a fully restored early settler cottage built between 1855 and 1870. The garden has been planted according to Adelle Stewarts 'My Simple New Zealand Life'. We will also be shown the oldest steam engine in New Zealand in working order and other restored old cars etc. This will be followed by a quick trip to the Corban Estate Art Centre situated in the old Corban homestead. Hopefully, we will have a guide who will take us through the All Saints Church. Bring your own refreshments. Members only. Numbers limited. RSVP Suzanne 846 6560 or Jackie 846 6250. Cost \$15 incl. of bus.

25th November (Friday) 5pm – 7pm. Alberton. Annual Christmas Cocktails. Carol singing and other musical items. Door prizes. Wine and nibbles. Members only. RSVP for catering. Suzanne 846 6560 or Jackie 846 6250. \$10 per person payable at entry.



1000 memories is a web site where people can remember their loved ones, ancestors and friends, whether it be by photographs, letters, certificates or stories, its over to you. It is a totally free site where your recollections and memories can be stored forever. For examples of what can be done please visit the web site :) www.1000memories.com

Hunting

Daily Southern Cross 22nd December 1865

GARRISON HUNT

THE GARRISON HUNT will MEET THIS DAY (Friday), at MOUNT ALBERT (about three miles north of Auckland), at three o'clock p.m.

ARTHUR RAIT,

Hon. Secretary A.G.H.

Auckland, December 22, 1865

THE FIRST OF MAY

1 May 1875

From an early hour this morning many guns and dogs will be playing sad havoc amongst the pheasants in all the districts of this province. The present season has been a very favourable one for the birds, and from all accounts we can hear they are likely to be very numerous and in good condition. By the *Provincial Government Gazette* which was issued last night, we learn that 140 licenses to kill game had been issued up to 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

The following gentlemen are the holders of licenses:-

John Mc Elwain, New North Road.....Samuel F Bastard, Mount Albert..... J R Walters, New North Road.....W H Martin, Mount Albert.....James N Newbold, New North Road.....Henry Turk, Mount Albert.

Observer 19th July 1890

The hounds met at the residence of Mr Martin, of Mt Albert, on Saturday last, and quite disturbed that quiet neighbourhood. The day was rough, but a good muster of hunters congregated. The dogs were in grand form as was evidenced by their raising a pussy and trailing her for two hours. Many good walls were negotiated, and many were the harmless 'spills' indulged in but everybody returned home thoroughly pleased with the day's sport.

Observer 15th August 1891

The first point to point steeplechase ever held in Auckland was successfully brought off by the Pakuranga Hunt Club last Saturday afternoon. The course was about four miles, from a point on the Avondale Road round Mt Albert and thence on to the Three Kings, finishing at the Three Kings schoolhouse. Fifteen starters faced the flag – seven in the 13st class and eight in the 11st class. Mr Walter Paul on Dundee proved the winner of the heavy weight, while Mr Shera acted as runner up on Bradlaugh. The winner of the 11st class was Mr George Paul on Mangere and the second was Mr Thomas McLaughlin on Tommy.

The following were the contestants:- Thirteen stone class Mr W Shera's Bradlaugh (owner), Mr Haultain's Gamecock (Mr A Yonge), Clonel Dawson's Ike (owner), Mr W Percival's Jim (Mr Abbott). Eleven stone class: Mr B Taylor's Bob (owner), Mr Kettlewell's Don (owner), Mr W Bloomfield's Bachelor (owner), Mr Garrett's Guadalquiver (Master C. Yonge), Mr Gilmore's Tomato (owner), Mr Gordon's Pawa (owner), Mr W Percival's Tommy (Mr T McLaughlin).

Although there were several casualties, fortunately none was of a very serious nature. The course was a very stiff one, and upwards of three hundred people went out to watch proceedings.

Racing

Thanks to Barbara Holt and Suzanne Goode for these tidbits about how our local residents enjoyed the races and obviously 'liked a flutter'.

There was another sport the Woodruffe women were associated with - RACING - as observers, perhaps mainly on Boxing Days but also other Auckland Racing Club special days like Steeplechase Day. 13 Jan. 1894 where their smart clothes were recorded in detail. e.g Mrs W., stylish creme trimmed with black lace, creme and black hat. On 8 Jan 1898 it was reported that the principal costumes worn on the last two days of the races in the Grandstand Enclosure at Ellerslie on New Years' Day and Monday were largely identical with those worn on Boxing Day (already enumerated) but there were some that were new.



I have a photo of Florrie Archibald nee Woodroffe and her younger sister Winifred Marianne Duder (nee Woodroffe) born about 1887 at the races on Boxing Day which I will attach to another mail now. It was taken in 1938 on Boxing Day at Ellerslie and shows they were still dressed smartly, Winifred's son Rex having a 'designer clothes' factory then. You may like to include this photo in the same sporting newsletter or a later one. I recall the other sport Florrie played mainly in her later years assiduously (besides going to the races) was card-playing in a group of women. She never had a job of any kind as far as I know.

Barbara Holt

The Auckland Cup was first run in 1874 and has been won by some of this country's best gallopers. It's history and tradition, as befits the most prestigious race in the country, mean that it is invariably won by a galloper that the nation takes to its heart. The second Auckland Cup was raced on the 1st of January 1876 but reverted back to Boxing Day later that year.

<http://www.aucklandcupweek.co.nz>

I caught up with my neighbor who has lived in Maybeck since the 1950s. At that time there were cows grazing in a paddock. This is now 33 Asquith Avenue and the Housing Corps units and ACC pensioner units in Birch Street. Dick May was a racing fanatic and Auckland Cup winner.

Suzanne Good

Any other information to
carronboswell@hotmail.com

Anyone for tennis?

Yes, apparently lots of people....thanks to those who supplied the following information. Our local residents clearly remember when Mt Albert was a 'Tennis Suburb' and have willingly shared this knowledge. Now, we need PHOTOS too, please. Snapshots of tournaments, prize givings, friendly games, school teams, black and white, colour....Send to carronboswell@hotmail.com or phone 846 1313.

Dear Carron,

I read your article on 'Where have all the Tennis courts gone?' which had been put up on the notice board at the Edendale Tennis Club. I didn't see any mention of our club and thought I would contact you if you ever wanted any further information about the old 'Edendale' (Sandringham) area.

The Edendale Tennis Courts have been around for 100 years last May. The club has the original deed displayed in the clubhouse and the history unfolds from there.

Also, I live at 8 Coyle Street which in its original form in the 1920's had a tennis out the back, now subdivided and built on.

Also, I understand there were Tennis Courts across the road from us on the now Iris site.

Geoff Morris

Dear Carron,

I enjoyed reading your tennis history notes in the latest Mt Albert Historical Society's Newsletter.

You may be interested to note that my Great Aunt Muriel Kerr-Taylor who gifted Alberton was the first Auckland Ladies tennis champion. Her name is on the honours board of Mt. Albert Tennis Club and also on Parnell Tennis Club's honours board.

All of the Kerr-Taylor family down through the generations have excelled in tennis. Graham Kerr- Taylor held the N.Z. doubles title for 3 years with Alan Burns in the 1940's, then in the next generation down, Deirdre (now Jenkin) and Denise (now Nobilo) Kerr- Taylor represented NZ in the Federation Cup against Australia and held several national titles. My father Colin Kerr- Taylor was on the Auckland Lawn Tennis Committee and ran the Kaipara sub- association for 27 years. I won several Junior Auckland Doubles titles, and later in my thirties, held the Auckland Hardcourt Association Doubles title for 3 years with partner Norma Klassen in the 1980's. I still play every Friday at Eden-Epsom Tennis Club and go to see the international players here in Auckland every

summer and to view the Australian Open in Melbourne every January. It is a great sport!! (There are men in their 80's and 90's still playing regularly at Eden-Epsom club).

Sincerely,

Vivienne Wilson (nee Kerr-Taylor)

Hello Carron

Here's a piece about the tennis courts at the Mount Albert Grammar School, School House when it was located at 807 New North Road from 1927-1970 along with something about tennis courts at the School.

The article in Newsletter 14 on Mount Albert tennis courts mentions, "The Wilks House, later known as School House then the Industrial School..."

First, some history.

The six acres of land at 807 New North Road was bought in 1884 by an Auckland solicitor named Alexander, he built a gentleman's residence of 16 rooms and later sold it to the Wilks family. In 1898 the government bought it for £1,400 as a home for 'neglected and destitute children.'(1) In 1926 the children were moved to more suitable accommodation in Allendale Road and then the boys to Owairaka Avenue. The large house and grounds were purchased by the Auckland Grammar Schools' Board of Governors and, after some renovations and additions, the Mount Albert Grammar School School House opened its doors, at the start of 1927, as the first boarding establishment in a state school in Auckland.

And now to the tennis courts at School House.

The first School House tennis court was developed in 1935 as the following two reports show. The first is by a 6A House Boy, the second by a Junior Housemaster.

"June 3rd 1935, was a memorable day in the history of the House. It was a day of unprecedented activity

in the side paddock, shirtless boys were wielding picks and shovels with evident gusto, while there was an almost incessant progression of dirt-laden barrows....The work on the Tennis Court had begun.”(2)

“The first tennis courts involved the Housemasters and most of the boys in many hours of very hard and also very willing labour in 1935-1936 and it was a blow to see the nut grass breaking its way through the sealing before very long.”(3)

In 1950 a second tennis court, also in the side paddock, was developed. Its genesis was announced in deathless verse by a House Boy doggerelist:

“A fair was held this year you know
the object was to raise some dough
to build another tennis court,
where boys could enjoy the sport...

No longer eighty boys per court,
congestion shall be down to nought
For work well done we take a bow
Each court will hold but forty now.”(4)

Brown reported in 1971 that “There were two fairly good asphalt courts at School House and a chip court behind the [School] tuck shop.”

The School House courts vanished with the demolition of the House in 1970, but all of that is another story.

And onto the Mt Albert Grammar School tennis courts.

The Duke of Edinburgh visited the School on 14 December 1956 and there was quite a bit of titivating prior to the visit and “... after having lunch with the prefects, the Duke went with the Head to see a variety of activities – athletics, cricket, tennis on the newly formed courts...”(6)

The six new courts were on a large expanse of asphalt on what had been the original sports fields. (The old chip court became a site for “temporary” buildings, including a metalwork shop and an armoury. The whole platform is now occupied by a Library building.) These courts were in operation for over 40 years and in winter they were often used for many-a-side games of more-or-less touch rugby.

In 1997 the courts became a building site for the construction of an aquatic centre and the School was without courts for several years. The Bursar, Eddie Wilson, was able to report in 2000 that “At

the beginning of the year six artificial grass tennis and netball courts were laid on the lower grounds. (7)

Brian Murphy

Archivist

Mount Albert Grammar School

References:

1. Brown JG (1971) Mount Albert Grammar School Golden Jubilee p46. The quote is written thus and may be from the The Auckland Industrial Act (1882). Goldie Brown (universally known as Butch) was Senior Housemaster, 1937-1959.
2. SEC [Campbell] (1936) in The Albertian Number 15 p20. SWC was a House Boy 1931-1936.
3. Body, NB in Hemus, CR (1978) Mount Albert Grammar School House Golden Jubilee p41. Nelson Body was a Junior Housemaster 1937-1943 and Ron Hemus was Senior Housemaster 1959-1972.
4. PRD [Davison] (1950) in The Albertian Number 29 p11. PRD was a House Boy 1946-1950.
5. Ibid. 1, at 213
6. Stone, RCJ (1997) Tradition and Change : Mount Albert Grammar School : The First Seventy-five Years p137. Professor Russell Stone and the late NAC McMillan gave their time freely to write this 405 page cased book.
7. Wilson, EW (2000) in The Albertian Number 79 p19.

A stroll around Mt Albert with Terry Lawson yielded memories of the following tennis courts. There were some hard tennis courts, run by the Methodist Church, at 53a Lloyd Avenue. There was another one at 56 Lloyd Avenue, the site is behind 60 Lloyd Avenue and can best be viewed from the top of number 60's driveway. Dr McConnell had his rooms at number 7 Alexis Avenue but lived at number 17. His tennis court occupied what is now 17a. Dr Baber's house is at number 15 Mt Albert Rd, opposite the Presbyterian Church, down a right-of-way. His tennis court has been subdivided off and some flats have been built on it at number 15a.

Our Streets

*Claudette Hauiti presented the following information to the Mt Albert Historical Society in March. The text is taken from the notes she kindly gave me. It covers some Maori history including the origins of **Owairaka**, **Ruarangi** and **Toroa**.*

'Whakapapa traces settlement of Tamaki Makarau as far back as 800 to 1100 AD. The various hapu and iwi settled pockets of Tamaki Makarau, their proximity to each other saw them intermarry and on many other occasions war with one another. There are 11 iwi in Tamaki Makarau: Ngati Paoa, Ngai Tai, Ngati Whatua Orakei, Te Kawerau a Maki, Te Wai o Hua, Nga Oho, Ngati Te Ata, Ta Tou, Tainui, Nga Puhi and Ngati Awa. The areas close to Mt Albert – Owairaka are: Maunga Tapapa (Mt Roskill), Maeroro (New Winsor), Te Auaunga (Waterview) and Motu Manawa (Pollen Island).'

Wairaka

A long time ago there lived a young, beautiful woman from Ngati Awa. She had a father as a chief. Her name was Wairaka. When she was a teenager, her brother was banished, so he came to Tamaki Makarau and lived on the maunga/mountain.

After a couple of years, Wairaka came to visit her brother but when she got there, her brother had already moved on, so she renamed the mountain Owairaka. Her pa site is located at Owairaka Primary School'

Oruarangi

'I am one of the homes of Tainui Tupuna Ruarangi. The pa site was also used by my whanaunga and friend Kawau a Maki. The site had many entry and exit points that would assist us to escape from our enemy. We could elude them if they flanked us from the west and so we were able to escape to the north and the Waitemata. The site was later used by the daughter of Ngati Awa Rangatira, Toroa, and its known by this name today'.

Just One Account

'Owairaka was originally known as Te Puke o Ruarangi (the hill of Ruarangi) following an incident where Ruarangi and his people (descendants of the crew of the Tainui waka) were besieged in their pa.

They escaped the war party by entering a lava cave on the south side of the mountain and following the underground passage towards Western Springs. Upon reaching the sea, they picked up lava rocks and threw them into the sea to form a reef (Meola Reef) that allowed them to cross to the North Shore.

Tainui sources apply the names Te Wai o Raka ('the drinking waters of Rakataura') and Te Ahi Ka a Raka ('the long burning fire of Rakataura') to the cone. Rakataura was the leading tohunga on the Tainui canoe.

However, the best known Maori name for the mountain is Owairaka, meaning 'the place or belonging to Wairaka'. Wairaka was the daughter of Toroa and skilled in the sport of surfboard riding of which her husband disapproved. A feud broke out between their families in their efforts to discourage her.

Leaving her husband she came to New Zealand from Tahiti on the Matatua canoe (one of the main fleet landing at Aotearoa about 1350) with her father, Toroa, chief of the Ngati Awa and captain of the canoe.

The tribe landed at Whakatane and after settling there, Wairaka entered into a dispute with her father over the selection of her new husband.

Leading a section of the tribe away, Wairaka moved north to found a new community on the hill now known as Owairaka. She eventually returned to Whakatane to join her people, leaving some of her tribe on Owairaka.

By 1720, the Waiohau (Tainui descendants) dominated Tamaki Makaurau.

A Waiohau chief, Kiwi Tamaki, occupied Maungakiekie (One Tree Hill) which was originally fortified by a Ngati Awa chief. He also held many other fortified volcanic cones including Owairaka.

It is estimated that Owairaka could have carried a population of 1,575. Waiohau dominance was challenged and destroyed by invasions from Ngati Paoa (Hauraki) and Ngati Whatua (Kaipara).

This marked an unsettled time of warfare during which, in 1741, Kiwi Tamaki was killed in battle and Te Tau (a subtribe of Ngati Whatua) assumed control of all Kiwi's pa sites.

During the 1820s, the dominant tribes Ngati Paoa and Ngati Whatua, were themselves forced to abandon the area after a series of attacks by Nga Puhi.