



# MOUNT ALBERT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Newsletter 10 • August 2009

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## 1882

*Life in 1882 was certainly simpler than it is today! We are grateful to John Stacpoole for his list of Weekly News articles from that year that show the contemporary preoccupations with church, social occasions, land, births, deaths and marriages. Here are some of these articles presented in abridged versions....full articles can be viewed in the Auckland City Library Special Collections.*

July 1, 1882

AUCKLAND WEEKLY NEWS

### THE SKETCHER

#### PROGRESS OF THE SUBURBAN DISTRICTS

Standing upon the spur of Mount Albert, and looking eastward, westward, northward and southward, upon the isthmus lying between the Waitemata and the Manukau, fast filling up with an energetic and prosperous population, one can well believe that within a generation the daydream of Governor Hobson will yet be realised, and Auckland City scarce find elbow-room within her ancient boundaries of Eden- from the Whau Portage to the line of the Tamaki.

Leaving the railway station in rear, and passing along the road leading to the Three Kings, and which intersects the new Great North Road, we are struck with the manifold changes and improvements effected in this portion of the district within the last eighteen months or two years. At the eastern angle of the junction of the two roads, and opposite the Whau tannery, Mr Gittos has fenced in, cleared

and laid afresh in grass a ten acre section which under other ownership had lain desolate for a quarter of a century. On this he has built a six roomed residence for himself, and another dwelling for letting. It was regarded by many practical farmers utter folly to expend money on such soil- the 'cold clay soil of the Whau' as the phrase goes- but the result was not only satisfactory to himself but proved a stimulus to others to take up the back sections on

the same line of road southward of his neighbour, Mr Gallagher, the owner of one of the finest estates in the district. Taking the left side of the road above Mr Gallagher's farm, we came to the section lately purchased by Mr Stewart, of the Thames Hotel, 25 acres in extent, taken up a couple of years ago, and laid down in grass; adjoining is that of Mr Beaumont, 15 or 20 acres, just ploughed, and beyond that again the section of Mr Longuet,



*In paragraph two of the story above, 'the road leading to Three Kings' is either Mt Albert Rd or Richardson Rd. We have sourced this photograph below as showing the same general area, albeit in 1920. The large farmhouse, above the rocky field, is the Stewart's home and may be the same family referred to in the article. Today Richardson Rd runs in front of this house which can be seen at 103 Richardson Rd. Two paddocks beyond the house can be seen a row of trees which mark the traditional border of Mt Albert, Oakley Creek. To the left of the house is the site subsequently filled by Owairaka Primary and the rock strewn field is a great reminder of the condition of the land when settlers first encountered it. (Ref: Special Collections ,Auckland City Libraries. Photograph no: 4420)*

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where clearing and fencing is going on, and then comes the extensive vineyard of M. Rayer, some 12 acres in extent, with as much more yet to bring under cultivation. Away to the right, in the distance, trending towards the Three Kings, could be seen another clearing of thirty acres, that of Mr Pascoe, where the operations of fencing, ploughing up and laying down in grass are being vigorously prosecuted.

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## **ECCLESIASTICAL WESLEYAN CHURCH, MOUNT ALBERT**

### **LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE The Rev. Mr Morley on Methodism.**

The foundation-stone of a new Wesleyan Church at Mount Albert was laid on Tuesday by Mrs A.K. Taylor. There were present the Revs. W. Morley, G. Bond, Isitt, and Haselden (Episcopalian), and a large gathering of residents in the neighbourhood. The Rev. Mr Morley commenced the proceeding by announcing a hymn-

#### **Thou who hast in Zion laid The true foundation stone.**

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The Rev. Mr MORLEY said they felt there was a special propriety in Mrs Taylor being asked to perform the duty, for this amongst other reasons, that Mr Taylor had many years since given them the site on which the church was to be built. Mr Morley then presented Mrs Taylor with a silver trowel on which was engraved the following: 'Presented to Mrs

A.K. Taylor by the trustees, on her laying the foundation stone of the Wesleyan Church, Mount Albert, 21st March, 1882.'

Mr BARTLEY stepped forward and said: I have very great pleasure in presenting you (Mrs Taylor) with this mallet with which to give the stone a sure foundation.

The stone was then lowered to its position, and after tapping the stone with the mallet on the four corners, Mrs TAYLOR said: I now declare the foundation stone of this church to be duly laid- in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

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Rev. Mr MORLEY: It is with considerable pleasure that I have taken a part in the ceremony of laying this foundation stone today. Sixteen years ago last January it was my privilege to conduct the first Wesleyan service in the Mount Albert district. That service was conducted in Mr Allen's house. Shortly after that the church which has now been removed to the back to become a school-room was erected, and divine service has been conducted there for 12 or 13 years past. A great change has taken place in the district during these years -the number of residents has considerably increased, and Mount Albert is now a suburb of Auckland.

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### **March 25th 1882 A BACHELORS' BALL.**

A very enjoyable evening was spent on Friday, the 17th, at the Mount Albert Public Hall. The bachelors of the district gave

a ball. About 50 couples were present, and, the affair went off without a single hitch. The refreshments, which were of the best description, were supplied by Mr Bonner, the local pastry cook, in his usual good style. Great credit is due to the young men who formed the committee, and conducted the proceedings. As it is the first public ball in Mount Albert, it is confidently hoped this is the beginning of a succession of winter entertainments, as such social reunions promote harmony and good will among the people of this rising district, which is fast becoming an important suburb.

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### **January 20, 1883 THE MOUNT ALBERT VINEYARD**

On several occasions we have drawn attention to the efforts being made in the Mount Albert district to establish vine growing for wine making on a scale which will go far to settle the question as to the suitability or otherwise of this industry for the district around Auckland. The experiment is being carried out by Mr Rayer, a skilled French vine grower. The situation of the vineyard is not such that the majority of Auckland settlers would have chosen for such an enterprise. The site chosen is on the slope of land at the back of Mount Albert, on the rolling land stretching on to the blockhouse at the Whau.

## M.A.H.S Dates To Remember

**22nd August (Saturday) 2pm.** Senior Citizens Hall, 2 Wairere Avenue, Mt Albert. Please come to the Mt Albert Historical Society Inc Annual General Meeting. Firstly, we 'get down to business' and then we relax and enjoy a talk given by a local superhero....LUCY LAWLESS! Following that, you are welcome to stay for a convivial afternoon tea and informal chat. (A.G.M voting for M.A.H.S members only but everyone welcome.)

**18th October (Sunday) 1.15pm departure from Senior Citizens Hall, return leaving Huia 3.45pm approx.** This is another M.A.H.S bus adventure! We are visiting the Huia Museum and afterwards having tea and coffee in the Huia Hall. Tide and weather permitting there will be the opportunity for a walk along Huia Beach. Cost \$20 per person. Phone Suzanne 846 6559 to reserve a place.

**14th November (Saturday) 2pm.** Senior Citizens Hall. We will be entertained by well known local historian Edward Bennett who will be giving a talk entitled 'Mt Albert: Bungalow 'Burb.' Come along and find out about this commonly used architectural style. Gold coin donation. Tea, coffee and light refreshments. Everyone welcome.

**11th December (Friday) 5pm.** Christmas Cocktail Party. Alberton House. Entertainment by Bruce Paine well known local guitarist. Also carol singing, raffles, bubbly and light supper.

**Alberton House** is running a series of Sunday afternoon concerts in the ballroom. On **6th September** is 'Paganini and Pinot' starting at 2pm and costing \$10. On **18th October** there is 'Songs for Furry People' in aid of the Lonely Miaow Association starting at 2.30pm and costing \$20. Bruce Paine, classical guitarist, will be performing on **25th October** at 2pm costing \$10 and also on **5th December** at 7pm for a cost of \$20. Contact Alberton 09 846 7367 or e-mail [alberton@historic.org.nz](mailto:alberton@historic.org.nz) for further information.

**Edendale Primary School** 100th anniversary. Please phone Lou Farndan 09 846 4175 if you have any photographs or items suitable for display. Celebrations take place Anniversary Weekend, 2009.

## Historical Botox

Mary Astley Ford has pointed out some mistakes made in previous newsletters (before we made contact with the Astley family). They are:

**Newsletter 6, page 7,** last paragraph should read 'Mr Frank and Mrs Muriel Astley occupied a large villa.'

**Newsletter 8, page 1,** paragraph 4 should read 'we can surmise they bought the land from Edward and Elizabeth Allen', page 2 paragraph 4 should read 'The Mrs Astley of local memory would have been Muriel' and in the same paragraph 'Frank who was the son of Elijah Astley and the brother of John Edward Astley.' Our sincere apologies!

## Generations

An occasional column that celebrates the passing down of information, houses, jobs, skills etc from one generation to the next...

Rhoda Price nee Smerdon says 'I attended Gladstone Primary School because at the time it was the nearest. It had its own swimming pool – a rarity for those years..... **My teacher for several years was Warnock Watson and a point of interest was that my father taught him, he taught me, I taught his daughter, then later on I was on his staff at Tirau.** (*Mr Warnock taught all through the depression....He became quite friendly with the men doing relief work (at the school)and would go out and chat with them in the intervals between classes. "There were far too many men for the work involved at the school, and I can remember some funny things they did. They had a lot of wheelbarrows, because all the earth-shifting was done by wheel-barrow and shovel, and once they had a marathon. They lined up all the wheelbarrows filled with earth, and saw who could take the longest to wheel from one end of the playground to the other without stopping."*Gladstone Centennial Booklet 1887-1987.Ed.)

Arnold Turner contributes the following details about his family's service to the Mt Albert community. At the end of an informative e-mail he wrote

**As a matter of interest, 3 generations of Turners served on the Mt Albert Borough/City Council:**

**My grandfather Edward: a Councillor 1911**

**His son, my Uncle Frank: Mayor 1959**

**His grandson (myself) : a Councillor 1953 – 1962**



# Acknowledgments

Mt Albert Historical Society has been in existence for three years. Our hard work is beginning to pay off and there are increasing amounts of interest and awareness from local people. Contributions are starting to pour in and we are very grateful to the following:

**Glenys McKenzie** for anecdotes about growing up in McDonald St and a wonderful photo of her taken standing outside the family villa in 1952

**Rendell MacKintosh** for the donation of a first edition of 'In Old Mt Albert.' (To be raffled at a later date.)

**Selwyn Paine** for his assistance with this issue's walk. Selwyn generously gave me copies of a history of the church and decorative windows and plaques, a history of the graveyard, a plan of the graveyard, a list of people buried there, transcriptions of information contained on the headstones, some contemporary newspaper articles and a few other odds and ends

**Brent Mealing** for a collection of assorted "stuff" from his Aunt Phyllis's house in Wairere Avenue. Phyllis Mealing lived in the house from when her father built it in 1920 until her death in 2009. Truly remarkable!

**Barbara Holt** for a beautifully written account of her family's habitation of number 20 Mt Albert Road complete with photographs. This was the house originally built for Frank Phillipps in the 1860s. It was bought by Eliza Holt in 1925 and she moved it nearer to the road making room for the building of numbers 11 and 13 Ranleigh Avenue.

**Jonathon Edmeades** who interviewed a relative, Rhoda Price, about growing up in Mt Albert. Rhoda lived at what is now 14a Allendale Road. Her father Stanley Smerdon built the house in 1920. Jonathon also electronically sent photos, including one of Stanley Smerdon at the Trentham Army Camp towards the end of the First World War.

**Mary Astley** who entertained us with cups of tea and reminiscences. She has given us copies of family papers including a copy of Katrina Astley's scrapbook. We are also grateful for old photographs including one of the Mt Albert Methodist Group at Ferndale circa 1888.

**Claire Bindon** who has donated two wonderful pieces of archival material found in 27 Lloyd Avenue.

They are H.B. Burgess's wages book of depression relief stamps 1931-1936 and a book cover that has a list of events from 1889 written on it.

**G. I Robertson** who has given us a copy of 'The Post Office of Mount Albert 1880-1989' This booklet represents a huge amount of research by the donor!

**Alice Wylie** who has donated a small greenstone paperweight given to her at the dissolution of the Mt Albert City Council. It comes complete with small axe sticking out of the side!

**Tom Maxwell** who lived at 27 Asquith Avenue and donated 'The Solomon Papers.' This is a collection of written material from Tuella, Lola and Judy Solomon. Tom was married to Leah Solomon who was a niece of the three sisters.

**Arnold and Marjorie Turner** for masses of information much of which they have researched themselves e.g they have given us the background to the sale of Ferndale house, the history of Alexis Avenue and Violet Street and recently photographs and history to a family home once standing on the tennis court site at the Community Centre.

**John Stacpoole** for sourcing a C.N. Worsley print and a copy of K. Staples Alexander's watercolour of a view looking along an unsealed road to Owairaka. Painted in 1846! Also thanks for various photographs of houses along with accompanying stories. John also donated an extra special first edition of Dick Scott's 'In Old Mt Albert'

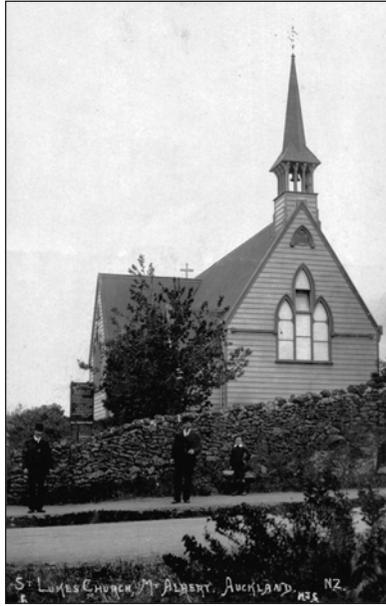
**Lisa Truttman** for much invaluable support including sourcing the 'Mount Albert Vine Yard' article used in this newsletter

**Jean Jones** for a thoroughly researched folder about the Turk, Turtley, Harrop and Addison families all of whom resided in this area at various times. Jean has written each family's story which she has supported with photographs, maps, certificates of title and old newspaper articles. This was one of the first donations to the society so, thank you!

Finally, we are very grateful to **Auckland City Council and Eden/Albert Community Board** for funding assistance for the printing of these newsletters in 2009. We are proud of the quality of our 'product' and are very grateful for your help in maintaining our high standards.

## Local Walk 10

### A stroll around St Luke's graveyard getting to know some of the first benefactors and patrons of this church



*Early twentieth century postcard of church showing wrought iron cross which was removed from the spire when the supporting wood rotted. The cross disappeared from the shed behind the vicarage in the 1940s and was never recovered.*

In 1872 there were around sixteen families living within a mile and a quarter of Allan Kerr Taylor's gate. Several families had expressed their desire for a local church which they would attend rather than go farther afield to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The Reverend Mr Dudley estimated about twenty five families would attend the new church. A public meeting was held on 26th March 1872 and Allan Kerr Taylor reiterated his offer of land for both the church and burial grounds. He also offered a subscription towards the building. The Rev. Mr Dudley said that he would 'supply' the pulpit and conduct an afternoon service every Sunday if he was given the use of a trap to make the journey. A committee comprising Allan Kerr Taylor, Captain James, Mr Ogilvie, Captain Mathew Thomas Clayton, Mr Johnson, Mr McElwain, Edward Sadgrove, G.B. Davy, William Hurst Martin and Thomas Barnes was formed. The men were each given a copy of the subscription list and asked to gather as many subscriptions as possible. When the group reconvened a month later they had gathered a total of forty nine pounds and ten shillings. This was added to the eighty pounds donated at the first meeting to form a total of one hundred and twenty nine pounds and ten shillings. When they had raised one hundred and fifty pounds, tenders were called for the building of the church. On 10th July the first meeting was held in the newly built church and the church was dedicated on 29th December 1872. (1)

**The walk starts outside the main church entrance. Walk along the path away from the church towards the graveyard.**

On the left of the path on the upper lawn there is a large monument. This is remembering the Martin family. William Hurst Martin and his wife, Jane Hearst are buried here along with their two sons. The Martin family lived at 'Martinboro' (ref newsletter 6) William, as a very energetic thirty six year old, was intimately involved in the creation of St Lukes. He was church warden for several years and was 'instrumental with the assistance of Mr Allan Kerr Taylor, Mrs Martin and Mrs Kerr Taylor in thrice enlarging the church and clearing the debt off the parsonage and public hall.' (2)

In 1883 the church was in debt owing to the building of a vicarage and the enlargement of the church. The ladies of the congregation gave a lot of time and money preparing articles for a 'sale of work'. Jane Martin and her daughter were enthusiastic and tireless workers in aid of this event. 'Among the articles on view the following were worthy of notice for artistic design and excellent work:...cushions and toilet mats by Mrs and Miss Martin...'

**Continue along the path walking past the Peace Garden on the right stopping in front of the Kerr Taylor family plot.**

Allan Kerr Taylor is described as 'the father of our church' in the St Luke's centennial booklet. He and Sophia and their ten children are buried here. He was forty years old and his second wife, Sophia, was twenty five at the time of the gifting of the land for the church. The following year he gave another one and a half acres for the parsonage and glebe. He also gave generously to church funds and provided the church bell. 'We do not know when Allan became a regular member of the Church of England, departing from the Presbyterianism of his father and brothers in Tamaki, but it is consonant with his position as "squire"' (3)

Allan and Sophia Kerr Taylor taught in the Sunday School as did three of their daughters. Sophia also sang in the choir and Mildred was an organist. The first entry in the St Luke's baptism register is that of Adeline Daisy Howard Kerr Taylor baptised 6 October 1872.

**Walk right around the Kerr Taylor plot coming to the Waterhouse plot. From here the walk will go along the stone wall beneath the church and then follow each succeeding row of plots.**

The Waterhouse plot contains the remains of Allan Waterhouse (died 1889) and his infant son who died in

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1885. Waterhouse was a large contributor to the different building funds.

## **Next to the stone wall is the Haselden family plot.**

John Haselden was the reverend (incumbent) who spoke at the anniversary social gathering in 1882. At this meeting the enlargement of the church was discussed and subsequently carried out. John Haselden was the first vicar for Mt Albert following its severance from the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. In 1885 he was asked to give all of his time to the Home Mission which meant that he had to leave St Lukes. The five years of his original term working for the Home Mission expanded into twelve. In 1894 he was in residence on Great Barrier Island coping with the aftermath of the wreck of the S.S. Wairarapa. One hundred and twenty five people lost their lives and eighty three bodies were recovered. John Haselden buried sixty one of these on the island in six different locations. For this he received the thanks of the Union Steam Ship Company and the freedom of the vessels in its fleet. He was also publicly thanked by the Diocesan Synod. Subsequently, he served at St Peters, Onehunga for twenty three years before returning to his first cure, St Lukes.

He became a Canon in 1893 and was remembered as a 'humble follower of Bishop Selwyn whom he had known as a boy' and he followed Selwyn's belief that 'the duty of priests (is) sticking to the work they were doing and refusing any change for promotion only.' (1) Gertrude and John Haselden are both buried in this plot.

## **Return to the Kerr –Taylor plot to find the Thomson one next to it.**

William Archibald Thomson was forty one and Mary Anne Thomson was thirty five at the time the decision was made to develop the Church of St Luke's. In 1883 the debts incurred on the enlargement of the church and the building of the parsonage had been paid off and St Luke's was consecrated. William Thompson was one of the five vestry members present at this occasion. Mary Anne had contributed a 'cashmere shawl ornamented with blue siloselle' (1) that she had embroidered herself to the fund raising 'sale of work.'

## **Follow the next row of plots along to the end furthest from the Thomson plot.**

Next to the plot of Emily Challis is the grave of Madeline Catherine Clayton who at eleven years old was the first burial in the graveyard in 1874 (4). We can assume that she was the daughter of Captain Matthew Thomas Clayton and Ellen Clayton. Gillian Dance thinks that another Clayton daughter was born a year after Madeline's death and given the same name. Agnes Jane Clayton was buried here next but one to her sister (?) in 1891. The Clayton family were very involved with the early development of the church. Captain Clayton was one of the original trustees, alongside Allan Kerr-Taylor, Edward Sadgrove and William Martin, who were appointed by

the Diocesan Trust board. He became the Secretary of the first Vestry and the first Peoples Warden. The 1877 report regretted the 'great loss sustained by the congregation in the removal of Captain Clayton and his family to Parnell.' There were eight children in this family.

Mathew Clayton had gone to sea as a thirteen year old and later on had commanded a small frigate the 'Kent'. At one time the 'Kent' ran into a nest of icebergs and Captain Clayton asked for God's guidance whether to steer a north or south course. He altered his course to the south and survived the icebergs! Captain Clayton was also a well known oil painter.

## **Miss the next two rows of plots and find the grave of Edward and Jessie Sadgrove. There is a red marble family plot next to their marble headstone carved with lilies and roses.**

Edward Sadgrove was twenty two and his wife Jessie was thirty six in 1872 when the church was being developed. They are buried with their daughter, Jane, born 1871 and their son, Edward, born in 1882. Edward attended two out of the first three planning meetings in 1872. The Sadgroves had a large family seven daughters and three sons (see newsletter 8) and were employed in scoria contracting and dairy farming. According to the 'Daily Southern Cross' newspaper, Edward Sadgrove was involved in attempting to rescue George Bray and Walton Pell when the Mt Albert pit face collapsed on top of them in 1874. He heard the calls for help from his home and managed to release George's son Samuel. Edward Allen arrived in answer to Edward Sadgrove's calls but the other two men had been crushed to death.

## **Walk back one row and along to the path end to the three marble headstones of the Becks and Mays.**

Richard Beck is noted as being a 'large contributor' to the building fund in 1882 and was a member of the Vestry at the consecration of the church in 1883. His niece, Marie Maier, married Joseph May. The families lived in close proximity to each other giving 'Maybeck' Avenue its name (see newsletter 5). The 'sale of work' in aid of the building fund in 1883 was supported by 'Mesdames Thomson, Melville, Haselden, Webster, Wright, Martin, and Bach and Misses Martin, Thomson and Maier.' Beck and his fellow Vestry members (including) William Thomson, Allan Waterhouse, William Martin and the rest of the congregation were commended for 'a spirit of self reliance worthy of imitation throughout the Diocese.'

- (1) Church of St Lukes 1872-1972 Centennial Jubilee booklet
- (2) The McGehan Collection. Mt Albert Library.
- (3) Alberton and Its Family. Harris, J. New Zealand Historic Places Trust, 1999.
- (4) 'St Lukes Graveyard, Mt Albert,' 'List of January 1988' Papers from Selwyn Paine.

## Our Streets

*We are grateful to Sir Harold Marshall KNZM for allowing us to publish the address he presented to the Select Committee. It both adds to our knowledge about the Woodward Avenue area and underlines our need to protect our local environment.*

### **COMPLETING THE MOTORWAY AND PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE**

“Show me your parks and I will show you the route of your next motorways”. This saying was never truer than in Transit NZ’s proposals for the completion of the Mt Roskill to Waterview motorway. The parkland that borders the Oakley creek – already devastated to the East of Mt Roskill - is the preferred route for this connection. Where it lies on land designated railway reserve for more than 100 years, like the Alan Wood reserve South of New North Road, the park is doomed and there is nothing to be done. But a more acute problem is the fate of the open space from New North Road to the Waterview interchange.

I am familiar with this piece of land and its geology and history at first hand. Mark Woodward (my great grandfather) and his five sons first farmed it, picking up the scoria and stacking it into the dry-stone walls characteristic of Mt Albert in the early days. It was inhospitable stony land, but cheap. Mark’s farm lay on the flow of lava which had welled up before the last splutter of the eruption made the Owairaka cinder cone 10,000 years earlier - but I suppose he didn’t know that, or care. Survival in 1867 was the name of his game. The flow had stopped against the “100 foot terrace’ of the Waitemata series sandstones where Blockhouse Bay road is now and its edge became the natural drainage course for runoff. That is why Oakley creek is there.

In my childhood I was frequently wakened by blasting as the bluestone was quarried from the lip of the basalt flow and well recall the pause in the grinding of the stone crusher while the charges were set. When the quarry was exhausted or at least had reached the edge of the 1916 subdivision of Springleigh farm into house lots at Phyllis Street, the hole became the Mt Albert Tip discharging toxic waste into the creek. Upstream of this disgrace, so typical of the age, the creek still ran clear. It was a childhood adventure play-ground. There was a big white teatree - kanuka we would say today – with a knotted rope to swing out over the deep pool in the bend then still called “Woody’s pool” by the previous generation. I walked there this morning past a grove of 10m kanukas which I guess are descendents of our tree.

Finally the tip was full – stinking, toxic and dangerous. Over the next 30 years it was leveled and grassed into the now heavily used playing fields at the Phyllis Street reserve while below, along the stream bank the Oakley creek walkway reclaimed the neighbouring asylum grounds for the public. It took something like 40 years but finally the redemption is nearing fulfillment thanks to the dedicated efforts of the Parks Department of the city and local volunteers.

The past decade has seen the threatening garbage scarp of the old tip stabilized, drainage improved and the walk sealed for more than two and a half km. Most significantly hundreds of thousands of native trees and shrubs have been planted by the city – kanuka, kowhai, puriri, broadleaf, fivefinger and lemonwood, flaxes and grasses, treeferns and ponga. It is full of birds – I have counted 27 species on my walk. The jewel in the crown on the walkway is the most beautiful waterfall in the Auckland city - 6m high the creek plunges over it into a deep pool. Trees 130 years old shade the onward meanders of the stream. The noise of the city is inaudible here – the background is set by the murmur of the stream and the birdsong. It is a true Taonga painstakingly recovered from the disgraceful contempt of previous generations.

And the same contempt is evident in one of Transit’s plans for the motorway in this section. There are both more expensive and less expensive alternatives. The more expensive, under-grounding option, would honour these 40 years of effort and recognize the enormous but immeasurable value of the Oakley creek walkway to the western City. The cheaper, expedient and contemptuous option will destroy it.

Sir Harold Marshall KNZM  
Mt Albert  
20.07.07