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Another year in the life of the Papakura & District Historical Society has ended, and the AGM this month is the big coming event. We want to thank all our members for their support and hope they will be able to attend to celebrate the past and look forward to the future. We will have the very supportive chairman of the Local Board, Brent Catchpole as our special guest. As our busy Chairman, Brian Leonard, long-serving committee member Celerina Balucan-Robertson, the energetic Mary Ann France and long-time Speaker Coordinator Phil Sai-louie will not be continuing in their offices, we would like to offer them our special thanks for all they have done. See page 3 for further information. We are encouraged that some members are prepared to step in to join the team.

As usual a lot is happening with the Society and the Museum. The Solar Tsunami exhibition occupies the centre of the Museum for the month with flickering streams of electricity, determined magnets and an orrery attracting attention. The opening day coincided with the annual science day organised for children, with a leaf-blower powered hovercraft in the Museum, and outside, air-powered rockets that would have reached the four-storey height of the building but for strong winds. Thanks Andy for the gee-whizzery.

Work continues round all sorts of projects in the Museum, collection acquisition and management, research, the collaborative project involving mana whenua, the Local Board and Council to create a heritage map for the wider district, planning for future displays and modification, working with visitors. Volunteers support the team in many ways, working with our Curator Alan or our researcher Kara. Some are PDHS members, others are interns or members of the community or even overseas people who are keen to learn about our past while they help. Much of their work is unseen round the back, while others work at the desk. Some smaller displays are the result of their enthusiasm. Wendy’s team maintain the monthly exhibition of a well-chosen item in the entrance area which becomes the Object of the Month (see page 2). Alan gets out and about delivering talks on Rings Redoubt and other topics. Various changes are under way in the Museum, including the preparation of handling collections for students and other visitors.

Continued on page 4.

**PAPAKURA & DISTRICT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Monthly Members’ Meetings: 4th Thurs, 1pm – 3pm
Regular Saturday heritage Trips to places of interest

PAPAKURA MUSEUM

**Open: Monday—Friday, 10am—4.30pm,
Wed open till 6 pm, Sat 10 am—3 pm**
Accent Point Building, 209 Great South Road
Ph.: (09) 298 2003 www.papakuramuseum.org.nz

Object of the month

Wendy Deeming



Dinky Toys was the brand name for a range of diecast zamak zinc alloy scale model vehicles, traffic lights, and road signs produced by British toy company Meccano Ltd. They were made in England from 1934 to 1979 in Liverpool. Dinky Toys were among the most popular die-cast vehicles ever made, pre-dating other popular diecast marques. Vehicles commercialised under the “Dinky” name include cars, trucks, aircraft, military, and ships. Frank Hornby established Meccano Ltd in 1908 to make metal construction sets.

In the early 1930s, Meccano made many types of tinsplate and other metal cars, but in the April 1934 issue of Meccano Magazine, they were given the name “Meccano Dinky Toys”; for the first time. In August 1935, the name Meccano was dropped and the marque became DINKY TOYS, which lasted until 1971. This is a small selection from a larger collection held by the museum.

Accession number 11214/ Donated 12 April 2019



Left: *Pixie Grippa. Accession Number 3821/ Donated by Mrs O. Partridge/19 April 1988*

Right: *Nirona. Accession number 1998/ Donated June 1982*

The **Pixie Grippa** is a very compact 78 rpm gramophone manufactured by Perophone from London c1920. The device is capable of playing acoustic included plates. It plays the larger 12” records by sliding the deck forward.

The **Nirona** tin plate child’s toy gramophone made in Germany c1930s. The gramophone plays the small children records and the 10” records. Characteristic is the bell-shaped reflector which sounds loud and clear.

Society News and Events.

Forthcoming PDHS meetings:

August Meeting: Thursday 22 August, starting at 1 pm.

The AGM for the PDHS, starting with annual reports, election of officers for the 2024-2025 year, and other business. After this we are honoured to have our Local Board chairman, and good friend of the Society and the Papakura Museum, Brent Catchpole who will speak about his time as a tour guide. Then we will share afternoon tea, We look forward to seeing as many of our members and friends as can make it.

Three members of the PDHS executive committee, our Chairman Brian Leonard, Celerina Balucan-Robertson and Mary Ann France, will not be putting their names forward for re-election. The rest will stand again, and others have been nominated or are considering it. Nominations are still open.

September Meeting: Thursday 26 September, starting at 1 pm.

Edward Bennett - How People Travelled from Britain to NZ 1840 - 1940.

Edward Bennett is a social historian who focusses on Victorian times of the first generations of immigrants from Britain. He has spoken to us several times in the past—'The Victorian villa', and 'The Victorian way of death', and his talks are always of great interest.

Our thanks to Phil Sai-Louie who has followed up on the speakers he had previously arranged for September and November, despite having resigned from the responsibility as of August. Phil has done the PDHS a great service over the years supplying our meetings with a regular supply of great speakers. Many of us have become members of the Society because we attended a fascinating talk, and then discovered there were plenty more where that first one came from. He has a good ear for speakers on historical topics. He also has his own stable of talks, and we expect to hear more from him in future. He has been on the Executive Committee, and was Vice-Chairman when I joined the team in 2014.

July Meeting: Thursday 25 July—Report.

Phil spoke on 'The way we were: how NZ has changed'.

His illustrated talk took us down memory lane, with subjects like:

The Plunket Society, nurses and Plunket books, "Karitane yellow"

School – Jungle Gym aka "Taranaki Frame", the treadle-powered drill in the murder house, health camps and free school milk.

Shops with verandahs, high wooden fronts, cluttered interiors, and grocers who found and packaged orders. Shops that shut in the weekend. The first supermarket was in 1958.

Films – the days when each suburb had its cinema, with distinctive architecture (you can still identify the buildings) and everyone stood for the National Anthem. Films were full, you had to book, and you were ushered to your seat. B/W TV arrived in 1960.

In 1959 half of NZ homes had a frig. Persil arrived in 1953: before this washing was bleached.

TAB – Totalisator (Tote) where first people and then machines changed the odds as bets were placed: we were world pioneers. 'Tote never loses'

Rock and Roll arrived 1955 with Rock around the clock. Bill Hayley and the Comets, Johnny Devlin, 'Teenagers'!

The talk engaged the audience, and evoked a strong nostalgic response.

“Those were the days my friend. We thought they’d never end.....” Thanks Phil.

Trips: The Trip Committee never rests although the trips themselves hibernate during winter. Several ideas are being explored for the new season, and decisions are close. It is not easy organising trips, especially to less frequented destinations. And transport arrangements are always a little tricky. The trips for September to November, and then the new year, will be advertised in plenty of time. Thanks to Erwin, Wendy, Dave and Mary Ann for the work they do.

Other Society activities

Education presented by PDHS members:

In July and August I have had interesting engagements with the staff of Papakura Normal School (Virtual Heritage Walk with a local detour, Holy Trinity School years 4-6 on the Great South Road, Clevedon School years 7-8 on Immigration, about 200 people. Alan met 20 students from Rosehill School in the Museum.

To come: In future most educational activities will take place at the school, unless visits are arranged with Museum staff around handling activities, hands-on experiences or general tour with a scavenger hunt.

27 August: Presentation to year 5 and 6 students at Kelvin Road about the changing local environment

23 & 24 September: Rosehill Intermediate on the local story between the 1840s and 60s.

Papakura Museum

Exhibitions:

Solar Tsunami, an exhibition from University of Otago presenting physics and astronomy.

The Museum will be involved in the Auckland Heritage Festival in the October holidays.

Thanks to the staff and those who volunteer at the Museum in many different ways.

Subscription reminder for 2024-2025 year:

The subscription remains the same as previous years, i.e. \$25.00.

If preferred, you can make payment directly to the Society's ASB bank account; **12-3031-0166218-03** making sure that you include your name and the reference: Subs 2024-25. Alternatively, payment can be made to me at the AGM.

Editorial/ continued from page 1.

Education continues to keep your editor busy. It is very satisfying to see young people engaged in understanding the area they live in. It is citizen-building and enriches their lives.

Readers will notice a change in the format of the *Sentinel*, with more focus on Society business and events. This is in response to readers' comments, which also reminds me to remind readers that I am always on the lookout for historical articles or contributions about Society events. It needn't be research; we love to read memories of how things were when we were young, or what our grandparents told us. Any support is welcome. Edna is my wise and all-seeing regular editor/ proofreader. Thanks for picking up anything I have missed. And Terry helps me with despatch.

Relax, enjoy, celebrate, remember, refresh, *Rob, Ed.*

The Story of “Takaanini’s Grant”

Part 2

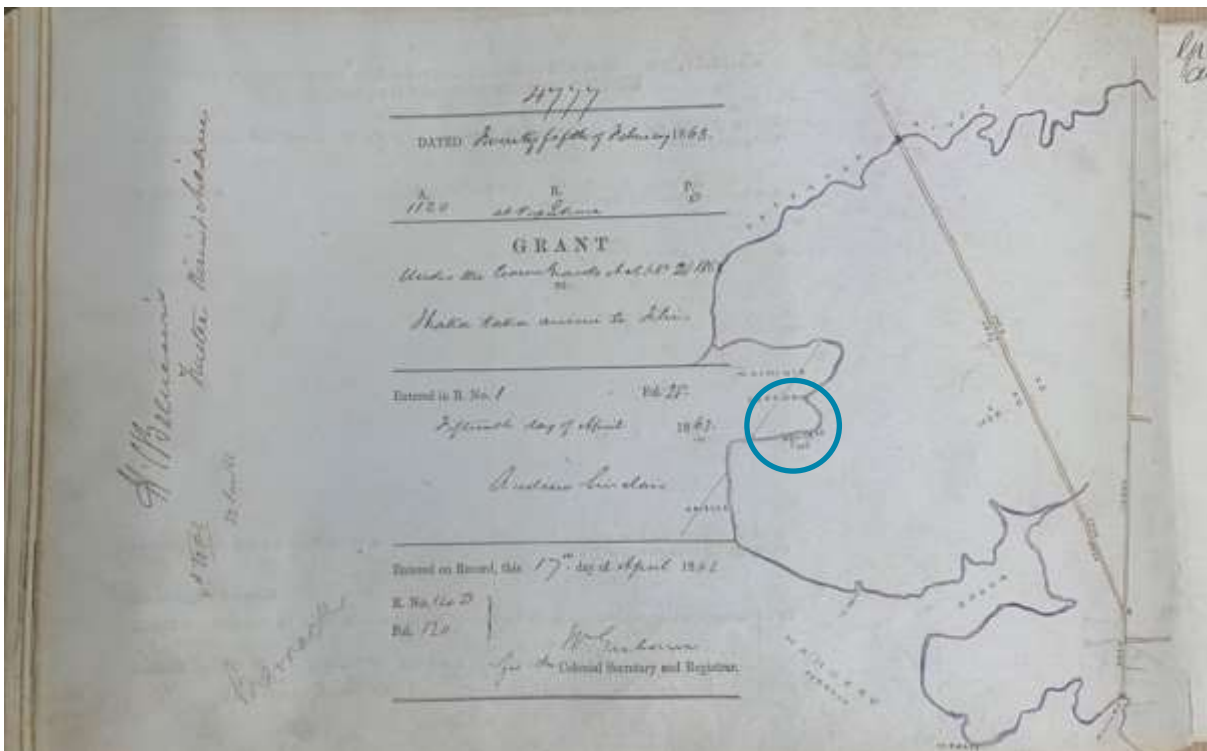
Graeme Marshall

Introduction

Ihaka the Younger died aged 20 in March 1883 while resident at Mrs Boyes’ boarding house on Manukau Rd, Epsom. Te Wirihana was now the sole survivor from Ihaka and Riria’s family of eight children.

In September 1883, at the age of 26, Te Wirihana set about taking control of the Takaanini family destiny. He applied through the Supreme Court to recover the funds and other assets held in trust under the Māori Funds Investment Act 1865 and have them returned to his own account. The original trustees, Henry Balneavis, the Rev. John Lloyd, and Richard Ridings, had been replaced in 1878 by Mr John Buchanan, Dr Charles Goldsbro, and the Rev. Joseph Bates. They didn’t oppose Te Wirihana’s petition.

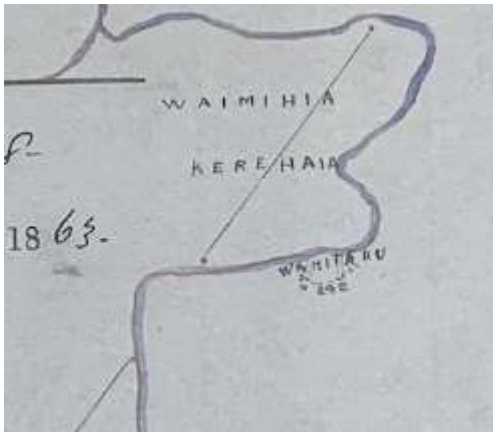
The assets Te Wirihana sought to recover were held in several trusts for himself, his now-deceased siblings, and his mother, Riria. Since 1865, Riria and the surviving children had been supported in various ways from the trust funds – Riria had an annuity of £50, and according to his statement of claim Te Wirihana had been supported in his education. The trust funds had been invested primarily in first mortgages over freehold titles and the family had interests in Remuera, Manurewa, Pokeno, Papakura and elsewhere.



However, this story is primarily concerned with the former Native Reserve in Papakura, Ihaka’s Crown Grant, and its development over the years into the 21st century. The sketch map (above) accompanied

the 1863 Crown Grant awarded to “Ihaka Taka-anini te Tihi”. This acreage was referred to as “Taka-anini’s Grant” or “Takaanini’s Grant” on maps and in many documents and land titles well into the 20th century. Notable features of this sketch are the Papakura Stream (top right), the Manukau Harbour foreshore drawn to show what have become Conifer Grove (Waimihia) and Longford Park (Tironui), and a wahi tapu.

Te Wirihana Takaanini must have been thinking of selling this land for some time. Before he could do so however the land had to become general title. To this end, in September 1885 the *New Zealand Herald* carried a public notice declaring that his 1,120 acres would be brought under the provisions of the Land Transfer Act, 1870.

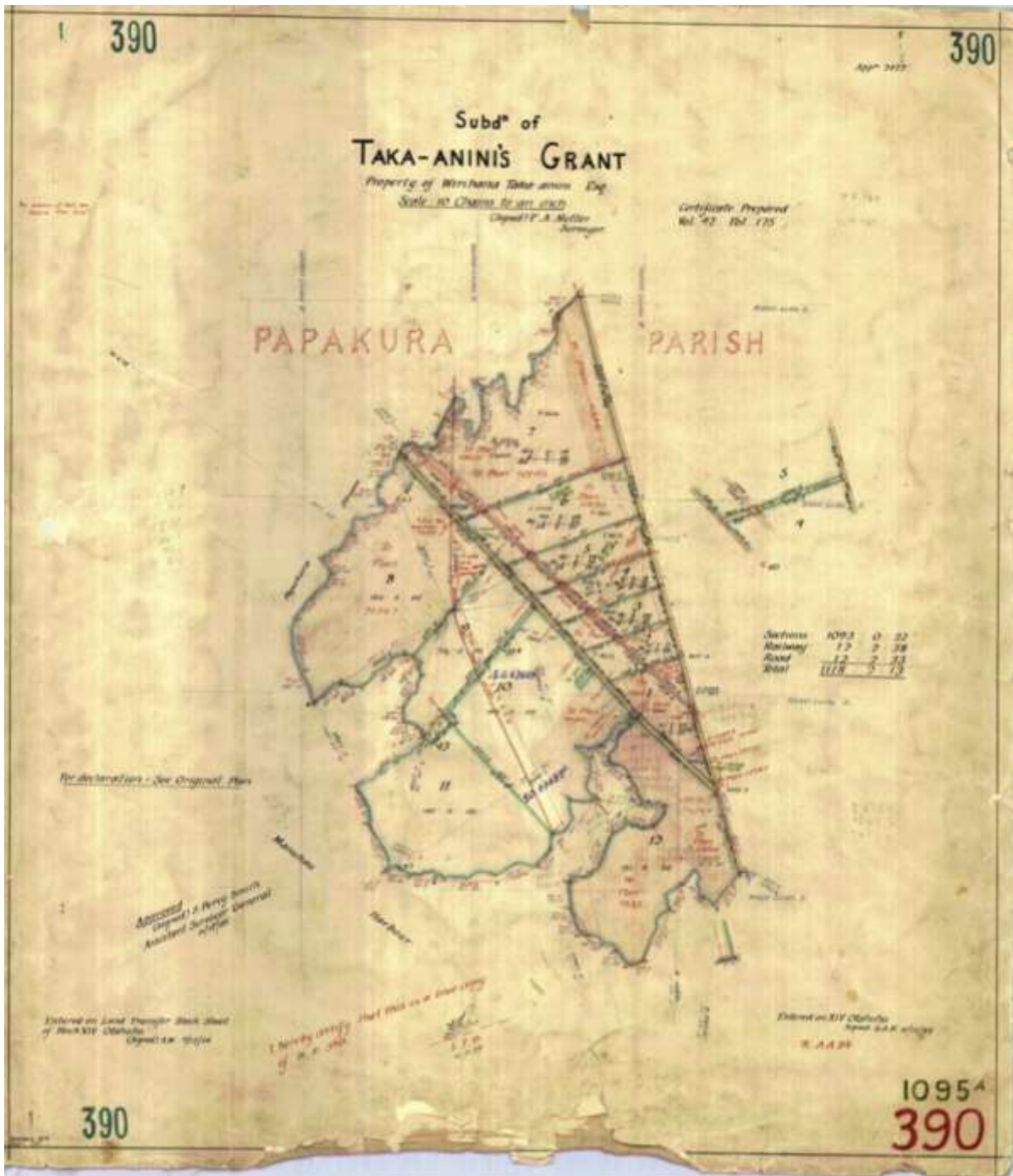


Detail showing the wahi tapu location (the blue circle on the sketch map above). It measured approximately 58 sq.ms if the units are surveyor’s links).

Land Transfer Notices.	
LAND TRANSFER ACT NOTICES.	
Notice is hereby given, that the several parcels of Land hereinafter described will be brought under the provisions of The Land Transfer Act, 1870, unless caveat in the meantime be lodged forbidding the same in each case on or before the 20th day of October next.	
JOHN PEACH—Lots 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31, of the subdivision of part of Allotments 22 and 23, of Section 12, of the suburbs of Auckland, in applicant's occupation.	2422
WIRIHANA TAKAANINI—1120 Acres in the Parish of Takapuna, granted to Ihaka Takaanini te Tihi, unoccupied.	2429
ALLAN KERR TAYLOR—Parts of lots 169 and 170, of Section 10, of the Suburbs of Auckland, containing 137a 3r 12p, in applicant's occupation.	2434
JOSIAH CLIFTON FIRTH—A block of Land known by the name of Matamala South, and numbered 603a, containing 1554a 2r 21p, in applicant's occupation.	2436
JOSIAH CLIFTON FIRTH—Lots 8, 9, and 10, of a subdivision of Allotment 2, of Section 27, of the City of Auckland, unoccupied.	2437
Diagrams may be inspected at this office. Dated this 17th day of September, 1885, at the Lands Registry Office, Auckland.	
THEO. KISSLING, District Land Registrar.	

In 1885, a subdivisional plan drawn up for Te Wirihana Taka-anini Esq., showed this reserved land in 14 Lots (see DP 390 below). The Lots are labelled 1-7 east of the Great South Road and 8 -13 (including 11A) on the harbour side. Only Lots 11 and 13 lack a frontage onto the Great South Road. The DP below is a later version which shows 12 ½ acres taken for the Great South Road. This road from Auckland to Drury was completed in 1855 so this taking occurred when the land was Native Reserve land and prior to the Crown Grant. The DP also shows 12 ½ acres taken for railways. This parcel must have been taken after “27 Victoriae 1863 No 2 Auckland and Drury Railway” Act passed in December 1863.

A further 8 acres for future railway purposes was taken in 1878 via the new Public Works Enablement Act which allowed the Governor to take land for railways by simple proclamation. This land became the Takanini (sic) Railway Station in 1913.



This version of DP 390 also shows later activity. The red line curving through Lots 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11A shows the route to be taken by the southern motorway. This line appeared in 1953, was amended in 1954, and then finalised in 1961. The eastern boundary is now Takanini School Road, and the two parallel lines in the middle are the Great South Road (orange) and the railway line (red).

With the subdivisional plan completed, Te Wirihana applied for a Certificate of Title for his Crown Grant land, and on the 8th of February 1886 this was issued as NA 42/175 (below).

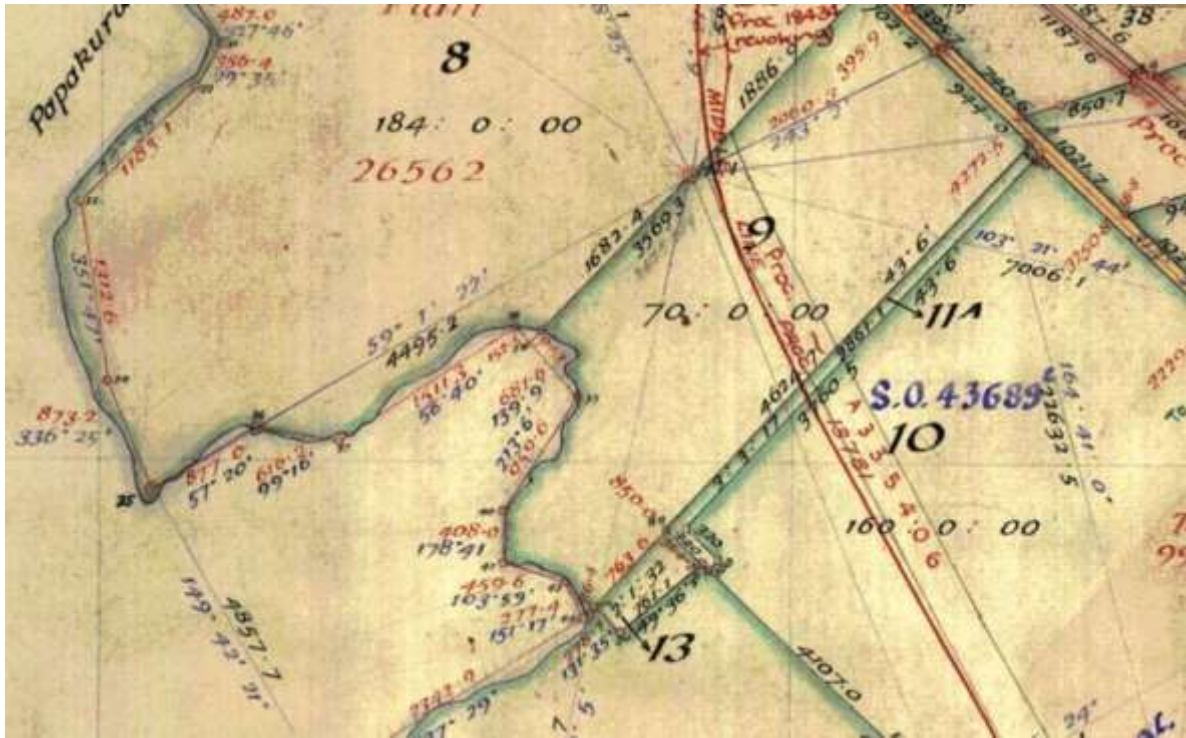


The Samuel Jackson Years

On the 25th of February 1886, transaction 8063 saw Te Wirihana transfer almost his entire interest to Samuel Jackson, solicitor of Auckland. It seems that Lots 11A and 13, while drawn in 1885, were not included in the transfer to Jackson. Nor are they referred to in subsequent transfers or leases until 1908. A simple explanation might be that Te Wirihana had reserved a piece of land in the 1885 survey for his own purposes. This would explain the long, independent accessway (Lot 11A) from the Great South Road to the relatively tiny Lot 13. At just over two acres, Lot 13 was easily the smallest of the DP 390 lots. The next smallest, Lot 1, was 35 acres. In the early 1900s, perhaps he changed his mind or found he no longer wanted or needed 11A and 13.

Initially, all lots to the west of the Great South Road were leased while all transactions to the east were sales. The reason for this isn't clear, but it is likely that the western lots were more highly priced since, except for Lot 7, they were much bigger. They may also have been better farmland. Lot 7 went to James Dilworth who didn't need a mortgage! Once the larger western lots were securely leased and producing income, they became more saleable and were sold with caveats covering the rights of incumbent leaseholders.

As Lots 1-7 were sold, new certificates of title were created for the new owners – familiar names such as James Dilworth, William Walters, George Lupton, and George Willis appear. Other names form part of a passing parade. Each Lot generates its own story, but the common storylines are farming, transport, and waiting for the land values to rise.



Detail from DP 390." The original Lot numbers are clearly evident as is the line of the planned motorway added in the 1950s.

The Eastern Lots 1-7 and the "Town of Takanini" (sic)

Lot 1 (NA 44/201) was sold in July 1886 to William Walters Jnr. His father, William Walters Snr had been born in England, coming to New Zealand to mine for copper on Kawau Island in 1846. In 1848 he married Eliza Hodge at St Paul's Church, Auckland, and in 1852 their son William Jnr was born. William Snr is credited with developing the first South Auckland racing track around 1870 and then hosting the first horse races in 1872 on land he already owned in the Parish of Papakura. This property later became part of the Glenora family estate after he, William Snr, died in 1882.

William Jnr married Harriett Jane Willis, 7th child of the settlers, Robert and Jane Willis, who had opened Papakura's first store in 1853. William Jnr and Harriett had five children, including the two sons, William Harold and Arthur Norman. William Jnr bought Lot 1 with a mortgage provided by Jackson and Russell. In 1907, Russell died, and the mortgage was transferred by Jackson to George William Sanders, accountant of Auckland. Sanders appears at other times and places throughout this story.

The Walters' farm, known as Glenora Park, ran from the Great South Road over the railway line to Porchester Park. Horse breeding, training, and racing were the major activities that William Jnr undertook on the property. In 1912, he had his Lot surveyed as a partner with the Otahuhu Trotting Club and in 1913, he disposed of part of Lot 1 to Ross McKenzie, William Watts, and Arthur Selby.

William Jnr died in 1919 at the age of 67, and Harriett in 1929. William' Jnr's probate was held by Henry Nolan, an auctioneer from Auckland, and two Papakura farmers, his son William Harold and his brother-in-law Robert Willis. Arthur Norman also continued farming part of Glenora Park with his wife, Hilda. William Harold married Noël Mary Swears, the daughter of William and Frances Swears of Pah Farm. William Harold and Noël's twin daughters, Frances and Marjorie, born in 1908, lived at Glenora until 1992. Lot 1 was sold in two parcels to Angus Gordon and Frederick Waller – the first

parcel in 1921 and the second in 1924. Much of the commercial and retail heart of Takaanini today is on this land.

Lots 2,4 and 5 (NA 44/152) were sold to a pair of Auckland butchers, Marks and Hilliard in the initial June 1886 sale. Lots 4 & 5 were on-sold to George Threadgold in 1887, and Lot 2 went to Albert and Bondrey Lock in 1894. By 1914 Lots 3 and 4 were in the hands of Benjamin Johnson.

Lot 3 (NA 44/149) sold to Auckland agent William Adams. The Lot had a chequered history changing hands seven times after the speculator Adams failed to meet his mortgage obligations and Jackson recovered the land in 1890. Alfred Willis sold to Albert Pulman who sold it back to Alfred Willis. Alfred sold it next to Arthur Rolfe in 1894 and it was bought from him by John Tighe in 1896. Tighe sold it to Alfred Gladding in 1897 and Gladding sold it to his son, Rupert, in 1899. In 1912, it was bought by Cecil Bell, public servant of Tuakau. He must have known something or else was very lucky because he sold it to the Maru Land Company on 21 February 1914 following which the Crown took some of the land for railway purposes on 24 February.

The new railway station had been opened in 1913, triggering the Maru Land Company development. When the railway through the area was first proposed, land was taken from tribal rangatira Ihaka Takaanini's Crown Grant. In 1878, the Crown had taken some further acres of his land for railway purposes. The new Takanini (sic) Railway Station was named in honour of the man whose land had been taken. The pity was that NZ Government Railways failed to check the spelling of Ihaka's name - and got it wrong.

In March 1914, the MLC subdivided its Lots 2 and 3 under the banner "Town of Takanini", and other local landholders, like Benjamin Johnson with Lots 4 and 5 in July 1914, followed suit. The Johnson subdivision was labelled "Town of Takanini - Extension 1" and marketed as "Takanini Railway Estate". Charles Lupton subdivided Lot 6 in March 1920 as "Town of Takanini - Extension 3". Other entities picked up the "Takanini" misspelling. NZ Post and Telegraph opened its Takanini branch at the railway station in 1915, and the Takanini School opened in 1923. The local authority of the time named "Takanini School Road" and other street and park names incorrectly such as Takanini Road and Takanini Reserve (now recently corrected to Takaanini Reserve).

This remained the situation until 2018 when Auckland Transport took the bull by the horns and unilaterally restored the correct spelling - "Takaanini" - albeit this was an unofficial change and technically illegal.

The Years after Jackson

The death of Samuel Jackson in 1913 triggered major change. In 1914, Elizabeth Muir, wife of leaseholder Alexander Muir the Younger, acquired Lots 9, part of Lot 10, Lot 11, 11A, and 13. She and Alex operated Pah Farm largely in the form it had taken while leased from Jackson by William Swears in 1886 (Swears died in 1907).

When Alex died during the 1919 'flu epidemic, Elizabeth carried on for a short period before selling the bulk of her interest to Alfred Watkin, a Taranaki farmer from Hawera. Watkin remained on the land until the early 1940s when, with the threat of the motorway looming, he sold to Walter Strevens.

Throughout this time pieces of Lots 10 and 12 were carved off for further subdivision. The southernmost 22 acres of Lot 12 provided rural blocks of 4 or 5 acres. Parts of Lot 10 were sold to the Wallace family (grocers from the North Shore) and were developed into a housing estate. This purchase included a small quarry for diatomaceous earth on the southern harbourfront of the Waimihia peninsular - Conifer Grove - at the point where the motorway was later to cross.

In 1914, the Willis brothers, Alfred and Robert, had acquired the bulk of Lot 12 (DP 9555) from Jackson, through Te Wirihana. Lot 12 comprised what is now Longford Park as well as a smaller northern piece which is now largely Fonterra's site. A smaller southern piece had been sold to Samuel Church. In June 1917, the Willis brothers had the northern part of Lot 12 with a Great South Road frontage surveyed into nine lots for sale as Plan 11713. This parcel was sold in September 1917 to James Boyd.

As mentioned above, the Wallaces bought part of Lot 10 and developed the residential block of Graham Road, Waimana Road and Waiari Road. This was the first development of what was later to become known as Conifer Grove. The residue of Lots 10 and 11 was then sold to the farmer, Alfred Watkin. With talk of motorways, Watkin sold to Walter Strevens in 1942. The Strevens name was to dominate for nearly half a century and remains prominent to this day (see 1962 aerial photo of Strevens's farm on trn next page).

The Manukau Golf Club

At the northern end, Elizabeth Muir had bought the 184-acre Lot 8 from the Jackson estate in 1914. This Lot was bounded on three sides by the Manukau Harbour, the Papakura Stream, and the Great South Road. In 1919 she sold it to Abigail Blair, a farmer from Huiroa in outback Taranaki. Those familiar with the Taranaki will know Huiroa is considered remote from downtown Whangamomona! Abigail's son, Walter Jnr, ran the farm for a number of years until the early 1930s when Abigail responded to interest from a couple of local golf clubs - the Everslie Club from Beach Road, Papakura, and the Manurewa Club from Hill Road, Manurewa property of the Nathan's family. The clubs were looking for a site upon which to join.

In 1933, the new Manukau Golf Club leased 96 acres of Lot 8. The club had two annual rights of renewal which, if exercised, included a right to purchase in 1935. In 1934, Abigail died, and her son inherited – on condition that the golf club's right to purchase would be respected. Through Elizabeth Muir's generosity the club was able to meet the asking price of £5,000 and in 1935 the land was theirs.

The next major shake-up came when lines began to appear on maps indicating the route to be taken by a proposed southern motorway extension. In the early 1940s, what had been a distant prospect became an imminent reality. Alfred Watkin sold his acres to Walter Strevens and Walter Blair Jnr sold his to Leonard Bennion.

As the government gradually realised the motorway plan, the golf club did well out of the situation. They traded small pieces for road development in exchange for larger and more useful ones. A couple of acres taken to create the motorway northern on- and off-ramps, earned 17½ acres including a wide harbour frontage where signs of the 4th hole can still be seen. In the early 1980s the club also acquired a buffer strip (the Bennion Block) to protect both the club and new neighbour interests as Conifer Grove housing approached. No-one likes being peppered by wayward amateur drives, and golf clubs weary of the insurance fees stemming from smashed windows.

Strevens Farm and Conifer Grove

Walter Strevens and his family farmed what was now known as "Strevens' Farm" while quietly selling small parcels by the Great South Road to accommodate progress. In 1959, the government acquired what was left of Lot 8, taking 13 acres for the motorway, 3 acres for widening the Great South Road at this point, and 76 acres for "better utilisation". The word "better" probably acknowledged the effective loss of the Bennion's farm and allowed appropriate compensation. The Ben-

nions left to farm on Park Estate Road, south of Papakura, and the 76 acres were finally transferred to Conifer Grove Ltd in the period 1984-87.

The development of Conifer Grove was probably the greatest change on the western side of "Takaanini's Grant". Through the 1950s, several proclamations detailed the path of the southern



Walter Strevens farm, 1962. Photo supplied by the author.

motorway across the farm. In 1959 title was transferred from Walter Joseph Strevens to his wife, Hilma, and the solicitor Edward Wright. On their watch further surveys were carried out on Lot 10 in 1968. In 1969, a further transfer saw Walter John Strevens and Robert Edward Strevens join their mother, Hilma, on the title, now NA 17B/385 and in 1973 their 300+ acres were transferred to Conifer Grove Limited.

The design and construction supervision of the suburb was undertaken by Fraser Thomas Ltd. The first part of the development was at the northern end between the Great South Road and the motorway – Challen Close, Glengowan, Balgowan etc. As circumstances allowed, more sections were released for sale in a progressive filling in of the available land as the market rose and fell. Pages of detailed transactions recording the scores of section sales complete this title which was closed in 1978; however, this didn't end the Conifer Grove story. For the next twenty years the suburb developed, with many cul-de-sacs, a small shopping centre, and a school being added. The part of Conifer Grove west of the motorway had a single entry/exit approach over the motorway bridge on Walter Streven's Drive so it had a character all of its own. Many of the streets are cul-de-sacs, and most are named after prominent racehorses or trainers. This reflected the distinctive "agriculture" of the area and is a feature of other new residential developments elsewhere in Takaanini.

The last piece of the Conifer Grove development - Keywella Drive, Aristoy Close and Chippewa Place - was on land formerly DP 26562, and, before that, Lot 8, Takaanini's Grant. This area was surveyed and subdivided for Conifer Grove Limited as DP 158598 in 1993. For all its work on Conifer Grove, Fraser Thomas Ltd were awarded Certificates of Merit by both the Association of Consulting Engineers NZ and the New Zealand Institute of Surveyors.

Waiata Shores

The final transformation of the northern end came in 2016 with the sale of the Manukau Golf Club to Fletcher Residential Living. The area is now known as Waiata Shores and is being developed as residential housing. Street names running east/west are named for local identities and golf club notables. Those running north/south have names gifted by and recognising the historic imprint of Te Ākitai Waiohua in this area. Pepene Avenue, for example, recognises Ihaka Takaanini's father, Pepene Te Tihi, who was one of the signatories on the sale to the Crown of the 16,000-acre Papakura Block in 1842.

On the western side of the Great South Road the land was at times virtually under single ownership with underlying leases – Frederick Clark for a year until 1887, then James Donaghey until 1901, followed by Jackson and his estate until Elizabeth Muir in 1914 and Alfred Watkin from 1919.

Both Clark and Donaghey held mortgages from Jackson. Kaiwaka farmer Clark disappeared without much trace, but Donaghey retained his interest for 13 years. His story is particularly poignant. In dramatic circumstances the Public Trustee took over the mortgage in July 1901, acting under the provisions of the Lunatics Amendment Act of 1895. On 2 December 1901, Donaghey's interest in Lots 8-12 reverted to Samuel Jackson.

"James Donaghey of Onehunga had a significant property portfolio. He had lived alone in Onehunga for years and was a morose man. His indictment for shooting neighbour James Brennan caused a sensation. Brennan was on his way home from church on Sunday morning, March 11, 1899. When arrested Donaghey had in his possession a double-barrelled muzzle-loading gun, a box of shot and some caps, and a flask of powder. He also had £870 in bank notes and some silver. Sixteen deeds of mortgage and conveyance in his name and in connection with land were found in his home.

In evidence John Dore said that he had noticed a change in the prisoner over the last two or three years – he 'was a bit peculiar in his manner'. He would lock both doors and go in and out the window. A neighbour had seen him leave for church in that manner. He had been seen standing in his house between two lighted candles and gesticulating wildly. The locals called this a "praying fit". Donaghey had told witnesses that he prayed to his Creator to let people know that he had not burned John Carr. Carr was Donaghey's stepfather who had been burned to death when his house was destroyed by fire some 28 years earlier. In the opinion of witnesses, he was quite mad.

Opening the defence, C J Tunks, a partner at Jackson Russell, said the facts of the case were admitted but that the prisoner, at one time a farmer, was of unsound mind at the time he committed the offence and so was not responsible for his act. Our Samuel Jackson said he had acted for the prisoner for some years and had noticed he was getting more eccentric daily. He had refused to sign deeds which he ought to have signed. Jackson had told Donaghey if he didn't sign the deeds, he could not get his money, but he replied that he didn't want the money as it would be taken from him. Donaghey wouldn't go to Jackson's office without Sergeant Greene having been written to. Greene would then persuade Donaghey to attend.

The decision of the Court was that Donaghey should be "detained in close confinement during the pleasure of the Colonial Secretary". He was held at the Avondale Lunatic Asylum where he died, impoverished in 1903. The Public Trustee bore the funeral costs.

Brennan subsequently brought a claim against Donaghey and was awarded significant damages. Jackson appeared for Donaghey."

Adapted from contemporary reports in the NZ Herald.

Another cautionary tale concerns the one-time and short-term lessee of Lots 9, 10, and 11, Richard Sandall.

"Colourful butcher Richard Stennett Sandall courted controversy numerous times during his years in colonial Auckland. It seems he had a knack for rubbing people up the wrong way – or vice versa.

Sandall's name first made the court pages of numerous newspapers in 1862 when he found himself accused of slaying Francis Bethell's goat in Newmarket. Bethell ... believed Sandall

was responsible for the killing and feared he might be next. The pair had a volatile history and threats of a violent nature were made a couple of months earlier. The case went to court where the defendant was also accused of loitering on the Bethell property a number of times before the incident. A judge eventually threw the case out saying there was insufficient evidence to warrant a prosecution. But it was not long before Sandall was in the dock again.

This time he pleaded guilty to keeping pigs in a "putrid state" by feeding them on "sheep's heads and entrails" in his yard. He was fined 20 shillings – a pittance compared with the £5 penalty meted out in 1868 when he reoffended. It was another 20 years before Sandall was in trouble once more. He appeared in court in November 1888 alongside fellow butcher George Wells. Both men were arrested while fighting outside a burning building on Eden Terrace. Sandall was somehow linked to the blaze and asked Wells to help him save some furniture from the spreading flames. Wells refused and Sandall told him he was a disgrace to the community who should be drowned. The resulting brawl was broken up by police and each combatant was fined 25 shillings and ordered to pay court costs.

Three years passed before Sandall's name appeared in print one last time. The 53-year-old was chasing a rat around his butchery when he collided with a meat hook dangling from the rafters. The blow caught him just under the brow of the right eye and flung him backwards on to the floor. Sandall bashed his head during the fall and was not his usual self when he finally got up again. He was rushed to Auckland Hospital in a delirious state and died half an hour after his admission on September 11, 1891. Sandall is buried at Waikumete Cemetery with his wife Elizabeth who died in 1918."

From The Western Leader, March 2010

Note:

Two items mentioned in this article have been the subject of *Sentinel* articles:

Diatomaceous white earth—Terry Carson, in issue 17, June 2015. (Edna is further researching this industry.)

Manukau Golf Course—Bridget Bayly, in issue 41, June 2019.

Takaanini is coming back

The above article mentioned the mistake made when Takaanini was spelt with a single 'a' by the Maru Land Company and the local body.

This spelling has, by default, become the one most of us have grown up with. People noticed and commented when the railway station was renamed Takaanini a few years back. (The double aa is used rather than ā because this is the spelling preferred by Tainui.)

There is a submission currently with the NZ Geography Board to give official recognition to renaming the district and station. Graeme Marshall has been active in this project. Between June and 10 September of this year, submissions are being received. Along with local iwi, the PDHS Executive and the Papakura Museum staff have both presented submissions in favour, for historical reasons. The great majority of submissions are supportive of the change.

A mighty totara or (kahikatea) has fallen yet again

Rob Finlay

The sounds are there most days. The angry roar of a chainsaw biting into living wood. I use a chainsaw (electric) to prune my trees and maintain a supply of dry firewood (and I feel guilty about that). I understand that when trees are blown over or look unstable near powerlines that chainsaws have their place.



But the sounds of the War on Nature are too much with us. Especially in a world where we need our trees more than ever to moderate climate extremes, reduce carbon pollution, cleanse the air, provide a home for our urban birds. At a time when the public are becoming informed about the need for trees, when huge amounts of money are being spent to plant (usually highly combustible monoculture conifers) to create a carbon credit in the face of our unwillingness to change the way we live, create wealth or produce food; at such a time we continue to destroy the most successful and beautiful living creatures, an invaluable part of our heritage.

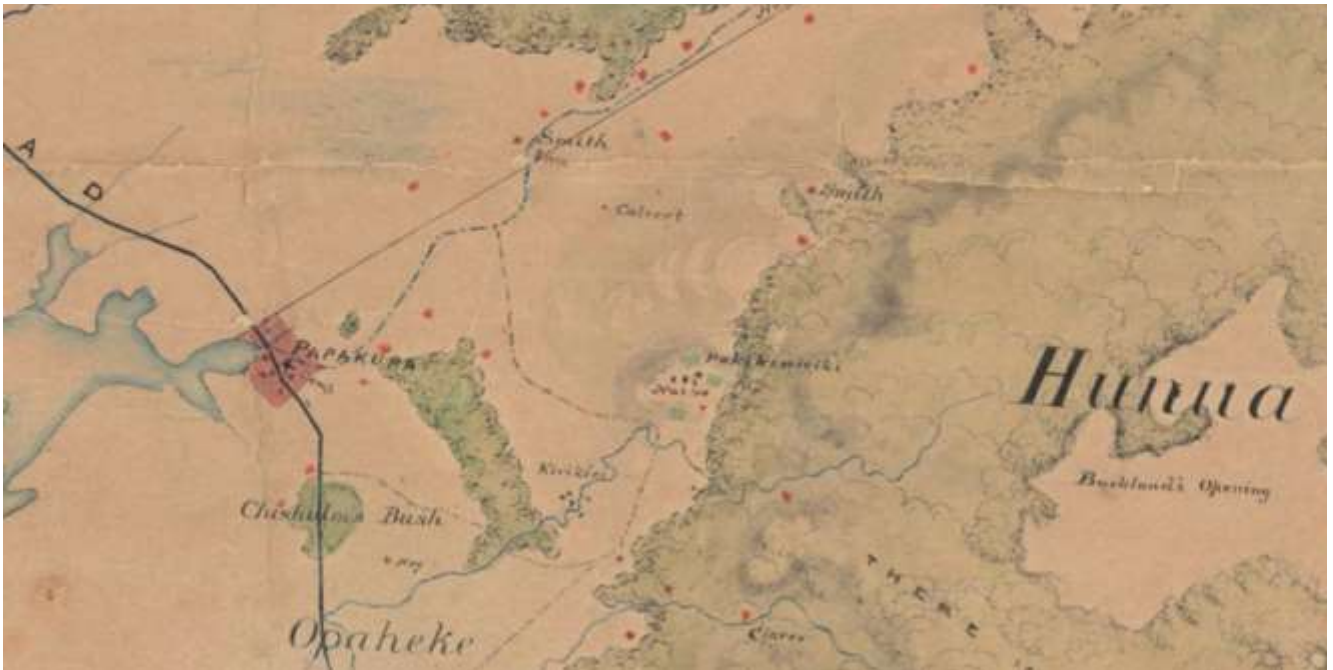
I am privileged to have lived in Callis Avenue off Opaheke Road for over 35 years. An early morning walk in spring—it's coming!—is a delight. A tall line of remnant Old Forest trees between Butterworth Road and Callis Ave and the many younger trees planted since purchase (by Butterworths, Callises, and many people who bought their subdivided land) create an interesting skyline, while a hidden chorus of tui and thrushes make the dawn a joyful and tuneful event. Way to wake up! It's beautiful!



Callis and Butterworth and adjacent streets have only some of the great number of trees that have always made Papakura a truly attractive village and town. From the tall eucalypt forest on the Railway Reserve including what is now Massey Park, and all down the Great South Road, Papakura has been noted for its trees. They have made different parts of the district highly desirable. And many people have made no secret of their love of the trees. In old Auckland Directories, where other people described themselves as 'farmer', 'shopkeeper' or 'railway guard', Arthur-Butterworth was proud to call himself 'bush owner'. He wasn't the only one. The Kirk brothers loved their stand of bush. And what was left came into public ownership in 1922. Friends of Kirk's Bush works to preserve that part of our heritage, to keep out noxious weeds and clean up carelessly discarded plastics, glass, you name it.

The line of trees I have described was preserved by Butterworth who donated some of it as a reserve. While the family subdivided all along the road that bears their name, those who bought built under the trees, and among the trees. Others bought alongside because of those trees.

But there is a new generation of landowners who seem to be only too eager to subscribe to the War on Nature; maybe they do not appreciate our heritage enough or they are obsessed with the economic value of piling housing units onto land, any land. A lot has been made of 'heritage districts', which is usually taken to mean the old and affluent inner city suburbs, but Papakura and Drury have as much a claim to that as any.



Detail from map drawn by Charles Heaphy in 1860: 'Sketch of country between Auckland and Waikato—Military tracks, settlers' homes, redoubts, bush, roads place names, topographical features – (original) scale 1 mile: 1 inch.' With permission Archives NZ, R22822557

The map above gives an indication of what this district was like in 1860. In addition to the bush cover in the Hunua ranges and Kirikiri Hills, there is a big belt of bush in the Kirikiri valley (Papakura East), and there is 'Chisholm's Bush'. Kirk's Bush and Butterworth's legacy are only a small remnant of Chisholm's Bush. The map shows that the new 'Great South Road' was being cut through the middle of Chisholm's Bush—where else would you build a road? - and that more of the Bush was to the East of that line than to the West. It is the remnants of this old forest that we are mourning today. Previous generations managed to preserve remnants of this extended bush. Today, at a time when the stakes are even higher, we are unable to protect what is left. The law is loaded against conservation.

Which brings me back to those angry chainsaws. Being a chainsaw monkey climbing to the top of tall trees, rappelled on ropes, and having all the power to reduce a giant to a stump must be a young man's power rush. My gripe is with landowners who are unable to appreciate beauty, value nature or consider the wider community. Or value heritage.



A year or two ago, someone cut a gap in what had been a continuous line almost all the way from the Great South Road to Opaheke Road—two totara and one rimu. The trees had had protection but the land-owner had had the protection removed.

And this week, as I have been writing, this giant—the tallest one

in the row (see arrow on photo on page 15)—has been reduced to the ground, and, worst insult of all, is being ground into mulch.

This article is written in honour of a forest giant in appreciation of its provision of life, beauty, dignity, sanctuary for birds, filtering the air, retention of soil moisture.



Meetings held on the fourth Thursday of each month in the Library Meeting Rooms opposite the Museum, the talk first at 1 pm, then business and afternoon tea provided by PDHS members (for \$2 gold coin). PDHS members arrange interesting speakers.

Museum Talks periodically on Saturday afternoons.

Events are advertised here, on the screen in the Museum window and on our blog and Facebook pages. Please check for updates and Museum news.

Trips are usually held monthly. Watch notices for transport arrangements and cost. Cost is \$5 more for non-members, but anyone is welcome on a first come first aboard basis. Please register early and advise if unable to attend as numbers are limited.

To register for trips, please ring Dave at (09) 2984507

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The Papakura Sentinel is a bimonthly magazine of the Papakura & Districts Historical Society. Your contributions are welcomed. Please send directly to editor Rob by email: pdhs@papakuramuseum.org.nz



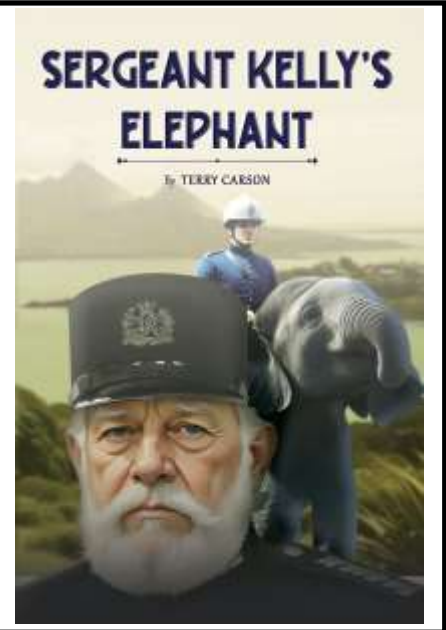
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When, in 1870, Prince Alfred visits Auckland, Police Sergeant Patrick Kelly is put in charge of protecting Tom, the prince’s baby elephant. When Fenians intent on assassination arrive, Kelly unexpectedly finds himself in the thick of the action. Tom also lends a trunk.

This new novel written by Terry Carson can be obtained from www.alibipress.co.nz, or as an e-book from Amazon KDP, Smashwords, Kobo, and all the major e-book distributors.

Or just ask Terry the next time you see him.



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