



Issue 21
December 2021



Auckland Council Archives

Auckland begins at the Archives

Welcome

The purpose of this newsletter is to update you on upcoming events and share information with you about new services, resources, and additions to our collections.

In this issue, we tell you about what the Archives team has been doing during this lockdown. We also celebrate Auckland Central City Library building turning 50.

As well, we also discuss the relationship between NZ Fashion Week and the council, and we remember Dame Catherine Tizard.

The Archives team wish you a very happy Christmas and hope you enjoy your summer holidays.

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Archives team lockdown redeployments

Auckland Emergency Management Redeployment

Keith Stuart and Owen Gordon were redeployed to work with Auckland Emergency Management (AEM). In 2020 Keith worked with the outbound call team, this time his experience was used as a resource for the welfare desk. Tasks included providing basic training for the call team, dissemination of information, ensuring resource lists were up to date, making welfare calls and managing the email inbox. The welfare desk got even busier at the end of August, when there was flooding in West Auckland and Keith was dispatched to setup and staff a Civil Defence Centre in Kumeū. He also spent time on food lead which provided food deliveries to top up local foodbanks under strain with the demand over lockdown.

Owen once again worked in the Welfare Call team, a flexible group of around 30 Auckland Council staff working from home. While the team's focus in 2020 had been largely on the delivery of food boxes, this year the continuing effects of the pandemic on many people's lives meant the team provided support for a wider range of welfare needs. On any day this included offering advice on how to access food and essential items while in isolation, helping people source health information, arranging educational support materials for children, or advising on how to apply for financial help.

Corporate Archives assists Auckland Insights

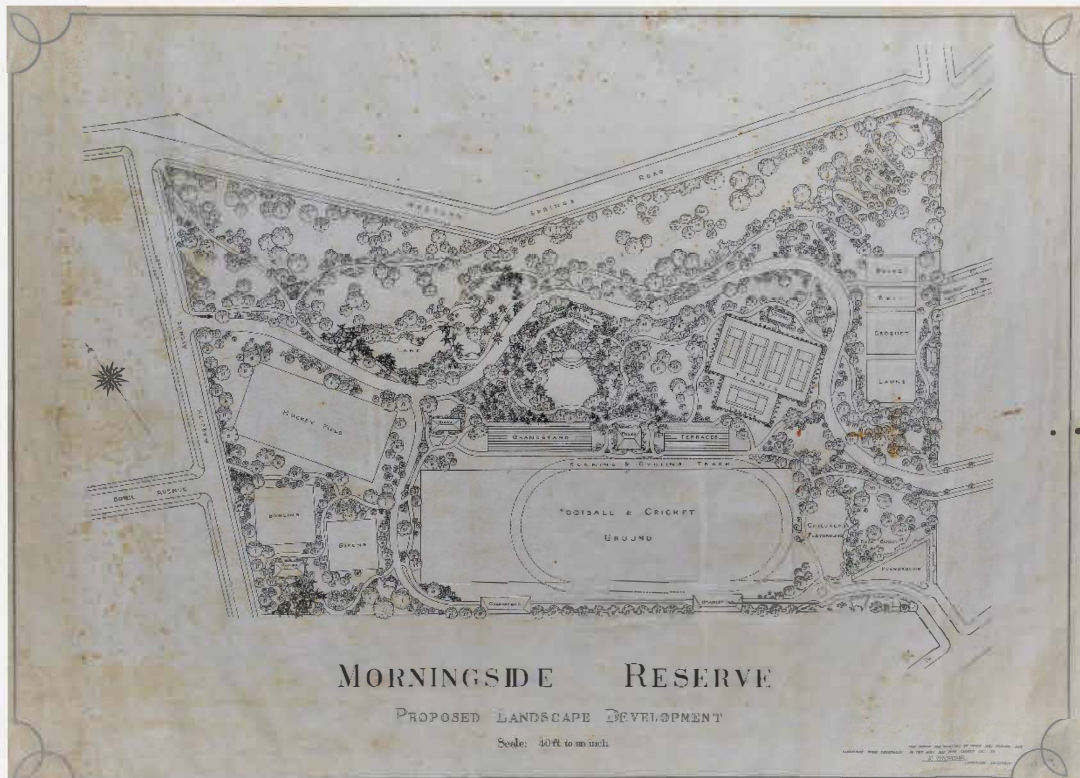
The Corporate Archives team works with records in many formats. Much of its usual work depends on unique hardcopy records that are not available in digital form and have been inaccessible since the Auckland COVID-19 lockdown began on 17 August.

Lene Aiono started his new role as an archivist the day before the current lockdown. In November Lene volunteered to assist the Auckland Insights team, which is part of council's Democracy & Engagement Department. The Insights team seeks to 'bring the voice of Aucklanders to council through research, public engagement and stakeholder engagement' and to process and analyse feedback to support good decision making. Lene's first project was to code anonymous staff responses to the proposed policy on mandatory vaccination against COVID-19 for all staff, contractors, and volunteers. The second was to code public feedback on council's proposed Freedom Camping in Vehicles bylaw.

Lene has been coding qualitative data, such as content people wrote in an 'extra comments' category, into general descriptions that summarised the sentiment of people's remarks. With others on redeployment, he created extra themes to capture comments that had not been initially anticipated. It took a few weeks to code and theme all the surveys as there were more than 4,000 responses and each batch was time sensitive as quality checking had to be made. During coding, it was interesting to discover the diverse viewpoints on the proposed policies. Additionally, it was important to accurately capture the opinions of individuals in the organisation and the residents of Auckland. It was fascinating to learn how engagement and input from the public, and council staff, inform and guide decision making by council that turns proposals into policies. Assistance by the Archives team to Auckland Insights demonstrated that some core Archives' skills are transferrable – in both coding survey responses and working with council archives require a consistent approach and highlight the importance of attention to detail.

Historic Reserve Management Plans online

Auckland Council is currently creating new multi-park plans for each local board that will eventually replace all the Reserve Management Plans (RMPs) inherited from its predecessor local authorities. RMPs are documents compiled under the Reserves Act 1977 following a two-stage public consultation process intended to engage Aucklanders with the use and management of their regional and local parks. Being subject to review, they are living documents designed to evolve over time. Even when superseded, RMPs contain useful information on the history of open spaces that was sometimes carefully researched using sources like the official government newspaper, the NZ Gazette. Often these histories begin with Māori use of the land and explain how Auckland's best-known parks and reserves acquired their present-day names.



Landscape design plan for Morningside Reserve, 1930 by Fred Tschopp. The reserve was renamed Fowlds Park in 1933. [Mount Albert City Council plans, Auckland Council Archives, MAC 001/676]

The Reserve Management Plans were already available to council staff in electronic format, as portable document format files (PDFs) in a shared drive folder managed by the Community Policy and Planning team. Demand from elected representatives and the public suggested that making them available on the council website would provide a useful addition to Archives' digital resources. Part of this project involved converting the existing PDFs into PDF/A files. PDF/A are an archival format suitable for the long-term preservation of electronic documents that complies with standards set by the International Organization for Standardization.

The RMPs database is searchable on the [Auckland Council Archives webpage](#).

Auckland Central City Library building turns 50

In November Auckland Central City Library building celebrated turning 50 with many posts featuring memories of the library published to the Auckland Libraries Facebook pages.

On 25 November 1971, the new Auckland Central City Library building opened to the public. The new library building had been a long time in the making, with Auckland City Council approving it in 1953.

The building was designed by Auckland City Council's chief architect, Ewen Waincott. Due to various issues, the actual construction of the first stage did not start until 1967. The unusually shaped building clad in white Carrera marble was officially opened by the Governor-General, Sir Arthur Porritt.

The second half of the building was not started until the site of the Embassy Theatre became available in the 1970s. Stage two of the Auckland Central City Library finally opened on 22 November 1982, with Auckland City Council Archives later moving into the basement in June 1990.

This is one of our favourite photographs of the Central Library. In February 1983, actor Peter Gwynne was hired to promote New Zealand wool carpet. Here, he is pictured walking Courtney, a Drysdale sheep through the ground floor of the library.

In the 1960s, Dr Francis Dry from Massey University had developed a breed of Drysdale sheep with wool suitable for carpet manufacture. We assume that the new carpet in the Central Library building was made from New Zealand Drysdale wool. This image was later published in the Auckland Star on 7 March 1983.



Ground floor, Auckland Central Library, Lorne Street, 22 February 1983
[Auckland City Council Photographic Department, Auckland Council Archives, ACC 497/2am]

Building permit card indexing project

A major project by Archives to extend an existing database to cover a period of almost thirty years is in sight of being finished and made available to the public online, largely because of the extended Auckland COVID lockdown this year. Once completed, it will provide fascinating information about Auckland buildings and their owners.

Auckland City Council building by-laws required those who wished to erect, alter, add to, or renew any building or structure within its jurisdiction to make an application to the council for approval, submitting plans and specifications. The building permit cards in Archives' series ACC 443 record applications made from 1920 to 1959. In alphabetical order by street or road name, there are about 3,000 double-sided cards recording an estimated 96,000 building permit applications.

DATE	PERMIT NO.	APPLICANT	OWNER	Street No.	WORK PERMITTED	VALUE OF WORK	PLAN NO.
14.4.28	5419	Baker, J.W.	Baker, J.W.	2	Koone dwelling	70	28/304
30.4.28	5534	do	do	3	Dwelling in wood	600	28/355
5.6.28	5812	Hart G.E.	Hart G.E.		Add to dwelling	85	28/489
27.8.28	6461	McLullough	McLullough			70	28/781
21.9.28	6658	Craft E.	Latimer		Dwelling in wood	706	28/871
24.6.30	11106	Payne, F.	Johnston	44	Garage w & iron	35	30/449
29.11.30	73	Baker, J.W.	Jordan		Shed in wood	16	30/815
11.9.31	1421	Johnstone W.	Johnstone W.	56	Garage wood & iron	20	31/263
23.1.33	3319	Bull B.G.	Moyers, F.	21	Add to dwelling	161	33/19
22.1.34	9962	Homerigan, J.	McAurice	32	Add in w-dwell	125	34/30
16.3.34	10229	Giles, M.	Giles, M.	18	Divell w. 3 Rms & C.	220	34/104
14.5.34	10568	Silly, W.	Giles, M.	18	Garage wood & i.	25	34/104
5.8.34	11047	Sturt, H.	Sturt, H.	39	Retain wall conc.	10	
4.2.38	1751	Eyer	Prangnell	64	Garage w & iron	15	38/36
11.4.38	292	Kinnear, J.	Kinnear, J.	10	Garage wood & iron	24	38/130
24.5.38	498	Moyers, F.	Moyers, F.	29	Garage w & iron dwell	24	33/18

Building permit card for Alford Street in Waterview, 1928-1938. The street was originally named Albert Road, acquiring its current name in 1932.

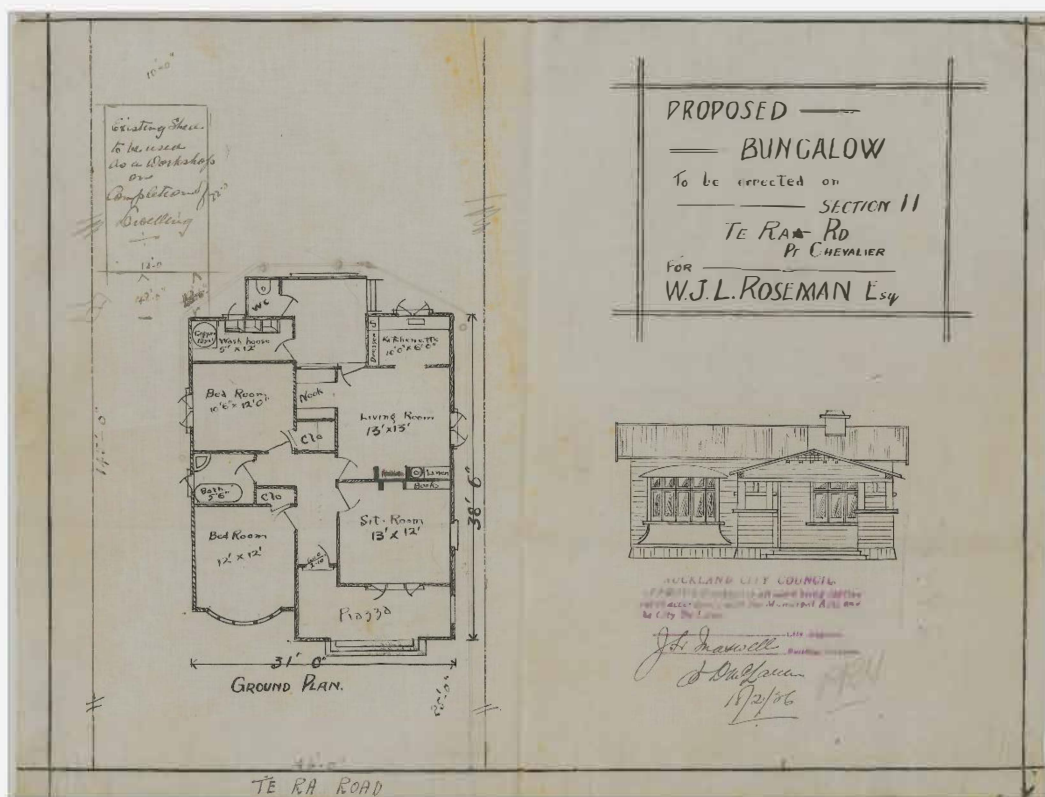
[Auckland City Council building permit and plan cards, Auckland Council Archives, ACC 443/1]

Transcription of the whole series is a huge project that began in March 2020 during the first COVID lockdown. A bulk scanner was used between the two long lockdowns to produce PDF versions, each including 25 double-sided index cards. Transcribers entered data from the cards into an Excel spreadsheet. Square brackets are used for any information added to the transcriptions, for example to expand abbreviated words or to correct obvious misspellings.

The cards have eight columns recording: date, permit number, name of applicant and building owner, street number (sometimes a section or lot number), work permitted, value of work, and plan number. Where entries for names of applicants and owners are difficult to read, they can sometimes be checked using the National Library's Papers Past website or digital versions of Wise's NZ Post Office directories available on the Auckland Libraries' website via 'Ancestry Library Edition'. Most abbreviations are found in the column for 'Work permitted' so a list of the most frequently used was provided within guidelines for the transcribers.

The project has greatly advanced thanks to the current lockdown and enthusiastic assistance from seven members of the Records team and colleagues from five different library teams. At the time of writing, almost three quarters of the building permit cards containing around 72,000 applications have been transcribed. It is hoped that the project will be completed next year, and the entries made available for searching within a database already on the council website.

Many notable Auckland residents are captured in the transcriptions. Celebrated artist C. F. Goldie (1870-1947) applied to have his Pitt Street dwelling repaired in 1922, while politician and later writer John A. Lee MP (1891-1982) applied the following year to build a wooden dwelling on Komaru Street in Remuera. Air Chief Marshal Sir Keith Park (1892-1975), elected to Auckland City Council after a distinguished military career, made several applications for alterations to his Lucerne Road home in Remuera, such as enclosing a porch, adding a sunroom and garage, and building a new open porch.



Building permit plan for 24 Te Ra Road, Point Chevalier, 1926
[Auckland City Council building permits, Auckland Council Archives, AKC 305/47/Box 589]

A few obvious trends emerge, notably a sharp decline in building permit applications, particularly applications for new dwellings, in the Depression years that followed the 1929 Wall Street Crash. Applications for air raid shelters in CBD streets such as Albert Street, Anzac Avenue, Customs Street, and High Street suggest disquiet prompted by the Fall of Singapore in February 1942 and perhaps recognition that New Zealand might be unable to rely on the overstretched protection of the British armed forces. Applications for removal or demolition of such shelters the following year or in 1944 probably reflect growing confidence after American naval victories and the arrival of American troops. It is also interesting to note the proliferation of army huts re-purposed after the war as domestic sheds and garages.

An earlier series of building permit cards for 1908 to 1920 (series ACC 431) was transcribed by a single member of the team during the 2020 lockdown. It can be accessed online from the [Building Permit Cards Database](#).

A very fashionable council

In August New Zealand Fashion Week was to have celebrated 20 years of promoting fashion. Unfortunately, another Covid outbreak forced the celebrations to be postponed until February 2022. However, you might be wondering what the connection is between Fashion Week and Auckland Council. You don't immediately associate a council with the glamour of the fashion industry.

On 21 February 2001, Auckland City Council announced they would be supporting a fashion week to be held in October which was to become an annual event. This event was to be run by Pieter Stewart Promotions, a company which had specialised in fashion promotions for 15 years. The council believed supporting the fashion industry was important due to the potential to increase employment and revenue in the Auckland region. At the time, Councillor Victoria Carter stated that research had found the Auckland fashion industry generated around \$100 million in export earnings and employed 1600 people directly. (ACC Council media release 21.02.2001)

With a budget of \$1.6 million and the council contributing \$40,000, the first ever New Zealand Fashion Week (NZFW) opened on 23 October 2001 with shows from many well-known New Zealand designers attended by over 200 buyers and 100 media representatives. For many years NZFW was an invitation only event for the fashion industry but was opened to the public in 2008. The relationship between NZFW and Auckland Council continues today, with the council providing free fashion-related activities and programmes that sit alongside the official Fashion Week events.



Zambesi autumn/winter 2020 collection at Auckland Central Library, 29 August 2019, Getty Images

Even the mayoral robes received a fashion makeover in 2006. A joint project between Auckland City Council and Auckland University of Technology saw Bachelor of Design student Michelle Boyes selected to design new mayoral robes for NZFW. The brief was to create a unique garment.

Michelle decided to keep the traditional robe design but created a more contemporary style using New Zealand materials. Woolyarns, a yarn manufacturer in Lower Hutt, custom produced a special blend of possum merino silk fabric for the robe. Even the colour was unique, specially created for the robe and named Mayoral Red. The materials were not only local but also eco-friendly with possum fur used to trim the robe. The robe was decorated with four panels featuring more than 6000 Swarovski crystals depicting Rangitoto, Sky Tower, Pōhutukawa and sails on the harbour. The panels were removeable so they could also be displayed separately from the robe. It was a project undertaken with great care and attention, Michelle Boyes estimated she had spent about 150 hours designing, knitting, sewing, and hand-stitching the new robes.



Designer Michelle Boyes with Mayor Dick Hubbard modelling the new robes
Auckland City Council media release, 18 September 2006

Auckland City Council's mayor, Dick Hubbard said the new robe was much lighter to wear than the traditional mayoral robe. In fact, he liked the new robes so much he wore them to a council meeting and said he intended to wear them again. Auckland Council Archives is responsible for caring for and storing the mayoral robes from our former councils. However, this designer robe that was created for Auckland City Council is not in our collection of council artefacts and its whereabouts is unknown. We would love to solve the mystery of what happened to this designer mayoral robe. If you think that you can help us, send an email to archives@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

We remember...

At the end of October, the country was informed that Dame Catherine Tizard had died at the age of 90.

Dame Cath had a life of public service and Auckland Council Archives preserves the memory of her time spent in local government through minute books, files, speech notes, newspaper clippings and photographs.

Catherine Tizard was elected to Auckland City Council in 1971 and was re-elected in 1974, 1977, and 1980. She was also elected to the Auckland Regional Authority in 1980.

During her time as councillor, Dame Cath was involved in some controversial issues including opposition to the 1981 Springbok tour, and an attempt to ban Hare Krishna from performing chants on Queen Street. In the 1983 triennial local elections, she was elected to serve as Mayor of Auckland, the first woman to be elected to that position.

The archives document Dame Cath's leadership in the development of the Aotea Centre and Auckland's hosting of the 1990 Commonwealth Games. She resigned in 1990 on her appointment as the first female Governor-General of New Zealand.

Thank you for your service to local government and we will preserve your memory.

Catherine Anne Tizard ONZ, GCMG, GCVO, DBE, QSO, DStJ. 4 April 1931 to 31 October 2021.



Mayor Catherine Tizard
[Auckland Council Archives, AKC 2002 063]



Ground-breaking ceremony for Aotea Centre with Mayor Tizard driving the digger, 5 August 1985
[Auckland City Council Photographic Department, Auckland Council Archives, ACC 497/3bs]

Summer Holidays

Auckland Council Archives will be closing for the summer holidays from 24 December 2021 until 10 January 2022. All of the team will be taking a break over summer.

Although we officially return to work on Monday 10 January, we will still be working from home that week. From 17 January, Auckland Council staff expect return to our corporate buildings with limited occupancy relevant to the traffic light status at that time. At the time of writing, we have received no official word on when the Archives will be re-opening to the public. We recommend that you contact us before planning a visit to the Archives.

The Archives team would like to wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.



Mount Roskill municipal chambers at Christmas, 1965, Sparrow Industrial Pictures Ltd
[Mount Roskill Borough Council photographs, Auckland Council Archives, MRB 027/2an]

Find out more

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