



# Ponsonby Croquet Clubs



- ① PP Auckland Star 8/10/1883 Ground for the Ponsonby Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club is being prepared on an acre of ground with frontage to the main road (Jervois)
- ② PP Observer 15/12/1906 ... recently formed Ponsonby Croquet Club .... on high ground in Seymour St
- PP Observer 20/11/1909 Ponsonby Croquet lawns at Seymour St

[https://maps.google.com/?t=m&ie=UTF8&ll=-36.84513,174.74076&spn=0.020915,0.042272&z=15&vpsrc=0&ei=AINnUri\\_CM3WkgXngOHACA&pw=2](https://maps.google.com/?t=m&ie=UTF8&ll=-36.84513,174.74076&spn=0.020915,0.042272&z=15&vpsrc=0&ei=AINnUri_CM3WkgXngOHACA&pw=2)

- ④ PP Observer 8/11/1919 Club able to acquire large grounds vacated by the West End Tennis Club in Green St

- ⑤ Urban Village (pub 2008) Victoria Park . . . .  
croquet lawn added 1930
- ⑥ Auckland City Archives (2013) Microfiche  
shows two croquet lawns where (present)  
West End Tennis Club courts are now located  
May not have proceeded
- ③ PP Observer 31/12/1910 . . . a good site  
on the top of Curran - street  
. . . decided to call the club the West End . . .
- ⑤ PP Herald 30/3/1929 The Council agreed to  
lease three croquet lawns in Victoria Park to  
the Pongsonby Croquet Club, at a rental of  
£125 a year.
- ⑦ Site of former Pongsonby Bowling Club



The long-talked of new club at Ponsonby took tangible shape on Wednesday last at Ponsonby Hall. A goodly sprinkling of bowlers hied themselves hitherward, and, headed by J. Court, discussed the matter, and eventually decided to call the club the **West End**, the colours to be the same as Te Aroha, viz., black and white, only with the addition of a silver fern leaf. The first president is Mr J. Court, well known as a sports of the first water. Vic. Langsford is the secretary. A good committee have been sworn in, and

<http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast?a=d&cl=search&d=TO19101231.2.43&srpos=139&e=-----10--1...>

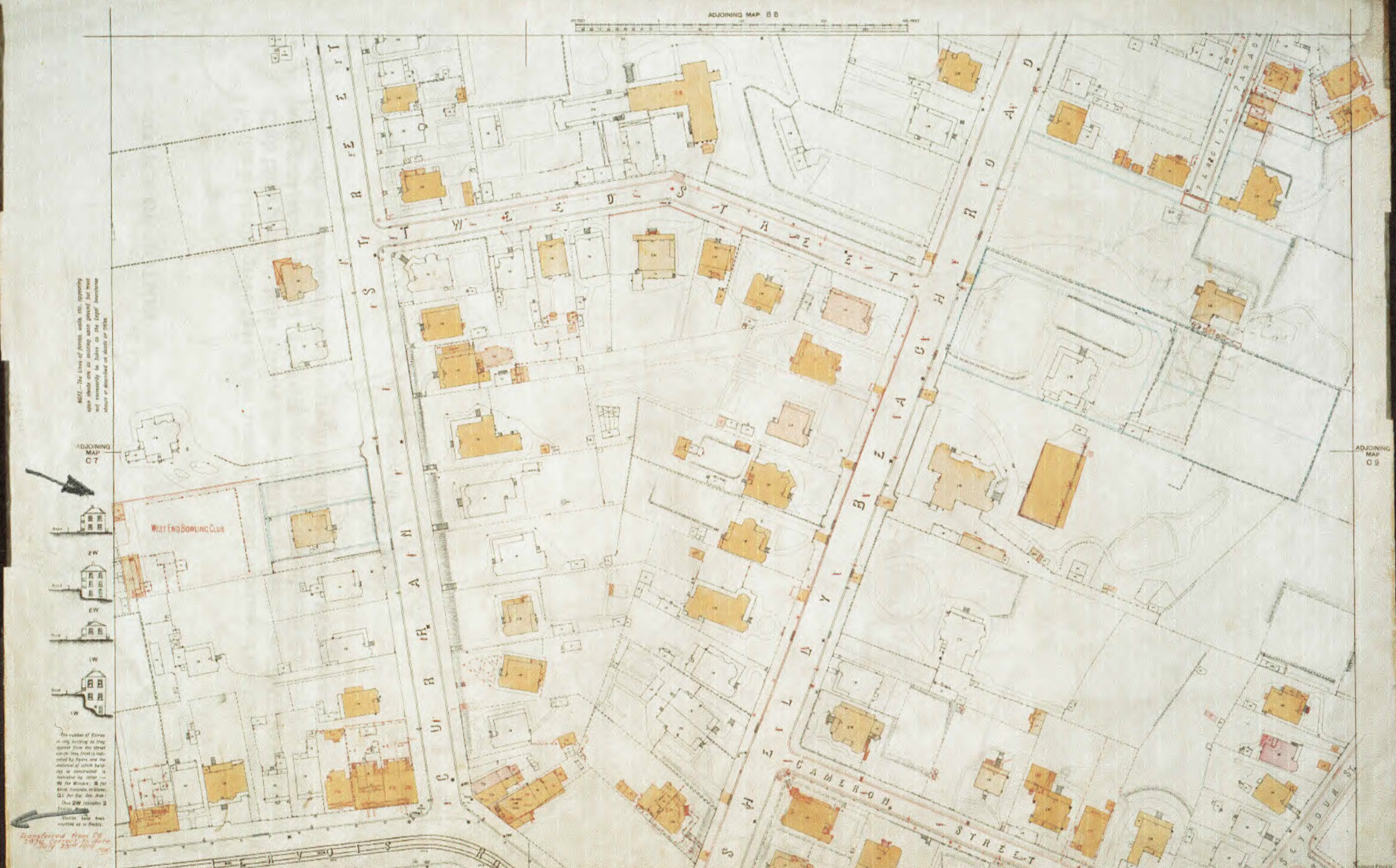
a good site on the top of **Curran-street**, snugly away from biting winds, has been secured, and **croquet** is to be added to keep the selfish element out of the club. The prospects are rosy in the extreme. We wish the baby club a successful career. Jim Massey, good natured soul that he is, gave a beautiful water roller as a donation to the West Enders. Other generous offers are likely to follow, from what I hear.

A little error crept in to the personnel of the Grey Lynn team, skipped by N. Bell. The leader is



Current Pensionary B.C. West End Bowling Club

Map C8 23/7/1919



**A**  
**2970**

**THIS SHEET**  
**SPECIALY RESERVED**

**SCALE - 40 Feet to an Inch.**  
**C8.**

**ADJOINING MAP C7**  
**ADJOINING MAP D8**

**STREETS, FOOTPATHS, ETC.**  
Main Street, Cameron Street, etc.

**LEGEND**  
Buildings, Roads, etc.

**POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICE**  
Location of the Post Office.

**ELECTRICITY DEPT.**  
Location of the Electricity Department.

**SEWERS**  
Location of the Sewers.

**WATER**  
Location of the Water Supply.

**AGENCY**  
AGC  
C8





West End CC  
from West End BC  
Curran St  
Ponsonby





One of the most successful functions in connection with the Croquet Clubs in Auckland was held on Saturday afternoon, when the official opening of the Ponsonby Croquet Club took place.

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This club, which started in a very small way some years ago, has now, through the energy and co-operation of its officers and members, grown to be one of the largest clubs of its kind in the Association. Some four months ago the club was fortunately able to acquire the large grounds vacated by the West End Tennis Club, situated in Green Street, and the lady members, assisted by some of their male friends, through hard work, succeeded in getting the lawns into playing condition second to none in Auckland.

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The grass was beautifully green after the morning's rain, and a plentiful supply of flags added colour to the scene, while a large banner inscribed with the words "Welcome" occupied a conspicuous place. The bountiful and dainty afternoon tea was served in the pavilion, on a table beautifully decorated with the club's colours (heliotrope and gold) done with Argentine sweet pea and daisies arranged in handsome silver epergnes and vases.

Mr. Adeane's Orchestra rendered popular music all afternoon and greatly added to the enjoyment of everyone. Representatives from all the sister clubs were present and there was also a large gathering of enthusiastic lady visitors, all of whom were received and warmly welcomed by the President of the Club (Mrs. H. Wetherilt), who, after a short and interesting address by Mr. A. Coutts, rolled the first ball across the lawn, and was loudly cheered. Judging by the opening day of the new lawns, the Ponsonby Club is assured of a very successful season.

Among the ladies present were:— Mrs. H. Wetherilt (president), wearing a black and white cheque dress, black and white striped sports coat, and a black velvet hat. Mrs. E. Oswald (secretary), was in a navy blue costume with which she wore a cerise hat. Mrs. W. Arey (treasurer), came in a mole gabardine costume and a blue silk hat. Mrs. A. Coutts, costume of fawn summer tweed, hat to match. Mrs. R. Gardner, navy blue coat frock, with white vest and collar, white velour







## CROQUET CLUB OPENING.

The Ponsonby Croquet Club held its opening function last Saturday afternoon, when there was a large gathering of members and friends. This club, which started in a very small way some years ago, has now, through the energy and co-operation of its officers and members, grown to be one of the largest clubs of its kind in the association. Some four months ago the club was fortunately able to acquire the large grounds vacated by the West End Tennis Club, situated in Green Street, and the lady members, assisted by some of their male friends, through hard work, succeeded in getting the lawns into playing condition second to none in Auckland. The president of the club (Mrs. H. Wetherilt) welcomed the visitors, and after a short and interesting address by Mr. A. Coutts, rolled the first ball across the lawn, and was loudly cheered. The grass was beautifully green after the morning's rain, and a plentiful supply of flags added colour to the scene, while a large banner inscribed with the words "Welcome" occupied a conspicuous place. The bountiful and dainty afternoon tea was served in the pavilion on a large table beautifully decorated with the club's colours, heliotrope and gold, done with Argentine sweet pea and daisies arranged in handsome silver epergnes and vases.

Mr. Adeane's orchestra rendered popular music all afternoon, and greatly added to the enjoyment of everyone. Representatives from all the sister clubs were present, and there was also a large gathering of enthusiastic lady visitors.

Amongst those present were: Mrs. H. Wetherilt (president), Mrs. E. Oswald (secretary), Mrs. W. Arey (treasurer), Mesdames A. Coutts, R. Gamble (Wellington), Hugh Wright, J. H. Hardley, Gardner, Hilton, Moses, J. E. Falconer, Schischka, Gallagher, jun., H. Weaver (Whangarei), A. Wetherilt, and the Misses Arey, S. Arey, C. Bray, M. Arey, Edwards, R. Edwards, and A. Brown.

Past | CROQUET. (New Zealand Herald, 1921-05-19)

## CROQUET

### THE PONSONBY CLUB.

The annual meeting of the Ponsonby Croquet Club was attended by a large number of members. The report stated the club had acquired a lease of a large portion of the vacant land adjoining the bishop's house, Ponsonby. A considerable amount had been spent in laying down and equipping six full-sized lawns and in purchasing croquet material, specified by the Auckland Croquet Association. Considerable improvements were projected in connection with the incoming season with a view to bringing the lawns up to tournament standard. The prize winners for the season just closed were:—Champion: Mrs. Hilton; runner-up, Mrs. Searle. Champion doubles: Mesdames W. E. Arey and A. Coutts. Handicap singles: Mrs. W. E. Arey. Handicap doubles: Mesdames Searle and Chapman. Junior championship: Mrs. Chapman; runner-up, Mrs. Green. The club was well represented at the Auckland Croquet Association annual tournament. Mesdames Arey and Coutts were runners-up for the handicap doubles, and Mrs. Arey runner-up for the championship singles. The following officers were elected:—President, Mrs. A. Snedden; vice-president, Mesdames Wetherilt, Adams, and Burton; secretary, Mrs. Hilton; treasurer and green superintendent, Mrs. W. E. Arey; committee, Mesdames Coutts, Arey, Oswald, Moore, and Weaver; auditor, Mr. H. Cook; match committee, Mesdames Coutts, Arey, Oswald, Moore, and Weaver; delegates to the Auckland Association, Mesdames Snedden, Oswald, and Arey.



Map D9 19 Sept 1919



**A**  
**2970**

**THIS SHEET**  
**SPECIALY RESERVED**

**SCALE** - 40 Feet to an Inch. **D9.**

Map this North and South.  
In this is the letter design for various and  
particular details shown on sheets  
connected to December, 1918.

*Robert Smith*  
Surveying Licensed Surveyor

**2970/29** **014**

**STREETS, FOOTPATHS, Etc.**

Yellow - Main Road  
Red - Minor Road  
Blue - Footpath  
Green - Railway  
Black - Canal  
White - Water

**POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPT.**

Post Office  
Telegraph Office  
Post Office and Telegraph Office  
Post Office and Telegraph Office

**ELECTRICITY DEPT.**

Electricity  
Gas  
Water

**WATER**

Water  
Gas  
Electricity







## Bowling at Ponsbury

- over 100 years 1893 - 1993 :  
Terrence J Sharkey 1993

..... Also at the 1897-98 opening the Club announced its intention of providing tennis courts and croquet lawns for the use of wives and daughters of members. The lawns located on "the top green", were expected to be ready by the end of October. Three years prior to its inaugural opening, the Club decided to retain the existing tennis courts opting for lawn in preference to asphalt.

..... In the early spring of 1903, Club members began to baulk too at the croquet players using the ground to the front of the pavilion. The Club was informed that the cost of maintaining the croquet lawn during the winter was not more than £ 7.5.0 borne of course, by the bowling club. The lawn (not of croquet regulation size) was described as small, with the remainder of the ground now occupied by the new pavilion. Views differed over croquet's use of the lawn and the President issued a statement "wishing it to be distinctly understood that the small croquet lawn would not be available for croquet on special occasions". On special occasions the area was needed to accommodate the Club's large attendance of visitors.

The committee took a more lenient view, "believing it necessary that there should be someone in control of croquet" but members were strong in their objection to the formation of a formal croquet club. Sympathisers with the women rallied to their side, preparing to support a croquet club with a lady



president and committee, both to be under the supervision of the bowling club. The objectors were overruled, relenting to the point of agreeing to a set of rules being drawn up to control croquet, that were subsequently posted in the tea-room of the pavilion.

Despite the wavering over croquet, at the opening of the 1903-04 season the president, J. Kirker, in his opening speech declared "two splendid croquet lawns have been laid out in front of the pavilion. With these improvements, and two serviceable summer house built between seasons, the Club have a thoroughly up-to-date bowling green with facilities second to none in Auckland." Croquet had gained a firmer foothold and appeared set at Ponsonby for years to come.

..... With the planned pavilion in hand by mid 1906 Ponsonby Bowling Club was encouraged to provide facilities for a women's bowling and croquet club combine. An expanded croquet green would allow larger gatherings and be capable of sustaining an ancillary sporting group. During the year the Club had considered an alternative proposal that women be permitted to play bowls only, but the men split over both ideas and turned down a separate women's bowling group within their midst, leading at a later date, to the establishment of a bowling club solely for women elsewhere in the district. Croquet survived 1917-18 season at the end of which Ponsonby Bowling Club again discussed its continuing presence. The matter was brought to a head by the green superintendant, A. G. Allen pointing to the difficulty of preparing the main greens for the



coming season when still being used for winter play thus forfeiting any advantage the new area provided for such purpose. The ensuing debate has been recorded as "considerable" but the valiant effort of some of the bowlers to save the croquet club from extinction was of no avail and on 11 March 1918 Ponsonby Bowling Club in an extraordinary turnaround regretfully authorised the demise of croquet from Ponsonby bowling green for ever. The croquet equipment was subsequently disposed of by the president.

Ponsonby B.C. croquet section  
1897 - 1918

LAWN TENNIS. (New Zealand Herald, 1892.)

#### PONSONBY.

The grounds of the Ponsonby, or West End L.T.C. are situated at the junction of Jervois and Sentinel Roads, being prettily situated and well laid out. For several reasons this club has not been so successful as might have been expected; but the coming season gives promise of better things. The lawns are in really splendid condition, and the energetic secretary, Mr. J. Paterson, is sparing neither time nor trouble to ensure a successful and enjoyable season. It is to be hoped that the club will not be so self-contained as hitherto, and that its members will take part in the annual inter-club contests as arranged by the association. Saturday, November 5, has been fixed for the opening of the lawns.



The sixth annual meeting of the above Club took place in the Pavilion, Jervois Road, last evening. The attendance was good considering the state of the weather. Mr J. Court (President) occupied the chair.

The report and balance-sheet was read and adopted; the statement showed the Club to be in a better position than existed at this time last year. The presentation of prizes won during the season resulted as follows: Champion Singles (pair of silver mounted bowls), Mr A. Stewart; Club Pairs (gold medals presented by Messrs A. H. and H. W. Brookes), Messrs J. C. Robinson and C. Stichbury; Club Fours (Club's gold medals), Messrs McCutcheon, A. Sutherland, R. Tudehope, A. Stewart (skip); Handicap Singles (silver-mounted bowls presented by Mr Dyson while in England) Mr J. Court; second prize in same event (bowl case presented by Mr Blades), Mr R. Noonan. During the season a number of friendly contests took place with other clubs in which Ponsonby were very successful. The Club was also runners up for the Penant Flag for the second time in succession. A lawn tennis and croquet club was formed in connection with the club for the convenience of the ladies, and the season has been a very successful one. A gold brooch, the gift of Mr A. G. Bartlett, was competed for and, after a keen struggle, was won by Miss Rees. The secretary stated that he had a balance of £4 1s in trust for the purpose of improving the tennis ground for the coming season.

The election of officers resulted:—President, Mr Jas. Edmiston (unanimous); senior vice-president, Mr Jas. Kiker (unanimous); junior vice-president, Mr Jas. Stichbury (unanimous); hon. treasurer, Mr A. Hurdall (re-elected); hon. secretary, Mr J. Blades (re-elected); committee, Messrs J. Buchanan and H. W. Brookes (re-elected), R. Tudehope, J. Hutchison; green superintendent, Mr R. Ballantyne (re-elected); auditor, Mr J. Stewart (re-elected).

Mr Edmiston, the newly-elected president, then occupied the chair, and made a few appropriate remarks, after which he called on Mr McDonald, who, on behalf of the Club, presented Mr Ballantyne with a purse of sovereigns in recognition of his valuable services to the Club since its formation. Mr Ballantyne suitably replied. The following gentlemen were elected delegates to the Auckland Bowling Association:—Messrs J. Edmiston, A. S. Russell, D. B. McDonald and J. Blades. A vote of thanks to retiring officers and Chairman concluded the business.



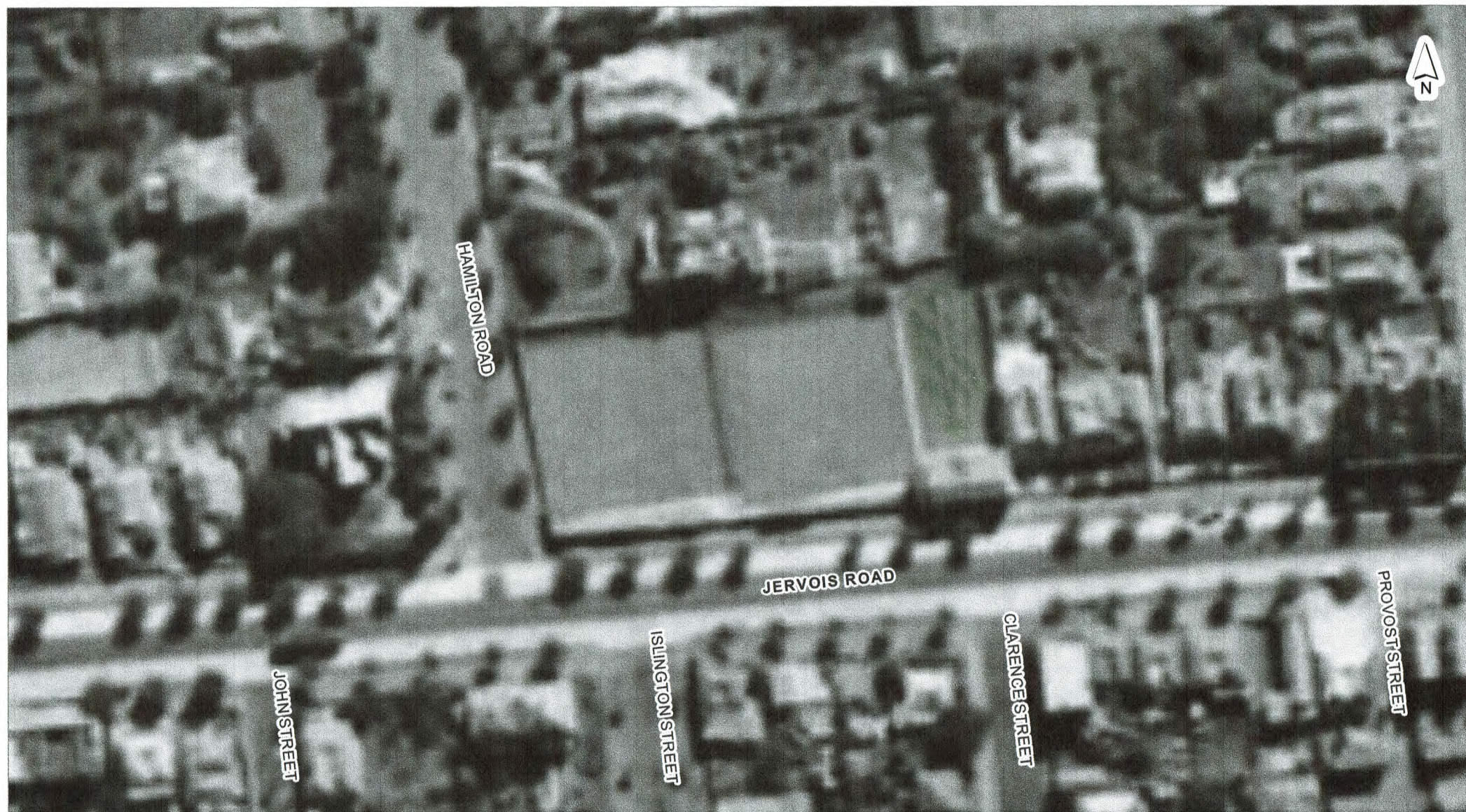


Opening Day Ponsonby B.C. 1909



'Top Green' Ponsonby B.C. 2011





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Ponsonby B & CC 1940

0 6.5 13 19.5  
Meters

Scale @ A4  
= 1:1,000

Date Printed:  
28/12/2016



Ponsonby West End? (may not have gone ahead)



Google earth

feet  
meters

200

90

4 July 2013 Auckland City Archives  
Viewed microfiche (undated) showing  
two croquet lawns off West End Rd.  
(Bayfield Park)





10/9/12 Paddy Flaherty 489 8142  
Knows nothing about croquet club



105 Jervois Rd, Ponsonby, Auckland 1011, New Zealand

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Cannot find a reference to this street  
(could it be D'Neill St which runs off Ponsonby Rd?)

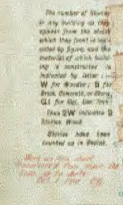
A large and almost level allotment at the corner of O'Connell street, Ponsonby, within the last few days has been denuded of gorse, and is now being transformed into a recreation ground for some private club. It will be divided into three parts, one being intended for lawn tennis, another for croquet, and a third for bowling purposes. The mention of these improvements at once suggests the reflection that Ponsonby, though the most populous suburb of the city, is about the only part of it that boasts no public recreation reserve. The city proper is well provided for in this respect, having the Albert Park, the Government House grounds, and numerous little triangular breathing places. Parnell and Grafton share equally in the 'advantages of the Domain, Karangahape has the Western Park, and also makes a promenade ground of the Cemetery, but Ponsonby is quite out in the cold. Unless the short-sightedness or want of public spirit with which its pioneers may be charged is remedied now, the chance may pass away for ever. Then, the residents of the West End will bemoan their hard fate in being shut out from the relaxations and enjoyment to be had in the city, where the people may do a pleasant afternoon's promenade while their ears are regaled with the concord of sweet sounds emanating from an effective brass band. Ponsonby, however, seems quite contented to dispense with all these pleasing amenities of urban life, but they will awake to a sense of their folly sooner or later. The burgesses should move the City Council to take some action in the matter before it is too late.



The recently formed Ponsonby Croquet Club opened their lawns very successfully and pleasantly on Saturday afternoon, when the members entertained a number of residents and representatives of other croquet clubs in and around Auckland. In the unavoidable absence of the Mayor, who is President of the club, Mr Murdoch McLean, Vice-President, declared the lawns open and wished the members much future success and enjoyment. The lawns are beautifully situated on high ground in Seymour-street, with a lovely view of the harbour, and Devonport, picturesque Rangitoto forming the background. The ladies who were instrumental in forming the club are entitled to much praise for the energy displayed in raising the funds for the formation of the lawns, and building a neat pavilion. To Mr







D8.

for all work is ordinary  
 wear. Not, as in 33-  
 available from all.

M. J. Harlan

AGENCY  
 ACC  
 DEMO  
 10





Seymour St,



## Ponsonby

"Urban Village" - Jenny Carlyon & Diana Morrow, 2008

### Victoria Park

Public sports and leisure facilities were gradually developed in 1905. Victoria Park was opened on 18 acres (7.3 hectares) of reclaimed land leased from the Auckland Harbour Board, and it soon became one of the most heavily used sports fields in Auckland. A pavilion was built in 1906, asphalt tennis courts were formed in 1909, a bowling green was constructed in 1918 and a croquet lawn was added in 1930. Ponsonby Cricket, Ponsonby Rugby League and Ponsonby Soccer all made their homes there.

Spectators flocked to the international, national and local matches played on the grounds. Although, according to a later "New Zealand Herald" article many club cricketers averred the Victoria Park wickets played quite differently when the tide was full.

Victoria Park became Auckland's key cricket ground.

When sports grounds in Newton and Grafton gullies were destroyed to make way for the motorway, Grafton United Cricket and City Newton Rugby League also set up home in Victoria Park. Today the bowling club is still there, but the tennis courts and croquet lawn have been replaced by a skate park and a petanque pitch.





## Victoria Park 1940

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**Auckland Council**  
Te Kaitiaki o Kaitiaki Māhara

Scale @ A4 1:1000





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## Victoria Park 2010

0 6.5 13 19.5  
 Meters

Scale @ A4  
 = 1:1,000

Date Printed:  
 28/12/2016





AMONG THOSE PRESENT AT THE PONSONBY CROQUET CLUB'S OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE SEASON ON SATURDAY



[BY MYRA.]

ON Friday afternoon, 14th inst., there was a large gathering of ladies at Victoria Park, the reason being the "At Home" given by the Mt. Hobson Croquet Club, the members of which have been using these lawns while waiting for the formation of their own on the Dilworth Estate, Mt. Hobson. Most of the other clubs were represented, and progressive croquet was played,





Papers Past

[Newspapers](#) > [New Zealand Herald](#) > [21 October 1929](#) > [Page 17](#) > This article

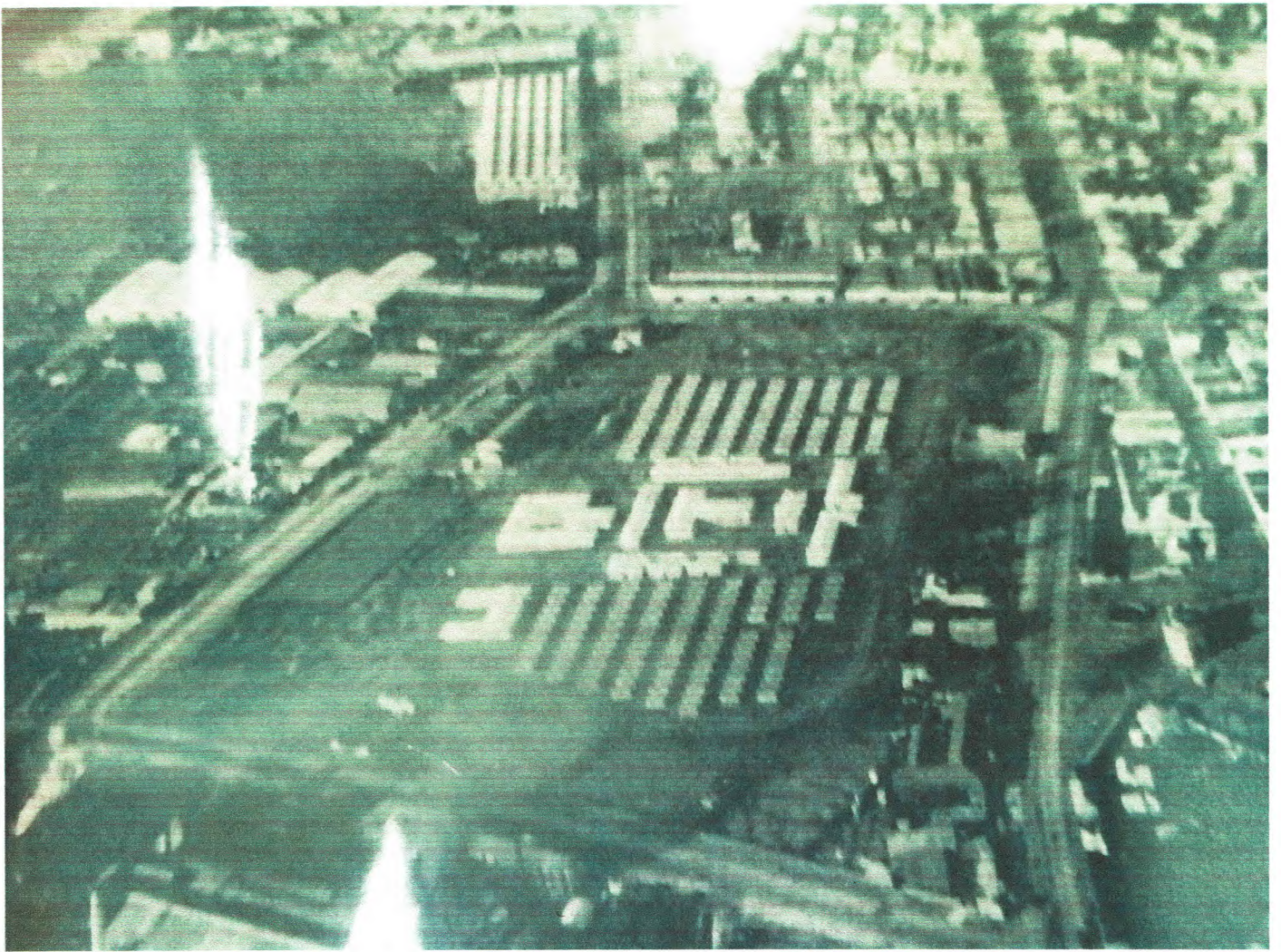
## PONSONBY CROQUET CLUB.

The Ponsonby Croquet Club was very fortunate in the weather for the opening of their new lawns in Victoria Park. The day was all that could be desired and the lawns were in excellent condition. The ceremony took place on Saturday afternoon, and there was a large number of members and friends present. Mrs. Gallaher, president, welcomed the gathering, and complimented the club on having obtained such beautiful lawns. Mr. A. J. Entrican, deputy-mayor, apologised for the unavoidable absence of the Mayor, Mr. Baildon, and Councillor Paterson, chairman of the Parks Committee. An apology was also received from the Mayoress, Mrs. Campbell. Mr. Entrican congratulated the club on their new lawns and declared them open for play. The president played the first ball. Miss Basten, a member of the Parks Committee, and Mr. T. Pearson, Parks Superintendent, were among those present. A delightful tea was provided by the president, Mrs. Gallaher, and vice-presidents, Miss Burton, Mrs. C. E. Hardley and Mrs. Torrance. The pavilion was very gay and pretty, having been decorated with the club's colours and bunting. Progressive croquet was played and a very happy afternoon spent. The prizes, which were donated by the president, were won by Mesdames Arey, Dukes, Smithers, Horsley, Hodge and Maxwell.

L WORKS (New Zealand Herald, 1934-03-28)

The Ponsonby Croquet Club asked that the rental of £100 a year paid for the use of the greens at Victoria Park should be reduced. The superintendent of parks reported that he did not consider a reduction in rent would be justified, in view of the fact that it was proposed to increase the rent of the Epsom Club from £50 to £75 and that of the St. Heliers Club from £50 to £100, while the rent to the United Club was to be maintained at £120. The request was declined. The St. Heliers Club wrote requesting that the decision to increase the rent be reconsidered, as it would be impossible for the club to carry on. It was decided that the rent should remain at £50 for one year, when it would be reviewed.





Victoria Park about 1944. Site of American Army Camp