

# REMUERA NEWS

from the  
**REMUERA COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**  
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## REMUERA'S HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Remuera, like most of the early Auckland suburbs, has an enchanting history. The breaking up of the land really began when the road was put through from town to connect with St. John's College. Some of the houses today have been built from the huge stables which were erected by the roadside.

Remuera has early associations with Captain Hobson, who on his first visit anchored in the bay and climbed the hill which is now named after him.

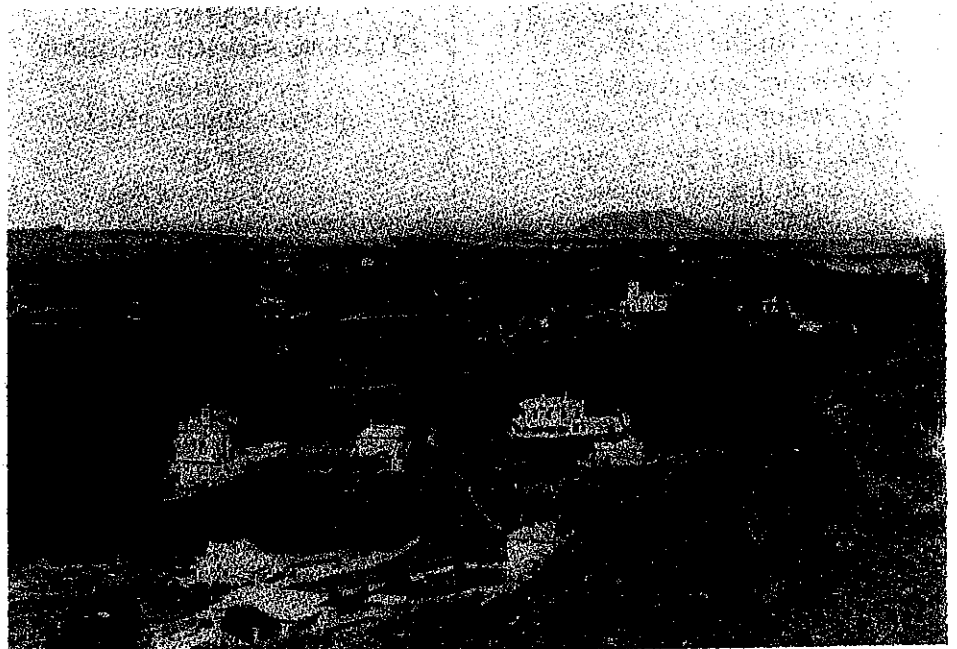
It was the scene of a Maori feast in 1844, when some 4000 Maoris from 17 different tribes were entertained by Waikato for a week. Hundreds of tons of potatoes, with pork and fish in proportion, were consumed by hosts and guests.

The Remuera block was not included in the first town purchase, and was subdivided in 1851. With its sheltered slopes and fine harbour views, the suburb became a favourite residence for many businessmen, solicitors and retired people. The original sections were large, providing grazing for a cow and horses, besides an orchard and garden. They were mainly on the harbour side of the road; on the other side stood St. Mark's Church and the Priory.

Stretching beyond the main road as far as Armadale Road was the Dilworth estate, which was leased to two dairy farmers, one on either side of Mt. Hobson.

The timber for some of the earliest houses was carried up from the beach on men's backs. They used a track through the teatree which is now Orakei Road. There was a single gas lamp at the corner of Orakei Road, and it was under this that the lads in the village would arrange to have their fights.

There are many charming stories told of 19th century Remuera life: of Judge Arney walking sedately up Arney Road every Sunday to St. Mark's, his manservant carrying his umbrella and walking respectfully behind; and of Fred Bishop, who lived at the foot of Orakei Road, and moored his whaleboat in Bishop's Creek. We read of the curate of St. Mark's who, after his marriage, carried his portmanteau and walked with his bride three miles to the town, where they crossed the harbour and started work forthwith in their new parish on the North Shore. There are tales of C.W. Young, the Collector of Customs, who used to shoot pheasants in the valley, and once shot the



**19th CENTURY REMUERA**

*When Remuera was a farming district, not included in the city boundary. Looking East towards Mt Wellington with Remuera Rd. in left foreground, Westbury Crescent in middle foreground leading to Portland Road.*

cap off the butcher's boy as he rode down by the hedge.

There were dances in the small hall, and there was a Shakespeare Society, to which members would come across the fields. Near Ladies Mile there was Miss Anstey's select school for young ladies, which had a large tree in front with a knot hole, into which young gentlemen would secretly place notes.

Children in the early days must have found

Remuera a pleasant place. Numerous frog ponds in the steep gullies were the delight of the very young, and Wilson's Beach provided some good swimming when the tide was in. There was boating on Lake St. John and Orakei Basin, and along the banks of Purewa Creek peaches grew almost wild.

The whole atmosphere of Remuera was very neighbourly, and life moved at a leisurely pace.

TATLER 16.7.62