



**Opening day,
Pukeoware, ca 1935.**

Crowd of players and spectators gathered on the opening day of the Pukeoware tennis and croquet clubs, ca 1935.

Creator: Unknown

Date: ca 1935

Location: Pukeoware

Medium: Black and white photograph , 15 x 20 cm (mounted on 23 x 30 cm frame)

South Auckland Research Centre, FRA: III, Footprints 04744.

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Pukeoware Tennis Club

The first tennis courts in Pukeoware were made by Mr. C. T. Barriball, on his property in Barriball Road. He put down two lawn tennis courts in front of his house in the early 1900s. There is in existence a programme dated 1907 and an invitation to a social dated 1909 for the Waitangi Tennis Club whose secretary at the time was E. M. Selby. These were the first lawn tennis courts in the district of Waiuku, although there is evidence that there were other courts beforehand. Later on tennis was played at Matuschka and James, and later still with a generous donation of land by Mr. James the Pukeoware Tennis, Croquet and Bowling Club came into being. These courts, opened in October 1935 and were adjacent to the hall. Croquet was also played at Mr. and Mrs. Parry's residence but the Bowling Club never really got started.

➤ The Croquet Club prospered for 14 years, then suddenly ended with the eventual handing over of its assets to the Tennis Club. At this stage the Tennis Club was very strong and won the Franklin "C" grade. The Schlaepfer-Moore shield for "B" grade was won in 1948. Later, in 1953, they also won the Reserve "A" competition. The members of this victorious team were: Harold Crosby, Tony Reynolds, George Rasmussen, Rex Dally, Connie Hendrie, Mollie Rowsell, Eda Rasmussen and Grace Woodward.

During the following years the club waned with a falling membership. High costs to maintain two courts and surroundings proved too much and the club went into recess in 1968 and has remained so, ever since. Since then most of the small clubs have closed, as again, with the advent of the motorcar, people have been able to travel further afield for their leisure.

It is interesting to note that the original subscription for players was: Gents: 10/-, Ladies: 7/6.

New Pukeoware Hall (looking south)
stands on site of the old croquet club



Pukeoware - carpark & hall area

