

March 2013

Press of "Mt Albert the First 100 years" by  
Christine Hayter, March 2013

Early Mt Albert croquet lawns included:  
Alberton, Kerr-Taylor family  
Ferndale, Gartick family, New North Rd.  
Greystone Knowe, Fowlds family, New N<sup>th</sup> Rd.

In 1911 the Mt Albert Bowling Club undertook to level ground for a croquet lawn (where the upper level rink at the Club is now) and by 1913 it was ready. While not excluding men from membership it was taken for granted they would not apply.

During 1924 the croquet club, under pressure from the bowling club, purchased land sufficient for four "half" lawns from Mr Gartick of Ferndale. A basic pavilion was built and the lawns officially opened in November 1925. In 1948 a further strip of land was purchased on the northern boundary.

In 1948 there were complaints that the greenkeeper was not lifting the hoops when he cut the lawns. "Too many worms" was the downfall of another greenkeeper.

Popularity was at a peak in the 1940's and 1950's; with membership reading 50 players. There are 38 members in 2013. Successful players include youngster Hamish McIntosh and ex player Sabri Mullaalin.



Mt Albert B.C  
"Upper lawn"  
Site of  
Mt Albert C.C.  
1913-1924  
(2010)



PRESIDENT'S DAY 1926



Mt Albert C.C.  
1925 - on  
Lloyd Ave

(taken 2010)

Mt Albert

Mt Albert B.C. 4/11/10

Confirmed CC used upper lawn. Existing club rooms built after they vacated in 1924

A.W. Page recorded as President B.C. 1915 - 17

Claimed bowls, tennis & croquet initially started at "Ferndale" - Garlick property in Lloyd Ave.

#### Mt. Albert Croquet Club

1999

Eighty six years ago in 1913, the Mt Albert Croquet Club was formed as part of the Mt Albert Bowling Club. Mr A.W. Page was President of the bowling Cclub and became the first President of the croquet club. This was before bowling clubs allowed women players and croquet provided something for the "lady wives" to do other than make morning and afternoon tea.

For the next eleven years the croquet players used the upper level of the bowling club in Allendale Road. In 1924 a new area for croquet was found behind "Ferndale" Mr Garlick's property in Lloyd Avenue.

Membership of the bowling club was increasing at the time and this made the move for the croquet players imperative. The move also encouraged a growth in croquet club membership. A full-scale campaign of fundraising and hard work followed and resulted in two level lawns

and a pavilion. The new premises were officially opened in November 1925. The Honorable Sir George Fowlds was the first of a succession of notable Patrons of the club, which grew along with the fledgling Mt Albert Borough. The club progressed from 24 founding members to its peak of nearly 50 members in 1950. Mr Garlick donated the land to the Club and in 1956 the transfer of the title deeds was completed. His generosity has given the club security of ownership of its property.

Players from Mt Albert have a fine record of achievement in both ACA and NZCC events. Today there is a good number of enthusiastic members. This assures that the club will continue to provide croquet now and in the years to come.

## GENTEEL MT ALBERT WALK →

### 14. 52 LLOYD AVENUE

This house was lived in by one of Mt Albert's mayors, Alfred Bennett, his wife, Clorinne, and their five children. It can be seen in the back left of the Croquet Club photograph.

15.



Presidents Day, 1926.

MT ALBERT CROQUET CLUB COLLECTION

### 15. MT ALBERT CROQUET CLUB

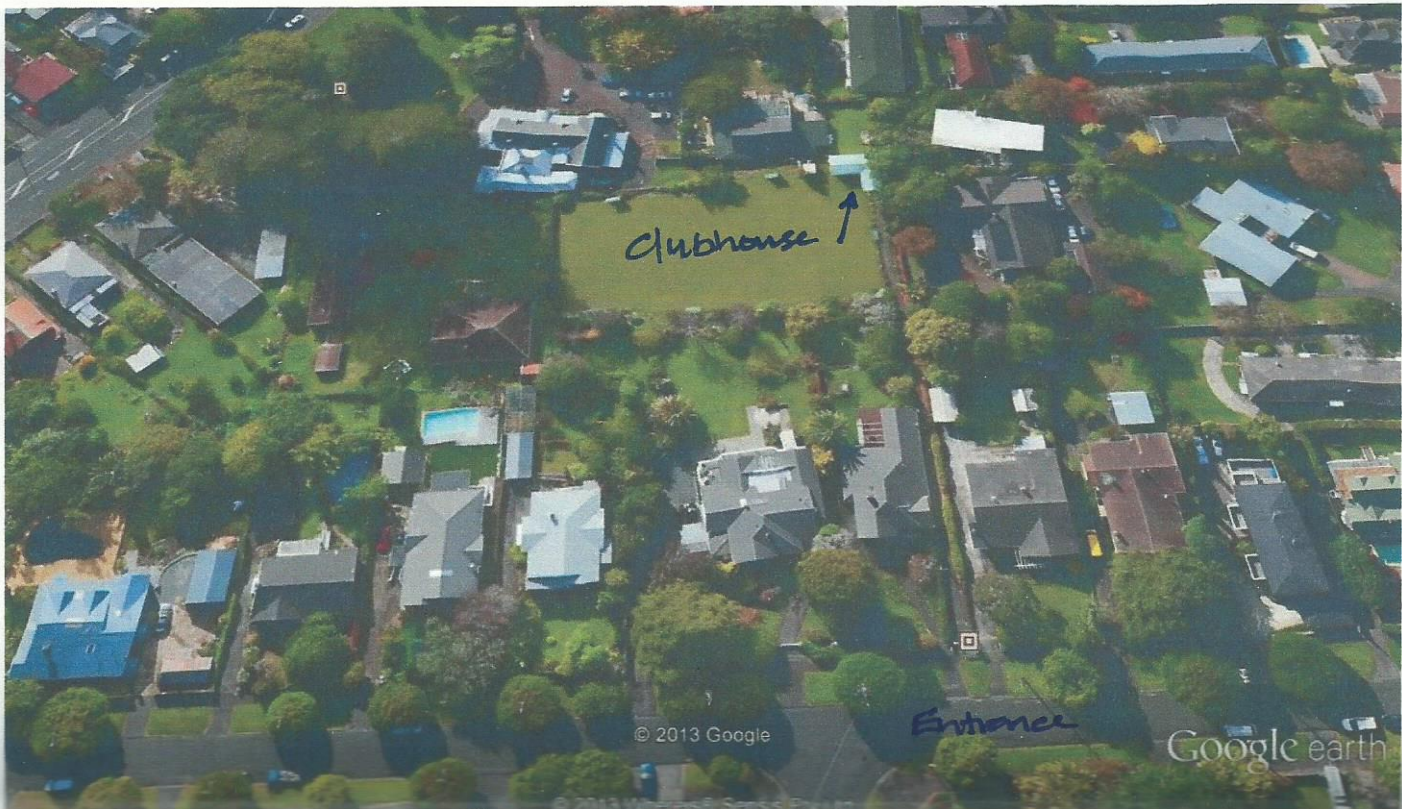
The Croquet Club originally used the lawns at the Bowling Club in Allendale Road but growth in membership meant that sharing the lawns became difficult. In 1921, the President of the Bowling Club suggested that the land offered by the Garlicks for the sum of £600 was 'very suitable' for new croquet lawns. An agreement was reached between Mrs Garlick and the Croquet Club. The ladies organised the levelling of the new lawns, removal of rocks and re-grassing. Drainage and water were attended to and the new Croquet Club opened here in 1925.

The Croquet Club contributed actively to local social life. Club Days were held every Wednesday and Saturday. There were 'At Home' days held when invitations were sent to 'sister' clubs, and also given to ladies that members chose to invite and to ladies generally residing in the district. Other events included card afternoons and evenings, jumble sales, 'gift or coin' afternoons, evening dances at local halls, inter-club Croquet days and an annual Spring Fair.

The Mt Albert Croquet Club is now privately owned but people are welcome to walk down the driveway to view the lawns and to watch any games being played.

### 16/17. 46 AND 48 LLOYD AVENUE

In 1918, Tonson Garlick built the large dark brown house seen in the middle of the Croquet Club photo. In the 1930s, the side portion was cut off and moved onto the subdivided section at number 48 thereby creating these two homes. The relationship between the houses can be seen in the low hanging shingled awnings, partly obscuring the fanlights, on both buildings.



Clubhouse

Entrance

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Mount Albert