CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH
NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND CENTENNIAL
1840 - 1940

Abberley Park
St. Albans, Christchurch.

Official Souvenir Programme

SATURDAY, 17TH FEBRUARY, 1940.
### Members of the Council, 1938-1941

**Mayor:**
R. M. Macfarlane, M.P., J.P.

**Councillors:**
- Sir H. T. D. Acland, Kt., C.M.G., C.B.E.
- E. H. Andrews, J.P.
- J. S. Barnett, J.P.
- J. W. Beanland, J.P.
- J. D. Carey
- H. E. Denton
- Miss M. B. Howard, J.P.
- J. E. Jones, J.P.
- M. E. Lyons, J.P.
- G. Manning
- T. Milliken
- T. Nuttall, J.P.
- E. Parlane, J.P.
- A. C. Sandston
- E. A. Sharp
- F. G. Thomas
- J. S. Neville, Town Clerk.

**Members of Reserves Committee:**
- Councillor M. B. Howard (Chairman)
- H. T. D. Acland
- J. D. Carey
- J. E. Jones
- E. Parlane
- A. C. Sandston
- F. G. Thomas
HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR,
Mr. R. M. Macfarlane, M.P.

Mr. J. S. NEVILLE, O.B.E.,
Town Clerk.
In the year 1852 the Canterbury Association sold to Joseph Northland Cottrell of Sumner a block of land of 50 acres included in which was that property now known as Abberley. Some 14 months later the land was disposed of to George Gould of Christchurch; ten years later on the 17th August, 1863, George Gould sold to Thomas James Maling that portion of 4½ acres which now comprises the park.

Mr. Maling built the first residence thereon, cultivated the grounds which he laid out and planted. The property he named “Abberley” after the place of that name in Worcestershire, England, so that it may be said that the history of Abberley commenced from that date.

On the 19th July, 1878, the property was disposed of to Frederick William Delamain, who five years later transferred it to Edward Hatfield Brown of Mt. Thomas, and Henry Samuel Brown of Christchurch. There was a change of ownership a few months later, and on the 10th August, 1883, Thomas William Maude of Christchurch and Henry Samuel Brown became the owners. They then leased the property to John Thomas Brown for “42 years if the lessee shall so long live.”

The lease was determined on the 6th August, 1896, when the property was transferred to Mrs. Martha Allen of Christchurch.

The next change of ownership was on the 27th November, 1905, when the late John Hobbs Kirk acquired the property, residing thereat until the date of his death on the 12th September, 1938.
Some months later, the land known as Abberley, of 4 acres 2 roods 37.4 perches, was offered to the Christchurch City Council by the trustees as a suitable area for a park. After being favourably considered and recommended by the Reserves Committee, of which Councillor M. B. Howard was Chairman, negotiations were entered into between the Finance Committee (Councillor G. Manning being Chairman) and the trustees. Finally the Christchurch City Council agreed to purchase for the sum of £4,250, £250 to be paid at the date of possession and the balance to be paid in sums of not less than £400 per annum over a period of ten years, the unpaid portion to bear interest at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE GROUNDS FOR A PUBLIC PARK AND RECREATION PURPOSES.

The Council took possession on the 21st April, 1839, and the work of converting it into a suitable public park and public playground was immediately commenced. In redesigning the grounds every endeavour was made to retain, insofar as it was possible to do so, the original simple design brought into being by the past owners.

The rose garden was retained, being only slightly altered to conform to public use. Only those trees and shrubs which were in a decayed or dangerous state were removed, every effort being made to preserve all trees growing on the property, some of which no doubt were planted in 1863 when gardens were first laid out. The kitchen garden and orchards were removed and the areas occupied by them sown down in lawn and planted with ornamental trees and shrubs.
The pathways were extended and added to where considered necessary. There are now four entrances to the park, two from Abberley Crescent, one from Ranfurly Street, and one from Kinley’s Lane.

During the progress of this work, 712 trees and shrubs, 5,126 herbaceous and bulbous plants, and over 6,000 annuals were planted out.

CHILDREN’S PLAYGROUND.

That area at the eastern end of the property, originally the horse paddock, was cultivated and sown down in lawn grass to provide a children's sports ground and playground. It is hoped that at a later date it will be possible to provide equipment and furnishings of the latest design so that the children may enjoy healthy outdoor recreation to the utmost.

BUILDINGS.

After careful consideration the Council decided to dismantle and remove the residence, retaining one room which was later converted into a pavilion and play house. This portion was repaired, altered, and renovated, and now has a floor space of 38ft. x 18ft., with a small kitchenette attached.

It may be of interest to note that the original building erected by the late Mr. Thomas Maling in 1863 was mainly constructed of Baltic deal imported from Great Britain. Although the flooring had worn considerably, this timber was still in a sound condition when dismantled.

TREES.

Amongst the more noteworthy trees on the property are four magnificent lime trees growing on the northern lawn and a well grown English elm close to where the old residence stood.

THE LATE Mr. J. H. KIRK,

Last owner of "Abberley" prior to purchase by Christchurch City Council.
PROGRAMME.

3 p.m. Speeches

COUNCILLOR M. B. HOWARD, J.P.,
Chairman Reserves Committee.

M. J. BARNETT,
Superintendent of Parks and Reserves.

3.15 p.m. Unveiling Commemorative Tablet and Official Opening by

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR,
R. M. Macfarlane, Esq., M.P.

3.30 p.m. Inspection of Grounds.

Display of Folk Dancing on north lawn by
the Christchurch Country Dance Club.

4 p.m. Afternoon Tea for Guests in Summer House.

The following is a list of some of the older trees now well established.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Botanical Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acacia melanoxylon</td>
<td>Australian Blackwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acer platanoides</td>
<td>Norway Maple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acer saccharinum</td>
<td>Sugar Maple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ailanthus glandulosa</td>
<td>Tree of Heaven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arbutus unedo</td>
<td>Strawberry Tree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azara microphylla</td>
<td>Vanilla Tree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betula alba</td>
<td>Silver Birch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedrus Deodara</td>
<td>Deodar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cryptomeria japonica</td>
<td>Japanese Cedar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilex aquifolia</td>
<td>Holly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juglans regia</td>
<td>Walnut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalmia latifolia</td>
<td>Calico Bush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnolia grandiflora</td>
<td>Large flowered magnolia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nothofagus Solandri</td>
<td>N.Z. Black Beech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Podocarpus Totara</td>
<td>N.Z. Totara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quercus pedunculata</td>
<td>English Oak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quercus coccinea</td>
<td>American Red Oak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxus baccata</td>
<td>English Yew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thuya plicata</td>
<td>American Arbor-Vitae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tilia vulgaris</td>
<td>European Lime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulmus campestris</td>
<td>English Elm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mr. M. J. BARNETT,
Superintendent of Parks and Reserves.