

Kingsland History and Timeline

1730

Owairaka (Mt Albert) was a hill pa of some 1500 population

1820

Samuel Marsden climbed Owairaka (Mt Albert)

1840

Governor Hobson bought 3000 acres from the coast to Mt Eden

1840

In the late 1840's the city end of Mt Albert – Eden Terrace, Kingsland and Morningside - was a wilderness of scrub, scoria and swamp. The rough track that would out of Queen Street gully to the top of Khyber Pass and the junction with Mt Eden Road continued, as the Whau Road, down the Eden Terrace incline, through what was to become Kingsland, all the way to the Whau (the Avondale district).



At today's Kingsland a track branched off and led through swamps and tracts of rough land out to the Wesleyan Mission School at Three Kings, (est 1847).

This was known as Cabbage Tree Swamp Road, passing as it did through a cabbage tree swamp.

In some places, particularly near present-day Eden Park, the thoroughfare was a narrow raised stone and earth causeway.

Today the swamp has become Gribblehirst Park.

1841

George Clarke, protector of the Aborigines, purchased a further 13,000 acres, including the whole of Mt Albert from the chiefs and men of the Ngatiwatua tribe for the equivalent of about 4d an acre.

1842

Mt Albert land advertised for public sale – auction 13 blocks, mostly of 20 acres for small farms

1844

Thomas Cassidy bought 11 acres near the Dominion Road – New North Road intersection

1845

Robert Hunt bought 60 acres near the present-day 'Ferndale'.

1846

Glenmore Lodge built at 289 New North Road

1847

Governor Grey reported that the land within a 7 mile radius of Auckland, including Mt Albert, had been disposed of (not including 1000 acres of volcanic cones).

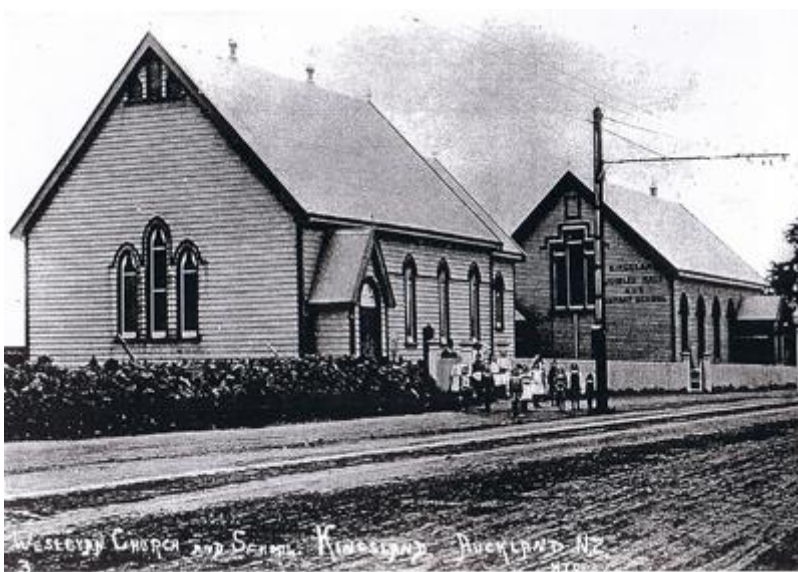
1847

In 1847 Cornishman John Walters, who in 1845 had come to manage the ill-fated Kauwau Island Copper Mine, bought a block of land of 52 acres where Eden Park now stands. It was described as being stone strewn, swampy and prone to becoming a navigable lake in winter.

1850

1853

The Auckland Provincial Council electoral roll shows 4 labourers, 14 farmers, a milkman and two jailers who gave their address as Mt Albert or Cabbage Tree Swamp. The total population was about 200.

**1853**

The first church in the area was built. The Wesleyan chapel was a small, rough stone building near the present Methodist Church .

It was replaced 5 years later by a timber building. The chapel was also known as Cabbage Tree Swamp School .

1854

Fifteen Mt Albert settlers petitioned for road development and improvement.

1860**1862**

The Gazette listed 17 property owners along Cabbage Tree Swamp Road who were prepared to be specially rated to have their road improved.

1865

A 30 acre block of land owned by Allan Kerr Taylor called 'Morningside', was auctioned. 96 of 120 sections sold, thus forming the village of Morningside. The subdivision was advertised, being described as approached from the city by a 'good paved road, scoria dressed'.

1866

With the Turnpikes Act three toll gates were set up in the west due to increased pressure from a growing population for better roads. One of these was at the approach to Mt Albert at the New North Road – Mt Eden Road junction.

Feb 13 1866

A meeting of Mt Albert settlers at 'Allendale,' interested in the formation and maintenance of New North Road, decided that a board should be formed and that the district should extend from Mt Eden Road to the Great North Road junction.

Oct 1866

Mt Albert was declared a highway district.

1867

First rates struck (for roads).

1870**1871**

The Auckland to Hellensville railway line was surveyed through the district.

1874

The school role was 103 pupils

1877

The Highway Board successfully petitioned to rename Cabbage Tree Swamp Road to Kingsland Road.

Despite acceptance of 'Kingsland' as the name for the area and village, by about 1880 there seems to have been an alternative name - 'Rocky Nook' – loosely applied to the city end of the Mt Albert District. The name appears in newspapers and other documents. Council records show that there was a proposal in the late 1890's to erect a gas lamp at 'Rocky Nook', and in 1903 when the Christmas Eve tram disaster occurred it was described as being 'near the Rocky Nook Tennis Club on the New North Road'. References to this elusive place persisted but the name never gained official recognition, despite a misconception today that Kingsland used to be called Rocky Nook.



1880

The Kingsland Post Office was opened in Page's Store. A horse-drawn bus service began on New North Rd

Mar 29 1880

The railway from Auckland to Avondale and Glen Eden opened with stations at Mt Eden, Kingsland, Morningside, Mt Albert, Avondale, New Lynn and Glen Eden



Oct 27 1880

The first public hall opened (near the Morningside telephone exchange)

1882

John McElwain's farm below New North Road was subdivided, with 444 allotments at 25% cash and the balance at 7%

John McElwain came to New Zealand in 1848 and after spending two years in government service and two years in a merchant's office he bought (in 1852) fifty-five acres at Kingsland which he farmed, with an adjoining sixty acres given to him by his brother George McElwain. George was the first governor of the Mount Eden prison whose stone 'Glenmore Lodge' stood near the junction of New North and Dominion Roads.

The hill New North Road ascends westward from Kingsland was known as McElwain's Hill and his farm lay on the north-facing slope of the Newton gully that contains today's motorway.

1883

The Highway Board was changed to a Road Board. Engineers were consulted to report on work to be done on the New North Road, from end to end. Works were estimated to cost 655 pounds 14 shillings

**1885**

AW Page's Family Grocer was established at the corner of Kingsland Road and New North Road

1885

AW Page was elected to the Road Board and was appointed supervisor of New North Roadworks. He suggested that the government subsidy for the year be spent on a mile of Kingsland footpaths near his stores. His appointment was short-lived.

1886

A toll-bar at Kingsland Road (now Elendale Road) and New North Road intersection was introduced but abandoned a year later due to public pressure.

1890**1896**

John Bouskill reported that Third Avenue was in such a state that many residents could not reach their homes, (14 years after subdivision).

1897

The Kingsland Methodist Church was opened.

1897

Brigdens & Company shoe manufacturers began operations in Kingsland.

1898

Mrs Battely, wife of a well-known local, was killed by a train at the level crossing in Kingsland Road, highlighting the need for a pedestrian overbridge.

Dec 1899

The Road Board considered a letter from the Auckland Tramway Company proposing to bring electric trains into the district



1901

A major drainage and water supply scheme was initiated.

Around 1901, 1902 local cricketers played and practiced on a piece of land they rented, near the western part of today's park. In 1903 they formed the Eden District Cricket Club. A successful club, they decided to buy 15 acres to form Eden park. This land at the edge of the swampy ground was part of John Walter's farm and also included land belonging to Mr Leith. Fieldstone had been used to build stone walls to divide paddocks and in winter these often flooded dramatically. The land was gradually developed and a pavilion built.

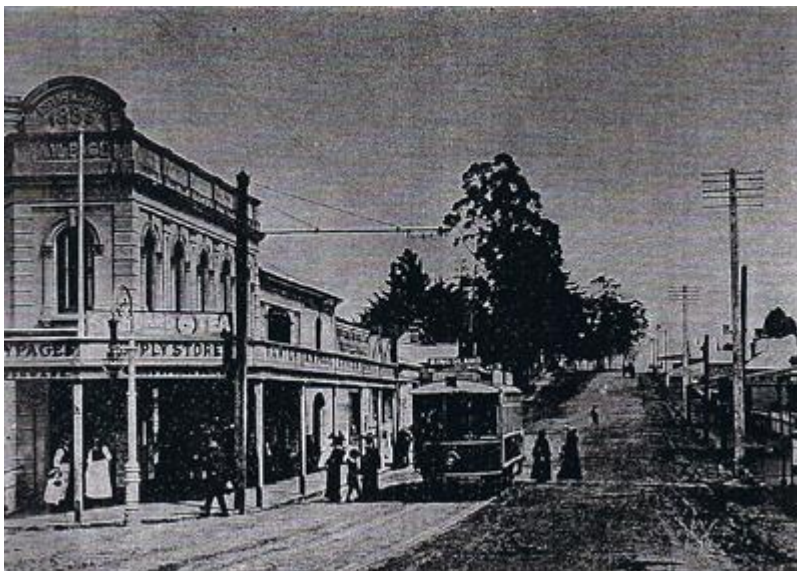
Flooding continued to be a problem – 1907 was a particularly bad year – and by 1909 the club gave up and moved to Mt Roskill. They sold the park to the Auckland Cricket Association, who further drained and improved the grounds.

In 1924 the Cricket Association merged with the Auckland Rugby Union, and in 1953 a trust board was formed to administer the grounds for cricket and rugby.

For sports fans Eden Park has over the years provided many sporting highlights. The 1950 British Empire Games were held there and every tram in Auckland's fleet was used to ferry 58,000 spectators to and from the park. A loop line right into the car park off Sandringham Road – then Kingsland Road, was laid in 1925.

**1903**

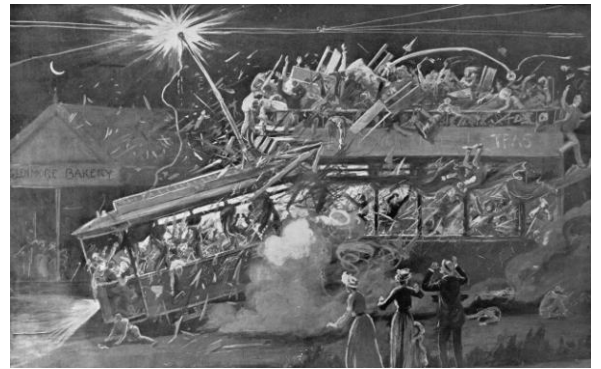
The tram service to Kingsland opened with the terminus outside Page's Store. This remained the end of the western line until 1912 – a horse-drawn bus service left Page's to take travellers further a field. By July 1912 tramlines and overhead wires allowed trams to reach Morningside and in September 1915 the service ran to Mt Albert.

**24 December 1903**

The 'Kingsland Tram Disaster' killed three and injured about fifty people.

On Christmas Eve of 1903 a tram accident at Kingsland was a shock to the whole country. The crowded, double-decker No. 39 was carrying shoppers to the city from the Kingsland terminus just after dark with motorman Fred Humphrey at the controls. In Eden Terrace the handbrake failed and the car rolled backwards downhill towards Kingsland.

The pole came off the wire and thrashed about, killing a woman and injuring others on the top deck. The interior was plunged into darkness and the car rolled, gathering substantial velocity, for about 800 metres and collided with city-bound car No. 32, despite the latter's attempt to reverse. The accident left three dead and fifty injured, and great damage to the timber-bodied tramcars.



1904

The main road was lit with gas lamps.

1906

The Volunteer Fire Brigade was established on the site of the present-day (former) fire station building.

1910

1910

The number of houses in the district had increased from 460 in 1903 to 1410.

1911

The Mt Albert Board became Mt Albert Borough Council.

1912

Tramlines extended to Morningside.

1914 - 1918

World War I.

1915

Tram service extended from Morningside to Mt Albert.

1915

A carter was killed at the level crossing in Kingsland.



1920

1921

The Theatre Royal was built in Kingsland.

1922

Kowhai Junior High Scholl was opened. It became Kowhai Intermediate in 1933.



1923

Edendale Road (the old Cabbage Tree Swamp Road and Kingsland Road) was closed to traffic and re-routed to the present day Sandringham Road , with an overbridge above the railway line approaching the junction with New North Roa .

1926

The Borough population reached 17,000. Houses were being built at the rate of 1.5 per 6 day week, the fastest growing area in the country.

1927

The new Borough Council building opened in Morningside.

1930



1930

Mt Albert Borough exceeded 20,000 population and became the largest borough in New Zealand .

1932

It was proposed that Kingsland gully be called 'Glen Osborne'.

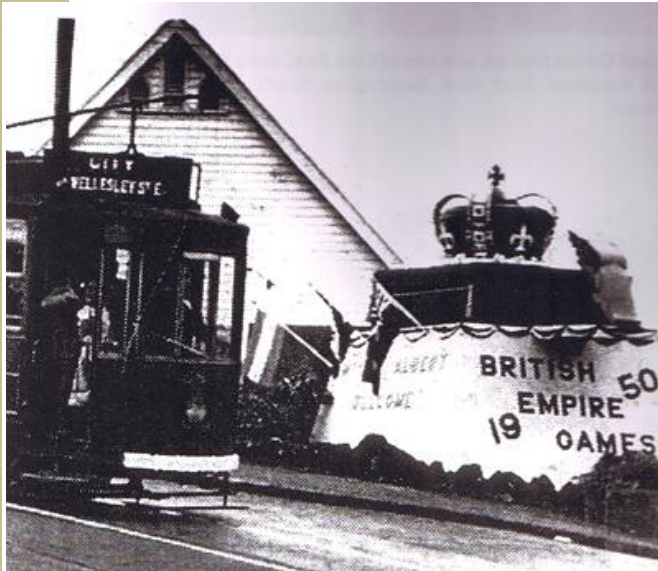
1938

It was proposed that Kingsland be renamed Beverley Hills.

Service Station corner New North and Central Roads – C1940s.



1950



1950
The Empire Games were held at Eden park.

1956
Tram service replaced by buses.

1957
Springboks Vs All Blacks at Eden park

The famous Springbok tour of 1956 was the last major event the trams serviced.



1980

1980

North-west motorway extended from Pt Chevalier to city, greatly reducing traffic on New North Road.

1981

The 1981 Springbok tour saw Eden Park as the focus of the historic, anti-apartheid demonstrations.

1989

Local Body Amalgamation – Mt Albert Borough Council became part of Auckland City.

1990

1998

Bridgens Shoe factory, one of Kingsland's oldest buildings was nearly destroyed by fire.

2000

May 2005

The newly constructed Kingsland Rail Station, which cost \$4 million to upgrade, was opened by Prime Minister Helen Clark.

A new business association – Kingsland Business Society Inc - was formed as an incorporated society.

Oct 2006

The Kingsland Business Society launched www.kingsland.net.nz putting Kingsland business, history, events and more online.

2010

March 2010

Kingsland Business Society members - businesses and landlords - voted to become a Business Improvement District.

July 2010

Kingsland Business Improvement District was established to cater for 400+ businesses in the Kingsland Enterprise Corridor.

January 2012

A new website www.kingslandnz.com was launched by Kingsland Business Society for the Business Improvement District.