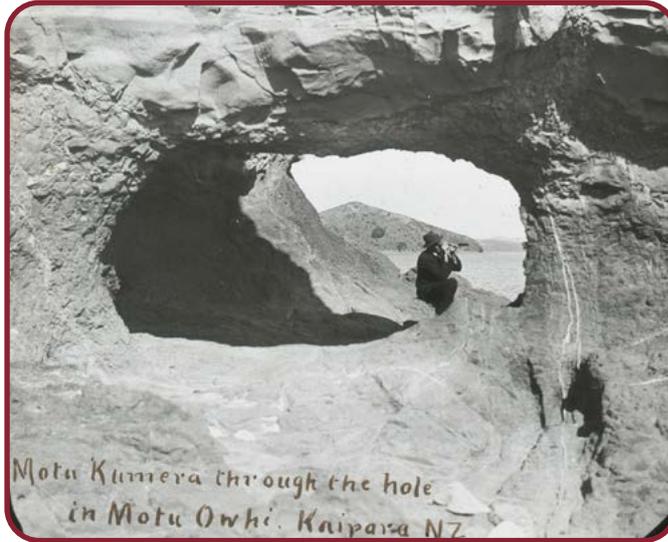


# Albertland Heritage Museum Inc



**Patron:**  
**Mr Richard Te Haara**



Motu Kumara is a historical place name for a location along the Oruawhoro River near Port Albert, New Zealand, which settlers passed by when traveling by water in the early 1900s.

Motu Owhi is not a widely-recognised name for a specific island near Port Albert, New Zealand, but the area is part of the Kaipara Harbour. The name likely refers to a local natural feature, as “motu” means “island” in Māori.

## January 2026

Open  
Hours

Monday, Tuesday - Closed  
Wednesday - Saturday - 11am to 3pm  
Sunday - 1pm to 3pm  
The Museum is open for visitors

### Contents:

Woodcock Boarding House	<a href="#">Page 2</a>
Great Idea Barbara - Computer Technology	<a href="#">Page 3</a>
Curator's Chronicle By Hokey New Zealand Selwyn Toogood	<a href="#">Page 4-5</a>
Special Family Visit Birthday Wishes Quotation	<a href="#">Page 6</a>
When New Zealand Farmers became Inventors	<a href="#">Page 7-8</a>
What's On	<a href="#">Page 8</a>
A Classic Who Dunnit - Te Hana 1912	<a href="#">Page 9-10-11</a>
Interesting Enquiries	<a href="#">Page 10</a>

We are pleased to announce that all 2026 Calendars are now sold. Thank you for support.

Membership subscriptions are now due.  
Bank details ASB  
Albertland Museum  
12-2094-0077415-00

### Editors Message:

Welcome back everyone,  
I hope you all enjoyed a restful Christmas and New Year surrounded by family and friends, and that you are feeling refreshed and ready for the year ahead.

Already, several meetings have been held at the museum as we prepare for another action-packed year. We are moving forward with exciting plans, including working with outside specialists to reinstate the War Memorial Archway gates to the scale and grandeur they once held when originally built in 1939. This is a significant project for our community, and we look forward to sharing more of its story with you as the year unfolds.

We will also be preparing a new display for our Harold Marsh Gallery, and when the opening is announced we hope to see many of our loyal supporters come along to enjoy and celebrate this new exhibition.

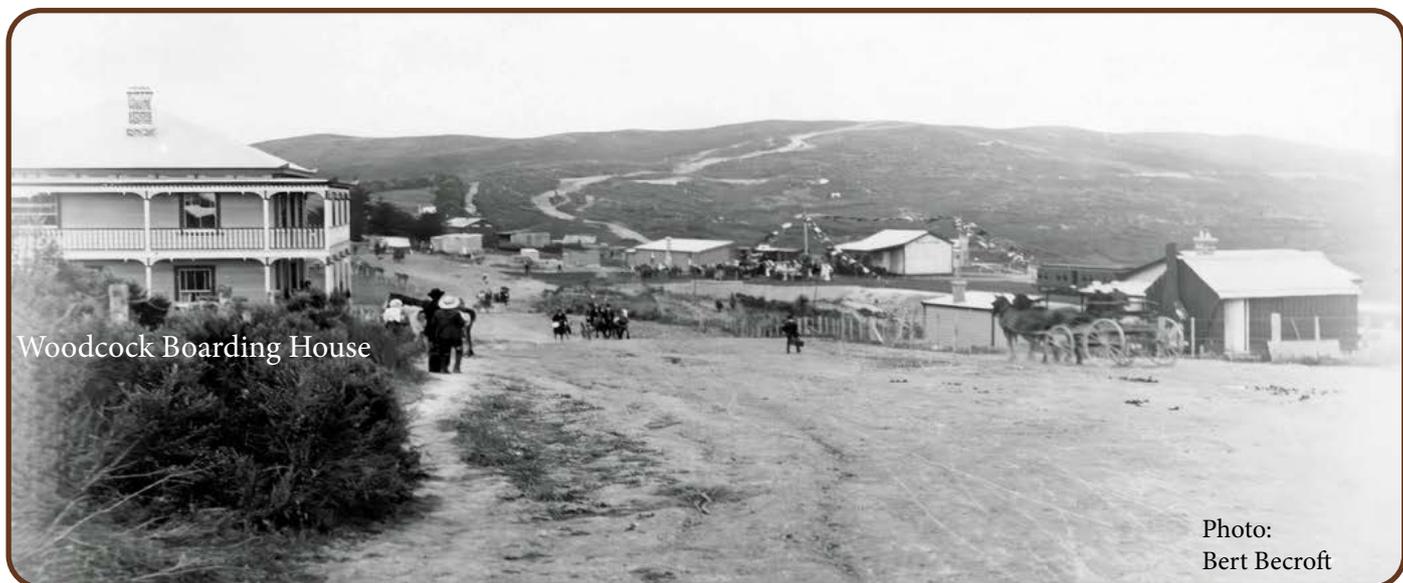
For those of you who travelled during the holidays, I trust you returned with wonderful memories. One of our own volunteers, Pauline Stables, recently enjoyed a family trip to Egypt — and I'm sure she has a tale or two to share with us in a future newsletter. No pressure, Pauline... I'll send you the deadline shortly!

To all of our supporters throughout Wellsford and the surrounding districts, with whom we work so closely, may 2026 bring you many good things. We look forward to continuing our partnerships over the next twelve months.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our friends at Wellsford RSA, Wharehine Hall, Te Hana Te Ao Marama, Support Your Local, Councillor Colin Smith, Port Albert Hall, Port Albert Church, Lions Club of Wellsford and Wellsford Plus for your ongoing support and encouragement.

Wishing each and every one of you a happy, healthy and rewarding 2026.

Warm regards,  
*Rose and Rob*



Woodcock Boarding House

Photo:  
Bert Becroft

## ***Wellsford Railway Opening with the Woodcock Boarding House 1909***

### ***Further history of our January 2026 Calendar photos***

Thank you to everyone who has purchased our 2026 calendar *From Tracks to Township: Wellsford's Early Years*.

It has been wonderfully well received, and with only a small number of copies remaining, we encourage anyone still wanting one to get in touch soon.

The January image highlights the former Woodcock's boarding house after it was relocated to the upper end of Station Road. As development pushed north and roads improved, many buildings were shifted to suit changing needs, and this handsome house was one such example.

Alfred Edward Warren Woodcock, known as Fred, arrived in New Zealand in 1864 aboard the *John Duncan* at just 16 years of age, as part of the Albertland settlement. He later married Harriet Gathercole, affectionately called Ettie. In a close family connection, Ettie's sister Mary Elizabeth married Fred's younger brother, Herbert Woodcock

Prior to his marriage, Fred worked on his father Alfred's farm in the Wayby Valley, within the Hoteo Parish (sections 21, 24, 68 and 70). The land stretched back to the Hoteo River, lying between Wayby Valley Road and what is now the northern approach to the Dome Valley on State Highway One. Following his father's death, Fred inherited Section 5, Block 12 at Pakiri, comprising 195 acres. He also shared ownership with his brother George of land in the northern portions of Section 24 (100 acres) and Section 21 (45 acres). Between 1900 and 1910, the brothers appeared in *Wise's Directory* as flax millers operating in Wayby.

As the railway advanced towards Wellsford in 1909, the township itself consisted of only a handful of private homes. Confident that the arrival of the railway would spur growth, Fred relocated a two-storeyed boarding house that had been built at Wayby to Wellsford. His intention was to establish a hotel, but when a licence could not be secured, the building was eventually dismantled and removed.

Local historian Ivy Farr, author of *The Centennial of Albertland 1862–1962*, suggested that parts of the boarding house survived within later buildings. She believed the premises of Adam Pickering and Bucklands in Station Road incorporated the rear section of the original structure, while the nearby cottage behind Pickering's may once have formed the upper storey. This view was supported by the distinctive weatherboarding and wide ceiling boards with moulded battens facing the street.

Another respected local historian, Owen Gray, offered a slightly different perspective. He believed Fred had originally erected the boarding house on Wayby Valley Road in anticipation that the railway would pass through there on its way to Mangawhai. When the planned route was altered, the house was reconstructed in Wellsford as a copy of the original Wayby building.

Tragically, Ettie passed away before the house was completed in 1907. The building continued to operate as a boarding house under Mrs Wichman until it was sold to its mortgagee for £510 and demolished around 1922–23. Tim Davies transported the structure by lorry to the railway, and the finest heart kauri timber was sent to Auckland, where it was reused in the construction of three new homes.

We acknowledge the publication “Woodcock of Wayby, Hoteo, Wellsford – Five Generations of the descendants of Alfred George Woodcock” by Sharon Dowson-Middleton as the source of this information.

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## ***Great Idea Barbara!***

We really do appreciate feedback – the good and the constructive. So when we received a thoughtful note from our own volunteer Barbara after publishing our December newsletter, we decided to take her up on her suggestion. From now on, we’ll be including a regular feedback segment in our newsletter, and we’d love to hear from you too.

*You have all excelled yourselves with this December 2025 newsletter. 17 pages are going to take me a while to read when I have a spare moment.*

*Thank you so much. It is always so very interesting. Barbara & Peter*

Tell us what you think!! :-: Do you have a story to tell our readers?

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## **Computer Technology for Country Folk!**

**LOG ON:** Making a wood stove hotter.

**LOG OFF:** Don’t add no more wood!

**WINDOWS:** What to shut when it’s cold outside.

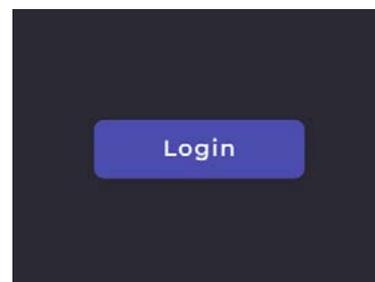
**KEYBOARD:** Where you hang the truck keys.

**SOFTWARE:** Those horrible plastic knives and forks.

**ENTER:** Come on in y’all.

**MICROCHIP:** What’s in the bottom of the chip bag.

**HARD DRIVE:** Getting home in the wintertime.



# The Curator's Chronicle

BY HOKEY NEW ZEALAND!

Most of us enjoy a good game show, and Bradley Walsh is often hailed as the ultimate host, thanks to his quick wit and infectious humour. But who remembers the days when New Zealand had its own much-loved game show star?

Selwyn Toogood graced our television screens every Saturday night, fronting the hugely popular *It's in the Bag!* In an old scrapbook, we recently came across this wonderful photograph of Selwyn when he brought the show to Wellsford. That was the magic of the programme — Selwyn and his crew travelled the country, setting up in small towns and local community halls, winning over audiences with laughter, excitement, and the promise of fabulous prizes. It truly was a case of “taking it to the people.”

Sadly, as is often the case with scrapbook treasures, the newspaper clipping has no date and no publication noted. The article was carefully cut out, but no further details were recorded — something we encounter all too often in our collection. So, here's a gentle reminder for today's scrapbookers: if you're cutting out articles, please take a moment to write down the date and the name of the newspaper. That small note can make a world of difference to future researchers and historians. In 1964, Selwyn finished making the radio version of *It's in the Bag* as a result of growing television competition. He had been on air for 11 years, broadcasting an impressive 558 programmes, with the final show broadcast from Invercargill on 8 December. At the time, *The Press* reported that “there is no chance of a similar show going on to television at present, because sponsored shows are against New Zealand Broadcasting Corporation policy.”

Interestingly, attitudes soon changed. On 16 July 1973, the NZBC announced plans to produce a television version of the popular radio quiz show *It's in the Bag*, to be compered by none other than Selwyn Toogood. Sixteen programmes were planned, with four to be produced from local theatres in each of the main centres. The show was scheduled to begin in October, screening twice weekly on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

So, who was Selwyn Toogood?

He was one of New Zealand's best-known broadcasters from the 1950s through to the 1970s. Born in Wellington on 4 April 1916, Selwyn was the second child of Ethel Copus Butler and Henry Featherston Toogood, a successful engineer. He and his three brothers were raised in a respectable household on The Terrace in Wellington.

Selwyn developed an early interest in theatre while performing in a school play at Wellington College and through singing with the Glee Club. After briefly working in a warehouse for Wellington merchants Van Staveren Brothers, he joined The Thespians, an amateur dramatic society, in 1933. He took on many roles in productions and helped with set construction and painting.

In 1936 he was given a one-line part in a radio play. Soon after, he resigned from Van Staveren Brothers to train as a theatre manager, working at the State Opera House and two other Wellington theatres. He later secured a regular role in *One Man's Family*, a radio soap opera that ran for 18 months. With the outbreak of World War II, Selwyn enlisted as an officer and was posted to the New Zealand Army Service Corps as a Divisional Ammunition Officer. He served in North Africa and Italy, including at El Alamein and Cassino, reaching the rank of Major.

During his return journey to New Zealand in 1946, Selwyn was appointed entertainments officer aboard the troopship *Tamaroa*. There, he compered a shipboard quiz — an experience he thoroughly enjoyed — and he began looking for similar work once back in Wellington.

Post-war opportunities soon followed. Selwyn worked as a freelance actor, announcer, and compere, with occasional narration work for the National Film Unit. His live reporting of the liner *Wanganella* running aground at the entrance to Wellington Harbour, while working for Radio 2ZB, attracted widespread attention for his calm and capable handling



of the event.

After marrying Cynthia in 1948, the couple had two sons. Selwyn set aside his love of acting to focus on full-time employment, joining an advertising agency as radio director. There he formed a close association with Lever Brothers, whose soap products sponsored prizes for radio programmes such as soap operas and quiz shows. Selwyn went on to host several quiz shows, including Lux Money-Go-Round and On Stage Tonight. Soon after, a new programme — It's in the Bag — was developed, adapted from the Australian show Pick-a-Box. Fisher & Paykel became a major sponsor, offering household appliances as prizes.

The show was an immediate hit, commanding between 75 and 90 per cent of the total radio audience. Selwyn's commanding voice and magnetic presence helped build suspense as he asked contestants, "What should he do, New Zealand?" and delivered his famous catchphrases: "By hokey!" and "The money or the bag?"

After the radio version ended, Selwyn returned briefly to advertising work but continued lobbying the NZBC for a televised version of It's in the Bag. His persistence paid off when the television series launched on New Year's Day 1973. Initially screened twice weekly in the afternoon, the programme was soon moved to prime time. Initially recorded before live audiences in the main centres, It's in the Bag soon moved into provincial towns and rural districts, where entertainment was often scarce. The show's arrival became a gala occasion, with door profits donated to local charities that also provided entertainment for the first half of the evening.

Selwyn travelled more than 22,000 kilometres each year, recording around 100 shows annually. While the schedule was hard on family life, he made every effort to be home for birthdays and school holidays, and as his children grew older, he often included his wife Cynthia and sons in his travels. Selwyn personally researched the quiz questions himself. By 1979, the show commanded 47 per cent of television viewers. After a six-year run — comprising 132 episodes filmed in 45 towns — the final episode screened in May 1979, having raised an extraordinary \$1 million for local charities. Contestants were selected through a pre-show qualifying process. Once on stage, they were asked three relatively easy questions. If successful, they could play "The Money or the Bag." Thirty bags were on offer, each containing an unknown prize — even Selwyn didn't know what was inside.

Prizes ranged from modest to highly valuable, with three infamous 'booby prizes', including clothes pegs. The top prize, known as the "Super Bag," could contain something as significant as a car. Selwyn would tempt contestants with increasing amounts of cash in exchange for their unopened bag until either the contestant accepted the money or Selwyn ended the offers. The bag was then opened and the prize revealed.

Other segments included the Travel Bag, where contestants answered more challenging questions. At the end of the season, the most successful participant could win major prizes such as a round-the-world trip.

In 1985, TVNZ celebrated Selwyn's life and career with an episode of This Is Your Life. In 1999, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the TV Guide New Zealand Television Awards. One of the most recognisable faces in the country, Selwyn Toogood was often described as being as familiar to New Zealanders as the landscape itself.

He died on 27 February 2001.

If you remember going to this show when it came to Wellsford, please let us know and help us date the article in our scrapbook.

One clue could be that the show travelled to Dargaville in 1977 – so maybe Wellsford was enroute to that performance?



## Special Family Visit

It was a lovely way to start the New Year with a special visit from the family of Lyn Johnston.

This very special family, descendants of Harold & Grace Marsh, joined us to remember the wonderful work their mum and sister carried out as a volunteer at the Albertland Heritage Museum, particularly in her role as Secretary.

Christy and Chris, Richard, Zhen, Stu, Hayley, Philip shared morning tea with our volunteers and enjoyed a behind-the-scenes look at Harold Marsh's photography collection.



If you would like to research your own family history, please don't hesitate to get in touch to arrange a visit.

### *Birthday Wishes for January*

#### **Happy New Year everyone!**

January isn't usually the easiest month to celebrate a birthday — the holiday bustle is still in full swing and many of us are easing gently into the New Year. But that hasn't stopped some very special people from marking their day this month.

Warmest birthday wishes go to **Glenda Berg, Karen Lennon and Val Hegh** — three wonderful friends who share a very special connection with the Albertland Heritage Museum. Each of them has given their support to help preserve our stories and keep our history alive for future generations.

We are so grateful for all that you do, and we hope your birthdays were filled with sunshine, laughter and the knowledge that you are truly appreciated by your Albertland family.

Here's to a bright year ahead and to celebrating the people who make our museum such a special place.

### **Quotation for January**

Dr Seuss was the pen name of Theodor Seuss Geisel (1904-1991) an iconic American author and illustrator famous for whimsical children's books like *Cat in the Hat*, *Green Eggs and Ham*, and *The Lorax* known for their catchy rhymes, quirky characters and imaginative illustrations that often carried deeper messages about life, nature and literacy. He wrote and illustrated over 60 books, which have sold hundreds of millions of copies and helped millions of children to learn and read. I couldn't resist today these two brilliant quotes by the great man himself ....

"The sun did not shine. It was too wet to play. So we sat in the house. All that cold, cold, wet day."

— **Dr. Seuss, *The Cat in the Hat***

"The storm starts, when the drops start dropping  
When the drops stop dropping then the storm starts stopping."

— **Dr. Seuss**

# When New Zealand Farmers Became Inventors

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, New Zealand was not just growing food — it was growing ideas. We all know the famous story of the first refrigerated shipment of meat to England in 1882, a moment that transformed our economy and put New Zealand farming on the world stage. But while frozen lamb was sailing for London, something equally remarkable was happening back home in sheds, paddocks and workshops across the country.

## **Farmers were becoming inventors.**

Two names in particular, Gallagher and Reid, stood at the forefront of agricultural innovation, proving that necessity really was the mother of invention.

Brothers Bill and Henry Gallagher, who had been tinkering with farm devices since the 1920s, stumbled upon a discovery that would revolutionise animal control forever.

While working on Henry's motorcycle one day, a horse wandered into the shed and brushed against their car. Acting on impulse, Bill connected the motorcycle's magneto to a triggering device, electrifying the car. The horse received a shock, harmless but memorable, and instantly backed away.

## **A lightbulb moment followed.**

By about 1937, Bill Gallagher had built his first electric fence using mains power. It was cheap, practical, and far easier than the traditional post, wire and batten fencing that farmer had wrestled with for generations. What began as a shed experiment became a worldwide farming essential — and a proud New Zealand invention.

Another remarkable innovator was Alexander Walker Reid JP (1853–1938) — a farmer, inventor and entrepreneur whose ideas reached far beyond the paddock.

Reid was responsible for bringing electricity to Stratford, making it one of the second or third towns in New Zealand to enjoy an electric supply. He also built the country's first steam-powered motor car — a bold experiment at a time when horses still ruled the roads.

Not content with that, Reid turned his attention to the dairy shed, developing an innovative milking machine that helped ease the heavy labour of hand milking. His work placed him firmly among the great pioneers of agricultural technology. He founded the AWR Milking Machine Company Limited to produce and market the machine. He also had it patented. The first AWR machines came on the market in about 1907 and were sold as far away as Australia.

In Oturehua, another inventor was quietly solving one of farming's most persistent problems — tightening fencing wire.

Ernest Hayes developed a chain grab wire strainer tool with two clamps that held wires firmly while tension was applied by alternately moving the jaws along a chain. Once strained, the wires could be looped and tied securely.

Hayes began work on his design in 1905 and refined it through five versions until reaching the final model in 1924. The result was so successful it was exported to 30 countries and is still manufactured today — a testament to the brilliance of simple, practical design.

Long before electric fences, farmers relied on the famous No. 8 wire. Strong yet flexible, it was perfect for fencing — except for one problem. In hot weather it stretched and sagged; in cold weather it tightened. Farmers were constantly pulling, yanking, and re-tensioning their fences by sheer muscle power.

Around 1885, John Stuart Reid (1857–1894) came up with an ingenious solution.

He invented a small device that could be built directly into the fence: a handle connected to a ratchet wheel. Pulling the handle tightened the wire smoothly and locked it in place so it could not slip back. Farmers could now adjust tension easily, without back-breaking effort.

The invention became known as Reid's Titan Wire Stretcher, and it was an immediate success. Newspapers of the day praised it enthusiastically, noting that:

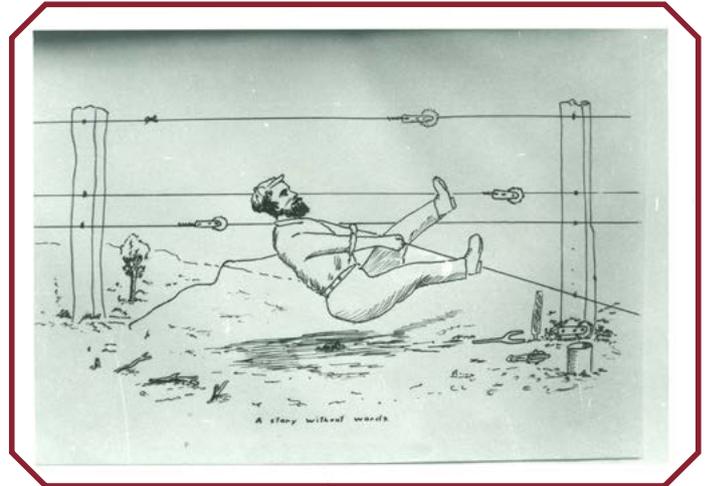
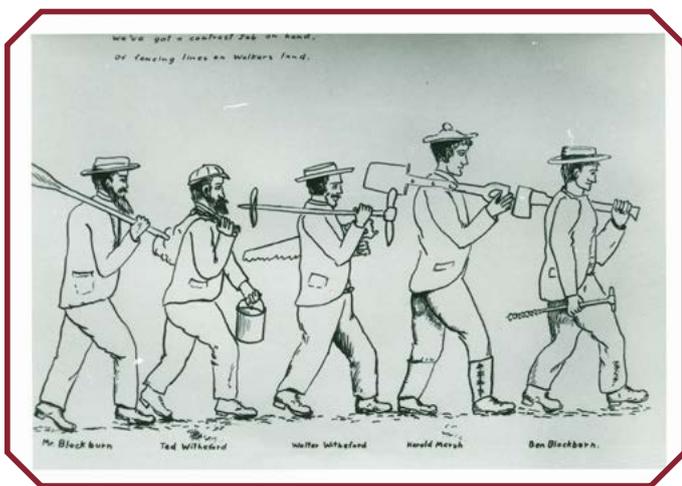
“The knowledge how to use it could be acquired in a few minutes, and an ordinary lad could work it without too much exertion.”

Reid patented his invention in New Zealand and overseas and enjoyed strong commercial success — a true triumph of rural innovation.

These men did not set out to change the world but were a part of ‘a nation of Problem Solvers!’ They simply wanted to solve everyday problems, wandering animals, sagging fences, exhausting labour and inefficient tools. But in doing so, they helped shape modern farming not only in New Zealand, but across the globe.

New Zealand didn't just grow sheep and cows. It grew inventors. And their legacy still hums along every fence line today.

Our sketches below come from the Halfpenny Collection and, while we don't have an exact date for them, they tell a clear story. The first shows a fencing gang at work, and the second highlights the use of Reid's Titan Wire Strainers in action.



## What's On

6th February – Waitangi Day Celebrations at Te Hana Te Ao Marama

8th February – Port Albert Church 10 year of Community Ownership Celebrations

15th February – The Settlers' Market – Port Albert Hall, 980 Port Albert Road, Wellsford 9 am start.

Albertland Heritage Museum is open Wednesday – Saturday 11 am to 3 pm and Sunday 1 – 3 pm.

*The*  
**Settlers Market**

**PORT ALBERT HALL  
980 PORT ALBERT RD**







Looking for stallholders, plants and produce and arts and crafts.

**SEE MARKET DATES BELOW!**

<p><b>2026 DATES</b>                  Sunday 18th January                  Sunday 15th February                  Sunday 15th March                  Sunday 19th April</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>9 - 1 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Artisans and Stallholders</li> <li>• Food and Coffee Available</li> </ul>
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For all bookings email [portalbertmarkets@gmail.com](mailto:portalbertmarkets@gmail.com) or text 021 749 491

**6TH FEBRUARY**

**COMMEMORATING WAITANGI DAY**

**2026**

POPOP STALLS BRING YOUR PLANTS CLOTHES JEWELRY

**\$10**

TE HANA TE AO MARAMA MARAE  
311 STATE HIGHWAY 1, TE HANA

FREE HANGI PACK SERVED FROM 12PM

FREE BOUNCY CASTLE TILL 2:PM

BLT, BBQ, HOT & COLD DRINKS  
ICE BLOCKS, SWEET TREATS & MORE

LOCAL SCHOOLS KAPA HAKA PERFORMANCES FROM 12.30PM TRADITIONAL GAMES

**FREE**

THE DAY STARTS WITH KARAKIA AT 10AM IN THE WHARENUI AND THE DAY CONCLUDES AT 2.00PM

**MORE INFO: CALL OUR OFFICE 09423 870**

PORT ALBERT CHURCH



COME CELEBRATE WITH US!

SPECIAL SERVICE

To celebrate 10 years of Community Ownership

SUNDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2026  
1.30 PM ONWARDS

LARGE MEN

For more information contact  
Jen Lambert  
Mobile Phone 0211 693 626



## *A Classic Whodunnit – Te Hana, 1912*

In a time before security cameras and DNA testing, justice depended on sharp eyes, muddy footprints, and careful questioning. Such was the case in August 1912, when Te Hana was shaken by a daring and dramatic crime — the dynamiting of Mr Farrand's store.

The story truly begins three years earlier, when the railway line pushed northward toward Te Hana. The Public Works Department employed large numbers of men, and the small settlement bustled with activity. These workers depended on Te Hana's store and post office for food, supplies, and wages.

The store was owned by Mr Dixon but managed by George Edward Farrand, who also ran the post office. Each pay period, the safe held a considerable sum of money.

On the evening of Saturday, 3 August 1912, Mr Farrand carefully secured the store. He checked the safe one final time — inside were £143 4s 9d, along with a small collection taken up for a family whose home had recently burned down.

All seemed well.

But before dawn, the stillness of Te Hana was shattered.

Mrs McGinnis, who lived nearby, was awake tending her baby when she heard a loud explosion from the direction of the store. Though alarmed, she did not go outside to investigate.

When Mr Farrand returned the next morning, he found the door forced open and the safe blown apart by explosives. Sacking and sawdust lay scattered across the floor — likely used to muffle the sound of the blast.

Not wishing to disturb the evidence, he set off immediately for Wellsford to alert Constable Horan, travelling by railway jigger. Along the way, about fifteen yards from the store, he found the empty cash box lying in the scrub.

Rain had fallen during the night, making the ground perfect for tracking. Together, Mr Farrand and Constable Horan began to follow footprints. Two distinct sets of boot marks were visible — one from an ordinary light boot, the other from a heavy hobnailed boot with an iron toe cap and heel ring. One boot appeared to have been tied with cloth or a strap, leaving a peculiar marking in the mud.

An impression of the footprints was carefully taken for later comparison.

The tracks led away from the store and toward Wellsford, disappearing at times over metal and scoria before reappearing in heavier clay soil.

Attention soon turned to two former railway workers — Hogan and Maher.

A train guard recalled seeing them travel from Auckland to Wayby on the very day of the robbery. They carried a small canvas kit and a parcel or coat. At the quarry, where explosives such as gelignite and detonators were stored (and on this occasion, left unlocked), the men asked for work but were told none was available. They were offered a place to stay for the night — but instead decided to walk on to Wellsford.

That night, they lodged at Phillip Edmund Curry's boarding house. They shared a room at the back of the house, with a window opening into the yard. The next day, mud was found on the walls and window sill, suggesting the men may have left and returned during the night.

Overseer George Weaver, who had known both men from their time working in Te Hana, joined Constable Horan in following the tracks. He noted that one set of footprints matched a man he had seen in Te Hana the previous Friday — a man with a handkerchief tied around his boot.

On Sunday evening, Hogan and Maher arrived at Mrs Sinclair's boarding house in Matakana, saying they had come from Wayby. A housemaid later noticed a canvas bag and a pair of boots under one of their beds — items she had not seen earlier.

When police arrived to arrest the men on Monday evening, Maher nervously produced five sovereigns from a handkerchief tied around his ankle, saying, "This is all the money I have." Hogan also handed over seven sovereigns. Both claimed the money had come from Sydney.

Their boots at first did not match the Te Hana footprints — but the following day, one boot was found discarded in a hedge near the boarding house, and another recovered elsewhere. When these boots were pressed into soft earth at Te Hana, they matched the original tracks exactly.

Despite this, the case was far from watertight.

The men denied ever being in Te Hana. Their stories changed. They could not name the ship they arrived on from Sydney. Hogan refused to sign his written statement. There were no eyewitnesses to the crime itself. No explosives were found in their possession.

At the committal hearing, the Magistrate ruled there was enough evidence for trial. Bail was set at £150 each, with sureties of £75.

The case went to the Supreme Court in November 1912. The same evidence was presented — the footprints, the discarded boots, the suspicious movements, and the hidden money.

Defence counsel Mr Hackett highlighted the weaknesses: no direct proof, no stolen money clearly identified, and no witness who saw the men commit the crime.

After deliberation, the jury returned their verdict:

Not Guilty.

Hogan and Maher were discharged from custody.

And so the mystery remained.

Who dynamited the Te Hana store and made off with the money?

Were Hogan and Maher unlucky travellers caught in a web of coincidence — or clever criminals who escaped justice?

Like many crimes of the early 20th century, this one left behind only muddy footprints, unanswered questions, and a story that still intrigues more than a century later.

See Photos on page 11

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## ***Interesting Enquiries***

Here at Albertland Heritage Museum we receive many interesting enquiries, but just before Christmas we heard from Sophie, a PhD researcher from the University of Southampton in the UK, who is studying Tonic Sol-fa (a musical notation system and vocal pedagogy and British imperialism in nineteenth-century Oceania). Sophie has identified several Albertland settlers who trained as tonic sol-fa teachers, and was reaching out for help. While we find this fascinating, we realised we know very little about tonic sol-fa ourselves — so we are turning to our community. Do you have anything, family stories, music books or memories connected with early musical teaching in Albertland? We would love to hear from you.

What we do know, from *The Albertlanders* by Brett & Hook, is that music quickly became part of early life at Port Albert with a small musical society formed led by Mr W. Armitage (conductor) and Captain Gooch (organist). Musical talent was abundant especially in the Edger, Armstrong, Marcroft, Dudding and Becroft families. Perhaps another piece of this musical history is still waiting to be discovered.



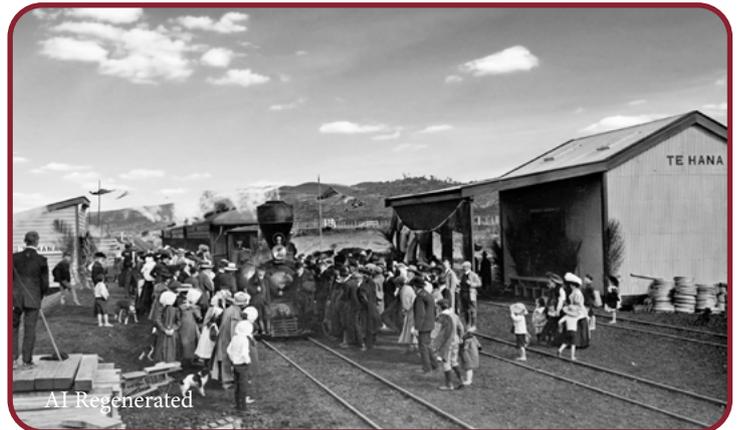
Original Photo



Original Photo



AI Regenerated



AI Regenerated



AI Regenerated

Te Hana Store c.1900s



AI Regenerated

The historic North Auckland railway line section from Wellsford to Te Hana originally opened in 1910

## THE USE OF AI TOOLS – WHAT DO YOU THINK?

With the rapid development of AI technology, it can be hard to know just how far we should go in using these new tools.

We would simply like to show you the difference this technology can make when enhancing a photograph.

At Albertland Heritage Museum, we treasure the original images exactly as they are, complete with their marks, fading and imperfections. But adding a touch of colour or sharpening the detail can be a real wow moment and helps bring these scenes to life in a new way.

It's also worth remembering that the world itself was never black and white — it was full of colour, just as it is today.