

**THE HISTORY OF
THE AUCKLAND METROPOLITAN
CLAY TARGET CLUB Inc.**

Incorporating;

The Auckland Gun Club
The Northern Suburbs Gun Club
The New Lynn Gun Club
The Metropolitan Gun Club
The Pukekohe Gun Club
The Drury GunClub
The Waiuku Gun Club
and in part The Takapuna Gun Club.
and The Brighams Creek Gun Club.

AUCKLAND METROPOLITAN CLAY TARGET CLUB Inc

A potted History 1898 -1998

Although Rifle shooting championships have been held in New Zealand since 1860 it was not until many years later that shotgun clubs began to appear. In Auckland a structured club with registered members began in 1898. Known as The AUCKLAND GUN CLUB they first shot at Mt Eden and then later had grounds at Pakuranga. A move to Winstones quarry proved resourceful and they remained there for several years.

Small clubs had started up around the country and in Auckland in 1928 a group of shooters formed the NORTH SUBURBAN AMATUER GUN CLUB. This name was changed when they moved to the Archibald brothers land in New Lynn and they became the NEW LYNN GUN CLUB. A move in later years to Bucklands property in Favona Road, in Mangere, saw another name change and the club became known as The METROPOLITAN GUN CLUB.

BRIGHAMS CREEK GUN CLUB started in 1938 and ran until 1954 on farmland belonging to the Sinton family. When it closed, its chattels were given to the Rodney club at Warkworth, and the Silverdale club, with all monies and other chattels divided between The Auckland and Metropolitan clubs.

By 1956 the AUCKLAND GUN CLUB needed to soon move from the quarry and so an amalgamation with the METROPOLITAN CLUB was formed. The combined clubs to be known as The AUCKLAND METROPOLITAN GUN CLUB Incorporated. Shooting continued at Favona Road until housing started to encroach on the grounds so in 1966 it was decided to again amalgamate. This time with the well established PUKEKOHE GUN CLUB.

The PUKEKOHE CLUB which had commenced activities in 1910 had already absorbed the PAPAURA CLUB, the DRURY CLUB and the WAIUKU GUN CLUB. The amalgamation saw the purchase of new property, 64 acres opposite the old grounds in Helvetia The marriage was a happy one and the club continues to prosper still as the now AUCKLAND METROPOLITAN CLAY TARGET CLUB.

FOREWORD

Man has always been a hunter. From the days when food was obtained by throwing a stone at an animal a straight eye was needed. The arrival of a spear, which in turn was replaced by a bow and arrow, meant practice was always required. The archer's of the early 1100's put their practice into good use by holding tournament's to test their skill against the best in the country. In fact it is interesting to note that in Scotland in the year 1457 it was decreed in parliament that it be ordained that football and golf be utterly cried down as golf led to neglect of archery and football led to riot.

With the advent of gunpowder and shot allowing the projectile to travel even further more practice was required for the most precise accuracy. The invention of a triggering mechanism in 1525 which did away with the earlier fire burning fuse brought sporting guns into wide use. Hunting with fire-arms led to the invention of a shotgun, a direct step down from the smooth-bore musket, although accuracy and range were still limited.

The early fowling piece, as the name suggests, was a gun used for shooting birds, This was established in 1614 but it was not until the early 1800's that an English gunsmith designed the first double barreled shotgun, surpassing anything made earlier. Then in 1850 a Frenchman invented the first pinfire cartridge, a fore-runner of today's breech loading and modern shells. No longer was grapeshot loaded down the muzzle of a Blunderbuss.

Men from the best homes became officer's in the King's army and although they themselves did not often need to fire a weapon they too fancied themselves as good shots and took part in the sporting fields hunting wild gamebirds.

Soon, at home on their estates, they established shooting parties among their colleagues. To avoid the tiresome trek through the brush with beaters arousing the birds into flight, an inventive person had wild pigeons caught and brought to his home grounds where they were later released from under some nobleman's old high hat placed upon the ground. This practice was replaced by the use of a bird trap. Later a target was made of a round blown glass ball filled with feathers to simulate a live bird. This was thrown into the air. It was not only expensive but also with broken glass lying about the grounds was dangerous to both horse and cattle. After some experimental stages a target was produced that broke easily when hit but posed no problem when left in pieces on the ground.

During the early days of New Zealand settlement men of the British army were posted here from the 1840's along with those retired soldiers who came as 'Fencible' forces to protect Auckland from any invading Maori tribes. These and the soldiers from the 18th, 58th and 65th or other regiments who took their discharge in New Zealand or who had returned from Britain to settle, would have all been keen to prove they still were good marksmen. So small pockets of competitors sometimes met to match their skill.

In 1860 the Government recommended that prizes be offered for rifle shooting competition in the colony. In 1861 the first official competition was held drawing these men and others. The winner, Lieutenant Brighton of Auckland received £50 and the right to keep and wear the Champion Pouch and Belt for the best shot in New Zealand. This later became known as the Ballinger belt, after the win in 1879 by W. Ballinger and then by succeeding family members over a number of years.

Point Bunbury, named after a senior official of Captain Hobson's staff, was a piece of land in the Whau district near Avondale on what was then the outskirts of Auckland, - about where Selwyn Village now stands. It was the site of the Auckland army rifle range. Legendary Lieutenant George Robert Chevalier won the Camp Championships and the point was renamed in his honour and is still Point Chevalier.

Farmers and small runholders and others not connected with the army, along with business men and those involved in ammunition manufacture and sales, started shotgun clubs. Small clubs began to appear up and down the country and before long a National Association was formed to which each club gradually became affiliated.

1908 saw the first National Competition which was won by Duncan Fraser of Christchurch. His 16 year old son Donald Fraser, won the inaugural sparrow competition in 1911 from a field of 31 shooters. By 1937 Skeet was held at National level. By 1898 The AUCKLAND GUN CLUB had been officially formed.

Chapter 1

THE AUCKLAND GUN CLUB

According to all reports what was to become the Auckland Gun Club started shooting on the slopes of Mt Eden. Probably behind the premises of Mr Cucksey who had a business in Mt Eden Rd around 1867.

By 1928 the Auckland Club had 101 members. At a committee meeting held in the office of the Mr C.H. Drysdale, were Messrs. A.E. Murphy, F.E. McKenzie J. O' Dowd and the Secretary C.E. Hodge. Other committee members were J. Williamson, A.R. Hodgson, W. Curtis. G. Westbury, D. Cairns, F.H. Secombe and R.H. Montgomery.

A fishing trip on the Manukau was organized with club members having first consideration. The cost would be 7/6 (75c). Also a picnic was to be held on the club grounds, tickets sold for 10/- (\$1) each.

The G McMillan Trophy match was organized for the following Sunday. It would be a 15 bird match with nominations of 10/- (\$1).

After much effort and expenditure on the club's grounds at Panmure, the property was leased by the owner to Chinese market gardeners. A further three years tenure had been envisaged. A lot of volunteered labour had been put in by members and the best part of it was spent.

Finding suitable shooting grounds had long been a problem in the growing city. New grounds were being considered on Mr W. Roberts property at Pakuranga of 4 acres at £5.0.0 (\$10.00) per acre, per year, with right of renewal. There was to be no Sunday shooting and no undesirable persons allowed on the grounds. Members were restricted to the club area. Shooting would take place on Wednesdays.

A further committee meeting was held at the Newmarket Hotel on April 2nd 1928 with Mr A.E. Murphy in the chair, Mr Drysdale was absent. On a motion of Messrs Murphy and Montgomery it was

unanimously resolved that the conditions of the lease as outlined be accepted and Mr F.E. McKenzie was authorized to draw up a proper agreement to that effect.

The erection and removal of sheds and right of entry for motor vehicles to be resolved.

The Easter shoot would be for Mr Seccombe's trophy. A 10 bird match at a cost of t1 .0.0 (\$2) entry fee.

The nomination of Mr A. Dobson was considered for National President on the forthcoming retirement of Mr E. Stead. Mr Dobson was also nominated for Vice-president for the North Island if he failed to become President. Otherwise Mr E. Groome was considered for the North Island Vice-Presidency.

In July that year Mr A.R. Hodgson resigned from the committee on account of home commitments. Mr. J.C. Whitney resigned from the club.

The annual picnic had netted a profit of ll 6.14.8 (\$33.48) A new automatic trap was purchased at a cost of f50. (\$100). Clays were bought at 2/- per dozen. It was decided that new shooters be given one day every two months for tuition.

In September 1928 the death occurred of Mr A. Dobson.

New members for 1929 included D. Fraser, J. Donnelly, E.N. Barratt, M. Delich, W Peck, C. Manderson, C.E. Gilbert, C.A. Osborne, E. Cathcart, H. Mclsaacs, E. Montgomery, W.J. Turner, D. Hyauiason F. Kay-Stratton, A.E. Brown, L. Peterson, T. Chalmers, R. Johnson, J. Murrell, R.E. Farrow, A.E. Blackwell, J. McMullen, A.E. Hallet, R. Abel, W.H. Pellow, L.F. Ramsey, and Dr Horton. But the membership had dropped to 85.

The deaths occurred of Mr A.E. Powell and Mr J Hodgson.

It was decided to hold the annual picnic on board the boat and a supply of crayfish was organized however the attendance was disappointing and the club suffered a loss of .tl 5.3.6.

On 12 March 1930 a meeting was held with the Metropolitan club to discuss amalgamation.

New members for 1930 were, W.T. Routledge, B. Tudor, J. Mcsweeney, J. Fitzgibbon, R.P. Bennett, J. Milne, G.H. Browne, A.j. McFarland, J. Farrell, F. Keene, and H. Gray.

In March 1931 the base of The Hazard Silver Pheasant was to be fitted with silver shields.

Skeet shooting was to be trialled in August 1931. Mr C.E. Hodge gave a talk on this discipline and undertook to install traps. Dunedin Gun Club lent a book on the subject.

A letter voicing disapproval was sent to the Metropolitan Gun Club drawing attention to the clashing of dates of the Auckland Club trophy shoot days with the 'Met' holding the North Island Championships.

Ammunition now sold for 4/- a box.

Teams were invited from the Metropolitan, Takapuna, Hamilton, Huntly, Taupiri and Morrinsville clubs to take part in the Barratt cup match.

The death occurred of Mr W. Curtis In 1932, a founder of the club who had held the post of secretary for many years.

Although new members had joined, the roll now stood at only 51 members.

Another meeting re amalgamation was held on 18 August 1932 but was still not held favourably by the Metropolitan club.

Mr C.H. Drysdale continued as President for 1932/33 while Mr C.E. Hodge was re-elected as Chairman of the committee.

The second Hazard Silver Pheasant was won by C. Seddon already the holder of the other Pheasant.

Mr J Williamson, another foundation member of the club, died in 1933.

By 1934 the economic situation of the country necessitated in all three Auckland clubs, The Metropolitan, Takapuna and Auckland agreeing to reduce the number of matches conducted throughout the season to safeguard the clubs expenditure through lack of attendance.

The subscriptions for 1935 would be \$2.00

New members were R. Jose , L Heard, R. G rierson , R. Wilson, P.C. Lewis, and A. Holebrook.

It was proposed that ten guineas (\$21.00) be spent on a trophy to be presented to Mr. Laffey in recognition of his past work as secretary. Mr D.F. Smith was to receive J20 (\$40) for the ensuing season 1935/36.

Novice shooting was to be included in coming programs.

The 1936/37 committee consisted of Mr Drysdale as President, Vice-presidents A. Adams, A.E Murphy, F.H. Sec c o m b e , F.E. McKenzie, Club Captain E.J. Schofield, Treasurer C.H. Hodge, Secretary D.F. Smith, and Messrs Newall, Gribble, Gardes, Nehoff, Wells, Mackey, and Bedford.

In 1937 a letter applying for all 1938 North Island Championships was sent to the Association. "The lot or nothing".

As Mr Schofield was to visit USA a letter of introduction was given to him by Mr A.N. Turner.

A request from Morrinsville Gun Club for use of two Auckland Gun Club traps for the forthcoming North Island Championships was approved, providing there was no clash of dates with the Auckland Club's scheduled shoots and insisting that the traps be returned in time for the shoots which were to be held on 24 July and 28 August.

Mr Smith was forced to resign as secretary due to his other commitments and Mr C.E. Hodge was appointed in his p l a c e.

New members for 1938 were Mr E.P. Watts, A. Old, L. Strain, C.W. Schnauer, and A. Somerville.

An Invitation from the Pukekohe Gun Club for Auckland to attend a shoot on the 12 February was declined as it clashed with an Auckland Club day. A list of fixtures for the Auckland Club for the remaining season was sent, along with a donation of one guinea.

The North Island Championships were held on the 25, 26 and 27 August.

Both Mr D. Ewing and Mr W. Hazard were sent congratulatory messages on their recent marriages.

As once again new grounds were to be sought, a committee consisting of R.H. Mackey, A.V. Wells, L. Bedford and G.C. Hodge was formed to look after details. A section of land adjacent to Mt Wellington was found, 5 acres of the Harding Estate in College Rd. In November 1938 Mr Schofield advanced the money required to complete the purchase and layout of the grounds and building, on proper security. A further $\frac{1}{2}$ chain of land was required for parking and was included in the sale.

A subsidy of £200.0.0 was granted by the Labour Department under scheme 13 and work had commenced under Mr Hodge who acted as supervisor. The insurance of the men under the Workers Compensation Act was the clubs responsibility and cover with South British Insurance was arranged. The water supply was applied for from the Auckland City Council. Mr Norman Wade had drawn up plans for a clubhouse and Mr Lepper, with such assistance as required, commenced work. A cottage was to be erected for Mr Bartleet to live in. Mr Schofield would arrange the finance and Mr Wells agreed to donate grass seed.

As this time the grounds would be owned by the club it was decided to become an Incorporated Society.

As the old buildings were to be demolished at the conclusion of the shoot on March 25 permission was sought from the NZGCA to hold an open shoot on this day.

Mr Schofield arranged to deposit a further £1 00 in the National bank and this was to be added to the mortgage.

A letter was received from the Takapuna club entering a challenge for the Dewar Cup so invitations were sent to Pukekohe and the Metropolitan clubs inviting them to take part on a day to be arranged.

As some members belonged to both the Auckland and the Metropolitan clubs it was decided that for open and /or cup shoots that the Auckland club choose 2 teams and leave the other

members to be available for the Metropolitan club.

Plans for the forthcoming 1940 New Zealand Centennial Shoot were discussed with the suggestion that the Auckland club insist on their right to hold this on their grounds, but were willing to organize a Provincial committee to conduct the shoot.

The Provincial committee later agreed to pay 15.5.0 per day for use of the grounds this amounted to the sum of ,tl 5.15.0 (\$31.50) which covered the cost of the sound system purchased for this event.

20 active members were now in the armed forces. R.G. Lindsay one of the clubs best shots was in Canada as part of the Air Force Training School. He competed against the Canadians and had the privilege of equalling the Canadian record in Clay Bird Shooting.

Colonel Potter approached the club requesting use of their grounds for practice shooting for the troops,. This was agreed to providing that there would be no cost to the club.

Although the war years caused a shortage of ammunition a few shoots were able to be held throughout this time. However by 1950 everything was once again in full swing.

Mr Les Curtis, who had joined the Metropolitan Club in 1943 came to The Auckland Club in 1950 and was Club Captain in 1953. He was Vice-President in 1956 and along with Mr W. Holmes , who had joined the Pukekohe club in 1935 and had been a member of the Auckland Gun Club committee for 17 years, instigated the amalgamation of the Auckland Club and the Metropolitan Club in 1956 when the Auckland club could no longer use the College Rd grounds. Mr Curtis was voted President of the now AUCKLAND METROPOLITAN GUN CLUB Inc. and shoots continued at 143 Favona Rd., Mangere.

Chapter 2.

THE NORTH SUBURBAN AMATEUR GUN CLUB and the NEW LYNN GUN CLUB.

In December 1926 several sportsmen held a meeting with the intention of forming a new Gun Club for the amateur sportsman. They had been previously shooting on private property and felt the time had come to form a structured club. This culminated in a meeting being called in the downstairs room of Hirst's Hall opposite the Morningside Railway Station on March 8th 1928.

Among those present were Messrs. Palmer, Stoupe, Dryland, Pyp er , Hartneady, W. Palmer L. Stent, W. Turner, F.C. McGeehan, and L. Ramsey, with J Murrell in the chair. An apology was received from Mr Delich.

It was decided to form an Amateur Gun Club to be called the "NORTH SUBURBAN AMATEUR GUN CLUB". Mr J. Murrell offered the use of his Clay Bird Traps and grounds at New Lynn.

Mr F.C. McGeehan was elected Secretary/Treasurer and Mr L. Stent, handicapper. The members present and including Mr Delich to form the committee . A sub-committee of five including the executive officers along with Messrs Stoupe, Stent and Dryland was nominated to draft up rules for submission at the next meeting.

Members 'put in' and purchased a barrel of clays targets and at the first shoot held at Mr Murrell's home a week later, charged shooters for same. These returned a profit sufficient to purchase another barrel of 500. A small number of shooters attended and shot for a prize of a pocket knife kindly donated by Mr McGeehan. Many years later this knife was offered back to the club as a memento.

As the membership grew it was suggested by Mr Macredie that the club become affiliated with the NZ Gun Club Association to enable members of other registered affiliated clubs to join and therefore be eligible to participate at New Lynn shoots.

On July 7 1928 it was decided to affiliate with the NZGCA and change the name to the " NEW LYNN GUN CLUB"

Membership grew rapidly from then on and Mr Macredie was appointed president. He introduced several other shooters to the club including Captain Whitney and Mr Hannigan who both took a keen interest in the affairs of the club.

Within months larger grounds became necessary and so a move was made to Messrs. Archibald brothers property in Archibald Rd, New Lynn. A small shed was loaned to the club and placed on these grounds and a shoot was held on October 27th 1928. A ladies committee was formed and they provided refreshments. The principle event was a 1 5 target trophy match presented by Detective H.E. Wright. This was won by Mr B. Hodge with a possible score of 1 5 from 18 yards. Mr Macredie was second with a score of 14 from 19 yards. The Murrell cup was won by Mr A. Hannigan on 17 yards with the highest aggregate of 23 points. Mr.A. Macredie, 19 yards , was runner up with 21 points.

As at that time the club had a membership of 40 it was decided to purchase an automatic trap. Concrete lanes were laid down. Dr Pettit was appointed president for 1928/29 and presented the Pettit cup which was shot for over many years, a much coveted prize competed for on an annual basis as a club championship trophy. Mr W. Turner was the first recipient winning with a possible score of 21, on January 29th 1929.

Two *i.50* matches were held. P. Jelovich won the first and C.E. Hodge the second. Both with a possible score of 21. As this was during the depression years one of these prizes would have been sufficient to provide food for an average family for several months.

When, in June 1930, new grounds were again required, the club made a move to the more rural area of Buckland's picturesque property at 143 Favona Rd, Mangere This required a name change so the " METROPOLITAN GUN CLUB" came into being.

THE METROPOLITAN GUN CLUB

After the change of name and the move to the new grounds at Favona Rd in Mangere an opening shoot was held. The Auckland Club and Silverdale Club (Waitemata) were invited to attend.

The 1935 committee saw Mr John C. Whitney re-elected as President with Messrs C.A Whitney, M.H. Tisdall, W.C Whitney, F.H. Seccombe, R.H. Bartley and Hon W.E Parry as Vice Presidents.

Mr F.H. Hazard was handicapper and L.E. Smith secretary. Committee members included Messrs Bartley, Byrne, Robinson, and E.T. Wilson. L.F. Ramsey and Mr White did not stand for re-election.

In 1939 a 12 guinea (1 12.12.0) levy was paid to the Centennial Shoot Committee. A letter was sent to Wellington Centennial Shoot Committee protesting at the compulsory sweeps required at matches.

Mr Seccombe put up trophies for the skeet matches.

In 1940 the Auckland Gun Club was advised that the Metropolitan Club would not be entering teams for the popular Reid cup event owing to conditions existing at the present time.

Mr Tisdale was to meet with Mr Mackey in order that the Auckland Clubs should agree on universal club marks for all shooters. Both the Auckland Club and the Brighams Creek club agreed and handicap marks were compared.

Permission was given to Mr Forbes to use the club grounds for grazing sheep at 2/ 6 per week.

Permission was granted by the Minister of Internal Affairs allowing a skeet gun to be raffled at 2/6 per ticket and the proceeds to go the Patriotic Fund. A teams match between the Auckland Club and the Metropolitan was arranged for the final day with trophy matches also being held. The gun was won by Mr R.B. Wilson who gifted it back to the club for re-competition. £ 52 was raised from the raffle and a further sum from the shoot day meant £.70 was given to the War Patriotic Fund.

Hughes and Cossar donated a cup to be shot for every 3 months, each winner to receive a small trophy.

Automatic guns were not to be used. A notice to this effect was posted in the clubhouse, and no dogs were permitted on club grounds..

During the war years all those called up for full time service with the armed forces would remain as honorary members.

The death occurred of Mr Lou Stent in 1942.

Mr John Donnelly of the Colonial Ammunition Company was elected secretary/treasurer

In order to reduce the bank overdraft Mr J.C. Whitney promised il .for every i.2 subscribed. This resulted in DO being collected at the meeting. So with the promised .tJ 5 the overdraft was reduced byiA5.

A burglary in 1943 caused considerable damage. Otahuhu and Auckland police were notified. The premises were insured by Liverpool London and Globe Ins Co.

1945 saw those who had been on active service returning. They were, L.P. Massey, T.A Smith, J.H. Wilson, Dr Pittar, A. Woodroffe Jnr, Hal Newcombe, W.J. Cooper, Russell White and J. Byrne Jnr.,

The Byrne Cup and J.B. O' Loughlan trophy were shot for on July 4 1949.

By the 1950's the buildings and fences were in need of repair. A committee was formed to look after any rebuilding , the repainting and mending, and to move the skeet field back 10 or 12 feet as shot was getting too close to the neighbouring houses

in 1952 Mr R. Cruikshank was the ground superintendent and kept the grounds in very good condition.

In January 1957 at a committee meeting held at Wiseman's building 166 Queen St Auckland the advantage of amalgamation with the Auckland Gun Club was outlined by Messrs L. Curtis and F. Butler. A special committee of 4 persons was formed of Messrs S.F.Woodroffe, G. Hady, R. Cruikshank and R.J. Johnson to compile a report and this select committee reported back to a meeting on the 18th Feb 1957.

At a meeting on the 13 April 1957 the amalgamation was agreed to The AUCKLAND METROPOLITAN GUN CLUB came into being.

Shooting continued on the Favona Rd, property and a special AGM was called on the 22nd June 1957 at the Pavillion of the Auckland Club in College Rd to appoint officers for the new combined club.

The results were Mr Les Curtis as President, Messrs J. Sinton and S. Woodroffe Vice Presidents, Secretary /Treasurer B. E. Cronwell Committee - Smith, Cruickshank, Agnew, Holmes, Hughes, Simmons, Strain, Johnson, and Reid.

Working bees were held to move equipment etc. The name change and take-over of assets was recorded and a new Incorporated Society formed. As a caretaker was needed for security as well as ground maintenance the cottage was moved from College Rd after a permit was obtained and Mr R. Cruickshank became resident caretaker.

For all of 1957 targets would be free of charge to all financial members of the two combined clubs. Unneeded traps were sold. Waitemata offered i..80 for the White Flyer Traps. Winstone Ltd purchased the old pavillion for J 255 .

Clive Reid was appointed Club Captain and Lloyd Dickson assistant referee Mr T.A. Smith was to supply afternoon tea at shoots.

25 off the gun Skeet badges were to be made available.

Mr Newton Thomas, the well known shooter and instructor was to visit New Zealand he would be at the club on 29 March. His visit resulted in training sessions being held on a regular basis.

Mr R.A. Cathcart was a new member in 1958.

J. Sinton was made President with Vice-presidents F. Butler, S. Woodroffe, committee W.S. Holmes, M. Hughes R. Cruickshank, T. Smith, L. Curtis, T. Nixon, J. McMullan, club captain C. Reid, Referee D. Simmons, and secretary B. Cronwell.

146 members made this the largest club in New Zealand.

The death occurred of E.J. Schofield and R.L. Fenton.

The cost of the building program wast.773.10.6

The Tongariro club were loaned a trap for their Xmas shoot. In 1959.

During that year the deaths occurred of C. Hodge, A.J. Hannigan and J. Singleton of the Pukekohe Club. Mr Charles Hodge bequeathed the club the sum off 100. The money was invested and the interest obtained was to purchase a trophy to be competed for annually as the Hodge memorial.

Mr S.H. Knibb was a member of the committee in March 1959.

Lights for night shooting were considered and a price obtained from the Western Cartridge Co of Sydney. This was considered too expensive.

By 1960 Clay Targets cost 3d each and ammunition sold for 17/6 a packet.

A shoot was held for the Papakura Acclimatisation Society. 15 targets off 16 metres with a nomination of 11 per team of 5 shooters with a 10/- sweep-stake. Mr Cruickshank donated a cup for this event.

After the death of A.L. Byrne The Arthur Byrne Memorial Cup was to replace the old Bryne Cup in August 1960. The old cup was later to be for junior skeet shooters of 50 targets. The winner to hold for one year..

Mr Malcolm Lynd was admitted to the committee.

Upon registering R.T Nixon was found to be the 100th registered member so was given free subscription for the 1960/61 season. Other new members were J.A. Middleton, C.J. Hodge and L. Fe Its .

In 1961 Sunday shooting was to be tried in place of the normal Saturday. New grounds were again sought as housing once more approached. The Metropolitan Drainage Board land at Mangere was being considered.

A trophy was donated by Mr J Nicholson.

New members for 1961 were W.B. McDonald and in 1962 V. Ball and as a junior member C.Nixon. It was agreed that ladies may join as honorary members

The J.B. O' Loughlan statuette was presented to the highest scorer in Skeet, Double Rise and Single Rise combined.

The Manukau City Council would not allow the club to shoot on the land leased from the Drainage Board owing to objections from residents so further investigation was commenced for another suitable site.

The 1961 International Telegraphic Skeet teams match was won by Loch Raven All Stars of Towson, Maryland, USA from a field of 115 teams. Their score of 496/500 was well ahead of Auckland Metropolitan's two teams with scores of 476/500 and 470/500.

In February 1963 the irregular dress of some members and visitors was brought to the attention of the executive. Mr T. Nixon was deputized to deal with this matter.

A member, who was not a resident of Auckland, was suspended from membership for a period of three months due his behaviour and language at the open shoot held in July 1963. He was later disqualified for life.

The Waitemata club requested the use of the Favona Rd grounds for the forth-coming Perry Cup open shoot.

Miss R. Downes was appointed club secretary in 1964. Mr F. Butler was president.

New members in 1964 were John Read, Bart Gillespie, P.A. Smith, I Campbell and J.J. Lindsay.

Miss Downes resigned July 1965. Mr Cronwell again took over this position.

The committee reported that the property of Mr Hogan at Pukekohe was offered for sale and had looked into the purchase of this, subject to agreement of ground use by the Franklin County Council and the amalgamation with the adjoining Pukekohe Gun Club. The price of the property was to be \$29, 530 for 62 acres, 3 roods and 64 perches. The Favona Rd property was to be sold.

This was duly purchased in December 1965 with a mortgage of\$ 6765.0.0 for the next three years. A new clubhouse was built \$7,920.0.0 with wiring, fittings plumbing etc expected to be another \$2000.00 The total worth was around \$50,000.

The amalgamation of the two clubs Pukekohe Gun Club and the Auckland Metropolitan Gun Club took place at a special meeting on August 26 1967.

Shooting commenced shooting on the new grounds on Sunday the 24th September 1967 with skeet in the morning and straight clays in the afternoon. A big opening day was held on March 2 1968.

Mr F. Butler was appointed patron with Mr J.R. Russek president of the new committee with M.D. Hayes secretary, Vice presidents W.S. Holmes, S.H. Knibb, Club Captain G Denning. Committee were T.A. Smith, E.J. Cathcart, M. Pope J.G. Vickers, R.A. Cathcart, R. Dickson, A.C. Parker, E. Tyrrell, P.L. Pope, J. Lindsay, M. Collins, W. McDonald.

The North Island Championships were held in 1969 and the Favona Rd property was at last sold.

At the AGM held on 24 August 1969 the following committee were elected. Patron F. Butler, President J.R. Russek, Vice Presidents. S. Knibb, J. Vickers, Secretary P.L. Pope, Club Capt. R.B. Lees. Committee J. Butcher, T. A. Smith, K. Clarke, M. Hayes, N. Worthington, W.S. Holmes, M. Davis, A. Wakeford, K. Clarke, J. Read

. A meeting was organized with the Waitemata club, newly moved on its new grounds in Kumeu, to avoid clashing of shoot days and when the skeet fields at Waitemata had been completed a mutual handicap system was to be organised for this discipline.

This resulted in the 1st and 3rd Sundays be Auckland Met shoot days and Waitemata having the 2nd and 4th Sundays. These days could be mutually interchanged if conditions such as open shoot allocated days occurred.

Mrs Nora Russek, Sherylene Caterers, hired the club rooms at a cost of \$500 per year. It was her responsibility to keep the rooms clean. These caterers were engaged for the Open Shoots lunches and afternoon teas, and later did all shoot day lunches.

Deaths occurred in 1970 of Mr E.J. Cathcart and Mr Jock Scott.

The well known "Ranfurly Shield of Shooting", the Reid cup, was won by Auckland Met, after 20 years of trying to bring the shield to Auckland. A score of 104/105 was recorded in this 7 man teams match.

A game fair was organised to be held at the Clevedon Polo Grounds in March of 1971. A combined working party under the control of Mr P.L. Pope and Mr G. Viskovich, from Auckland Met and Waitemata clubs respectively, put together a shooting field complete with a 60 ft high pheasant tower. Mr C. Reid of Sportways Ltd gave lessons on reloading cartridges from his caravan placed close to the shooting field and these cartridges were sold to the public on a 'have a go' basis. The whole Game Fair was so popular that about 55,000 people are supposed to have attended. At least 3,500 were at the shooting field most of the two days of the show. Rick Pope, then aged 13 was trapper boy on the high tower.

The following year on the 19 March 63 American visitors on their 'South Sea Safari' came to Pukekohe to enjoy a day's competition with the Enzedders. At a dinner that night held in the clubrooms entertainment was put on by the local talent of Pat Pope and Dorice Reid of Rarotonga, wife of Clive.

Shortly after this event a young lad absconded from a welfare home, stole a car and when it ran out of petrol, broke into the clubrooms in search of money. Finding nothing of value he set light to some papers in the foyer and returned to the roadside and watched the hard earned clubrooms burn down. Water for the fire-brigade had to be brought by tanker from the Paerata dairy factory.

A working bee followed to demolish what was left and remove the rubbish. Little was left barring the blackened toilet area and some of the kitchen.

The Sam Perry cup match was scheduled for that month and a good turnout was experienced with 35 squads. Lunch was provided by Mrs Russek making a huge cauldron of stew heated by a portable gas cooker, served in bowls with a spoon and bread and butter. The shoot office was a builders shed set up alongside the skeet wall opposite the pavilion remains..

With the help of members expertise and connections a new clubrooms was constructed in short time.

When the American Tour organizers heard about the disaster they had a painting done from one member's photo of the old building. This was raffled and the money, some \$400 was sent to the building fund and the painting was donated by the winners and now hangs in the club office.

Chapter 3

BRIGHAMS CREEK GUN CLUB

Brigham's Creek Gun Club opened with it's first shoot on 25th September 1938.

Mr L.W. King was president and Mr. H.E. Borchardd secretary/treasurer. Later, in 1940 Mr B.E. Cronwell was appointed Secretary.

Shoots were held on the property of Messrs A.R. & J Sinton, near Riverhead. An annual subscription of 5/- (five shillings) was decided a fair amount. This was later amended to 7/6. (75c)

Some of the members over those years have been; J. Sinton, S. Sinton, D. Hills, R. Sinton, G. Thompson, A. Murray, G.E. Kennedy. W. Sinton, L. Strain, L. Peck, G. Hamlett, R.H. Bartley, F. Huntly, A. Hannigan, E. Hewson, E. Robinson, H. Dawson, A. Byrne, E. Copsey, R. Burns, D. Fremlin, R. Fremlin, H. Douglas, H. Morgan, G. Hardy, L. Curtis, F. Cox, A. Spragg, F. Allen, R. Fenton, G. Parr L. Ramsey, R. Wilson, R. Cruickshank, P. Jelovich, J. McMullen, R. McKenzie, F. Annandale, S. Woodroffe, S. Day, W.S. Holmes, W.A. Nehoff, N. Noakes, B. Noakes, Dr. Harris, A. Hines, E. Bartlett, T. Beange, and D. Simmonds.

In November 1938 a hangi was held. 79 people were present and tickets sold for 1/3 (13c) for adults and 9d for children.

Shoots were held approximately every fortnight, trophies for each shoot being donated by members. A ladies prize and a novice prize included each time.

Cups owned by the club were ;

The ERG cup, the Simmonds cup, a senior championship cup (A Grade), a junior championship cup (B grade) the Harry Douglas memorial statuette, the Fred Cox memorial pidgeon, and the L. Peck double rise trophy.

In 1941 the club was approached to run a patriotic shoot for the Henderson King Carnival contestant, Mr Annis A. Corban, the farmers king. The King Carnival was to raise money for the Fighting Forces Appeal and .19.2s.8d was raised. (\$18.28)

1945 saw a new site for the club. Still on Sinton 's property and under the same terms as before. Working bees were held to build new traphouses and put down concrete lanes. Shifting and altering the clubhouse and putting up new fences.

The 1946 Double Rise Provincial championship was held by the club in conjunction with a *i50* (\$100) trophy match of 20 birds.

Teams were sent to compete in the Reid cup and the Byrne Skeet cup whenever they were held. Delegates always attended the Association conferences. The Dewar cup at Auckland Gun Club in 1949 was competed for by two teams from Brigham's Creek.

As the 1950 Empire Games (now Commonwealth Games) shoot held at Auckland Gun Club in conjunction with the North Island Championships was expected to be attended by a large crowd, the Brigham's Creek Gun Club offered the use of their Black Diamond trap to ensure no break-downs or hold-ups occurred.

After many years successful shooting the club found they could not renew their lease on the grounds and so decided to close down. Assets were wound up by presenting the Rodney club with the crockery, Silverdale Gun Club with the Remington Hand Trap, and if required the secretary's office and chair. Auckland Gun Club with 1 000 clays, height sticks and blackboards, and the Metropolitan Gun Club with 5 Boxes Kuku clays, fence stanchion, ropes and the safety notice. All trophies to be returned to donors.

All remaining monies to be then divided between the Auckland and the Metropolitan Gun Clubs.

The club finished with a special Xmas shoot on December 3rd 1954.

PUKEKOHE

Chapter 4

PUKEKOHE ROD AND GUN CLUB 1910 - 1921

The Pukekohe Rod and Gun Club was officially formed in 1910 by members of the local business people and some from the farming community. In 1917 an invitation was declined for them to affiliate with the Auckland Acclimatisation Society preferring to affiliate with the N. Z. Gun Clubs Association.

The officials of the club at that date being the Patron Mr Thomas Kennelly on whose property the shooting was held. The president was Mr C.K. Laurie with eight Vice Presidents, Messrs R. Fulton, J. Donald, I. Motion, G. Potter, J. Kennelly, W. Wright of Puni, H. Lysnar, and Walter Wright.

A management committee was formed of Mr J. Wright, J. Kennelly, R. Fitness, J. Reynolds, R. McGough and W. McNally. Secretary/ Treasurer was Mr. J Wright with Mr F. Browne as auditor. Handicapper was Mr R. McGough and Mr H. Barber was trapper. Other committee members were Messrs. Blake, Daysh, Bowden, Graham, and Stuart.

Subscription for 1917 was 5/- (five shillings) (50c) with new members at 7/6 (seven shillings and sixpence.) This was reduced at the end of 1919 to 5/- for all.

New members in 1918 were Mr Jack Dent and Mr H.A Corbett. Other members included Messrs Blake, Massey, L. Hart, B. Hart, R. Fitness, W. Hawke An account for 18/- was received for Clay targets from Mr F. Moulday.

Mr Daysh was elected President for 1919 with Mr W.H. Thomas as Secretary/ Treasurer. Mr W. McNeil was handicapper. The sum of *12.1s.1d* (two pound seven shillings and one penny) were struck of the books and a fresh start made. An account for 6/- was passed for payment to the Franklin Times office and an order for 500 Blue Rock targets was placed for the forthcoming opening shoot. An account was passed for payment to W.H. Hogan

On December 7th 1921 in the premises of Kennelly & Daysh in the presence of Messrs. A.P. Daysh. J.J. Hart, H. Bilkey, W. Hawke, C. Clowes J. Rack, J. Fausett, W. Massey, T. Maxwell, J. Reynolds, J. Walden, J. Kennelly, and W.H. Thomas a motion was passed, moved by Mr Daysh and seconded by Mr T. Maxwell that this meeting form a new club to be known as the PUKEKOHE GUN CLUB.

PUKEKOHE GUN CLUB 1921 TO 1966

Following the change of name the committee consisted of the President M. J. Kennelly, Vice presidents W. Massey, W. Hawke, T. Motion, W. Wright, C.K.Laurie, F. Gardes, L. Dunn, A.P. Daysh, H. Lysnar, J. Hart, R. Fulton, F. Gresham, J. Beatty, F. Perkins, J. Roalston, F. Brown, J. Morrow, J. Routley, F. Morrow, D. Mcsweeney. Secretary/Treasurer: W. Thomas, Committee: T. Maxwell, H. Bilkey, J. Wallen, T. Reynolds, F. Fausett, C. McCormick, McGough, S. Clowes. Apologies were received from Mesrs J. Blake and M. Butler.

It agreed that upon a movement by Mr Daysh, seconded by Mr Clowes that the club be affiliated with the New Zealand Gun Club Association and the Auckland Acclimatisation Society.

The club was invited to a match against the Waiuku Gun Club Club and the following were elected to attend; J. Fausett, W. Massey, C. McCormick, J.J. Hart, L. Hart, B. Hart, W. Wilson, A. Daysh, J. Reynold, W. Adams, W. McNeil, and J. Blake.

The following year it was decided to hold a shoot on January 21 and to invite the Waiuku Club to be present and charge a levy of 6/- to all shooters.

In March 1922 an agreement was drawn up to lease the property from Mr Kennelly.

That year it was decided that all shooters should bring their own cartridges and the storekeeper was advised of the financial members of the club. A i 10 shoot was to be held. The 1st to receive £5, . 2nd t3 and 3rd 12. The first nomination to be 13/6, second 7/6 with star of 5/- on first bird. Ladies were invited to bring a basket and the secretary was instructed to order 1 bottle of whisky and 5 gallons of beer.

As Mr Thomas was leaving the district Mr Daysh was appointed secretary Pro Tern. The sum of J53.7.8 had been collected that financial year in the way of subscriptions, donations and target money, and the expenditure was.t50.17.2 leaving a healthy balance of !2.10.6.

The Colonial Ammunition Co. donated a challenge cup for the North Island and one for the South Island and wrote inviting the Pukekohe Gun Club to enter that competition. Pukekohe held a shoot on December 16 1923 to decide on a 10 man team to compete for the CAC cup. This competition was later reduced from 10 to 7men.

An open shoot was held at the Pukekohe Showgrounds on Friday May 18 1923 commencing at 10 am. 21 targets with a prize of £60 being divided into 1st £40, 2nd £15 and 3rd £5. Nomination fees were £1.5. 0, for the first and 15/- for the second with a star on the first target of 5/-. The club guaranteed the prize money and in the event of any loss the A&P Society was to stand half the loss. In the event of a profit being made the club would donate half of this to the A&P Society. A deputation, consisting of Messrs J. Roulston, D. R. Hamilton and F.J. Morrow on behalf of the A&P Society thanked the club and accepted the proposals.

Mr Kennelly was to represent the club on the Winter Show committee. Mr Whitney and/or Mr Dobson were to attend to the handicapping for the shoot with Mr. Gordon, assisted by Mr Massey Jnr, to be trappers for the day. Mr Alf Seccombe was to be referee and Mr McGough be call steward. Mr Massey was to inspect the traps and make sure they were in good order for the shoot.

In October 1923 Mr Daysh resigned his position as Secretary owing to pressure from business matters. Mr McNeil was elected in his stead with Mr C.K. La'urie as Patron, Mr E Armstrong was President and one vice president Mr Wm Hawke. The new committee consisted of Messrs McGough, J. Reynolds, J.J. Hart, A. Daysh C. McCormick, W. Massey, and F. Hewitt.

Mr Ernest Umbers and Mr George Gordon had been elected new members.

A gold medal presented to the club from Mr J. Amunsden of Matamata was shot for on Saturday Oct 27th 1923. It was a handicap by distance match of 15 targets to commence at 1.30 p.m. with an entrance fee of 4/- and only resident members of Pukekohe Gun Club were eligible to compete.

Later, on November 10, a Novice Shoot was held with a trophy presented by Mr J. Wright. Prospective novice shooters were invited to attend. The match being advertised in the Franklin Times, the local newspaper. It was a 14 bird match at a cost of 3/- entrance fee.

Another gold medal was put up by Mr Frank Graham as a championship trophy. The match was shot as 21 targets off differing marks of 12, 16 and 20 yards, with 7 targets off each mark. The entrance fee was 4/- and was shot for on Nov. 24th 1923. Medals and other trophies were often donated by individual persons and most prizes donated were anything from a fountain pen or pen-knife or similar. Silver Cups were usually for on-going competition with miniatures sometimes accompanying them for permanent keeping.

The Curtis and Harvey Cup won several years ago was again shot for as an annual event. An accompanying trophy valued at 2 guineas (t2.2.0) was to be the property of the winner while the cup itself was to be held only for one year, with a guarantee that it would be looked after and returned at the end of that time for further competition. This shoot was held on Xmas Day 1923 and was of 15 targets off handicap marks. The entrance fee was 5/-.

As was common practice of the day, all shoots, barring Open Shoots, were held on club grounds for club members only, invitations were sent to one or two other clubs at times for either serious competition or just a friendly match. The club issued an invitation to Papakura Gun Club to attend a sweepstake shoot in January 1924 and also one to Waiuku for a friendly match to be held at Waiuku with perhaps a 10 man team of 10 birds each. This match was held on March 1st 1924. The team left Pukekohe at 12.30 pm. Mr Baguley had been asked for the use of his lorry for transportation but this was not needed so he was given a case of Benzine for his trouble.

It was decided to approach the A&P Society in view of using their grounds for shooting purposes. Messrs Armstrong, McCormick and Reynolds were chosen as delegates. A shoot was held there at the Winter Show on May 22nd 1924 commencing at 10 am with prize money of 1st J. 35, 2nd J. 10 and 3rd J. 5. With entrance fees of 10/- for first nomination and 5/- for second, including targets. Nominations for this closed on the Tuesday prior to the shoot, May 20th at 5pm. Eight barrels of white flyer targets were purchased for this event.

A match was held between Mr J. Wright of Pukekohe and Mr H. Lowe of Waiuku when the Waiuku club attended a sweepstake match at Pukekohe on 14th March 1925.

During the year the death occurred of Mr Alf Seccombe

Mr J.J. Coady was elected Vice President in December 1924 and remained so until his death in 1927. New members to the committee for 1925/26 were Messrs Ewing, Pattie and Armstrong with Mr F Graham as referee.

It was decided that from now on winners names should be engraved on the Club Championship Cup.

A shoot-off was held by Messrs Reynolds and Sims for the medal presented by Mr Walter Wright.

A3 event 10 bird Xmas shoot was held Dec 19 1925 with 2/6 nomination. Prizes were to consist of 2 lambs, one pig, a turkey, and a goose, with 2 bags of potatoes, 1 roast beef and a bag of peas. No competitor allowed more than one prize on the day.

A letter was sent to the Taihape Gun Club for confirmation on the full conditions of the CAC Teams Challenge Cup.

In 1927 CAC presented the club with a gold medal to be shot for at the club Championships. This was held as a 15 target match off 12, 14 and 16 yards with 5 targets off each mark with a 3/- nomination. Another medal, this one donated by Mr Graham, was to be shot for at this event with the conditions being 21 targets of 7 at each mark of 14, 16 and 18 yards with a nomination fee of 4/-

A working bee was held on Saturday 29 October to move the shed on to Mr Kennelly's property at lot 32, section 1, Princess St, Pukekohe.

At the AGM on Friday Dec 9 1927 Messrs A. Clinch and J Adams were elected to the committee. Mr McNeil was again elected Secretary /Treasurer and Mr Charles McCormick continued as President until his death in 1930.

Mr E Cathcart was present at a committee meeting on August 8th 1928 and delegates to the New Zealand Gun Clubs Association were Messrs Fausett, Frampton, Quarterman and Anderson. A donation was made to the NZ Gun Club Assn for the Andrew Dobson Memorial Fund.

A new lease was drawn up for the use of Mr Kennelly's paddock.

The 1930/31 President was J.J. Reynolds and Mr W. Woolson was appointed club delegate to NZGC Assn. The 1931/32 President was Mr H.H. Pattie with Mr E Cathcart as Vice President. Mr Pellow was elected to the committee. In 1932 Mr Pattie stood down from the presidency in favour of Mr J. Adams.

There seems to have been little participation during the lean years but in 1936 the club re-opened with Mr Reynolds paddock being leased for 12 months with an annual rental of 1 / - . A lease agreement was drawn up by Mr Grierson free of charge, except for the 3/6 stamp duty required. It was agreed that shooters sign a warrant freeing Mr Reynolds from any liability in case of an accident on his grounds. On behalf of the club, Mr McComb had a meeting with Miss Kennelly to arrange the removal of the shed from her property.

Present at a meeting held on November 3rd 1936 were Messrs Adams, Gordon, Cathcart, Jeffries, Crosbie, Hart and Reynolds. It was decided that a quorum on the committee be five, while seven would be needed for an A.G.M

At the AGM held on February 16 1937 the following were elected to the committee - President, R.J. Crosbie, Vice President A.G. Jeffries, Secretary/Treasurer W. McNeil, Handicapper J. Reynolds, Referee J. Adams, with Messrs McComb, E. Cathcart, J. Ingram and C. Bovill on the committee. Mr I Brown was Patron. All future prospective members of the club were to be elected by ballot of the committee.

The Curtis and Harvey cup was removed from competition and presented to Mr J.J. Reynolds as he was the only member of the old team now in the club.

In 1938 the official trapper was Monty Brown while G. Craig, E Holmes, and G. Moore were added to the committee. It was decided to raise money to purchase a new trap suitable for Double Rise.

A shoot was held on Saturday February 12 1938 to which invitations were sent to the Huntly and Auckland Gun Clubs. Call steward for the day was M.J. Lowry. A team was sent to the Auckland Club on March 26 1938 and then to Hamilton on November 26 1938 in the challenge for the Reid cup. Hamilton having won this from Auckland in March. The November match saw the biggest muster of shooters ever to compete in New Zealand. So many that a photograph was taken of the scoreboard.

Later, an invitation was sent to Huntly, Auckland, Takapuna, Hamilton, Kerepehi and the Metropolitan clubs to attend the open shoot on December 3rd 1938 commencing at 12.30 pm. Mr G. Craig was in charge of boiling the copper for water for the tea while Mr E. Cathcart was to assist the call steward and Mr Monty Brown would act as trapper.

Mr J.J. Hunt presented a much needed gun rack to the club during 1938, and Mr N Saunders was elected to the committee.

A team was sent to the Auckland Club for the Dewar Cup on February 25 1939. It being a 5 man team of 15 targets off 16 yards. A team of 7 men competed for the Barratt Cup on 4th March at the Metropolitan Gun Club. Petrol money was recompensed to those who took team members in their own cars. They left Pukekhoe Post Office at 12 noon and were returned after leaving Auckland Gun Club at 4 p.m. The cost to the club was JJ-3- 3d with 5/- as secretary expenses.

Representatives, Messrs McNeil, Reynolds and Hart were sent to a meeting of the Sports Events sub-committee for the forthcoming 1940 Centennial held in the Auckland Town Hall on 27 February 1939 with instructions not to commit the club for more than J_5 by way of contributing to the expenses of the proposed function.

To relieve the secretary of some of his duties it was agreed to place a table for nominations separately from that of the scorer. The secretary, Mr McNeil, to just handle the nomination fees and pay outs. Mr G. Craig to be the official scorer with Mr N. Ingram as assistant. All shooting was to cease in time for the grounds

to be cleaned up.

The weather was so bad that the proposed Championship shoot to be held in April 1939 was postponed.

The new Magic Angle trap was purchased for J.27.0.0, with 14/6 freig ht , in May 1939, and a new traphouse built.

Although the Hamilton Gun Club had suggested forming a Waikato Gun Clubs Federation it was decided to join the Auckland Provincial Gun Clubs Assn. at a cost of an annual fee of J_ 1.1.0.

The B.Clinch Cup match was to be held at Huntly over their two day shoot on 16-17 September 1939 but Pukekohe Gun Club was unable to send a team at this time.

Officers of the club for 1940 were Patron C.K. Laurie, President M.J. Lowry. Vice Presidents, J.J. Hart, A.G. Jeffries and D. Gordon, Secretary /Treasurer W. McNeil, Committee J.J. Reynolds, E. Cathcart, J. Hart, S. Bovill, J. Graham, and R. Crosbie

A patriotic shoot was held on July 6th 1940 to raise money for the war effort, all profits to be paid to a patriotic fund as chosen. There was a slight change of committee in 1941 of A .Stevenson in place of D. Gordon as Vice President and the addition of Mr Jefcoate on the committee.

The club remained in abeyance during the duration of the remaining war years.

A meeting took place on Wednesday October 1 7th 1945. Those present were elected to the new committee; Patron Mr Ivie Brown, President W. McNeil, Vice Presidents J.J. Reynolds, J.J. Hunt, E. Holmes, Secretary/treasurer R. Crosbie, with a committee of ; Childs, Duckering, Singleton, E Cathcart, Bradanovich, Jeffries, McComb, Cooper, with M Brown as trapper,

Mr Childs was to attend to the lease of Mr Reynolds paddock. The subscription was to remain the same at 5/- A shoot was to be held on November 3rd and 1600 cartridges purchased. A bank account was opened with the Union Bank with the President and Secretary having power to operate this. A tent was purchased for use of the Secretary, and the shooting area to be roped off. Mr Childs was to organize the forming of an Incorporated Society. Only those members who were financial be allowed to shoot. Mr Monty Brown was made an honorary member.

By 1947 the club officials were ; Patron Mr T Brown, President C Ducker , Vice Presidents S. Loughrin. N Bradanovich, J. Singleton, E.J. Cathcart, J.J. Hart, J.J. Reynolds, W Mc Clea n. Secretary W.S. McClean with committee of R. Crosbie, J. McComb, G. Scott, A.H. Wright, G. Newcombe, C. Bovill, and F. Patchett,

A memorial cup in honour of Mr W McNeil was presented by Mr and Mrs J. B Sim with a miniature to be kept by the winner each year. Mr McNeil had been the Secretary /Treasurer of the club since October 1923 a term of 22years.

The 1948/49 year saw the following changes of officials ; President G. Scott, Secretary E. Cathcart, Assistant secretary R. Cathcart, with new committee members of W. Gleeson, D. Hull, D. Hayes and O. Ridgeway, and G. Cathcart

New grounds were considered and after inspection by Messrs Scott, Loughlin and Bovill, a move was made after shifting the trap from Mr Reynolds property. Mr C. Slee was employed to build a toilet block and other buildings. A shoot was held on the new grounds on 26th February 1949. Mr Joe Reynolds was made a life member, and Mrs E. Cathcart elected assistant secretary. Mr C. Slee joined the committee. The club tent was sold as the new buildings meant it had no further use . The ladies were now able to provide afternoon tea.

By 1952 the patron was W. Stevenson and Mr E. Williams was on the committee and a girl was employed as trap puller. Mrs Scott and Mrs Cathcart helped in the running of the shoots as well as doing the teas.

1953/54 Messrs S. Childs and A. Smith were on the committee and the trap puller was Jim Peters. Mr C. Austin who had been unpaid auditor for some years was given a gift to the value of 25/- In 1955 R. Cathcart took over as club captain from R. Holmes

During the 1958/59 season the club held shoots every month and two open shoots were held. Two new concrete block puller house were to be built.

Mr J. Singleton was elected Secretary and Mr E.G Scott was president. The property was farmed under the care of two of the members, Mr J Singleton and Mr Paterson. This meant a lot of extra work as blackberry and rushes needed to be sprayed and the drains cleaned.

A luncheon pavilion was established and seating obtained that could be carried outdoors. Mr O Ridgeway was elected patron and plans were made for a jubilee shoot in 1960.

Mr Jack Singleton died during 1959. He had worked diligently for the club over many years both at shoots and as farm manager. Later, his ashes were scattered over the club grounds at a ceremony after the AGM in July 1961.

The 1960/61 year saw R. Crosbie as president with Mr E.G. Scott standing down after 14 years in office. The new committee comprised of G. Scott, E. Holmes, T.W. Russell, N.M. Bradanovich, M. Peglar, G. Taylor, J.A. Middleton, V. Hansen, E.Cathcart, J. Scott as secretary. Mr S Knibb was a member.

After the death of Mr Singleton, Mr J Middleton took on the farm work with Mr Paterson and was elected secretary in January 1960. The committee was joined by G. Douglas and F. Barnett. Mr Murray Peglar looked after the meals at open shoots.

Several burglaries occurred as the buildings were entered by means of breaking a window and repairs to glass and frames were repeated until the purchase of the small police holding cells building which was moved onto the grounds for use as store shed for both ammunition and alcohol.

Ladies were asked to assist with the lunches for open shoots. The Cucksey cup was competed for with a team of 5 men shooting at 15 targets off 16 yards at a cost of J.2.10/- entry fee and a 10/- optional sweep.

1960 was the club's 50th jubilee and an invitation was sent to old members to attend a special day. Auckland Metropolitan members came to help run the shoot.

Deaths were recorded of J. Stevenson and N.M. Bradanovich during 1961

Debentures holders who had loaned monies for the purchase of the new property had been repaid, and the club was in good health. The new committee consisted of Patron Mr O. Ridgeway, President Mr A.M. (Bill) Gleeson,

Secretary J.S. Scott, Treasurer, J.A. Middleton with committee Hanson, Scott, E.J. Cathcart, Crosbie, Russell, Peglar, Taylor, Fausett, Pope, Douglas, Everest, and club captain E.G. Scott.

During 1961 several cups were shot for and large numbers of shooters visited from other clubs. This necessitated in asking Messrs M. Pope and V. Hanson to assist the President and Club Captain in welcoming them to the grounds.

Mr T.A. Smith was engaged to cater for open shoots with Messrs M. Peglar and D. Everest to help, plus any women who wished to assist. A price of 4/6 was asked for lunch and 1/6 for afternoon tea. Morning tea was free but a box would be put on the table for donations.

In 1962 the Club became an Incorporated Society.

Mr Loughrin was given permission to use the shooting grounds provided his party were registered members or affiliated with the Pukekohe Club.

Trappers pay was now to be f.J.6 for a full day or 17/6 a ½ day. Pullers were to receive 1.17.6 or 22/6 for ½ a day.

In October the Te Kohanga Club asked for the use of Pukekohe grounds for their coming open shoot for the Cucksey Cup on January 19.

Neighbours had complained of shooting after dark. Strong disciplinary action was to be taken by any discharge of a fire-arm after the completion of an organised shoot.

Mr Peter Jelovich had donated a watch as a trophy for a forth-coming shot.

A quote was received of 1200 for flood-lights to allow night shooting, this was considered to high a price.

Te Kohanga again used the grounds for their Xmas shoot owing to their own being flooded.

A list of registered shooters was requested to make sure all visitors were not unregistered persons.

An offer was made to the Town Clerk to support the Civic function to be held for the retiring Mayor and Mayoress, Mr & Mrs Childs.

Mr R. Dickinson was thanked for the gate and hinges he had supplied.

A bank overdraft was granted for V 50 so a new toilet block could be built at a cost of not over f500.

Mr J.A. Middleton resigned as secretary due to other commitments. The 1963 AGM resulted in the following, Patron. Mr O. Ridgway, President Mr L. Felts, Vice-president M. Pope, committee K. Loudon, R.J. Crosbie, T.W Russell, R. Fausett, A.M. Gleeson, E.J. Cathcart, J. Vickers, J.S. Scott, V. Hanson, and R. Yearbury. Mr Scott took over the secretarial duties in August.

Mr T.W. Russell offered the loan of 1500 to be used for the erection of the toilet block.

It was decided that practice shooters be charged a fee of 3/- to cover cost of trappers etc.

In 1964 a team of J. Scott, P. Pope, W. Hood, R. Carlson and E.J. Cathcart won the Hood cup with a score of 70.

At a meeting held on March 17 1965 a letter was to be sent to Mr Hogan, the grazier, telling him that the club did not intend dispensing with any, or the whole, of its property. If and when this happened he would be notified in due course.

In November 1965 the adjoining Hogan property of 62 acres 3 roods and 64 perches was under investigation for purchase by the combined Auckland-Metropolitan Club and the Pukekohe Club in view of amalgamation. The Franklin County Council gave permission for this ground to be used as a Gun Club.

The amalgamation took place and the club assets were transferred. Members continued to shoot but on the new grounds opposite the old club as members of The Auckland Metropolitan Gun Club.