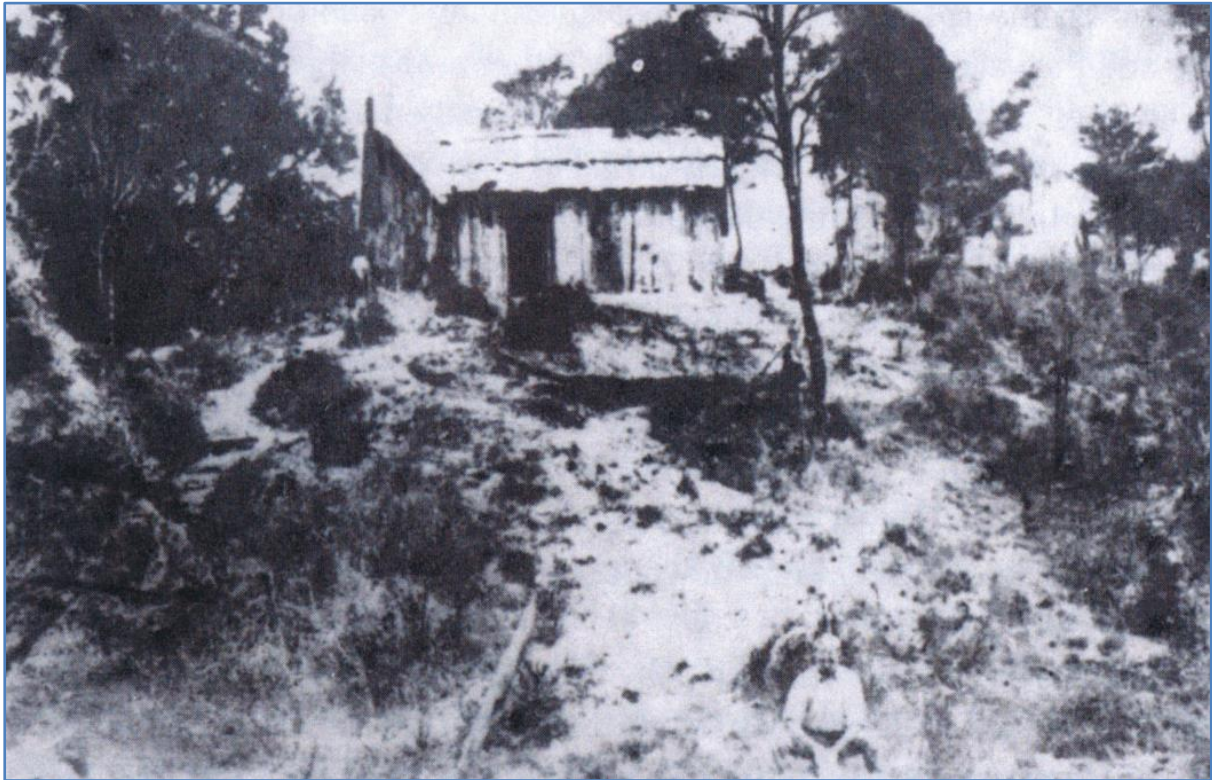


Barton Pioneer Hut & Chimney

When the Barton Family first settled in Trentham Upper Hutt they built a small hut with a fire place and chimney made out of river stones. Later the Barton's constructed a larger homestead on the same section in Trentham.

Richard Barton's first home Trentham



Richard Barton's first home at Trentham. The home is a slab hut in a roughly cleared area of bush. A young boy shown in foreground

(Reference Upper Hutt City Library Heritage collection Recollect website Murray Maxwell collection)

The 1939-1940 New Zealand Centennial Exhibition was held in Wellington. For the Women's Court the organisers reconstructed a 1840s replica of a pioneer hut with a fire place and chimney made out of river stones. The hut was the main part of the North Island women's exhibition. The South Island exhibition was a Victorian parlour.

Otaki Mail newspaper Friday 11 August 1939

Hand-made nails one hundred years old are being used in the construction of the Pioneer Hut in the Women's Section at the New Zealand Centennial Exhibition. The hut will be the main feature of the North Island women's exhibit and will be built in the form of a replica of an early settler's home about the 1840 period. A raupo roof and a backcloth scene of a sailing ship in the Bar will complete the atmosphere. Some of the nails are from the Bay of Islands and some from Petone and were used originally in early settler's dwellings.

(Reference Papers past website Otaki Mail newspaper 11 August 1939)

Evening Post newspaper 13 October 1939

Women's Section - The Pioneer Hut - The part women have played in the 100 years development of New Zealand is being well shown in the large hall in the assembly block. In the glass cases which stand on the floor and on the walls are evidences of the influence of women on art in all its phases. Valuable loan exhibits which go back to 1840 are an outstanding feature. At the far end as one enters the hall is the Fine Arts display including decorative needlework, bookbinding, and leather work, metal work in copper and brass, jewellery and enamels, lacquer, carving, and wood inlay, illuminating, pottery, china painting, stained glass, designs for fabrics, textiles, and wall papers, weaving and spinning, and toys. Country women's work during the century under the control of the Women's Division of the Farmers Union shows what the women of New Zealand have done as a contribution to the country's progress. The collection from the earliest days of paintings done by women in New Zealand is a remarkable one.

Reconstructed with care after considerable research the pioneer hut typical of those in which the earliest families in New Zealand lived is one of the most striking exhibits. With slab walls a tea-tree picket fence and a raupo roof and windows at the back showing glimpses of the shipping of the time in Wellington Harbour it strikes a great contrast with the beautiful lace work and embroideries from the Embroiders Guild of London and with the dainty beautifully painted china in other parts of the hall. The hut shows the primitive conditions of household life in 1840. The vertical slabs of trees split and adzed vary from a foot to eighteen inches in width. There is a beautifully squared beam running along the front of the hut which never was touched by a sa, the adze leaving an astonishingly smooth surface. These are actually over 100 years old taken from just such a hut. One of the windows at the back is the first cast iron window brought to New Zealand. The furnishings are brought from many parts of the North Island. There is a cradle 250 years old brought out by a pioneer Wanganui family and used by them since New Plymouth has also sent down some very interesting articles of great age. Napier is represented by a high-backed chair belonging to the Colenso family. The South Island early pioneers room which flanks the North Island pioneer hut presents a great contrast as it represents the home of a fairly well-to-do family, which has become more or less established. It contains the first piano to come to New Zealand a harp and furnishings of the Mid Victorian era.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 13 October 1939)

Evening Post newspaper 08 November 1939

Historic Interest Women's Section at the Exhibition - A Wonderful Achievement

Thousands of people will undoubtedly visit the Centennial. Exhibition and many hours will be spent in each of the pavilions but it seems safe to guess that the majority of the visitors, men and women alike will spend more time in the women's section of the Dominion Exhibition Building than elsewhere. There are few people for whom antiques hold no romance and few who are not fascinated by fine and beautiful workmanship there are so many wonderful things of historic and artistic interest in the women's section of the Exhibition that it would take days in which to inspect and fully appreciate all that it holds. For those with imagination the whole history of New Zealand is contained within its walls.

Pioneer Hut and Room - In the furnishings of the pioneer hut dated 1840 which is the North Island's chief contribution to the loan's section can be seen examples of the lovely things brought to this country by the pioneers evidence of their determination to introduce into an uncivilised land in spite of the hardships that had to be faced something of the culture and the art of the country they had left behind. There is a side table cover woven on hand loom for a bride in 1796. There is a beautiful antique wooden cradle of Dutch origin over 250 years old, a tallboy of perfect workmanship, an exquisite work table and some lovely china. These are but a few of the treasures in this room and among other things not so ornamental but extremely interesting are a goffering iron, a tinder box, a rug hand-sewn by a regimental tailor from uniform facings, the

colours representing different regiments in service at the time of the Maori Wars and a cabin lamp used on a voyage to New Zealand in 1845. Even the cast-iron windows and the adze-hewn slabs of timber forming the walls are genuine antiques, having been part of the **old Barton, homestead** erected at Upper Hutt 100 years ago. The atmosphere both in this and in the South Island's Pioneer room alongside is so realistic that the feeling it gives is that the beholder is viewing a familiar scene from his or her own past. In both rooms a woman is seated at a table the one in the hut is sewing a child's frock and in the room of later date and richer furnishings the woman sits quietly reading a replica of the Treaty of Waitangi.

Rich in Treasures - The South Island room which is dated 1850 to 1860 is rich in treasures and just as in the other room the windows and their curtains are genuine antiques. The floor is covered with an Aubusson carpet and all about the room there are wonderful pieces of furniture and exquisite ornaments.

Among the innumerable objects of particular interest are a cane lounge brought out in the Charlotte Jane in 1850 and used as part of the furniture of the stateroom on board a mahogany teapot brought out from Scotland in 1852 and a piano the first to arrive in Canterbury which spent six weeks in the Rangitata river bed on its way by bullock wagon to Orari Gorge and which Samuel Butler often played upon during his visits to the homestead.

Reconstruction of pioneer hearth and stove – photograph taken by John Dobree Pascoe



“A reconstruction of a pioneer hearth and wood stove as exhibited in the Women’s Court of the New Zealand Centennial Exhibition (1939-40) Photograph taken by John Dobree Pascoe.”

(Reference Digital NZ MNZ-1867-1/2-F ca 1940 National Library of NZ)

Royal Exhibits - In addition to the Pioneer Hut and Pioneer Room many beautiful antiques and articles of historical interest are displayed in the cases as general loan exhibits and include Royal exhibits specially sent out to the women's section by members of the Royal household.

Arts And Crafts - The work of New Zealand women exhibitors as well as representative works from overseas is included in the fine arts and arts and crafts sections and only a visit to the Exhibition could give anyone any idea of the excellence of display. There is a special countrywomen's section which is in charge of the New Zealand Women's Institutes and the Women's Division of the Farmers Union. In this section is shown the work of country women generally not only that done in their working hours but also in their hours of recreation. Of special interest is the section devoted to the work of the Maori women. Among the exhibits will also be found loan collections from Women's Institutes of various other countries including England Scotland and Rhodesia and the Country women's Association of Australia. The Royal School of Needlework is also represented and the Embroiderers' Guild has contributed exhibits. Altogether this section of the Centennial Exhibition is a wonderful achievement the results of an amazing amount of work and organisation on the part of a very large committee of women from all over New Zealand and worthy to commemorate the part played by women in the founding of this country. But their father's will states "They must thoroughly satisfy the trustees that they understand the principles of sound investment substantially as they are explained by some authoritative standard work on the subject. This examination must show that they have a practical knowledge of such principles permanently understood and remembered and not a mere temporary committing to memory of some book.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 08 November 1939)

Victorian Parlour



(Reference Digital NZ website Auckland Weekly News newspaper 08 November 1939 page 046 NZ Libraries)

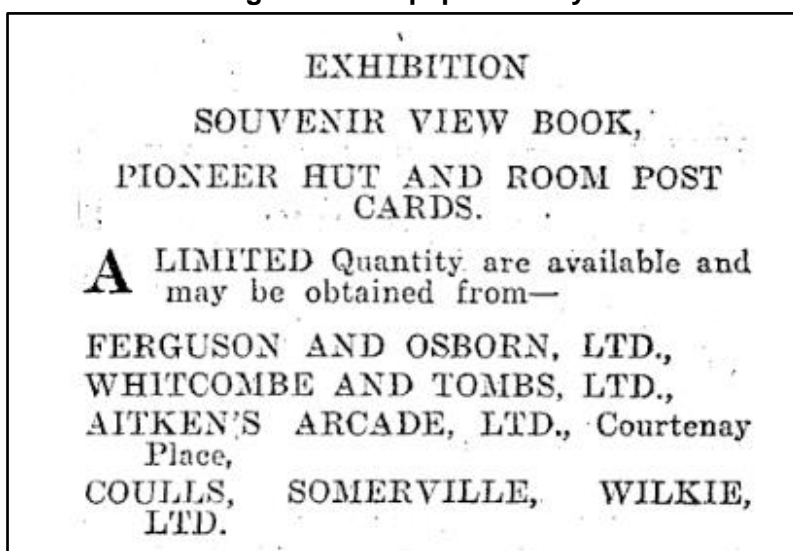
"Two Interesting Exhibits from the Women's Court. The upper photograph is the North Island representation at the interior of a pioneer's home of 1840. Below is a Victorian period parlour arranged by South Island women".

Evening Post newspaper 28 November 1939

Lady Roberts who is a vice president of the executive of the women's section at the Centennial Exhibition and chair-woman of the Wellington Loans Committee. The other members of the Loans Committee are Mrs T C A Hislop, Lady Norwood, Mrs E P Norman, Mrs B Sutherland, Miss Constance Morice, Mrs Douglas Whyte, Miss O Barron, Mrs John Murray and Mrs C P Hainsworth. This committee is responsible for the North Island Pioneer Hut which is attracting so much attention in the women's section. It also arranged the delightful parade of genuine period frocks depicting fashions during the past 100 years which took place in the Exhibition Assembly Hall last week and is to be repeated once a month for the duration of the Exhibition

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 28 November 1939)

Evening Post newspaper 14 May 1940



(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 14 May 1940 page 2)

Evening Post newspaper 01 March 1940

The Pioneer Hut (To the Editor) – Sir - In common no doubt with many thousands who have been privileged to see the New Zealand Centennial Exhibition the thought has repeatedly occurred to me that in so short a time but for our treasured memories it must be lost to us for ever. Among the many wonderful things we would like to see preserved for all time one stands out in my mind above all others. I refer to the Pioneer Hut in the Women's Court. The difficulties if any of having this old relic of the past preserved to posterity are surely not insurmountable and how wonderful it would be for future generations of New Zealand to see it just as we see it today. Just a thought Mr Editor with thanks to you for the opportunity to express it in the hope that we may yet see this treasure preserved for all time. - I am etc., New Zealander

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 01 March 1940 plus comments in other newspaper articles)

Evening Post newspaper 13 March 1940

The Pioneer Hut (To the Editor) Sir - May I congratulate "New Zealander" and "Another New Zealander" on the suggestion to preserve for all time the pioneer hut and relics now at the Centennial Exhibition. I thoroughly agree that many citizens of our Dominion would willingly denote many relics connected with our early history. In this connection I am prepared to donate a well preserved flint lock musket (which I believe was amongst the collection brought to New Zealand by E G Wakefield and traded to the Maoris). I trust the suggestion will be taken up by the civic and Dominion Museum authorities. I am, etc., B.B.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 13 March 1940)

Evening Post newspaper 28 March 1940

The Pioneer Hut - (To the Editor) – Sir - "Another New Zealander" and "B.B." in supporting my suggestion for the preservation of our Centennial Exhibition Pioneer Hut encourage me to bring the matter forward again. The closing date of the Exhibition draws near and then the marvels which took so long to build will quickly disappear. Is the wonderful picture of New Zealand pioneer life to disappear also. The dismantler has a job to do he has no time to stop and admire old adze-hewn timbers and to him they will be well just pieces of wood. The old relics in the hut will not be destroyed. They will be returned to the good people who loaned them so that we might see this picture of simple pioneer home life. How the owners must cherish these relics but one wonders whether their children will also cherish them when the present owners have passed on. Our museum authorities have here a particularly valuable exhibit more precious to New Zealanders than many of those now housed and protected within their walls.

I am etc., New Zealander.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 28 March 1940)

After the Centennial Exhibition the Hut was purchased by Lady Roberts and she donated the dwelling with river stone fireplace and chimney to the Hutt Borough Council to place in their new Jubilee Park. Lady Roberts was quoted as saying "the hut had been made from wood and stone from the old Barton homestead Heretaunga".

A new reserve on the Western Hutt Road was officially opened on the 01 February 1941 on the Western Hutt Road. The new reserve was named "Jubilee Park" and included a fernery.

Evening Post newspaper 04 May 1940

Pioneer Hut to be saved - The pioneer hut in the very popular women's section is to be saved for it was announced last evening that Lady Roberts chairwoman of the loans committee of the women's section had bought the North Island pioneer hut for presentation to the Wellington Early Settlers' Association. Lady Roberts said that the hut had been made from wood and stone from the old Barton homestead Heretaunga and thinking it a pity that it should have to be dismantled she had bought it from the owner Mr E Grant-Taylor. I am hopeful she added that when a suitable home is found for the pioneer hut the people who so kindly came forward with the antiques with which it has been filled will give them to the Early Settlers' Association. Such a collection would be of immense interest and historical value and doubtless people with antiques which were not included in the Exhibition collection will also be anxious to give them as soon as they know where the pioneer hut is to be placed

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 04 May 1940)

Evening Post newspaper 11 June 1940

Lower Hutt Affairs Borough Council Meets – The Monthly meeting of the Lower Hutt Borough Council was held last evening. The Mayor Mr J W Andrews presided. It was decided to name the reserve of the Western Hutt Road on which the fernery is being built Jubilee Park.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 11 June 1940)

Hutt News newspaper 12 June 1940

Western Hutt Reserve – It was decided to name the new reserve on the Western Hutt Road "Jubilee Park" and that it be officially opened on 01st February 1941 which is the date on which the borough will celebrate its jubilee.

(Reference Papers past website Hutt News newspaper 12 June 1940)

Evening Post newspaper 09 July 1940

Lower Hutt Affairs – A meeting of the Lower Hutt Borough Council presided over by Mayor J W Andrews was held last evening. The reserve committee reported that it had received an offer from the Mayor to provide certain additional facilities at Jubilee Park.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 09 July 1940)

Evening Post newspaper 20 July 1940

Jubilee Park Fernery Built Workmen Commended - Gift of Pioneer Hutt by Lady Roberts

An informal function yesterday afternoon marked the completion of the constructional work at the fernery on Jubilee Park Lower Hutt and the thanks of the community are due to the Mayor of Lower Hutt (Mr J W Andrews) not only for the conception of the idea but for bearing the very considerable expense of finding the whole of the material including the glass and joinery work for the building of the fernery. In addition to the building the rockeries both inside and outside have been laid out and paths constructed round the outside plot which will be planted with native shrubs. The whole of New Zealand is being scoured to procure ferns chiefly native and in addition numbers of private enthusiasts in various parts of the Dominion are voluntarily contributing a notable donor being Mr Potts of Opotiki. Already many of these ferns are nestling down in their congenial surroundings and appear as if they had grown over the pools into which they are drooping but of course thousands remain to be fitted into their appropriate surroundings.

The latest addition to the attraction at the park is the gift by Lady Roberts of the Pioneer Hut which was such a great attraction at the Centennial Exhibition. This it was announced yesterday will be placed in natural bush surroundings alongside a winding path through the bush above the lake which lies in the throat of the gully.

Yesterday Mr Andrews entertained at afternoon tea the men who during the past months have been laying out the grounds and constructing the fernery. Mrs Andrews presided and other guests were Lady Roberts, Councillor J Mitchell, Mr W Toomath and Mr and Mrs E Hutt. Attraction to Sightseers - Mr Andrews in thanking the men for the good work they had done said it had been most noticeable that they had given more than average service and appeared to have taken a joy in their work. The inspiration to build the fernery had come from a visit to New Plymouth where he and Mr Hutt (Superintendent of Reserves) had paid many visits to Mr Parker's private fernery from which many features had been adopted in the present building. He hoped Jubilee Park would give much joy not only to residents of the valley but to the whole district. Originally the area 11½ acres had been offered to the borough for £3000 but it was ultimately acquired for £1030 and of this over £500 was covered by a contra account. It was hoped that the park would be included in Wellington sightseeing tours and that visitors would be given a view of the valley and the harbour from the Normandale Road at the head of the park and be able to walk down through the delightful bush tracks and alongside the lake to finish up at the fernery. In addition to the 11½ acres a further half acre had been donated to the borough by the adjoining owner and this had already been planted in native shrubs. The hill top portion which had been cleared of gorse would also be planted. Mr Andrews thanked Lady Roberts for her interest in the park and particularly for the donation of the Pioneer Hut, the totara slabs of which had once formed part of the celebrated Barton residence at Heretaunga. The timber in the hut would probably be in good order for another hundred years. The gift of the hut had been made possible by the efforts of Mr W Toomath. Mr E Hutt on behalf of the men who had worked on the job thanked the Mayor for the great interest he had taken in the undertaking and for his very material help given in the construction of the fernery. Jubilee Park lies in a gully leading off the Western Hutt Road a short distance north of the Normandale railway crossing and also has a frontage to Normandale Road.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 20 July 1940)

Hutt News newspapers 24 July 1940

Jubilee Park – Nearing Completion – Gift of Pioneer Hut

Mr Andrews expresses appreciation to Lady Roberts for her interest in the park and especially for her donation of the Pioneer Hut which caused so much interest in the Women's Court at the Centennial Exhibition. The totara slab of this hut had formed part of the well-known Barton residence at Heretaunga. This historical building will find a delightful setting on the banks of the lake at the foot of the bush-clad gully. The gift of the hut had been made possible by the efforts of Mr Wm Toomath, secretary of the Wellington Early Settlers Association. [did not transcribe the full newspaper article)

(Reference Papers past website Hutt News newspaper 24 July 1940)

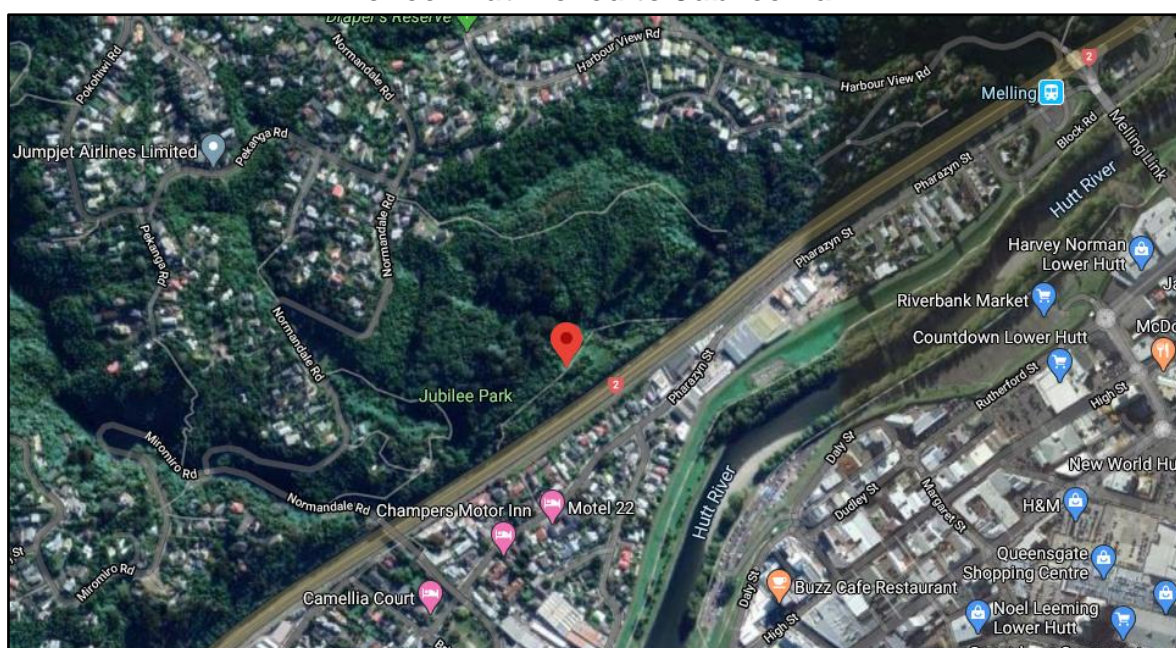
Hutt News newspaper 13 February 1946

Jubilee Park - Display of Begonias Lower Hutt Beauty Spot

Charmingly situated in a niche in the hills Jubilee Park is one of Lower Hutt's most attractive beauty spots and is well worth a visit especially just now when the begonias are on exhibition. The begonia house is certainly a thing of beauty some exquisite blooms being displayed rich and varied in colour perfect in formation. The vivid red and orange the glowing yellow the delicate pink the pure white all are very lovely. The hanging baskets of smaller flowers are also very attractive. Besides the begonia house is the fernery cool and shady with its ferns and native shrubs its rockery and its running stream. In it every variety of New Zealand fern is said to be represented. Lower Hutt is fortunate in having a patch of native bush right in the city and with beautiful tree ferns and other native trees winding paths, pools and running streams little waterfalls, rustic bridges and lovely vistas opening up at every turn Jubilee Park is an ideal place to rest in or stroll through. Even the place where hot water may be obtained harmonises perfectly with its surroundings taking the form of a pioneer slab whare with boulder fireplace. Those who have not yet been to Jubilee Park and it is surprising how often residents of a town do not visit a spot that visitors rave over should make a point of enjoying its beauties and restful atmosphere as soon as possible.

(Reference Papers past website Hutt News newspaper 13 February 1946)

Pioneer Hut moved to Jubilee Park



The Jubilee Park was opened on 01 February 1941

The Fernery

This is the site of Jubilee Park's former fernery, built to celebrate the 50th jubilee of the Lower Hutt Borough Council in 1941 and its elevation to city status. Mayor Jack Andrews donated an impressive fern collection. It was said to be the most comprehensive collection of ferns from all parts of New Zealand. Mr Andrews was a keen fern collector and would accompany park caretaker George Snow and council-staff to Akatarawa in search of more ferns. Cineraria's, begonias and cyclamens from the council nursery added splashes of colour to the fern display which was well-visited by groups of local schoolchildren. Waterfalls cascaded from rocks at either end and followed under bridges into a pool. Careful attention had been paid to atmospheric conditions so it was possible to cultivate species usually found only in the dense bush. Beyond the nearby lake an historical pioneer hut was re-erected after the Centennial Exhibition in Wellington in 1940. The timber has rotted but the stone chimney remains. The fernery's demise was caused by widening the Western Hutt Road, which took the carpark land. The fernery was eventually demolished and some of the ferns planted out under trees in the park. In 2003 locally-based Global Volunteer Network workers cleared out the fernery to reveal many of its original features.

(Reference transcription of plaque situated in Jubilee Park Normandale Hutt Valley)

River stone chimney - Jubilee Park



(Reference images of chimney situated in Jubilee Park taken by Nick Beynon 2020)

River stone chimney - Jubilee Park



(Reference images of chimney situated in Jubilee Park taken by Nick Beynon 2020)

River stone chimney - Jubilee Park



(Reference images of chimney situated in Jubilee Park taken by Nick Beynon 2020)

People associated with the Pioneer Hut & Chimney

Lady Hannah Ruby ROBERTS

"Lady Roberts said that the hut had been made from wood and stone from the old Barton homestead Heretaunga and thinking it a pity that it should have to be dismantled she had bought it from the owner Mr E Grant-Taylor".

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 04 May 1940)

0- Lord Alexander Fowler ROBERTS born 1882 New Zealand died 1961 New Zealand married 1907 New Zealand (**Lady ROBERTS**) **Hannah Ruby FARQUHAR** born 1880 New Zealand died 1968 New Zealand

#Alexander Fowler ROBERTS born 1882 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1882 folio website 1882/9427 parents Louisa Jane and John Roberts

#Hannah Ruby FARQUHAR born 1880 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1880 folio website 1880/1814 parents Mary and Grant Preston Farquhar

#Alexander Fowler ROBERTS married 1907 New Zealand Hannah Ruby FARQUHAR reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1907 folio website 1907/1428

#Alexander Fowler ROBERTS died 1961 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1961 folio website 1961/25856 age 78 born about 1883

#Hannah Ruby ROBERTS died 1968 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1968 folio website 1968/48199 age 88 born about 1880

Errol Grant TAYLOR

"Lady Roberts said that the hut had been made from wood and stone from the old Barton homestead Heretaunga and thinking it a pity that it should have to be dismantled she had bought it from the owner Mr E Grant-Taylor".

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 04 May 1940)

0- Errol GRANT-TAYLOR born 28 July 1889 Waimate New Zealand died 31 December 1950 Lower Hutt New Zealand married 1922 New Zealand **Dorothy Brunhilda CHEESEMAN** born 22 February 1891 New Zealand died 1973 New Zealand

#Errol Grant TAYLOR born 1889 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1889 folio website 1889/10379 parents Isabella Lyon and David Andrew Taylor

#Dorothy Brunhilda CHEESEMAN born 1891 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1891 folio website 1891/921 parents Rosetta and Thomas Frederick Cheeseman

#Errol GRANT-TAYLOR married 1922 New Zealand Dorothy Brunhilda CHEESEMAN reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1922 folio website 1922/9363

#Errol GRANT-TAYLOR 131 Waterloo Road Lower Hutt manager & Dorothy GRANT-TAYLOR 131 Waterloo Road Lower Hutt married 1938 & 1941 Hutt Electoral Roll

#Errol GRANT-TAYLOR died 31 December 1950 Lower Hutt New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1951 folio website 1951/18925 age 60 born about 1891

#E GRANT-TAYLOR 51952 1st NZEF died 31 Dec 1950 aged 58 buried Taita cemetery Section Y (RSA) Hutt Valley

#Dorothy Brunhilda GRANT-TAYLOR died 1973 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1973 folio website 1973/30420 born 22 February 1891
