

1.6 SOILS AND GEOMORPHOLOGY

The area occupied by Queens Park was part of an old alluvial plain from the proto-Mataura river, laid down in the Pliocene period. It is part of an old fan system and has a gently undulating surface which gradually slopes in a north easterly - south westerly direction. The corner of Queens Drive and Gala Street is approximately seven metres higher than the lower areas near the entrance to the Jessie Calder Garden.

The undulating surface was intersected by swales which can still be identified in some parts of the Park. Over time, filling and levelling has modified the original landform in some areas. A small stream appears to have followed one of the swales across the north western portion of the Park. Known as the Coldstream it may have originated on the property occupied by the Coldstream homestead. It does not show on any of the old plans and its exact position and nature cannot be determined.

Later plans (1912) also show a small stream flowing from the vicinity of the St Andrew Street entrance to a pond on the site of the present duck pond, then across to the old rhododendron bed just north of the rose garden. It then disappeared, presumably into a piped drain. A later plan (post 1940) shows that the stream must have been entirely piped and only the duck pond remained.

The parent soils in the Park are Waikiwi silt loams although there is some residual soil which accumulated under the dense Podocarp forest which once covered the site. Waikiwi silt loams are relatively fertile, lowland, yellow-brown earths. They are formed in deep wind-deposited loess¹ derived from greywacke-schist rocks and are generally free draining.

In some areas the soils have been heavily modified as landfill has been brought in to fill hollows and new topsoil placed over the fill. Soil profiles show that in some parts of the Park there have been successive attempts of filling hollows. In some parts of the Park, this has created impervious layers which result in poor drainage.

The Waikiwi silt loams are generally free-draining but the compact subsoil is slowly permeable and this causes some water logging after heavy rainfall.

1.7 CLIMATE

Being the most southerly part of mainland New Zealand, Southland is cooler than the rest of the country. It has more frosts and substantially less sunshine. Invercargill is located between latitude 46 and 47 degrees, meaning it is in the latitude of prevailing westerly's. The funnelling effect caused by Foveaux Strait also increases the severity of the coastal winds.

The westerly winds normally bring a plentiful supply of moisture so that Invercargill's rainfall is very evenly distributed throughout the year. The positioning of anticyclones as they pass over New Zealand greatly influences rainfall and its frequency. The anticyclones often have shower cloud around their outer edges and when they pass too far north, Invercargill experiences showers

¹ Topoclimate Southland Soil Information Sheet No 23 - Waikiwi

instead of fine weather. These anticyclones are frequently followed by rapidly moving fronts which bring further rain.

Sunshine is another important factor and the amount of sunshine that Invercargill receives is strongly influenced by a coastal cloud belt associated with Foveaux Strait. Invercargill receives 20%-25% less sunshine than centres in the sunnier climes north of latitude 45 degrees and up to 40% less than centres such as Nelson and Blenheim. Cloudy days are frequent and there are long periods when very little sun is recorded.

Lack of sunshine has a very marked influence on plant growth especially when combined with cool temperatures, strong salt laden winds and frequent showers.

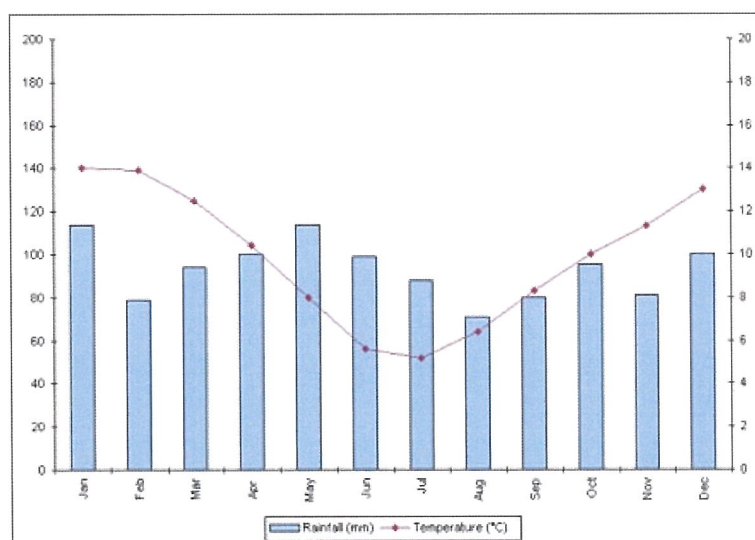
Summary

Invercargill has a cool temperate climate with a relatively high rainfall, strong persistent winds which are often strongly salt laden and frequently cloudy skies. The winds reach their greatest intensity during the spring months and to a lesser extent, with the autumn equinox and the summer solstice.

Invercargill experiences an average of about 94 days of ground frost per year. In 1996 a heavy snow fall followed by severe frost that lasted for ten days killed and damaged many trees and shrubs in Queens Park.

While the local climate is an inhibiting factor for some plants common in other parts of New Zealand, it also favours a large number of plants from cool temperate regions.

In considering the effects of the local climate on Queens Park, shelter is of prime importance for both its horticultural and recreational values. Shelter belts of trees, which run in a predominantly north-south direction, help to create the pleasant environment and good growing conditions in the Park. It is essential that the integrity of those shelter belts are retained and that an ongoing programme of progressive replacement is adhered to.



Average Rainfall and Temperature - NIWA

Summary of Invercargill's Climate

Mean annual values for period 1971-2000²

	Invercargill	NZ Average*
Rainfall	1112 mm	1114 mm
Wet days	158 days	115 days
Sunshine hours	1614 hrs	2023 hrs
Mean temperature	9.9 °C	12.74 °C
Very highest temperature	32.2 °C**	
Very lowest temperature	-9.0 °C	
Ground frost	94 days	54 days
Mean wind speed	18 km/hr	14 km/hr
Gale days (over 63km/hr)	18 days	5 days

* Average of 26 New Zealand main centres for period 1971-2000.

** Record high temperature of 34.4 °C on 23 January 2006

1.8 HISTORY

Detail on the many historical facts can be found in the Management Plan. In this section of the Management Plan, the Park is referred to as Queens Park however in the early days, Queens Park was known as Victoria Park or sometimes just "The Park".

1.8.1 History in Chronological Order

1857 **John Turnbull Thomson**, the Chief Surveyor for the Province of Otago, laid out the new town of Invercargill in 1857. Fortunately for Invercargill, Thomson had the foresight to set aside 200 acres (81 hectares) of land that was later to become known as Queens Park. Thomson's plan also included strips of land for "public gardens" that enclosed the new town. Most of this land exists today as the Town Belt Reserves and Otepunī Gardens.

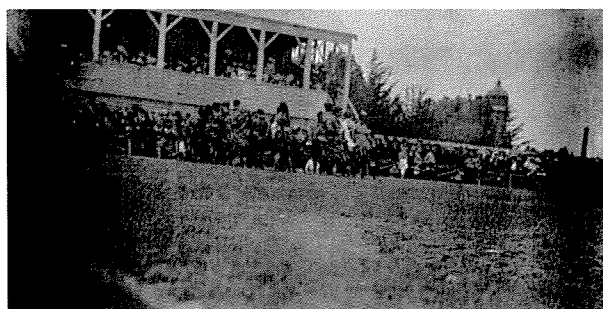
1863 An early map of the new town drawn in 1863 shows that Queens Park was originally covered in **native forest**. This vast indigenous podocarp/swamp forest covered much of Invercargill at the time of Thomson's survey. The forest held spiritual significance to the local Maori who referred to it as **Taurakitewaru**, however it is shown on this map as the Waihopai Bush. Thomsons Bush located to the north of Queens Park is a small remnant of this original forest. Thomsons Bush was once called the Waihopai Reserve. The 1860s were devoted to **clearing the bush** and, according to an article in the Southland Times (12 October 1956), a fire in 1864 hastened that clearance. Once the bush had been cleared, drainage became the next problem and there are numerous references concerning drainage improvements in the Park.

1869 The Park was gazetted as "**Public Reserve**" on 22 June 1869.

A strip along the northern boundary of the Park was set aside as "**Collegiate Reserve**" when the bush was being cleared. This reserve later became Southland Boys' High School, Waihopai Primary School and residential properties.

² NIWA - *Taihoru Nukurangi* - www.niwa.cri.nz/edu/resources/climate/summary

- 1872 **Thomas Waugh** was appointed as the first Borough Gardener in 1872. At this time, seeds of *Pinus radiata* and *Cupressus macrocarpa* were distributed from the Wellington Botanical Garden and some were sent to Invercargill. The oldest trees found in Queens Park today of those two species are believed to have originated from that source. Early records indicate that Mr Waugh did not have a great deal to do with the management of Queens Park. This is possibly due to it being leased out in 10 acre (4 ha) blocks (see 1873) and, apart from the initial tree planting along the western side, there was little else done at that time.
- 1873 The Town Council requested that the Surveyor prepare a plan for the Public Park keeping in view its preservation for purposes of public recreation and dividing it into four blocks with proper roads. Later in 1874 the Surveyor was again requested to prepare a plan of the Park dividing it into 10 acre (4 ha) allotments with a roadway through the centre. The road was to be from north to south of a chain wide and there was to be a belt of reserve a chain wide on the western side for planting.
- 1874 The **Park School** (Dryburgh School or School for Cerebral Palsy) was granted a site near Kelvin Street in 1874, in spite of a certain amount of protest.
- 1875 In 1875, Queens Park was leased by auction in **allotments of 10 acres** with a lease period of fourteen years. This practice continued until the 1920s. A condition of the lease of these allotments was that tenants were to grub, drain and plough their allotments within five years. Originally cattle were grazed on the Park on land leased in the 10 acre blocks.
- 1880s The **Southland Agricultural and Pastoral Association** had used the portion of the Town Belt now known as Otakaro Park for holding their shows during the 1870s. However there were problems with their lease which had been granted by the Otago Provincial Council and the Borough Council cancelled the lease. The Association continued to use the area but was ultimately forced out. In 1881 a company had been formed to take over Queens Park for the purposes of forming a racecourse, grounds for sports meetings, Agricultural and Pastoral Shows, a cricket field, parade ground for volunteers and any other recreation ground that might be required. It was proposed that 1,200 £5 shares be issued but the company failed due to lack of support. Somewhere about that time a Mr Austin McInerney, who leased one of the Park sections, offered to let the A and P Association use his land. This must have caused some dissension within the Association which would have accounted for the extraordinary meeting on 7 February 1882 and a later meeting of 12 February 1882 when it was resolved to decline Mr McInerney's offer and accept that of a Mr Brass. Obviously all did not go well,



Queens Park Showgrounds

for the Association finally accepted Mr McInerney's offer later in 1882. It continued to use Queens Park for the next thirty years before moving to its grounds on Victoria Avenue in 1911. During this period the **Caledonian Society**, the **Amateur and Irish Athletic Societies** and the **Cycling Club** held meetings at the Queens Park show grounds.

Both the Invercargill Cricket Club and the Invercargill Tennis Club were established in Queens Park at this time.

The Invercargill City water supply was originally sourced from up to a dozen bores located in the area around the water tower and then later in the south east quadrant of Queens Park. The **bore water supply system** spanned a period of around 70 years from the 1880s to the 1950s. They were not all in operation at one time but as yield from one decreased, another was developed. There might have been around four operational at any one time. Bore water supply stopped around 1958/1959³. The bore in the Deer Pen, which is still operational, is a remnant of the water supply bores and is likely to have been the most northerly bore. It is believed there were four bores in Queens Park over the years. The other three are believed to have been located in the area to the east of the current playground toilets, under one of the flights in the Aviary and possibly near the Blind Centre.

- 1882 On 25 January 1882, Queens Park was **transferred from the Crown** to the Mayor, Councillors and Burgesses of the Borough of Invercargill by Grant and Conveyance.
- 1885 In 1885, a **racecourse** was laid out in Queens Park and the first race meeting was held in April 1885.
- 1891 In March 1890, the **Invercargill Lawn Tennis Club** and the **Invercargill Cricket Club** both applied for a lease of the land used by each club. Up until that stage they had used the land leased to Mr McInerney and records indicate that the Council had had a great deal of trouble with him one way or another. In 1891, the Council recommended that the sections used by both tennis and cricket be held in the Council's hands and not leased for grazing. It is assumed that both sports occupy approximately the same areas today. It appears that there was a second cricket club in Queens Park as in 1896, the Northern Star Cricket Club was granted use of an area.
- 1896 **Henry Edginton** was appointed Corporation Gardener in 1896 (later re-designated Superintendent of Reserves) after the death of Thomas Waugh. He was paid at the rate of £2-11 per week. Prior to his appointment, Henry Edginton was Nursery Foreman for Robert Cleave. Under Edginton's direction, Queens Park gradually became more developed and many improvements were made.

The **Invercargill Northend Bowling Club** started up in Queens Park in about 1896. Originally the Northend Croquet Club shared part of the Bowling Club's headquarters for quite some time until it became defunct in 1963. The Bowling Club's pavilion burnt down in 1996 at one hundred years old.

³ Alister Murray, Water Services Manager, Invercargill City Council, June 2008

On 5 May 1896, the Public Works Committee received an application from George I Moffett, Honorary Secretary of the Golf Club, for sanction of the Council to use the reserves leased to Co Messrs Ferguson and Barne, for golf. Council granted the application provided the Club handed in the written consent of the lessees. In May 1900, a Mr A M Howden wrote to Council on behalf of several residents stating that they intended to form a **golf club** and requested that they be granted the use of the reserve "to the east of the avenue". It is not known whether the earlier golf club led to the formation of the second club, or whether one followed on from the other.

1897 Council resolved to change the name of the Park to **Queens Park** in 1897 (from Victoria Park). However the Park continued to be known as Victoria Park, Queens Park and sometimes just "The Park".

1908 **Robert Murie**, a pioneering motorist, held a "Grand Fete" at Queens Park encompassing a wide variety of activities including flights in his hot air balloon, cycle, car and motorcycle racing, pony and ladies races. The Fete was attended by around 3, 000 spectators⁴.

1910 The first benefactors to Queens Park were Mr and Mrs A and T Burt who donated a **drinking fountain** in 1910. The Reserves Committee resolved that it be placed in the rose garden in Queens Park.

1911 Apart from shelter plantings, it would appear that there was no attempt to plant ornamental trees or to beautify the Park until around 1911. Until that time the **Otepunu Gardens** were the principle town gardens and all horticultural attention was concentrated on that area.

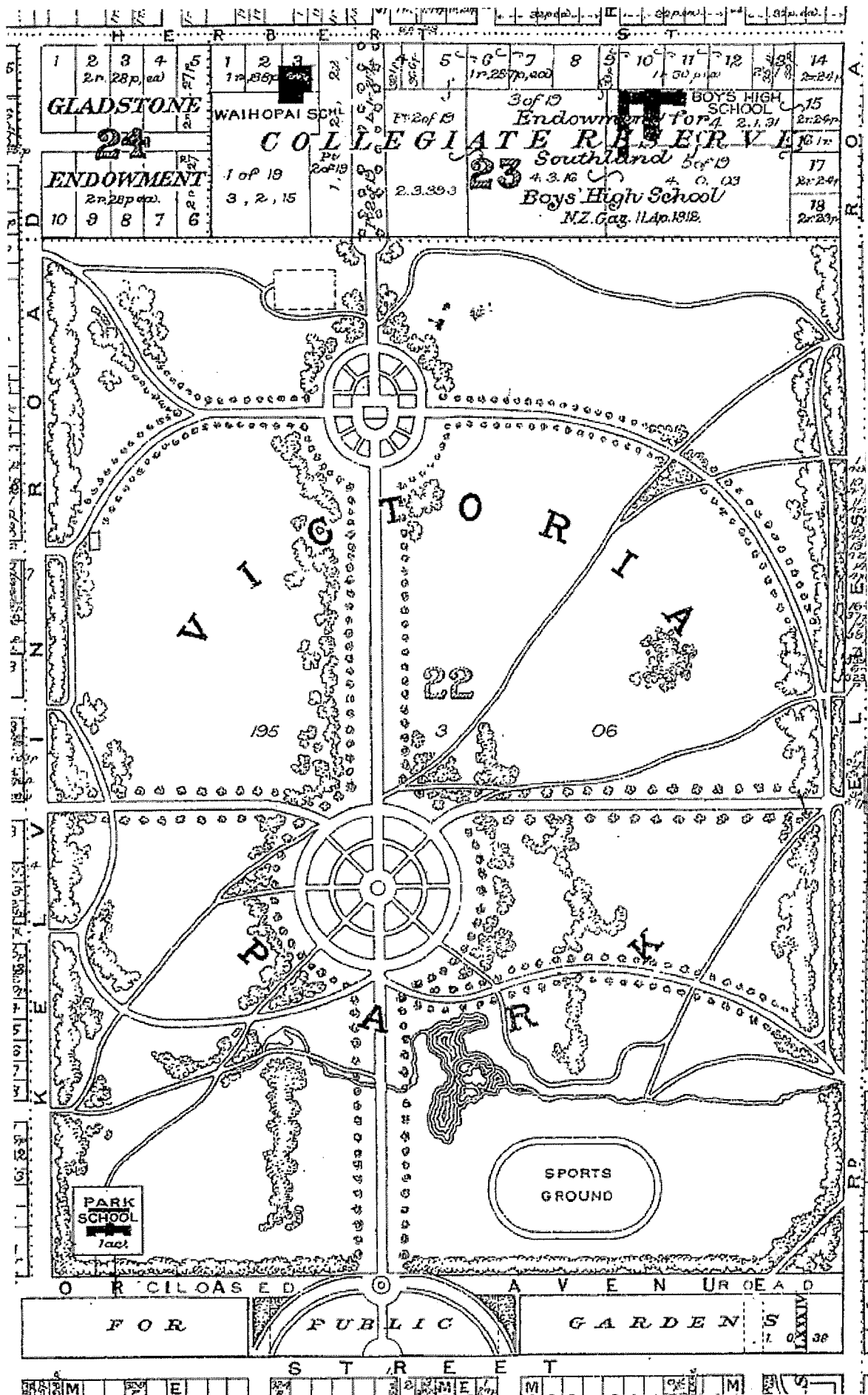
In 1911, the Invercargill Suburban and Beautifying Society began to advocate improvements to Queens Park and to celebrate the Coronation of King George V, an avenue of trees were planted along **Coronation Avenue**. Mr JD McGruer donated £250 and this, along with another donation of £30 and a Coronation subsidy of £25 from the Government, was spent on the formation of Coronation Avenue from the Victoria Avenue entrance to about the site of the present band rotunda. A tree planting ceremony was held on 22 June 1911.

The **Agricultural and Pastoral Association** moved out of Queens Park in 1911 and set up their grounds at the Victoria Avenue venue.

1912 There had not been a "**grand plan**" for Queens Park apart from when it was subdivided into 10 acre grazing blocks. However, in the Southland Times (12 October 1956) an article records that "the park was planned by town architect Mr ER Wilson and it was during the term of Mr Harry (Henry) Edginton Superintendent of Reserves that the main drive of trees and the rose garden were laid out". Mr Wilson was probably responsible for drawing two plans of Queens Park, however it is not known if Edginton had any input into either of them. One dated 1912 shows quite an elaborate layout of pathways and indicative groups of trees. The second of which is post 1926, shows the pathway system greatly reduced and much of the Park dominated by the golf course. It appears that from that point onwards, the Park mainly evolved in response to public pressures, Council interests and the personal preferences of the various superintendents.

⁴ Murihiku - The Southland Story (2006); 'The Southland to 2006' Book Project Committee

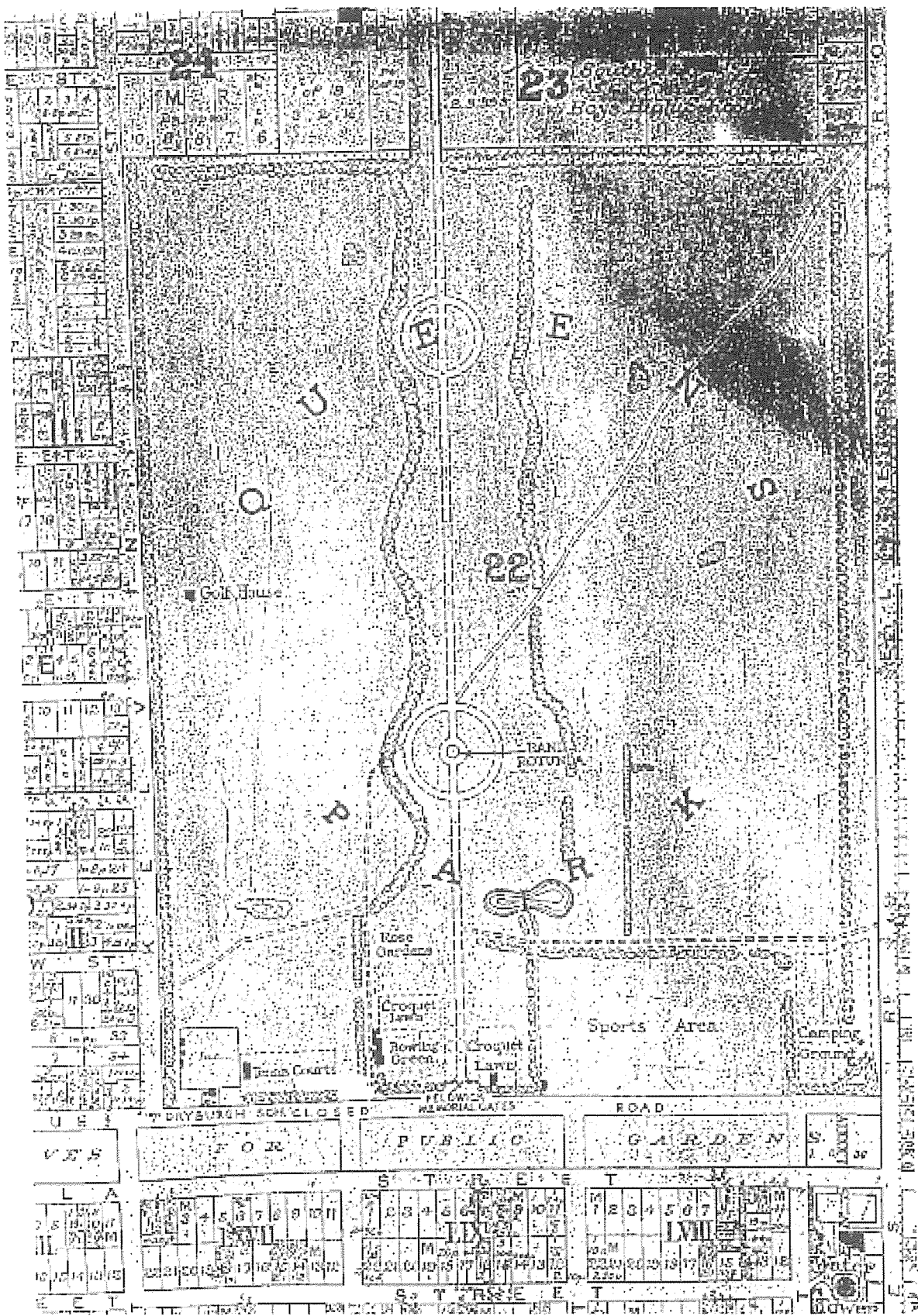
In 1912, the **Invercargill Croquet Club** was formed by Drs Jennings and McDonald. They applied to the Council for a site for their croquet green and the present area to the east of Coronation Avenue was allocated to them. A year or so later they built a club room. The development of the Invercargill Croquet Club was in response to the exclusivity of another club that used to be in Queens Park - the **Northend Croquet Club**. It is not known exactly when this club was formed but it was probably shortly after the Invercargill Northend Bowling Club (1896). The Northend Croquet Club used part of the Bowling Club's pavilion for its headquarters. Apparently its members regarded it as being a very exclusive club and membership was restricted to those who were invited to join. By 1963, membership of the Northend Croquet Club had dwindled to such an extent that the club went into recess. Their croquet green reverted back to the Council and the present azalea garden was formed.



Queens Park Plan 1912

- 1913 In 1913 **John Feldwick**, who had been a local Member of Parliament, bequeathed the sum of £20,000 which was used to construct the Feldwick Gates in 1924.
- 1916 In 1916, the **Queens Park Golf Club** was formed.
- 1917 Edginton was responsible for constructing the rose garden some time between 1914 and 1917 and also for a great deal of tree and shrub planting. It is recorded that in 1917 alone, **2,000 trees were planted** around the Park and he continued to plant large numbers of trees each year. Records show that many of the newly planted trees were killed by rabbits while others were destroyed by vandals. On one occasion it took 500 trees to replace those destroyed.

The **rhododendrons** just north of the Henry Edginton Rose Garden were planted in 1917.



- 1918 Edginton was responsible for planting many of the **shelter belts** around the Park and in 1918, he planted a holly hedge along the southern side of the cricket ground.
- 1919 There is a record of **hockey** being played in Queens Park at least as early as 1919. In 1921 women's hockey was allocated playing fields in the present cricket ground and continued to play there until 1987 when it was decided that the winter use by hockey was causing too much damage to the cricket field. Hockey returned to Queens Park in 1994 with the construction of the artificial hockey turf built to the east of the cricket fields.

The "**Second Circle**" was formed in 1919. This circular pathway in the northern part of the Park complements the circular pathway around the band rotunda. The main drive (Coronation Avenue) as far as the first circle, was gravelled as it was impassable in winter.

- 1920 William Smith was appointed Superintendent of Reserves in 1920 following Henry Edginton's resignation (Edginton died in 1929 and is buried in the St Johns Cemetery). During William Smith's tenure, the rate of development in Queens Park almost came to a halt and work appeared to be mainly of a holding or general maintenance nature. From the records, it appears that Smith devoted more attention to the Otepunī Gardens, Town Belt and other reserves. During this period, a number of unemployed ex-servicemen were employed under a labour scheme carrying out various projects and maintenance jobs. This labour was apparently arranged through the Returned Services Association. One of the projects they carried out was tidying and reforming the pond area.
- 1922 **Rugby football** appears to have had a brief history in Queens Park. In 1922, some football fields were constructed just north of the Park School. They could not have lasted for more than a few years because in 1927, a new nursery was being constructed in that area. After then, there is no further reference to football being played in the Park.

- 1924 As a memorial to John Feldwick, and in appreciation of his gift, the Council with the aid of public subscription erected the **Feldwick Gates** at the main entrance to Queens Park in 1924. The bronze plaque depicting Feldwick's bust was unveiled on 22 December 1926. The inscription reads "Erected by the municipality of Invercargill to the memory of John Feldwick, born 1846, died 1913, as an expression of gratitude for his munificent bequest to the Park". On the second pillar is a replica of Invercargill's original coat of arms, which were adopted in 1873. It incorporated a plough, indicating the fertility of the soil; a sheaf of wheat and a bale of wool, indicating the agricultural and pastoral prosperity of the province; and a ship indicating overseas trade.



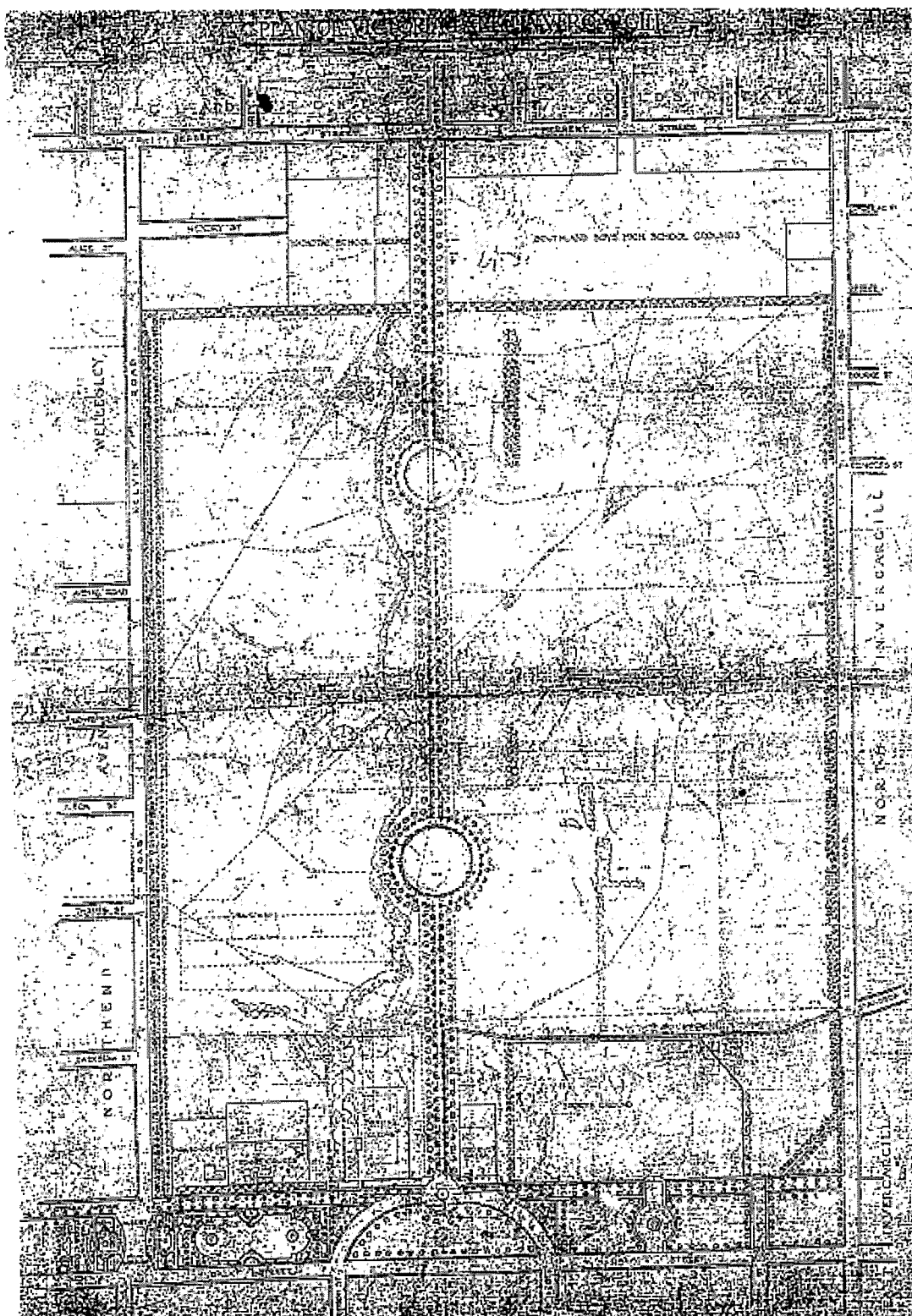
Feldwick Gates

- 1926 **James McPherson** was appointed Curator of Reserves in 1926. In 1930 his title became Superintendent of Reserves. Under his direction, the general standard of Queens Park was raised and he actively promoted a policy of focussing attention on Queens Park as the City's main public gardens instead of the Otepunī Gardens.

During McPherson's time as Superintendent, thousands of **daffodil bulbs** were planted in the northern part of the Park. Tree and shrub planting continued in various parts of the Park. New plantings of **avenue trees** were carried out along Coronation Avenue and, over a period of several years, McPherson continued those plantings by adding further rows to the avenue. That indicates that over the years the avenue must have been planted at least twice - the first planting occurred in 1911. A considerable amount of **drainage work** was carried out during McPherson's tenure, both new and the renovation of existing drains. **Terracing** work in the vicinity of the rose garden and other parts of the Park was also carried out during this time. **Unemployed** servicemen were still being employed. Their wages were funded by the proceeds from "Poppy Day" with a matching contribution from Council.

- 1927 In 1927, McPherson constructed a new **nursery** on the site of what had been the rugby fields and what is now the Jessie Calder Garden. This was the first council nursery to use glasshouses. Previous nurseries had been located on the corner of Conan and Forth Streets (Otepuni Gardens), followed by a nursery on the Town Belt opposite Rugby Park.

The **ponds** were deepened in 1927 and the banks tidied but problems with water leaking out were experienced as it was not possible to find satisfactory clay for "puddling" the bottoms.



Queens Park Plan (probably 1920's)

1928

The **rhododendron borders** by the pond were planted in 1928 and over the next two or three years, they were continued right along the St Andrew Street pathway. Some of the rhododendrons planted during that period were obtained from "Ilam", the home of Edgar Stead, Christchurch.

On 28 October 1928, the **Band Rotunda** was officially opened by his Worship the Mayor Mr John Miller. The band rotunda was constructed from money donated

by trustees of the late Dominion Band (£300) and was added to by a similar amount from Council. Only the base of the memorial was constructed at this stage, at a total cost of £503. Another £800 would be required to complete the band rotunda and this would be completed when funds allowed (1934 and 1954). The inscription on the band rotunda reads: "To the memory of bandsmen who fell in the Great War 1914-1918. Erected by the citizens of Invercargill with assistance from the Dominion Band. A.D.1928".



Band Rotunda

- 1930 In 1930 by arrangement with the **Southland Motor Association**, a new motor camp was established in the south eastern corner of the Park on the site now occupied by the Royal NZ Foundation of the Blind. Records indicate that there was a previous motor camp and, although not specified, it may have been located on the site later occupied by the Jessie Calder Garden.

McPherson declared 9 November 1930 to be **Rose Sunday**. Apparently the annual event was very successful and brought hundreds of people into the Park on that day. Unfortunately it must have lapsed after he left.

- 1933 It is interesting to note that during McPherson's tenure there were still some leased paddocks in Queens Park. James McPherson resigned in 1932 to take up the position of Curator of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens. The next Superintendent of Reserves was **Brendon Patrick Mansfield** who was appointed in 1933. During his period in office, he continued the work commenced by McPherson carrying out further tree and shrub plantings - particularly beds of ornamental shrubs such as lilac, flowering currants (*Ribes*) and so on. Throughout these years, the use of annuals and other plants for floral displays became developed to quite a high degree. "Paddy" Mansfield became known for his innovative use of such plants as Sweet William, lupin, foxglove, *Phlox*, and Oriental poppies for such displays. He also continued the naturalisation of thousands of narcissi bulbs in grassland areas north of the band rotunda.

Among some of the improvements carried out by "Paddy" Mansfield were a **bog garden** (now called the Exotic Wetland Garden) planted near the duck pond, special plant collections and group plantings of trees. The latter occurred mainly in the northern part of the Park and included Japanese cherries, *Laburnum* and beech (*Fagus*). During this period there was an **open ground nursery** in the area north of the St Andrew Street pathway and between the playground and the display houses.

- 1934 Columns were added to the **Band Rotunda** in 1934.

In January 1934 a Mrs Burzon presented a **sundial** to the Park. At the time it was also stated as being made by the late Mr James Stewart who also made the sundial in the Otepunu Gardens. It was placed in the Henry Edginton Rose Garden as a focal point and the circular bed with intersecting pathways was constructed at the same time.

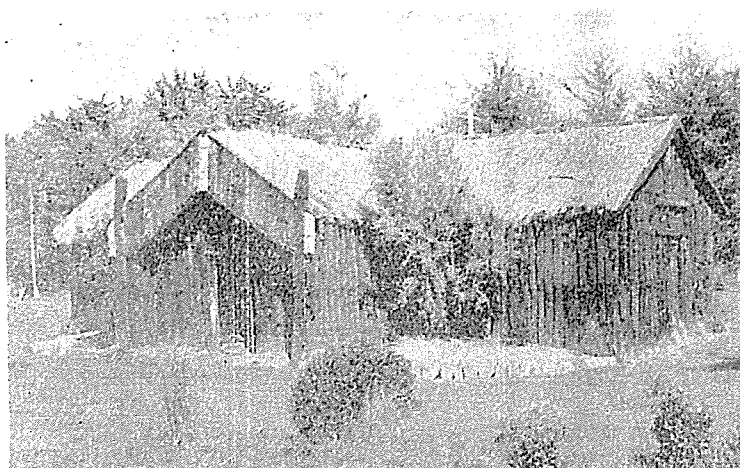
The first **bridge** (of rustic design) across the pond was constructed in 1934.

- 1935 In 1935 all **grazing leases** in the Park were cancelled, thus terminating an activity which had continued for over 70 years.

A recommendation that an area north east of the pond in Queens Park be set aside as a **children's playground** was adopted by Council in 1935.

- 1936 The existing **parks depot** was originally called the "stable enclosure" and in 1936 work commenced on upgrading it and further developing the area. In time it seemed logical for the parks depot in Queens Park to become the main depot for the whole Parks Department. At the same time, the hedge of *Cupressus macrocarpa* was planted around the depot and a driveway from Queens Drive was formed.

- 1937 In 1937, the construction of a native plant museum was proposed. The **Jaquiere Native Plant Garden** was established in 1937 and was located where the existing Ron Petrie New Zealand Plant Garden is now located. The area was set aside after the death of Mr George Jaquiere, a leading Invercargill naturalist and one time honorary curator of the Southland Museum. The area was complete with a Maori whare in traditional design built with natural timber and carved entrance posts.



The whare in the Jaquiere Native Plant Garden housed a variety of native ferns.
News 15/3/1951

- 1939 **Unemployed labour** on "relief work schemes" continued to be used in Queens Park up until almost 1939.

- 1939 The outbreak of **World War II** in September 1939 caused an immediate disruption to the normal running of the Parks Department. Mr Mansfield responded immediately by putting everything on a wartime footing so that the department could cope with wartime conditions and requirements. Various members of staff were released so that they could enlist, while mowing was reduced and low-profile areas were allowed to run to hay and others were cropped in potatoes and other vegetables. Mr Mansfield enlisted in the armed forces and the Foreman Mr W Stapleton became Acting Superintendent.

- 1940 Mr Mansfield planned and planted the tree and shrub border which fronts Queens Drive. It is known as the **Centennial Border** and was planted to commemorate New Zealand's centennial in 1940. The intent was to create a border which would provide interest throughout the year.

- 1942 The **Southland Museum and Art Gallery** was officially opened on 9 May 1942. Up until then the museum had had a chequered history having been housed in various buildings around the city. In 1936, the Mayor John Miller called a public

meeting at which he proposed that a suitable building for a museum and art gallery should be Southland's commemoration of New Zealand's Centennial in 1940. That proposal was agreed to but because of a shortage of funds, only the museum part was built. The foundation stone was laid by Sir Robert Anderson on 15 February 1941. The completion of the Art Gallery Wing was deferred until 1960.

1945 After being de-mobilised in 1945, Mr Mansfield resigned at the end of 1945 to take up the position of Curator of the Christchurch Botanical Gardens.

1946 Following Mr Mansfield's resignation, the Reserves Foreman **Mr William Stapleton** was appointed as Superintendent of Parks in 1946. His tenure included the immediate post-war years when the country was recovering from the restrictions and shortages created by the war. The consequence of this was that not a great deal of development was done.

The **camping ground** was extended in 1946 so that it provided 60 sites.

The original "**stable enclosure**" finally became well established as a works yard.

A **sawmill** was installed in the Queens Park depot in 1946-1947. Its purpose was to provide wet weather work for staff and to mill trees which had to be removed from the parks. Originally the logs were carted to Kilkelly Bros sawmill and cut into fitches then returned to Queens Park to be cut into timber, mainly for seed box timber.

1948 In 1948, a grateful Dutch Government presented a gift of **10,000 hyacinth, tulip and narcissus bulbs** to the City. They were planted in both Queens Park and Anderson Park where they provided fine displays for a number of years.

The first **pathway sealing** commenced in 1948. Until then, paths around Queens Park had been surfaced with gravel, cinders and white gravel.

The replica Maori **whare** in the Jaquiere Native Plant Garden was vandalised in 1948 but was restored soon afterwards.

Council received a bequest from Mr **Frank A Steans** and from Mr **John Baker**. This money went towards the construction of the Winter Display Gardens in 1957. Mr Steans, a former City hairdresser and tobacconist had left a bequest that totalled £7,064 including interest for the purpose of establishing a winter display garden for the Invercargill public.

1949 **Miss EW Bellamy** left a legacy for a statue for the children of Invercargill in 1949. The money was later used to create the Peter Pan and Tinkerbelle statue which was placed into position in 1968.

The inaugural **Carols by Candlelight** festival was held in Queens Park on 20 December 1949. Hundreds turned out for the first of the festivals which became a traditional part of Christmas festivities in Invercargill.

1952 In 1952, the era of the **horse** came to an end when the last of the horses and drays in Queens Park were disposed of. All equipment then became fully motorised.

1953 **Red Deer** were first held in captivity in Queens Park from 1953.

William Stapleton retired at the end of February 1953 and the Assistant Superintendent **George Alexander Ronald (Ron) Petrie** was appointed to the position. Ron Petrie was fortunate to be in charge when a number of gifts, bequests and donations were made to the Park.

The Invercargill Rotary Club gifted the **paddling pool** for "the happiness of little children" in March 1953.

- 1954 The Invercargill Licensing Trust provided sufficient funds to finally roof the **Band Rotunda** in 1954.

Queen Elizabeth II first visited Invercargill in 1954 and attended a civic reception in Queens Park.

- 1955 The Invercargill Rotary Club gifted a jungle gym and a slide to the Queens Park **children's playground** in June 1955.

- 1956 In 1956 one of the most notable bequests was received from **JB Thomson**, who left the sum of £30,000 to provide something "for the enjoyment of children". The money was used to develop the statuary in the children's playground which was unveiled in 1966; and the construction of the Wonderland Castle in 1974. The bequest was described as "the most wonderful gift the city has had for years".

The **Herbert Street gates** were completed in 1956. The new gates originally came from the entrance to the Eastern Cemetery and after removal from the cemetery, they were left lying around the yard until 1956 when Mr JK Stevenson of JK Stevenson Ltd offered to refurbish them so that they could be installed at the Herbert Street entrance. The gates were manufactured in 1875 by the father of a local engineer although it is not recorded by which engineer.

James Speden of Gore bequeathed £100 to the Invercargill Horticultural Society which in turn gave the money to Queens Park so that a Rock Garden could be built in 1956. It was known as the **James Speden Memorial Garden** and is situated around the northern side of the main pond.

- 1957 To commemorate the Centennial of Southland, the Invercargill Licensing Trust gave £1,400 in 1956 for a child figure study to be presented to the children of Invercargill. The **Child Figure Study** was unveiled on 15 December 1957. The sculpture is a bronze figure of a typical Southland boy on top of a pedestal incorporating New Zealand flora and fauna. It is situated at the western end of the rock garden.

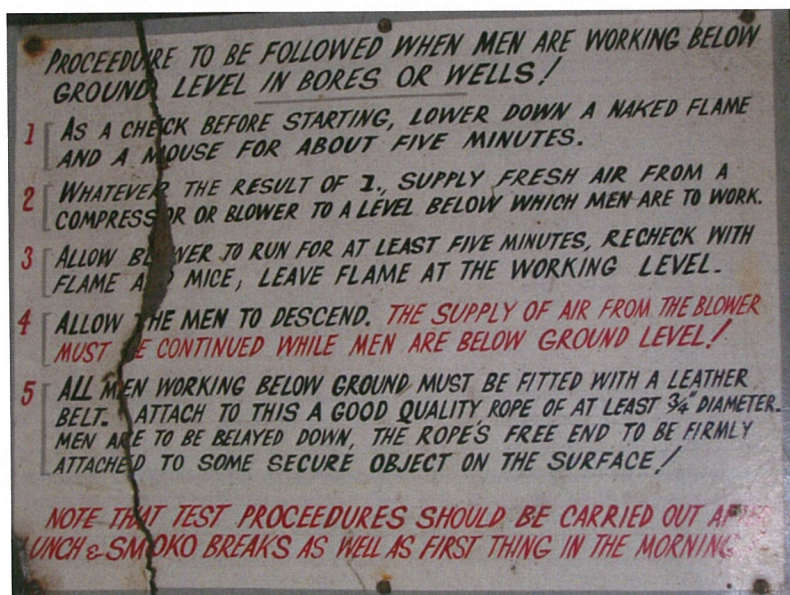
The **St Andrew Street entrance gates** were erected in 1957, made from brick with wrought-iron gates. At the time, the gates were located just north of the Southland Automobile Association's motor camp.

The **Steans Centennial Winter Gardens** were officially opened on 19 September 1957 by the Mayor Mr AL. Adamson. The gardens were built using money bequeathed to the City by Mr **Frank A Steans** and by Mr **John Baker** (1948). The garden had been planned as a centennial project and with the subsidy granted for such projects about £9,400 had been available. The total cost of the garden was £15,618. In accordance with an earlier Council decision the northern wing was named the John Baker Wing. An extension to the Winter Display Garden was made in 1961.

- 1958 **Street lighting** was installed during 1958 so as to help deter vandals.

Construction on the **aviary** near the playground began in 1958. This replaced an aviary that was originally located near the pond to the south of what is now the playground, east of the bridge. Council reports (11 August 1961) indicate the first Queens Park aviary was demolished in 1961. All of the timber used in the construction of the aviary at the playground was cut from trees grown and felled on city reserves and sawn in the City Council mill in the Park. The aviary was 140ft by 30ft with eight flight pens, one of them 40ft by 40ft. The aviary was not completed until 1965 when surplus funds were presented from the Invercargill Horticultural Society from its autumn floral festival in 1956.

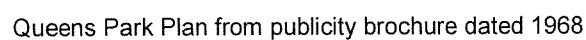
- 1959 20 January 1959 saw the **death of four men** in Queens Park when they were overwhelmed by gas down a well. Council worker Peter Brookland, aged 57, was overcome by an "unidentified" gas within minutes of climbing into the well. His fellow worker rushed to raise the alarm. However while he was away, two others arrived on the scene and attempted a rescue. John Patu Wilson, aged 36, and William Henry Little, aged 48, were both overcome by the gas. Firemen arrived and two donned breathing apparatus and entered the well. For some reason fireman Thomas Terrence McCambridge removed his apparatus and he too was overcome. Donald Clode was one of the firemen who rescued the bodies.



Old sign found in
pump shed
Queens Park
Deer Pen

- In 1959 the **Park depot** was extended, firmly establishing Queens Park as the headquarters of the Council's parks services.
- 1960 The art gallery section of the **Southland Museum and Art Gallery** was not added to the building until 1960.
- 1962 The Southland Times celebrated its centennial in 1962 and to mark the occasion presented a fountain to Queens Park. The **Southland Times Fountain** was located where the Millennium Garden is now. Unfortunately the impractical design of the fountain caused it to fall into disrepair and it was removed.
- 1963 To commemorate the 59th Jubilee of Rotary International, the Invercargill Rotary Club donated a **shelter shed** or pavilion at the children's paddling pool in 1963.

- The **Southland Acclimatisation Society's** cairn with bronze plaques was unveiled near the duck pond on 6 September 1963. The cairn, sculptured by Mrs CL Bricknell of Invercargill, commemorates the centenary of the Society's first meeting.
- 1964 In 1964, the Queens Park **Motor Camping Ground** closed.
- The new **Office Block** was constructed in 1964 bringing the final move of the Parks Department headquarters from Otepuni Gardens.
- 1965 A display of **petrified wood** was to be sited in Queens Park, however after much discussion, it was finally set up in the Gala Street Reserve opposite the museum in 1965.
- 1966 In 1966, the **JB Thomson Statuary** in the children's playground was unveiled by Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. The sculptor was Sir Charles Wheeler who personally came to Invercargill to help select a site for it.
- 1967 The **Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind** building (on the site formerly occupied by the motor camp) was officially opened on 15 July 1967 after Council approved its use in 1965.
- 1968 The long dreamed of **Tea Kiosk** was finally constructed in 1968 and was largely funded by the then Southland Savings Bank with Council contributing the balance. The Tea Kiosk was officially opened in 1969.
- The **ranger's residence** was constructed in 1968. This was a Council funded development.
- The statue of **Peter Pan and Tinkerbell** was placed into position in 1968.
- 1969 To commemorate its 25th anniversary, the Invercargill Licensing Trust decided to present an **illuminated fountain** to the City in 1969. This fountain was designed by local architect Lewis Simpson and is situated on the Gala Street Reserve but in close association to the Feldwick Gates and Queens Park.
- The **Queens Park Pool** was constructed in the late 1960s on what is now Southland Boys' High School land on the north east corner of Queens Park. Originally known as the Coldstream Pool, the name was changed to better reflect the temperature of the heated pool. The Queens Park Pool car park was located on the Park land adjacent.



- 1971 Park **drainage** again became a problem and many of the existing drains had to be renewed or lifted and re-laid. Walling of the **ponds** was completed in 1971 and 100 tonnes of Southland Limestone rock was used to landscape the surrounds of the upper pond. At the same time, nearby **rhododendron and azalea borders** were planted.

In the early 1970s, considerable tree plantings were carried out in the northern part of the Park and the establishment of geographically themed shrub plantings began.

In 1971, a **Gazette** Notice was recorded changing the purpose of the area of the reserve where the deer graze to "public deer park" (Reserves and Domains Act 1953).

- 1972 In 1972, Council was informed of a bequest from **Miss Cora Feldwick** for \$170,000 for the advancement and improvement of health, welfare and recreation in Invercargill and for the purchase of a piece of land for a new specially heated winter gardens, however this was never purchased. This money was used for the installation of gas heating in the winter gardens and the remainder of the principal sum and any accumulated interest was used for lighting and developments in the Park.

- 1973 In 1973, the **Southland Cricket Association** built a cricket pavilion, replacing the previous clubrooms that housed the Invercargill Cricket Club. The original pavilion was located in the south west corner of their ground.

- 1974 In 1974, **Mrs MJ Horsburgh** of Timaru donated \$500 for the construction of an **alpine house**. Later it was converted into a **cactus house** and is located adjacent to the Winter Display Gardens.

Further **tree and shrub planting** was carried out in 1974. The shrub border north of the rose garden was renovated and replanted as were the borders on the western side of the playground.

The **waterwheel** on the island in the pond was donated by the family of **JR Munro** of Oteramika, Waituna in 1974. It was from Mr Munro's farm where it had been used to drive farm machinery from 1877 until just after World War I. Following its restoration, it was set up on the island in 1976.

The **Wonderland Castle** was also constructed in 1974 using some of the residue from the JB Thomson Bequest (1956). A Supreme Court ruling was required to enable the funds to be used for such a purpose.

- 1976 The **School for Cerebral Palsy** (in south west corner of Queens Park) was transferred to Waihopai School in 1976. The school buildings were let to the Southland Craft Centre until 1986.

- 1977 Ron Petrie retired in 1977 and **Lawrence (Lawrie) James Metcalf** was appointed to the position of Director of Parks and Recreation (re-designated Parks Manager in 1989). During his term of office, a great deal of time was spent in building upon the work of his predecessors, raising the standards throughout the whole park and generally improving plantings.

Queen Elizabeth II visited Invercargill in 1977 and an estimated 10,000 Southlanders gathered in Queens Park to welcome her and the Duke of Edinburgh.

- 1979 Although the pond had been fully developed by Mr Petrie's time, it did not have a very good water supply with the result that the water tended to remain very dirty and rather stagnant. In 1979, a well was sunk adjacent to the pond so that a better **water supply** could be provided.

In 1979 a nationally acclaimed cactus grower Mr HE Menrath of Christchurch offered a collection of cacti to Queens Park. As the alpine house had proved to be unsuitable for the growth of many alpiners, it was decided to convert it into a **cactus house**.

In 1979, Council was notified that **Jessie Calder** had bequeathed a portion of her estate "for the benefit of the Invercargill City Council Public Gardens or Reserves". The Will specifically stipulated that the money was to be applied at the absolute discretion of the Trustees and was not to be under the control of the City Council. The bequest totalled \$85,000 and with accumulated interest was close to \$200,000. It was used for the construction of the Jessie Calder Garden which was completed in 1989. The trustees of the Jessie Calder Estate also gifted a Sulphur Crested Cockatoo to the Aviary.

What had originally been the sunken iris garden and then a fuchsia garden, was incorporated with the **Exotic Wetland Garden** in 1979. The range of wetland garden plants was extended and the scope of the overall display increased. This area of the Park was redeveloped in around 2001.

- 1980 The **fitness track** was officially opened on 20 September 1980 by the Mayor Mr FR Miller. The 4km fitness track has 20 fitness stations and runs around the northern part of Queens Park.

- 1982 The New Zealand Native Plant Garden (formerly the Jaquiery Native Plant Garden) became known as the **Ron Petrie New Zealand Plant Garden** in 1982 after the former Director of Parks and Reserves.

The collection of alpine plants in Queens Park was greatly extended by the addition of many new species collected by Mr Metcalf on trips to various alpine areas.

- 1986 Drains throughout the Park required continuing attention because of their age and their condition. During 1986-1987, a major City **storm water drain** was laid across the Park from Fox Street to Newcastle Street. During the course of laying the drain, new connections for Park drainage were made and they greatly increased the efficiency of drainage in the northern half of the Park.

- 1989 With the construction of a new nursery in Donovan Park, the old nursery site behind the Museum became vacant. Arrangements were made to transfer the Craft Centre to another building which then allowed the school site to be vested as part of the Park. Development of the old nursery and school site was made possible through the receipt of a substantial \$85,000 bequest from Jessie Calder of Winton. The **Jessie Calder Garden** was designed by Miss Philippa Cocks of Dunedin and the main feature of the garden is a garden devoted to a collection of the old shrub roses. Ancillary collections included a heath garden and a garden of dwarf and slow growing conifers. Construction work commenced during the

summer of 1986-1987 and continued until spring 1988 with the garden being completed in 1989.

1990 The redeveloped **Southland Museum and Art Gallery** was opened in 1990. At the same time it became necessary to alter the status of the Museum's leasehold area and it was officially gazetted as a Local Purpose Reserve - Museum Purposes. The new building was shaped as a large white pyramid and became an icon for the City featuring on many promotional brochures.

1992 In 1992, the City's North Invercargill relief **storm water drain** was also laid across the Park from Kelvin Street to St Andrew Street. As with the Windsor drain, new connections for park drainage were made to improve drainage in the southern half of the Park.

The use of Government funded **employment schemes** enabled various improvements to be made, of which one of the most notable is the construction of the brick and timber pergolas in the Henry Edginton rose garden. Periodic Detention labour has also been used in Queens Park. The paved and kerbed area immediately outside the Feldwick Gates was constructed by Periodic Detention trainees as was the paved pathway fronting the rhododendron dell. The manuka fence in the playground was replaced with a timber boarded fence in 1992.

Lawrie Metcalf retired at the end of October 1992 and the Assistant Parks Manager, **Robin James Pagan** was appointed to the position of Parks Manager.

1994 The **Artificial Hockey Turf** was constructed on the eastern side of the Queens Park cricket grounds in 1994. The Invercargill Artificial Sports Surface Charitable Trust leases the area of Queens Park where the hockey turf is located. An amendment was made to the original Queens Park Management Plan in October 1994 to allow advertising signs to be attached to internal fencing of enclosed recreation areas of Queens Park, providing they are not visible from outside the area.

In 1994, the Feldwick Gates were listed by the **NZ Historic Places Trust** as a Category II historic place.

In 1994, strong **winds** caused a lot of damage to trees in Queens Park, especially near Southland Boys' High School.

1996 The **Invercargill Northend Bowling Club's** clubrooms were gutted by fire on 29 March 1996. The building was rebuilt along the southern boundary of their lease area instead of along the western boundary as in the past.

In 1996, a heavy snow fall followed by **severe frost** that lasted for ten days, killed and damaged many trees and shrubs in Queens Park.

1997 On 2 February 1997, the **Queens Park Pool** closed after the "Southland Aquatic Centre - Splash Palace" was constructed on Elles Road. Splash Palace was constructed to replace both the Queens Park Pool and the Central (Conan Street) Pool that had been built in 1927. The Queens Park Pool building was not pulled down until the late 1990s.

The **Japanese Garden** was completed in 1997. In February 1993, the City of Invercargill signed a formal Sister City Agreement with the City of Kumagaya in

Japan. To further the friendship link between the two cities, the Invercargill City Council decided to develop a Japanese Garden in Queens Park. The Japanese Garden was prepared by Kumagaya Landscape Institute President Yoshio Miyashita. The garden is a classical Japanese design, consisting of a Japanese lantern, symbolic dry waterfall, river of pebbles, garden stream and mountain range, along with a traditional Japanese Tea House.

1998 The new **Aviary** was officially opened in September 1998 funded by a grant from the Community Trust of Southland. Donations of money and birds were also received from individuals in the community. The Aviary includes a large walk through dome where visitors can walk amongst and watch a variety of species interact, together with a number of flights providing a variety of exotic and indigenous birds. The area where the old aviary had been was developed into a paved picnic area.

2000 To commemorate the passing of 2,000 years since the birth of Christ, the Catholic Community of Southland donated the **Millennium Garden** to Queens Park. The Millennium Garden is located near Queens Drive and the Aviary.

The **Water Play Park** in the playground was developed in 2000. The upgraded pool incorporates a water play area involving water canons and sprinklers as well as a toddler's paddling pool.

2001 The **Parks Operations Unit** shifted out of the Queens Park Depot to the Racecourse Road site in 2001.

2004 Construction of the **Sub-Antarctic Islands Garden** began in 2004 on the north side of the Southland Museum and Art Gallery. Designed to represent the rugged landscape of the Sub-Antarctic Islands, the garden includes a rocky "mountain" and boardwalk. With Department of Conservation permission, a variety of seeds were collected from the Islands in 2003 and have been propagated in Council's nursery. The garden has been faced south to try to simulate the cold, wet and windswept climate found on the South Antarctic Islands. A special wind-creating device is also to be installed to help recreate the microclimate of the Islands. The garden was completed in 2006.

An enclosed drain running between the Animal Reserve and St Andrew Street track was reopened, contoured and planted in 2004. This has improved drainage conditions in the area and the enhancements have made the open stream a feature of the area.

2006 The **Southland Cricket Association** upgraded its facilities in 2006.

On 4 December 2006, the refurbished **Animal Reserve** was officially opened to the public. The refurbishment was designed to allow people better access to the animals, improved interpretation and a more diverse display of animals.

2007 In 2007, strong **winds** caused a lot of damage to trees in Queens Park.

The **Ladybird** sculpture in the Animal Reserve and **Octopus** sculpture in the Aviary were purchased by Council in 2007. Sculptured by Johnny Peninsula and made from Andersite Stone, they had been displayed at the temporary "Art in the Park" event in Queens Park.

The **totara log sculpture** in the Aviary was sculptured by Frank Wells, Invercargill and purchased by Council in 2007. It was sculptured from two totara logs found submerged in water in Doubtful Sound, Fiordland.

To complement the Animal Reserve and Aviary a **Learning Centre** is currently being developed adjacent to the Animal Reserve. The completed centre will provide a fully equipped room for students to learn about features of the Park in a classroom setting.

2008 The **New Zealand Native Garden** was updated and redeveloped including paths through the gardens linking the main entrance area with the Animal Reserve.

Hockey was removed from Queens Park and relocated to Turnbull Thomson Park.

2009 The **"Norwester" sculpture** created by Frank Wells, Invercargill was constructed in the New Zealand Native Garden as a feature of the redevelopment.

A detailed list of bequests can be obtained from the Parks Office.

1.8.2 **Borough Gardeners, Superintendents, Directors and Managers**

Thomas Waugh	Borough Gardener	1872-1896
Henry Edginton	Superintendent of Reserves	1896-1920
William Smith	Superintendent of Reserves	1920-1926
James McPherson	Curator of Reserves	1926-1933
Brendon P (Paddy) Mansfield	Superintendent of Reserves	1933-1946
William Stapleton	Superintendent of Parks	1946-1953
GAR (Ron) Petrie	Superintendent of Parks	1953-1977
L J (Lawrie) Metcalf	Director of Parks and Recreation	1977-1992
Robin J Pagan	Parks Manager	1992-

1.9 **GENERAL PARK USE**

On a day to day basis the majority of people using Queens Park do so in a casual context. The quiet, sheltered Park attracts a wide range of people of all ages and from all walks of life.

For many people the daily walk through the Park to and from work constitutes their main use of the Park. Many visit to find a quiet green space where it is possible to sit, watch, relax or socialise with friends and family. Others visit to view the horticultural, bird and animal displays, or use the Park to keep fit or train for an event.

Queens Park is a popular venue for weddings, festivals, concerts and plays and Council supports the use of this park for these activities.