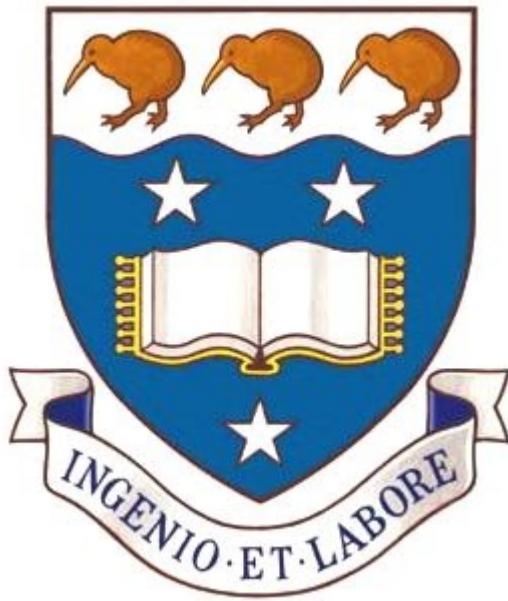


**EASTER EGGS,
HISTORY
&
LORE
of
Auckland University**



Auckland University College

The university started as a college of the University of New Zealand in a disused courthouse and adjacent prison in 1883.

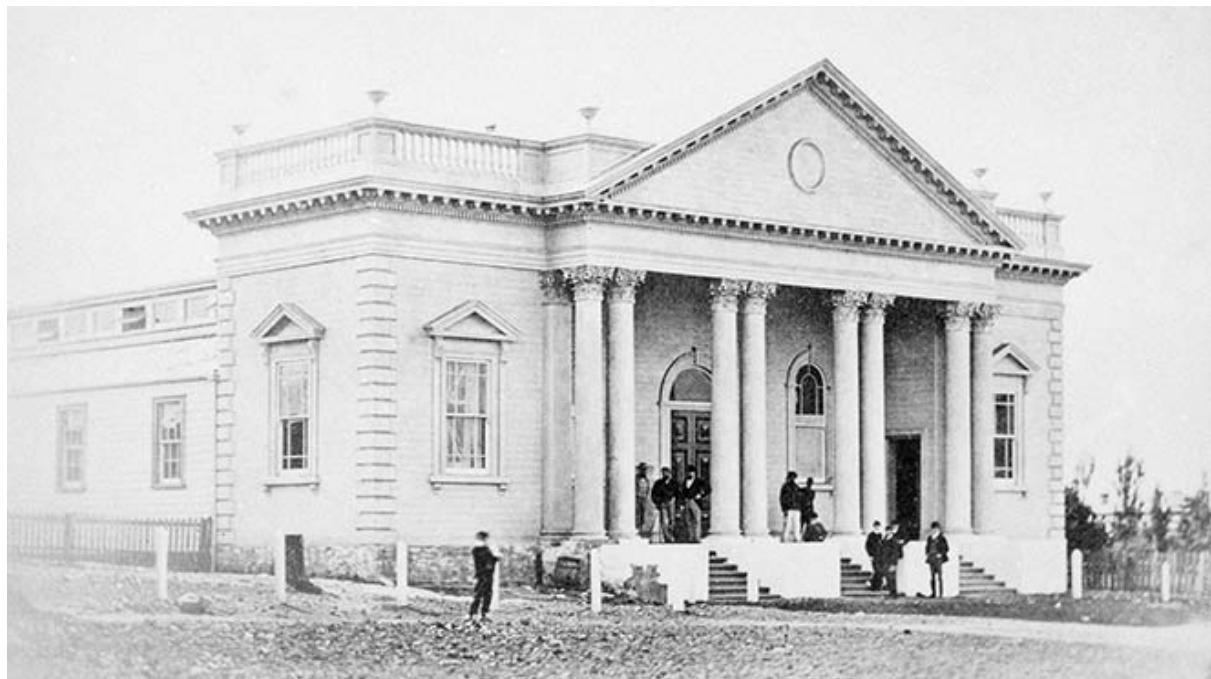
The Ruins of New Zealand's First Parliament

Some shoddy Kauri buildings (that didn't even have toilets) served as NZ's first parliament from 1854-1864. They were acquired by AUC in 1890. The buildings were demolished when Anzac ave was built but the foundations are still there.



Old Choral Hall

Built on the site of the Music Hall that was burnt down by the Auckland Arsonist [Cyrus Hailey](#) in 1871. This was only 3 months after the Hall opened. Old Choral Hall (rebuilt 1873) originally had a fancy Neo-Classical facade that has since been removed. This is why it now looks so weird.





Old Government House

It was completed in 1856, when Auckland was the capital. When Wellington dethroned us (which was partly to prevent South Island separatism) it became the viceregal residence - at least until 1969, when it was annexed by the university. The Queen broadcast her Christmas message from there in 1953 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZwH_TTrP-g). She also planted a Rimu tree in the gardens.

There are two English oaks outside OGH - one was grown from an acorn from the Royal Oak Charles II hid in during the English Civil War. The other is from an acorn from Windsor park.

The Norfolk pine was planted by Governor Grey in the 1840s. He also planted the annoying tree directly in front of OGH. The rose bush was planted by his wife.

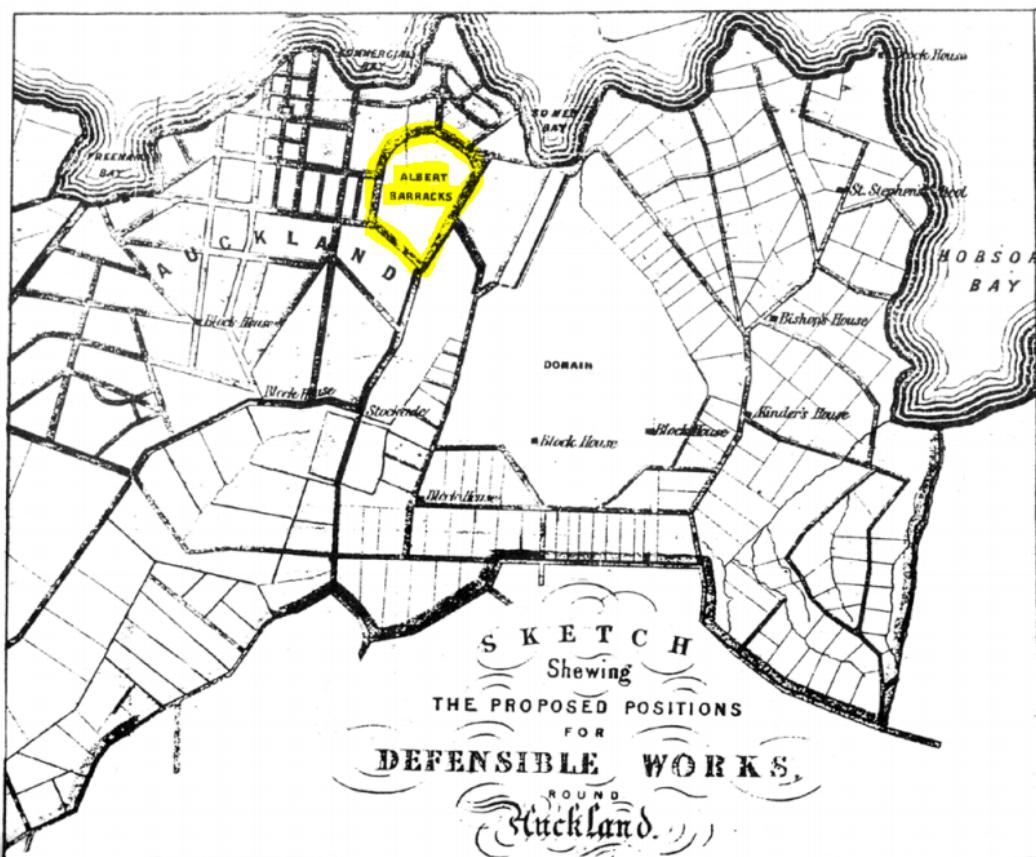


Albert Barracks

This stretch of wall is all that remains of the British military barracks that enclosed Albert Park to Symonds Street. The fort was built as a defense against Maori attacks. In February 1863 (during a fire in Queen street), its gunpowder store endangered the city.

One danger, and no slight one, never entered we believe, into the calculations of many present, and that was the proximity of the fire to the powder magazine in the Albert Barracks. As it was there was some little risk, and we believe, some anxiety felt by the military themselves. Had the fire taken hold of Mr. Mears store, as, at one time almost did, and had the wind veered to the westward the heat and sparks of an enormously large block of wooden buildings would have been forced immediately over some hundred tons of powder, the explosion of which would have levelled nine tenths of the houses of Auckland with the ground. There are many more advantageous localities for a powder magazine than the present one, and we would draw the attention of the authorities, and of the public, who are still more concerned, to this fact.

TARANAKI HERALD, VOLUME XI, ISSUE 549, 7 FEBRUARY 1863



Ghost of Vaile

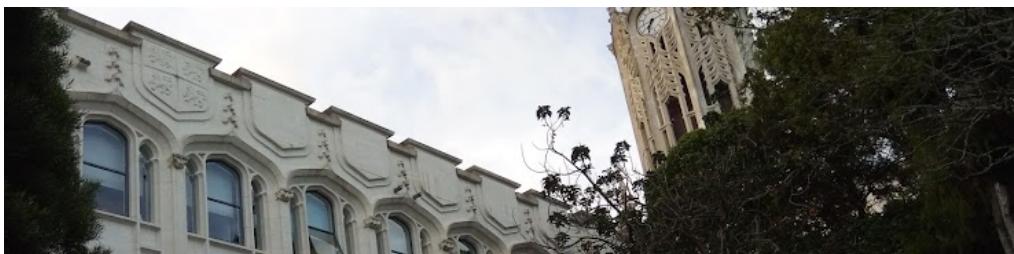
In the Symond's street underpass is a small plaque dated from 1981 that says:

This Subway Was Constructed
For The "Ghost of Vaile"
On The Principle Of A Home
For A Home.

No one knows why it's there.

The Clocktower

Along the top of the clocktower are a series of blank shields. These were meant to be engraved with the crests of universities UoA had relations with. But only two have been completed (University of Cambridge and the University of Dublin) over the past century.

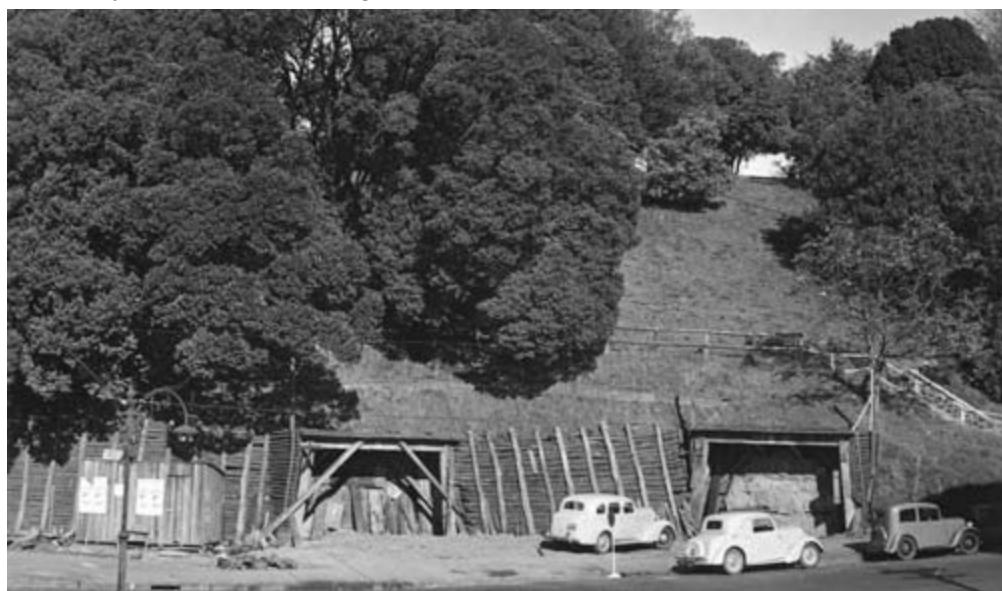


Every year, a Christmas tree is placed in the centre of the clocktower.
The clock doesn't chime.

Albert Park

Albert Park was originally the site of a Maori village called Rangipuke. A pā (Te Horotiu) was in the North-Western corner, presumably where the Old Synagogue now is.

Tunnels - During world war 2, an air raid shelter was built under Albert Park but it was largely forgotten about afterwards. All of the official entrances have been sealed off. But there's a hole you can squeeze into to access them - there isn't much space there but you can crawl around if you're prepared to get covered in dust.





Victorian Gas Lamp - there is apparently an old gas lamp that still works.

The Guns - were originally to guard against Russian invasion in the late 19th century.

George Grey statue - on Waitangi Day 1987 he got decapitated. During the George Floyd protests in 2020, his nose and thumb were stolen.

The Bin is a Lie - one of the bins is a secret government surveillance unit.



The Caretaker's cottage - This was built to house the caretaker of the park. The City Park Superintendent Thomas Pearson died there in 1931. It's now completely empty. If you peek through the windows, you can see there isn't any furniture and the walls are bare.

The Feminist Abduction - in February 1984, English literature lecturer Mervyn Thompson was kidnapped by some radical Feminists who threatened to cut his dick off. They left him naked, tied to a tree in Albert Park with a sign around his neck declaring him a rapist. He wasn't. A novel was written about this called 'The Shag Incident' by Stephanie Johnson.

Glitch in the Matrix

There is a tradition of taking a picture whenever you notice two people wearing the same (or substantially similar) clothing in close proximity, apparently unaware of one another. You must do this subtly, so the people you are photographing are unaware.

Carlos Craig was the University Sloth until his disappearance in 2017

Craccum

The Student's Association weekly magazine. It was founded in 1927. Its name is derived from "Auckland University College Men's Common Room Committee".

Tim Shadbolt was an editor.

It once (2005) sold the rights to its front cover on trademe - Salient (of Victoria University) won the auction.

Craccum was briefly re-named Torso.

bFM

Allegedly started as a prank and was called Radio Bosom

The Lost AUSA Boat

In the early days of AUSA (when they had money), the corrupt executive team bought a boat. This was forgotten about & is now lost. Craccum once did some research into this:

...
ly follow the rumours. Matthews was correct in that Executive meeting minutes from 1993 show a successful motion "that the Waterski Club be granted \$22,620 from Sports Grants to buy a skiboat (17ft long, 150-200HP outboard motor)." According to records, this was later revised down to the oddly specific \$19,789 and the sale went ahead.

...
It couldn't, because the Auckland University Water Ski Club didn't exist.

Not really, anyway. The club was a sham. It was reportedly started by mates of the president at the time, Richie Watson, who took advantage of a cash-heavy student union for their own personal gain and used the boat exclusively among themselves. The two largest outdoors clubs currently on campus, the Tramping Club and the Canoe Club, boast about four hundred members each. At its peak, the Auckland University Water Ski Club had twelve.

...
And what of the boat itself? Despite the best efforts of eager historians over the past twenty-five years, the boat itself has never been found. Rumour has it that it ended up on the front lawn of somebody's flat, rusting away in the inclement Auckland weather. Without that final piece of catharsis, it seems unlikely that the story of the AUSA speedboat will ever die. "I'm not

Craccum, 2017

Wai Ariki: The Lawyer's Tap

In front of the Law school's library is a moss-covered wall. Near that wall is a tap that is fed from a fresh water spring located under the university. It's apparently really old.



In the late nineteenth century, water from this spring was bottled and sold.

Shadows

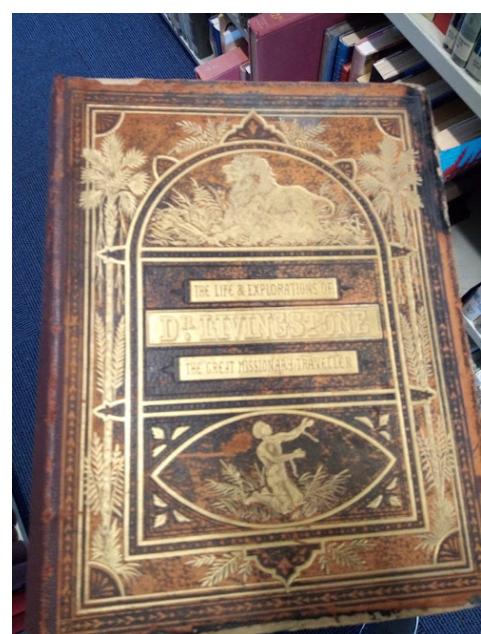
During the 2016 Mayoral election (the year Chloe Swarbrick ran), Shadows hosted a debate between the candidates. A jokester called Adam Holland (apparently a descendant of former prime minister Sydnye Holland) campaigned on building a wall around Auckland to keep out people from Hamilton. Holland appeared at the debate dressed in full Arabic garb - complete with fake beard and white robe. The event ended when one of the candidates got into a shouting match with a heckler and Holland started yelling "Allahu Akbar!". Swarbrick desperately tried to get things back on the rails but was unable to control the chaos.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/local-body-elections/84728872/auckland-mayoral-debate-turns-into-shoving-match-between-screaming-candidates>

There are only 4 public statues of Zealandia (the woman on NZ's coat of arms) in existence. One of them is right next to O'Rorke Hall.

Library

The Library has an ancient copy of *The Life & Explorations of Dr Livingstone*



There was a bizarre episode of creepy clown sightings across the world in 2016. One was seen in the library.

Creepy clown caught on camera at university

12 Oct, 2016 02:56 PM

① 2 minutes to read



<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/creepy-clown-caught-on-camera-at-university/NVMQU3B3XYCZXBGHZM5BUZJEAM/>

Tramping Club, est. 1932

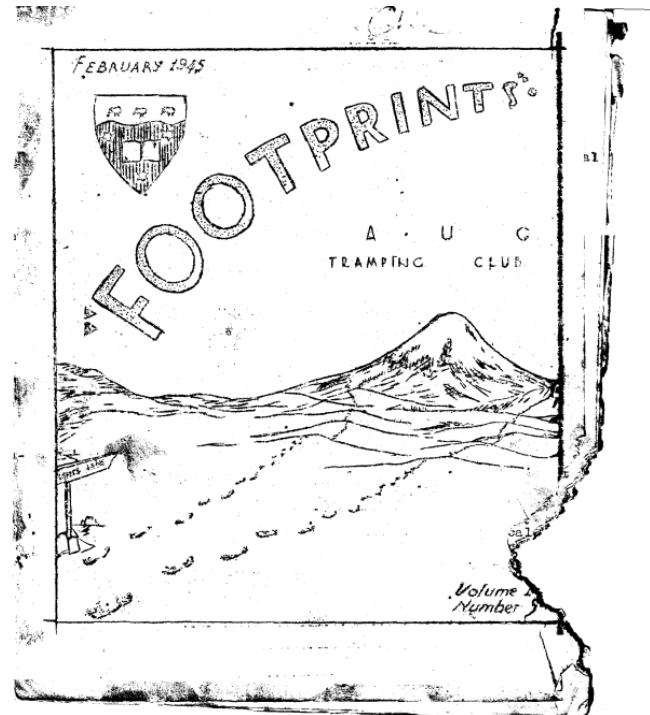
- Edmund Hillary was once a member.
- It has a yearly magazine called Footprints that's been going since at least 1944
- It has its own relic; a cast-iron iron called "old rusty". They use it for **extreme ironing** (ironing a shirt at the top of a mountain or in a river or something)

Auckland University Table Stacking Society is a secret society on campus

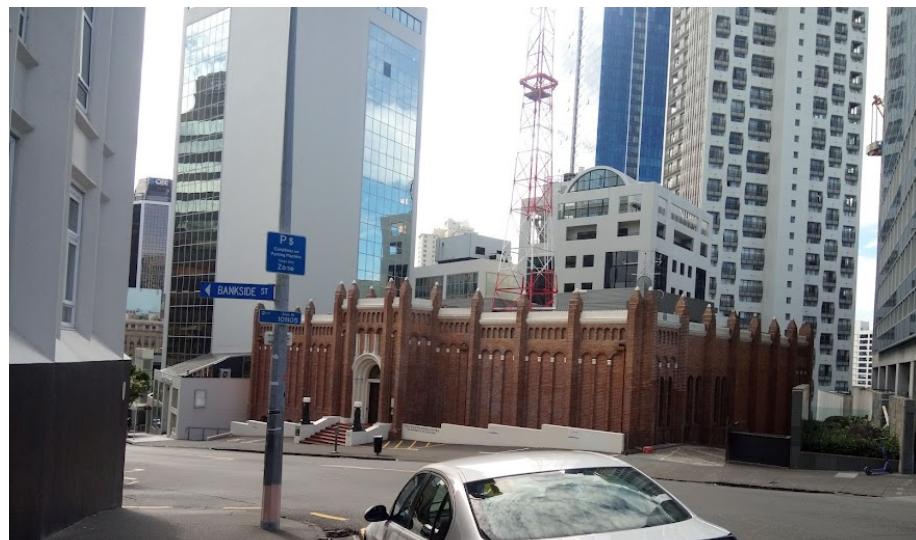
That mysterious floating disk that hangs in front of the engineering building was apparently once part of the building. Then it fell off. Instead of being put back properly, they decided to display it as art.

The Chinese Rock: Outside St Andrew's is a memorial to the Tiananmen Square massacre of 1989.

The Kenneth Myers Centre on Shortland Street is in a building once owned by Radio Service Ltd, the first station in NZ to be given a 1YA license (1923). Its brick walls were to dampen



the sounds of city traffic. Before Avalon Studios were built, it was also used for TV. This is where the hospital drama Shortland Street got its name. The building was colonised by the university in 2000.



Tales of Exams during the lockdowns

In 2020, exams were held online. Obviously cheating was a problem. Two slightly interesting stories:

- Computer science students were talking on discord during their exam. Some nerd took a screenshot of the chat and sent it to the lecturers. Exam results were delayed as they tried to track down the cheaters. As far as we know, no one was caught.
- Someone uploaded their exam to a website where students can pay to have their assignments done for them. Under the terms of service of that site, you must upload some proof of identity. The guy almost definitely got caught.