

# Magazine

## Naming Hawera's streets

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**H**awera has more than 130 named streets, roads, crescents and lanes; each one has a wealth of associations from the people who have lived at these addresses.

From the early 1870s, when the yet unnamed High St was a muddy straggle from the Blockhouse past Taplin and Muir's store to Shepard's Hawera Hotel, the first inhabitants attempted to bring formality to their new address.

Their new Hawera Town Board was chaired by storekeeper James Davidson in 1875. In 1878 and 1879 the main street was dubbed High St and the first cross streets called Lombard St; soon renamed Princes St, Victoria and Regent streets followed soon after. This was a township of British people so their familiar names were adopted, Victoria for the Queen Empress, Princes for the important street in Edinburgh and Regent for a notable street in London.

Albion, Caledonia, Cambria, and Union streets acknowledged the origins of the residents.

The naming of streets went on and the first recalled the owners of the ten acre blocks of land that made up the township, or their origins. Farmer Colin Cameron and benefactor Lawrence Milmo; Argyle was named for John Wink's native shire and Camberwell Rd for Mr Bamford's home village, in more recent

times Kerry Ln was named for Mr Mahony's family turf.

Nelson, Wellington and Napier recall British military heroes and Disraeli and Gladstone streets British Prime Ministers, appropriate names for a new colonial town.

Some streets have honoured previous mayors of Hawera from Felix McGuire (1882) to Bruce Murray (1978). Other citizens are recalled as in Rod Syme Pl, Quin Cr, Rowe St, McCarthy St and Green Ln.

### **Albion, Caledonia, Cambria, and Union streets acknowledged the origins of the residents.**

A group of streets in Nolantown are a reminder that the first settlers in the district were Canadian Scotch families from Galt in southern Ontario who came to farm in a more equable climate. The family names of Campbell and Douglas are there with their favourite poets, Burns and Tannahill; the Scottish towns of Perth and Glasgow also tell of their earlier origins.

The incorporation of the former Hawera County in 1978 brought in Hunter St and the name of their family

farm, Burnside, and the sole street named after a woman, Edna Wills Pl. Edna Wills was a long-time supporter of the Egmont A & P Association whose property neighbours this short street. Appropriately Murdoch Street, named after the long-serving County Chairman was coupled with that of Murray the last mayor of the Hawera Borough before the coming of the Hawera District Council in 1978.

The development of Dixon Avenue in the 1920s gave an opportunity to honour Sergeants Grant and Laurent, the two Victoria Cross winners from the recent war, who had gained their medals in France.

At the northern end of town farmer/businessman AA Fantham bought a developed farm Egmont View in 1882 and when he died in 1904 the property was subdivided with three streets, Fantham St, Albert St and Arthur St each incorporating part of his name.

There is only one street recalling a Maori, Haowhenua Pl. Haowhenua was the leader of the attack made by Titokowaru's followers on the Turuturu Mokai redoubt on July 12, 1868.

The streets named for trees illustrate a time when there was a growing consciousness of the indigenous and exotic trees that people have planted in the town.

The street names of Hawera document the social attitudes of its citizens from 1870 to the present day.