

# your urban oasis

cornwall park

General



For more than 100 years, Cornwall Park has captured the hearts of the public as a refuge of beauty and recreation in the heart of New Zealand's largest city. Sir John Logan Campbell, the "Father of Auckland", gifted Cornwall Park to New Zealand in 1901.

“  
in giving the park to the public  
i have lived to receive the crowning  
happiness of my life

Sir John Logan  
Campbell,  
1901

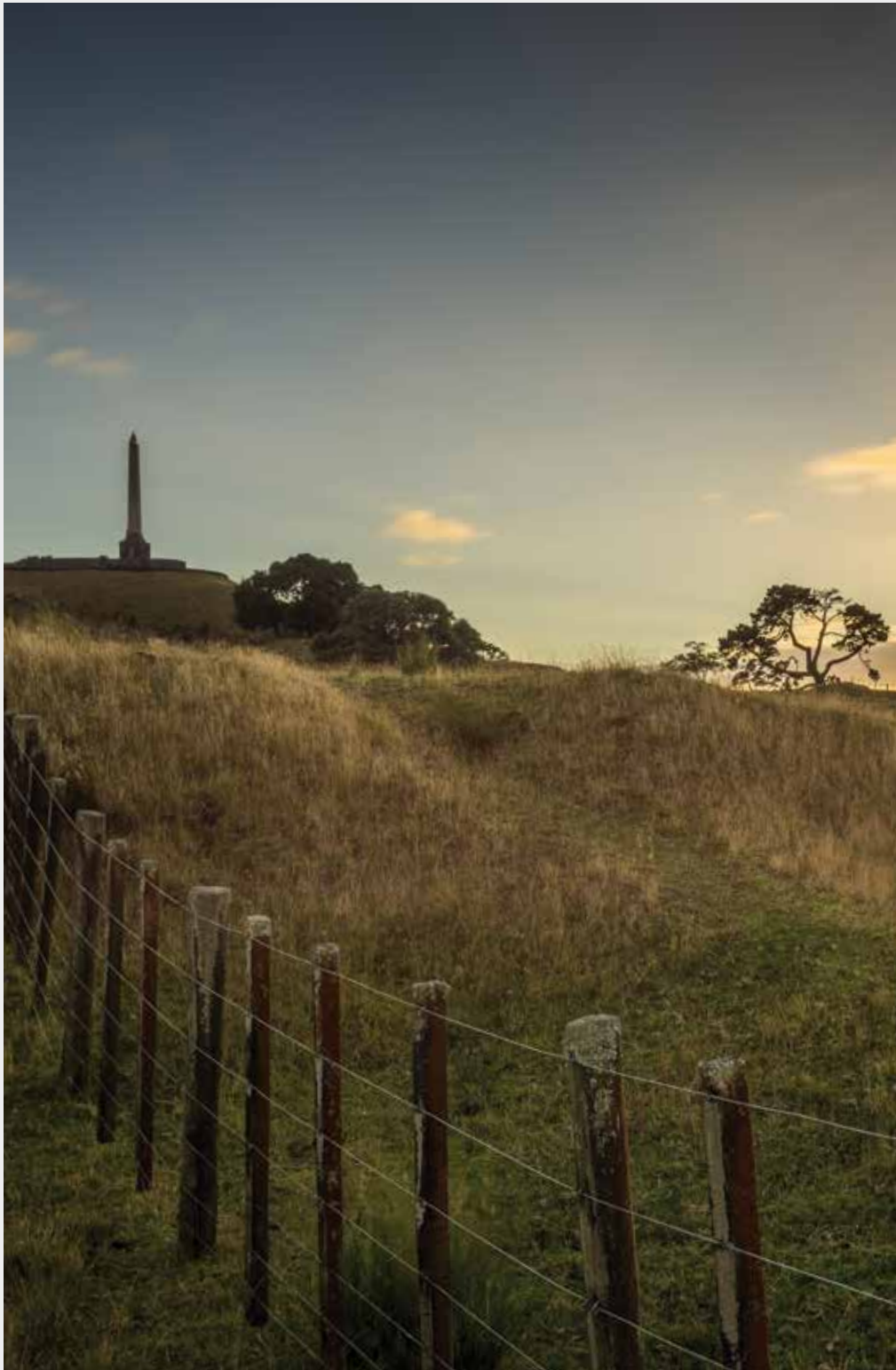
”  
Sir John's vision was to create a park encompassing a working farm, heritage sites, sports grounds, walks and tree-lined avenues, which New Zealand could treasure forever. Today, Cornwall Park is 172 hectares (425 acres) of Aotearoa New Zealand's living history, weaving together our heritage, nature, agriculture, mauri (life force), and community within its lush landscape.

# new zealand's urban oasis

1. The obelisk and Sir John's burial site
2. Memorial Steps
3. Acacia Cottage
4. Huia Lodge







# the maunga

Cornwall Park and our neighbour, Maungakiekie/ One Tree Hill, are set on one of Auckland's largest volcanoes. Maungakiekie erupted more than 67,000 years ago, forming the cone hill shape (known as a scoria cone) that you see today. As a result, most of the rocks and soil of Cornwall Park are of volcanic origin. The road leading up to Huia Lodge is actually an old lava flow!

During the late 1600s, the Ngāti Awa tribe settled on Maungakiekie. Ngāti Awa's chief oversaw the transformation of Maungakiekie into a major pā (fortified village). In the early 1700s, the Waiohū people shifted on to Maungakiekie and planted extensive gardens, which may have fed up to 5000 people! In the famous Battle of Parau, the Waiohū people lost Maungakiekie to Ngāti

Whātua and Maungakiekie became the main pā of Kiwi Tamaki, the paramount chief of the region at the time. In the late 18th century,

Māori vacated the pā as it was no longer a strategic stronghold. One Tree Hill Domain land was entrusted to the Tūpuna Maunga Authority in 2014 as part of a Treaty of Waitangi settlement.

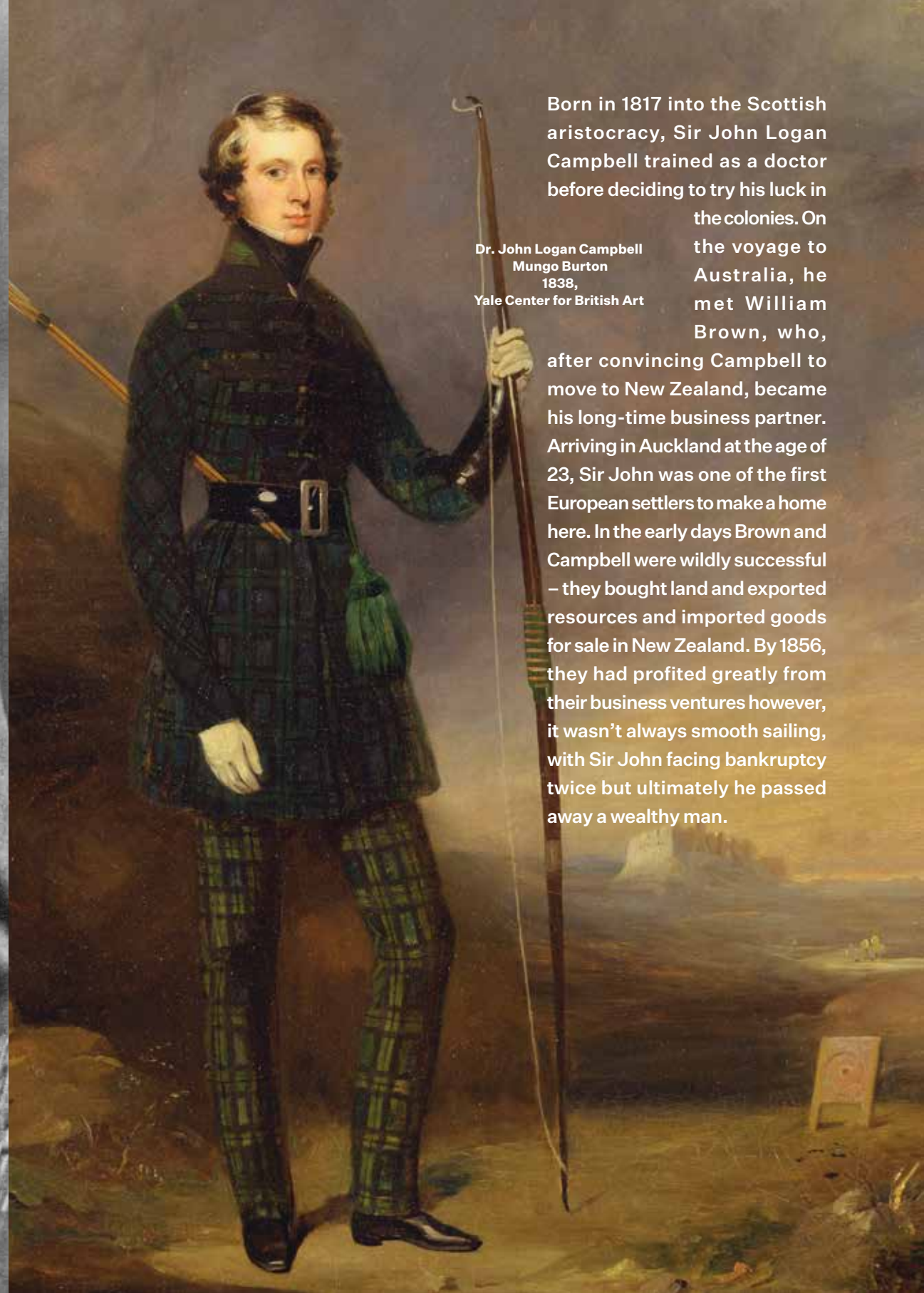
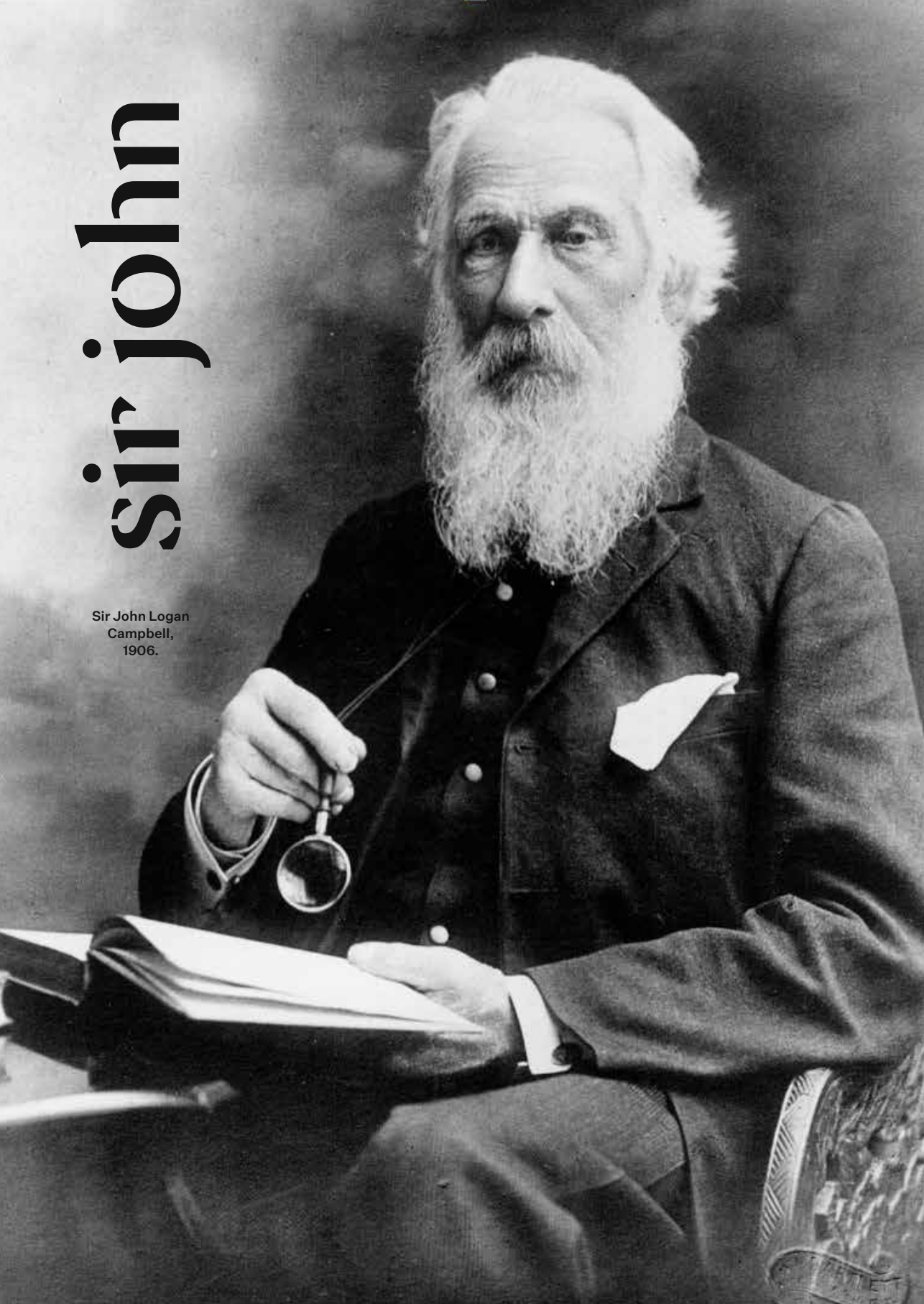
Obelisk,  
One Tree Hill





# sir john

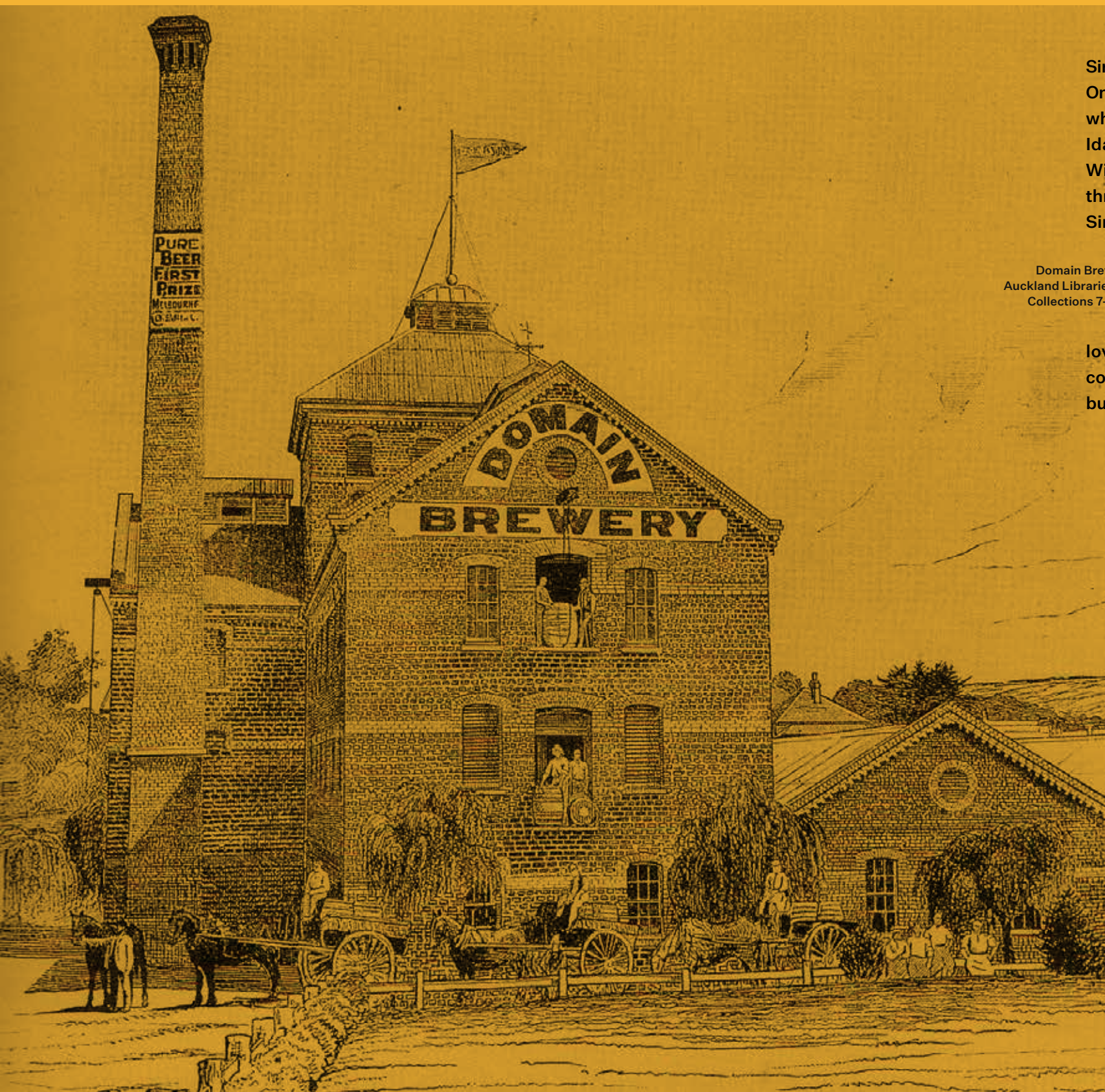
Sir John Logan  
Campbell,  
1906.



Dr. John Logan Campbell  
Mungo Burton  
1838,  
Yale Center for British Art

Born in 1817 into the Scottish aristocracy, Sir John Logan Campbell trained as a doctor before deciding to try his luck in the colonies. On the voyage to Australia, he met William Brown, who, after convincing Campbell to move to New Zealand, became his long-time business partner. Arriving in Auckland at the age of 23, Sir John was one of the first European settlers to make a home here. In the early days Brown and Campbell were wildly successful – they bought land and exported resources and imported goods for sale in New Zealand. By 1856, they had profited greatly from their business ventures however, it wasn't always smooth sailing, with Sir John facing bankruptcy twice but ultimately he passed away a wealthy man.





Domain Brewery,  
Auckland Libraries Heritage  
Collections 7-A5067

Sir John regularly travelled between New Zealand and Europe. On one such trip, he met his future wife, Emma Cracroft Wilson, whom he married in 1858. Together they had four children, Ida, Cicely, and twins Logan and Winifred. Tragically, only Winifred lived to old age – Cicely died in infancy, Logan as a three-year-old and Ida at 22.

Sir John was a central figure in the budding life of Auckland.

He calculated that he had, over five decades, served on more than 40 committees, boards, trusts and directorates! He was a much-loved member of the public, receiving the largest funeral cortège in Auckland history. He passed away in 1912 and is buried on the summit of Maungakiekie/One Tree Hill.

Sir John and Lady Emma  
Campbell outside their  
home Kilbryde,  
Auckland Libraries Heritage  
Collections 7-A251





# the gift that is cornwall park



The official opening of Cornwall Park 1903, Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections 7-A253

Sir John on the Avenue, Cornwall Park, with One Tree Hill in the background, Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections 7-A4650



Sir John's biggest gift by far was Cornwall Park. Initially, the land was a Campbell and Brown business venture, bought from an Irish settler in 1853. Sir John bought out Brown in 1873 and pursued his dream to create a park for the people of New Zealand. He struggled financially at times but refused to sell the land, never giving up on his dream. Instead, he buckled down, mortgaged everything he could and lived frugally until his debts were repaid. It was then that he was able to gift the land he loved to the people of New Zealand. Sir John announced his decision during the royal tour of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York in 1901, naming the park in their honour. He formally opened the park to the public in 1903, in an emotional address on the front steps of Huia Lodge.



Over the years, Cornwall Park has continued to have a central place in Auckland life. After Sir John's passing, much of the land was dedicated to farming in order to repay hefty death duties. During World War II, in 1942, the New Zealand Government ordered the Cornwall Park Trust Board to make land available for the 39th US Army General Hospital to be built within the park. The hospital treated more than 20,000 US military personnel wounded in the Pacific. After the war, the Auckland Hospital Board requested use of the buildings while Greenlane Hospital was being built. Cornwall Hospital housed a maternity unit and a geriatric unit until 1973. We still have people that visit the park who were born or worked in these facilities, or know someone who did!

# our later years

Hay making, Cornwall Park,  
Auckland Museum  
Tāmaki Paenga Hira



Christmas decorations  
on the wards,  
Cornwall Hospital

Golf, Cornwall Park, 1909,  
Auckland Libraries Heritage  
Collections AWNS-19090923-1-1

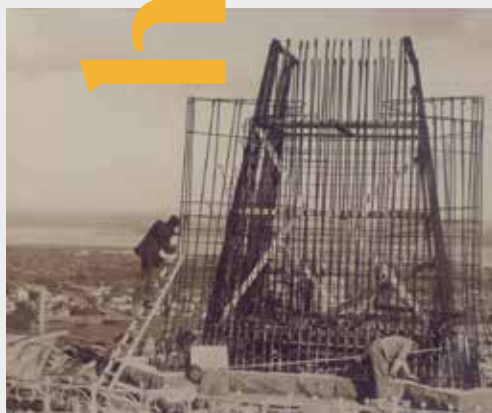






# our heritage

Construction of the obelisk, 1909. Cornwall Park Trust Board, copied from private collection.



Austin Strong,  
San Francisco Chronicle,  
1902, MS-51  
Auckland Museum  
Tāmaki Paenga Hira

The plan Sir John designed with landscape architect Austin Strong in 1902 has served as our roadmap for over a century. In 2014, we wrote our second 100-year Master Plan for Cornwall Park. This plan ensures Cornwall Park continues to embody Sir John's vision as we grow and change with the times. We continue to maintain the heritage structures that form part of Sir John's legacy.

**The obelisk on the summit of Maungakiekie/One Tree Hill is**

a monument to honour Māori constructed in 1940, nearly 30 years after Sir John's death. The obelisk, designed by Richard Atkinson Abbot, is situated near Sir John's grave, but it was not intended to honour him – rather, it was built as a permanent record of his love and regard for Māori. Sir John decided on the idea of an obelisk after travelling in Egypt. The base is formed from rusticated basalt blocks and rubbed stone wedges, while the bronze figure of a Māori warrior was sculpted by Richard Oliver Gross. The official unveiling of the obelisk in 1948 was delayed until after World War II, in keeping with Māori custom of not holding such ceremonies during a time of bloodshed.



Acacia Cottage

**Acacia Cottage** was built by Sir John and his business partner, William Brown, in 1841. A pencil sketch from that time shows the cottage nestled in Commercial Bay, now downtown Auckland. In 1921, Acacia Cottage was transported in one piece (chimney and all) to its current home in Cornwall Park and is Auckland's oldest wooden settler home.

**Huia Lodge** was designed by Charles Le Neve Arnold and built between 1901 and 1903, officially opening on 26 August 1903. Sir John envisioned it as a place where people could stop on their way up to the summit of Maungakiekie and it was originally the home for the park caretakers and their families who for many years served tea and scones to visitors that passed through the park. Later it was home to the restaurant managers of the kiosk next door. The house is designed in Queen Anne Revival Style and features kauri timber throughout most of the rooms. Although it underwent alteration and modernisation over the years when it was lived in, a restoration between 1991 to 1993 has returned it to its original appearance. It officially opened as a visitor centre in February 1994. Today Huia Lodge is where you'll discover everything about Cornwall Park. Come and explore what makes Cornwall Park special and ask the friendly staff anything about the park!

Afternoon tea  
at Huia Lodge  
Cornwall Park 1903,  
Auckland Libraries  
Heritage Collections  
7-A253.





Cornwall Park is our urban oasis, rich with history, nature, farm-life and places to explore. As we continue to look after our park, our plan is to bring more native biodiversity into it, taonga for us all to treasure.

# our oasis



**Our trees** are an important part of what makes Cornwall Park special. We have more than 8000 trees of 350 different species, both introduced and native to New Zealand. The trees you see today were part of Sir John's vision and you'll notice as you walk that there are trees everywhere – they are the stars of the park, shape the paths and views, provide shade, bring beauty, are home to birds and insects, reflect our heritage, and are far enough apart so you have the space to play.

Many of our trees are native to New Zealand, including a pōhutukawa that is more than 150 years old. Our trees are cared for by a team of arborists (kaitiaki rākau) who monitor them, fix them when they're damaged or unhealthy, prune them and ensure they are safe to be around. You may even spot an arborist up a tree as you wander the park!

We plant 80-100 trees each year – to replace those that have reached the end of their life cycle, as part of new designs or developments, or to assist with a healthy ecosystem.



Pōhutukawa tree and Huia Lodge, Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections  
AWNS-19060524-5-2



**Our gardens** are home to thousands of flowers and plants that change each year. Our gardens are cared for year round by a small horticulture team. We have a nursery where we grow seedlings and cuttings into plants that we then plant out in the park when they are strong enough. Around 20,000 annuals (flowers that go from seed to bloom in one year) and 12,000 bulbs are planted each year. The spring is a particularly popular time, when you'll always see daffodils, and sometimes tulips and freesias.



Pīwakawaka,  
New Zealand fantail,  
Ormond Torr



Tūi in a  
pōhutukawa



**Our birds** enjoy having so much green and thriving life in the park to call home. You'll see (or hear!) more than 30 species of birds as you explore the park through their tapestry of chirps, fleeting flybys and rustling in the trees. Some are just passing through, others call Cornwall Park home, and all provide the choir we listen to each day. Some, like the kererū, the tūi or the silvereye, are native, and others, like blackbirds and house sparrows, are introduced.

Our historic stone walls provide ecological niches for all sorts of life. They are home to more than 30 species of lichen, and, if you are lucky, you might see our native copper skinks who love to hang out there.





Cornwall Park is a working farm with sheep and Simmental cattle. Our farmers and farm dogs are busy caring for our animals, while our sheep and cows are mowing (or moooooow-ing!) our lawns, producing wool, meat and leather. The farmers work 365 days a year, sometimes preparing for newborns, sometimes shearing the sheep and always looking after the wellbeing of the animals.

Sheep in the  
Olive Grove

# our farm

Farm life  
Simmental cows





# your park to enjoy



Cornwall Park has picnic areas, BBQs, wheelchair-accessible toilets, drinking fountains and eateries for you to enjoy. We also run a full events programme each year. Check out our website for upcoming events.


Want to host an event? Not sure what you can do at the park? Visit our website, [cornwallpark.co.nz](http://cornwallpark.co.nz), for more information and our Conditions of Entry, or email us at [info@cornwallpark.co.nz](mailto:info@cornwallpark.co.nz)

Sack race games  
in the park  
2019



Swing  
dance class  
2018



A large, stylized graphic of a tree branch and leaves. The branch is a thick, dark black line that curves from the bottom left towards the top right. The leaves are represented by large, abstract shapes in two colors: a teal color and a mustard yellow color. Some leaves are solid, while others have internal patterns or are partially cut off by the edge of the frame. The background is a light grey.

Cornwall Park is for you – and all New Zealanders – to enjoy and experience nature in the heart of New Zealand's biggest city.

For more information on the park visit

**cornwallpark**



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[cornwallpark.co.nz](http://cornwallpark.co.nz)

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