

Avalon (Taita) Public Hall – 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations Committee, 1957



Back Row:

E. Ferretti, A. F. Hewer, P. Battiston, A. McArthur, A. E. Jenkins, D. M. Rout, D. De Menech G. Caldart, G. McCallum, D. McMurray

Front Row:

F. Ferretti, C. E. Bertelsen (Secretary), G. E. Gorrie (Trustee), J. Searle (Trustee), A. F. Westbury (Treasurer and Trustee)  
C. W. Hewer (Chairman and Trustee), J. H. Hamilton (Deputy Chairman)

THE AVALON PUBLIC HALL SOCIETY

*requests the pleasure of the company of*

.....  
*at a*

*Thirty-fifth  
Anniversary Celebration*

*to be held in the*

AVALON PUBLIC HALL

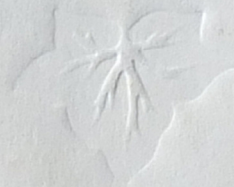
*on Saturday, October 26th, 1957*

*at 6.30 p.m.*

*Kindly present this invitation at the door*

R.S.V.P. by September 20th, 1957

Mr. C. E. BERTELSEN,  
Secretary, Avalon Public Hall  
Mabey Road,  
Lower Hutt.



*From the Hall Archive – Undated Newspaper Cutting Titled Reunion of Hall Committees*

Members of past committees of the Avalon Public Hall in Mabey Road, Taita, are coming from as far as North Auckland and Timaru to celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the hall. The Mayor of Lower Hutt (Mr P. Dowse) and Mrs Dowse will be present at the celebrations, which will include a cocktail party followed by dinner and a social evening.

Because of the fact that in 1922 market gardening and farming constituted most of the Taita, Naenae, and Epuni areas, it was felt that it was necessary to have a public hall in the district. Mr R. Bartosh arranged an informal meeting of residents on June 7, 1922, and following the discussion, a committee was formed. They made a canvass and in two days £500 and a section for the hall had been promised.

A public meeting was called and a pro tem committee of 12 and three trustees were elected. After residents had donated £700, building was commenced. Mr F. W. Kitchener was working foreman and all other work was done voluntarily. In the remarkably short time of four months the hall was completed and Mr W. F. Massey performed the opening ceremony. After completion, the committee organised card parties and dances to raise funds for improvements.

The Secretary of the present committee (Mr C. E. Bertelsen) considers that public halls, like many other things, are much easier to get today. The Government and local bodies are prepared to assist people.

“To us, the present committee has a proud tradition that we are proud to maintain,” he said.

*From the Hall Archive – Undated Newspaper Cutting Titled Avalon Hall – Record Achievement*

The 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Avalon Public Hall, in Mabey Road, was celebrated recently with a cocktail party, dinner, and a social evening. Members of past committees were present from all parts of New Zealand. The reunion was a great success.

The Mayor of Lower Hutt, Mr P. Dowse, congratulated the committees, past and present, on their splendid work. He looked upon Avalon as an example of what could be achieved by concerted efforts. Mr C. E. Bertelsen, secretary of the present committee, said that it had a proud tradition which it was proud to maintain. With Government subsidies and local body assistance public halls, like many other things were much easier to get today.

The history of the establishment of the hall showed that because in 1922 market gardening and farming constituted most of the Taita, Naenae, and Epuni areas, it was felt that it was necessary to have a public hall in the district. Mr R. Bartosh arranged an informal meeting of residents on June 7, 1922, and following the discussion a committee was formed. They made a canvass and in two days £500 and a section for the hall had been promised.

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