

Alfred Armanesco

Left his native Northern Italy at the age of 17 and made his way to New Zealand via the United States and Australia. After working on the gumfields for some years, in 1885 he purchased six acres of land in the Bay. The property was known as Windy Heights and the house stood near the Blockhouse Bay Road/Taylor Street junction.

In 1890 Alfred was joined in his new land by Maria and the couple were married in St. Patrick's Cathedral in the same year.

About five years later Windy Heights was leased and ten acres in the Mitchell Street - Taunton Terrace area

was purchased and a new home built. Mr White was the architect, John Herbert put down the foundations and Salisbury House as it later became, was the Armanesco home for some years, their sons Victor and William being born there.

Later the family returned to the original house and Victor, a builder, lived there in turn until his death in 1987. Once again the Improvement Association, together with local people, is the moving force behind a community project and the Armanesco house is being preserved in Blockhouse Bay for community use - a most appropriate project for 1990. Early in 1904 school classes were held

in the Armanesco home while the pupils waited for the Hall to be built.

Before that time pupils rode or walked to school in Avondale and academic careers were often cut short at standard four because secondary schools were simply too far away for Blockhouse Bay students to attend. However the Manual Training Centre that opened in Avondale provided local Blockhouse Bay pupils with sound practical skills - although classes were conducted on strict gender lines of cooking and sewing for the girls - woodwork and metalwork for the boys.



Alfred & Maria Armanesco

Armanesco Estate