

Alan Frederick and Diana Margaret Arlington

“Mick and Di” as they were known moved to Whitford in 1964 when the roads were still gravel. They came from East Tamaki and they had a family business in Otahuhu which was a tannery. They were founding members of Papatoetoe Pony Club, past President, life members and the club began on their land. In the late 60s they were part of a group of 4 who lent money interest free to the club to buy their land in Flat Bush where the club remained for many years. Papatoetoe Pony Club later sold that land at a vast profit to move to Brookby where they have established the best pony club in NZ and a secure future for generations. In the early seventies the Arlingtons then began Whitford Pony Club on their farmland and later this moved to council land behind the War Memorial before purchasing the grounds that it still occupies today again with assistance from the Arlingtons in securing the land and fundraising for the mortgage. They were life members of Whitford Pony Club and Diana began the Riding for the Disabled at Whitford and volunteered for most of her life weekly till she was unable to do so and it moved to Totara Park. They were life members of Whitford Pony Club. They also were very involved in Pakuranga Hunt and were life members for the years of volunteering.

They both were very early in volunteering to the neighbourhood crime watch using their own vehicle once a week to drive the area - this continues to this day with a vehicle provided but back then there were no mobile phones so no idea what they did to report crime if they came across it.

They offered and shared their home to many including local Howick schools and kindergartens coming out for school day trips to meet all the animals that were on site such as pet sheep, ducks, chickens, guinea fowl, geese and of course given pony rides - something that most didn't experience otherwise.

The Arlingtons could be relied on in the community to help out with most local fundraisers and were heavily involved in all things equestrian all over NZ not just in Whitford.