

The view south from Kelburn looking over the Aro Valley and up towards Brooklyn. Epuni Street is the street in the centre and Aro Street runs along the bottom of the image. Greetings from Wellington in gold lettering across the bottom left. Taken by an unknown photographer circa 1900. [1]

This shows the local geography of the valley. Buildings are bunched up and perched on top of any available ground, which is at premium. Before cars took over our urban environment, houses would be spaced much closer. The need for street access not as important.

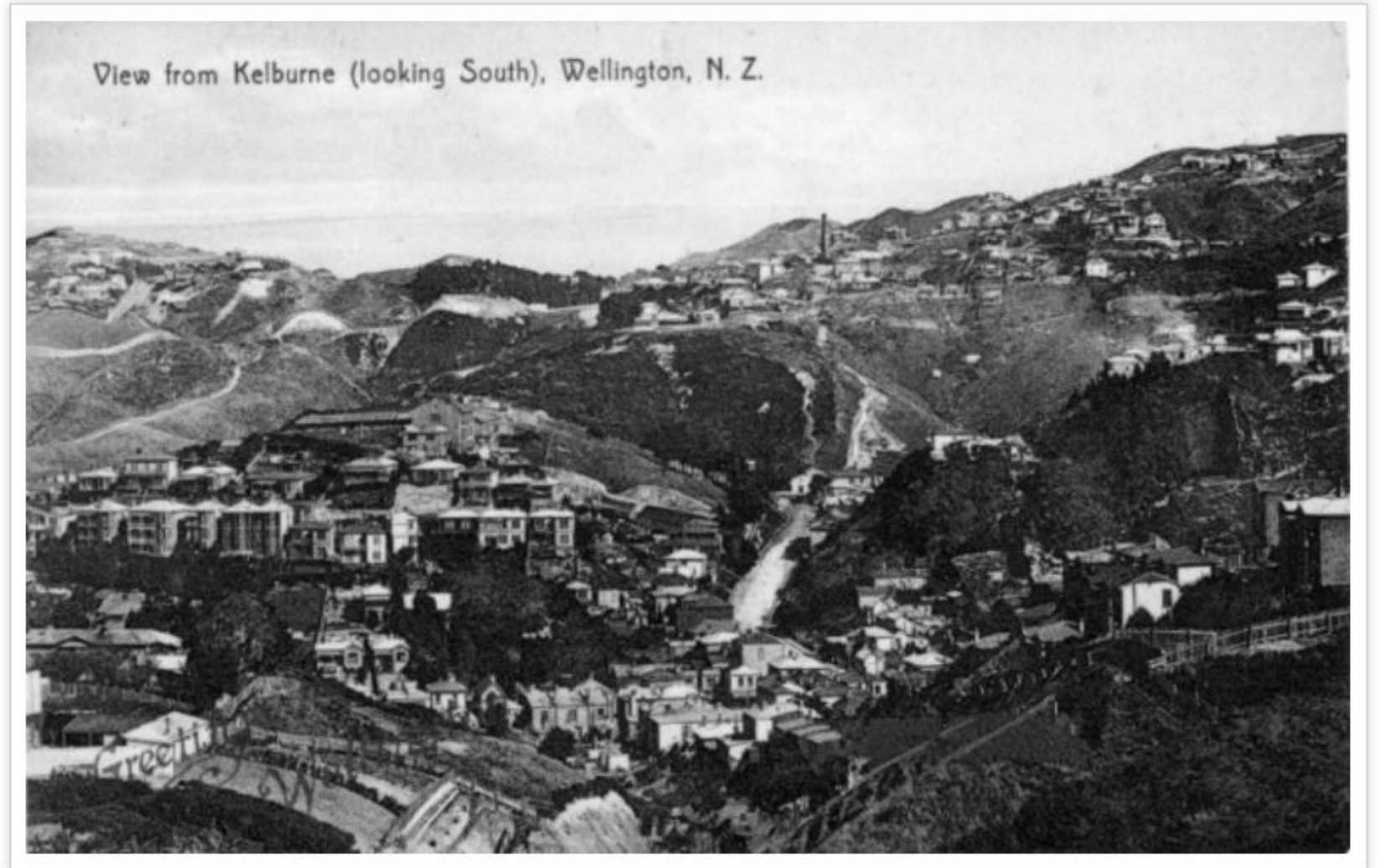


Photo of Aro Valley - 1900

Wakefield plan

This is a Map of the original planned settlement of Wellington by the New Zealand Company in 1840[4]

Note the straight lines and disregard for the geography of Wellington.

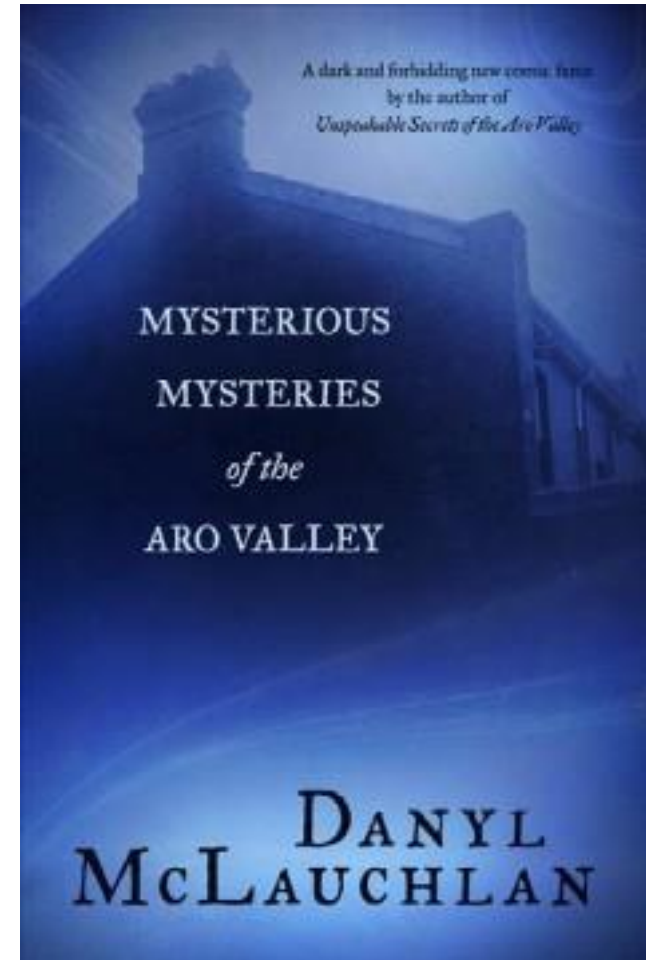
The reason why we now have so many pedestrian accessways as streets. Much like at the end of Abel Smith Street



Mysterious Mysteries of the Aro Valley

Fictional depiction of Aro Valley, a heightened realism of the inhabitants that currently live there. We are depicted as
A 'quirky , eclectic populace'[2]
Using a local place to map a mystery novel onto, play with the familiarity to some, that becomes exotic to others.

How the place is perceived in
Popular Culture.
Has its geography given rise to
the sort of people that live
there?



References

[1]Unknown, *View of the Aro Valley with Brooklyn hill behind*. Circa 1900
Original photographic prints and postcards from the file print collection, Box 16.
Ref: PAColl-7344-16. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.
<https://natlib.govt.nz/records/22832349>

[2]McCrystal, John. *New Zealand Books*. Autumn
2017, Vol. 27 Issue 1, p18-18. 1p.

[3] McLauchlan, Danyl, *Mysterious Mysteries of Aro Valley*. Victoria University
Press, 2016

[4] Mein Smith, William, *Plan of the Town of Wellington Port
Nicholson, The First and Principal Settlement of the New Zealand
Company*. August 14, 1840
Plan. AATE W4920, Box 79 (R2431150), Archives New Zealand