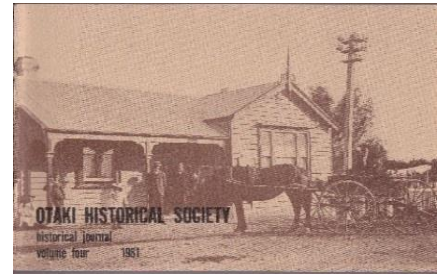
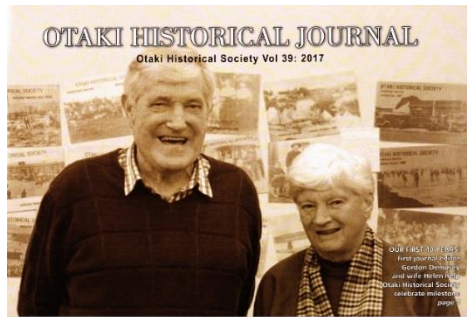
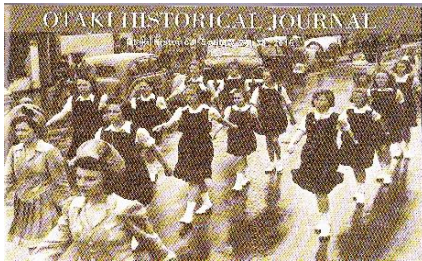


Otaki Historical Society

Newsletter • January 2018 • otakihistoricalsociety.org.nz

NEXT MEETING: 13 February 2018: Rotary Hall 7.30 p.m.



Next Meeting 13 February 2018

Please note: This meeting will be held on the second Tuesday of the month, as Waitangi Day falls on our normal first Tuesday.

The theme of our meeting will be 'Growing up in the Otaki area'.

Listen to and join in with our speakers recalling school days, social events and milestones in Otaki's history.

All contributions will be welcomed whether from 'oldtimers' or 'newcomers' to our area.

Last Meeting

December's meeting, the final for our very eventful year, saw the launch of the 2017 OHS Journal, a bumper issue which celebrates the 40 years of the existence of the society. We also acknowledged the three winners of the history prizes awarded by the society to the top history student at each of our three secondary schools. Amongst the large attendance we were privileged to have present several of our journal contributors, some of whom had travelled long distances to attend. Sue Barrett and Raema Collins spoke further about the topics of their articles i.e. the Otaki Kindergarten and the Rahui Milk Factory. Following the formalities, attendees spent time mixing and reminiscing, looking through the scrapbooks and displays from the 40th exhibition and watching a slide show of a small number of the many photographs the society has. A number of journals were purchased, and a festive supper was enjoyed by all.

OHS Committee Update

- The next meeting will once again be on the second Tuesday of the month (13 February) as opposed to the usual first. Waitangi Day falls on this date.

- Our secretary, Sarah Maclean accompanied by a committee member continued with the series of interviews with Coast Access Radio discussing OHS and local history in general as part of their 'Conversations' segment which is broadcast on 104.7 FM on Saturday mornings at 9 am. These sessions are held monthly. If you miss the radio programme, you can listen to it online. Go to <http://coastaccessradio.org.nz/> and follow the instructions on the home page.
- As reported last month, the society which for many years has donated a history prize to Otaki College, this past year also donated a prize to the two Wharekura, Te Kura-a-iwi o Whakatupuranga Rua Mano and Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Te Rito. We are pleased to be able to acknowledge and assist these top history students. Our three prize winners were:
 - Te Manahi Gardiner - Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Te Rito
 - Philadelphia Metekingi - Te Kura-a-iwi o Whakatupuranga Rua Mano
 - Michael McInerney-Heather – Otaki College

Other Updates

OHS Journals

FORTY YEARS OF HISTORY

A feature of the 2017 Otaki Historical Journal, released in December, is its celebration of 40 years for the [Otaki Historical Society Inc.](#)

Established in 1977, the OHS has published a journal every year since, except in 2001 when it published instead a book by Rex Kerr about the Otaki railway. The 2017 issue tells the story of the OHS over its 40 years of existence. Readers will find plenty of other stories in the latest journal. One is about the Otaki Health Camp, which is topical after author Di Buchan released a book about it recently, and its possible closure and relocation out of Otaki. Some stories have come from people who tell of their early lives in Otaki, such as Joan Sim (nee Taylor) and Raema Collins (nee Dinnison). Joan's first job in 1955 was at the Otaki Post Office, which in those days also served as the local telephone exchange. Her story tells of a group of people working together who seemed to have fun, along with their work duties. It was a different world of party-line telephones and other mid-century technology.

Raema Collins remembers growing up at the Rahui milk station, where her father, David Dinnison, was manager. David was not only a capable manager, but a keen brass bandsman. He became conductor of the Otaki Brass Band and for 40 years played the Last Post on his cornet at funerals organised by the local RSA.

The remarkable but tragically short life of world-class Otaki paddler Louise Jull is outlined in a poignant story by her father, Adrian. The journal also acknowledges the contribution of some notable Otaki citizens who died during the past year, including Erna Winterburn-Somers, John Saunders, Yung Jack Mun, Alec Hughes and Malcolm Murchie.

(Article courtesy of Otaki Street Scene)

Purchase of previous Journals

The society has a number of past journals available for sale at varying prices (from \$5). Please contact us to confirm the availability and cost of any of these journals you are interested in.

Note: Digitised copies of out of print journals and/or articles can be purchased from the society. Contact us for costs and further details: otakihistoricalsociety@yahoo.com

OHS Website

The 2016 Journal has been indexed and the updated document is available on our website:

<http://www.otakihistoricalsociety.org.nz/journals>

The 2017 index is scheduled to be available during February and will be added to the website.

Remember you can check the contents of individual journals by clicking on the relevant cover picture on the website.

During the next few months we intend to add more photographs to the galleries.

Correspondence

Over 50 contacts were handled by our secretary during the past two months. Included among these were several requests for information, photographs, articles etc. Updates re the journal, and information from Incorporated Societies, IRD etc. were also received. The number of contacts coming via the website is slowly increasing.

Upcoming Events

Public Meeting and Open Forum on 'Growing up in the Otaki Area': **13 February 7.30 pm. Rotary Hall, Aotaki St, Otaki.**

Public Meeting: **3 April. Watch the website and Facebook for confirmation of April's topic.**

Museum




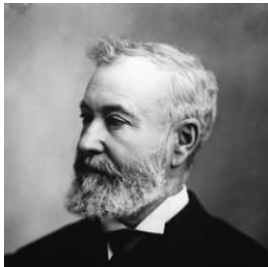
The current exhibition features the Otaki Health Camp. A very popular display with links to many Otaki residents. During the holiday period a display of early photographs and maps of the town run in conjunction with the Health Camp exhibition has been very well received.


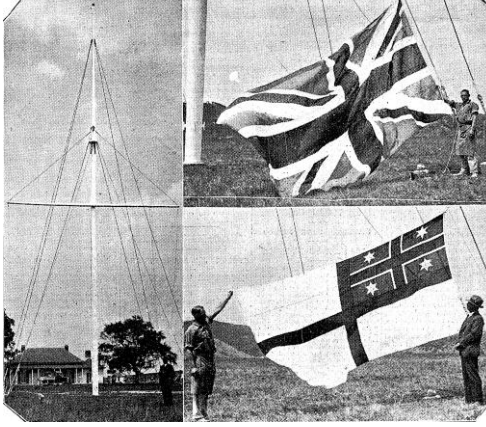
Reminder

The society warmly welcomes:

- Ideas and articles for future journals
- Photographs, manuscripts, documents and objects relating to the history of Otaki and its surrounds
- New members

Contact us at: otakihistoricalsociety@yahoo.com

Historical Otaki related snippets from the press: Feb-March		Courtesy Papers Past et al
1920	<p>A meeting of the Town Board agreed to discuss 'various matters of interest to the town' with Mr W Field, MP. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A district plan • A borough • Electric lighting • Better postal facilities • Early morning train • Railway deviation at Paekakariki • Hydroelectric scheme • Tararua track • War trophies <p>See entire article: https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZTIM19200315.2.84?query=otaki%20wants</p>	 <p><i>Early American built steam engine K88</i></p>  <p><i>Otaki Post Office</i></p>
1908	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harold Jones, Otaki won one of only four scholarships to St Patricks College Wellington 	 <p><i>T O'Rourke</i></p>
1935	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr and Mrs Scotty Frazer got into difficulties whilst bathing at Otaki Beach. Mr Frazer unfortunately drowned attempting to assist his wife 	
1940	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The body of Doreen Gertrude Matthews, aged 13 who had been missing from Feltham Childrens Home was found on Otaki Beach. The coroner's verdict was accidental drowning. 	 <p><i>Governor Glasgow</i></p>
1920	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Te Manuao Road was designated a 'legal road'. Horowhenua County allocated 100 pounds to form and metal the road. 	
1925	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maurice Swabey aged 12 who had been admitted to hospital with infantile paralysis succumbed to the disease. 	
1893	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor and Lady Glasgow visited Otaki and were entertained at Raukawa marae. 	
1920	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A public meeting agreed to raise 1,000 pounds for a peace memorial 	
1925	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The death of Mrs Byron Brown is recorded 	
1940	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former Otaki constable, Clerk of the Court, JP and Mayor, Mr Timothy O'Rourke died. 	

<p>1872</p>	<p>An interesting article printed in 1872 praises the conduct and intelligence of 'Natives' of Otaki during a meeting with the Superintendent.</p> <p>It was reported as being one of the most instructive since the country was colonized. Topics covered included road construction and alcohol supply.</p> <p>See article: https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/W118720314.2.15?query=otaki%20natives</p> <p><i>Picture shows meeting of this era between Maori and Govt officials, this one in Hawkes Bay</i></p>	
<p>1934</p>	<p>The 94th anniversary of the signing of the treaty of Waitangi is to be celebrated in style. Upwards of 10,000 visitors are expected at Waitangi. New flags will be unfurled and the beginnings of the whare being built for the centenary in 1940 will be on view.</p> <p><i>Picture at right:</i> FLAGS ' WHICH ARE TO BE FLOWN ON THE NEWLY – ERECTED MAST DURING THE WAITANGI CELEBRATIONS Left: The flagstaff, 92ft. in height, described as the tallest in New Zealand, erected in front of the Treaty House. Upper right: A Union Jack, 18ft. by 9ft., which is always to be flown during the daytime. Lower right: The flag of the Maori race, 14ft. by 7ft., which will also be unfurled during the ceremony.</p> <p>See more at: https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/AS19340206.2.122?query=treaty%20of%20waitangi%20celebrations</p>	

Interesting References and Resources

<http://wellingtoncityheritage.org.nz/>

A site where you can see some of Wellington's heritage. Sections cover Architects, Areas and Buildings.

http://www.visitflanders.com/en/themes/flanders_fields/

This is primarily a website which promotes battlefield tours. It has however some excellent areas such as History, Memories, Stories, Battles etc.

<http://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/globalassets/library/heritage/otaki-street-names---ohs-vol-6-42-44.pdf>

An article taken from our Volume 6 Journal, 'Historic streets of Otaki' written by Barbara Swabey and available on KCDC website.

Do you receive your newsletter by mail? If you would prefer to receive it by email, please advise us at:
otakihistoricalsociety@yahoo.com

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