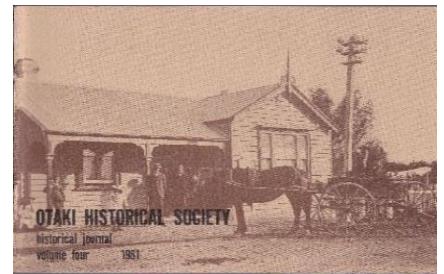
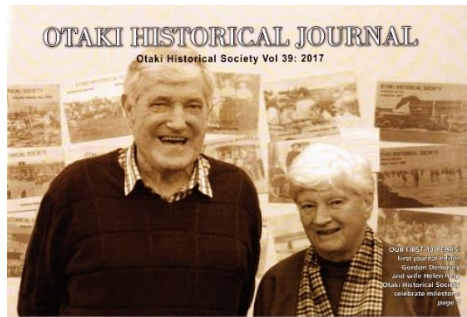
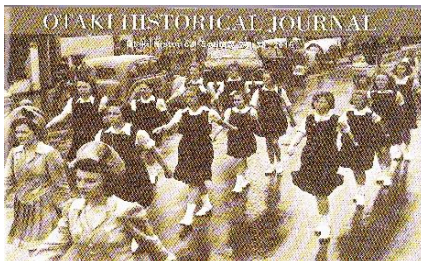


# Otaki Historical Society

Newsletter • March 2018 • [otakihistoricalsociety.org.nz](http://otakihistoricalsociety.org.nz)

**NEXT MEETING: 3 April 2018: Rotary Hall 7.30 p.m.**



## Next Meeting 3 April 2018

### 'Building bridges in Otaki and beyond'

Committee member Ian Cooksley will follow up his well acclaimed earlier talk on 'Maori in the Tararuas' with an interesting and informative account of his work with DOC, building bridges on conservation land throughout NZ. Ian was born and bred in Otaki, was educated locally and lives in Manakau. He has always been interested in natural and human history and on leaving school went into the Forestry Service. Following the formation of the Department of Conservation Ian transferred to this department. He has spent the ensuing years travelling and working around New Zealand with DOC building bridges and undertaking conservation work etc.

### Last Meeting

The first meeting of the year was a most enjoyable and well attended evening. Many who had grown up in Otaki spoke about childhood days in the area. Most children walked or rode bicycles or horses to primary school and until Otaki College was built, caught trains or buses to Levin for secondary schooling. Many families had come to Otaki seeking employment and had worked at farms, sawmills, the railway and public works (roads), building and the milk factory. Others were business owners such as bakers, grocers, farmers and many more were employed at the hospitals, health camp and sanitorium. Clothing factories and the tobacco factory also provided jobs for many. Children swam and played in the Waitohu Stream or the Otaki River and loved to watch the arguments between drivers on the one-way Otaki bridge. Everyone played outdoors and the streets became the playgrounds. Many attendees recalled the different 'play areas' and the groups of children who frequented each area.

Everyone felt safe and as long as you were home by dark no one worried.

Children of farmers and market gardeners did not have as much time for play and were expected to work on the family farms and in the many market gardens.

## OHS Committee Update

- The series of interviews with Coast Access Radio discussing OHS and local history in general is to continue this year. As earlier reported these interviews are 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.
- Once again, our Secretary has been busy responding to correspondence received via the website and the email address. Topics covered in the past two months included requests for photographs and family information, journal orders, subscription payments etc. We also fielded queries from our indexer re the latest journal and began contacting people who will be compiling and contributing to this year's journal.
- The committee is currently reviewing our policies and procedures to ensure they meet current requirements. e.g Privacy Act, Copyright etc.

## Other Updates

### **OHS Journals**

The 2017 journal is proving to be extremely popular and a large number have been sold. This issue covers the 40 years of the Otaki Historical Society along with many very interesting articles, reminiscences and the regular items. If you have not secured your copy – don't delay!

### **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](mailto:otakihistoricalsociety@yahoo.com)

### **OHS Website and Index**

The updated 1978 -2017 index is now available on the website. [www.otakihistoricalsociety.org.nz](http://www.otakihistoricalsociety.org.nz) The index is a valuable tool for researchers and members seeking information relating to the content of our 39 journals. Use the index to see if your interest (or family) are mentioned. If you find relevant information, refer to your journals or contact the society.

### **Acknowledgements**

We acknowledge June Saunders, Martin Kaiser and Robin Fleming for their kind donation of past issues of the journal, Dion Winterburn for a donation of photographs and Lynne O'Connor for the loan of several excellent photographs taken by JD Buckley (photographer of Paekakariki in 1930s). We are taking copies of Lynne's photos for our archive.

### **Upcoming Events**

Public Meeting: **'Building bridges in Otaki and beyond'**. 3 April 7.30 pm. Rotary Hall, Aotaki St, Otaki.

Public Meeting: **5 June. Watch the website and Facebook for confirmation of June's topic.**

### **Museum**

The Health Camp and Main Street exhibitions closed at the museum during February and the new exhibition commemorating 100 years of the Otaki Volunteer Fire Brigade opened on March 10. This is an excellent exhibition and is a 'must visit' for all. Come and take a selfie of you (or your children/grandchildren) dressed as a fireman!

### **Otaki Genealogy Society**

This group will hold another Family History Day on 19<sup>th</sup> May. Their last, held two years ago was a great success with visitors attending from near and far. There will be many resources and assistance available on the day to enable you to find those missing twigs on your family tree. Our society will be in attendance again and will have the Index and other resources on our stand. Watch the local press, facebook etc. for more information and updates relating to this very interesting event.

## Treaty of Waitangi Commemorations in Kapiti

This year the Kapiti District Council developed a multimedia exhibition to acknowledge local signatories of the treaty. Our president Meagan Roach whose tupuna is Te Matia is the Ngati Raukawa descendant featured in this excellent exhibition. It is fitting that Meagan is now helping to preserve the history created by her ancestor and those that followed him.

### Following are a few of the facts documented in the exhibition:



- Te Matia signed Te Tiriti at Otaki on 19 May 1840 on behalf of Ngati Pare and Ngati Raukawa. He was the son of Tukiata (Ngati Koata) father and Te Ranginui (Ngati Pare) mother, a close relative of Te Rauparaha.
- Te Matia was regarded as a leader in his own right within Ngati Raukawa and he was a Rangatira of Ngati Pare, a large and powerful hapu of Ngati Raukawa and established himself originally at Pakakutu pa near the mouth of the Otaki River.
- Te Matia married Paranihia Whawha of Ngati Huia. They had three daughters one of whom Hinenuitepo married an aristocratic Pakeha, Robert Skipworth. This marriage produced six children before Te Rauparaha ordered the young man to leave the district, possibly for grazing cattle on forbidden land.
- Hadfield records that in the early years Te Matia was opposed to the Christian teachings and constantly interrupted Sunday services. However, he eventually changed and was baptized in 1847.
- Te Matia had his home and tupuna-whare called Motai in Otaki township on the site of the present day Memorial Hall to Heritage Museum block. He died on 5 November 1863 and is buried on Mutikotiko Hill near the grave of Te Rauparaha at Rangiatea.

**Meagan Roach, descendant of Te Matia, lives in Otaki on land where her tupuna lived and walked.**

*The exhibition will show throughout the District at various service centres until June.*

### **Dates and venues:**

*7 February – 6 March, Paraparaumu Library*

*6 March – 3 April, Otaki Library*

*3 April – 8 May, Paekakariki Station Museum*

*8 May – 5 June, Waikanae Library*

**See further details on the KCDC website and local libraries.**

### **Reminder**

The society warmly welcomes:

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

Contact us at: [otakihistoricalsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:otakihistoricalsociety@yahoo.com)

## Historical Otaki related snippets from the press: April-May

Courtesy Papers Past et al

1940

The funeral train carrying the body of the late Prime Minister the Rt Hon MJ Savage travelled from Wellington to Auckland. Including an overnight stop at Taumarunui the journey took 28 hours and over 20 stops were made. At Otaki the Mayor handed a wreath to Hon. P Fraser, a Maori choir sang two verses of a hymn and the band played 'Abide with me' as the train left.

Two interesting accounts below:

[https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/EP19400329.2.69.9?end\\_date=31-12-1940&phrase=0&query=savage+funeral+train+otaki&start\\_date=01-01-1940](https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/EP19400329.2.69.9?end_date=31-12-1940&phrase=0&query=savage+funeral+train+otaki&start_date=01-01-1940)

[https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/EP19400401.2.129.1?end\\_date=31-12-1940&phrase=0&query=savage+funeral+train+&start\\_date=01-01-1940&title=EP](https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/EP19400401.2.129.1?end_date=31-12-1940&phrase=0&query=savage+funeral+train+&start_date=01-01-1940&title=EP)



Michael Joseph Savage

1895

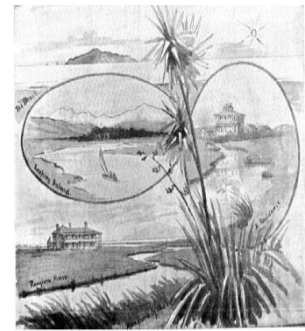
### Rangiuru-By-The-Sea

'The auctioneers, Messrs T. Kennedy Macdonald and Co., Limited, announce in our advertising columns that holiday-seekers can enjoy a delightful outing on Easter Saturday by taking the special excursion train to Otaki and from there by special conveyance to the new marine town of Rangiuru-by-the-Sea, distant two miles. Arrangements have been made for special luncheon to be provided at the Jubilee and Family Hotels at Otaki. The railway return fare has been fixed at four shillings, and tickets may be obtained for the luncheon and conveyance to the ground from the auctioneers at two shillings each, so that the whole cost of an excursion of ninety miles will not exceed six shillings. While the train has been primarily arranged for the convenience of intending buyers of the valuable building sections at Rangiuru-by-the-Sea, every person wishing to see the beauties of that charming part of the West Coast will be welcomed. The excursion trip has so many attractive features that the resources of the Wellington and Manawatu Railway Company will doubtless be fully taxed on Easter Saturday.'

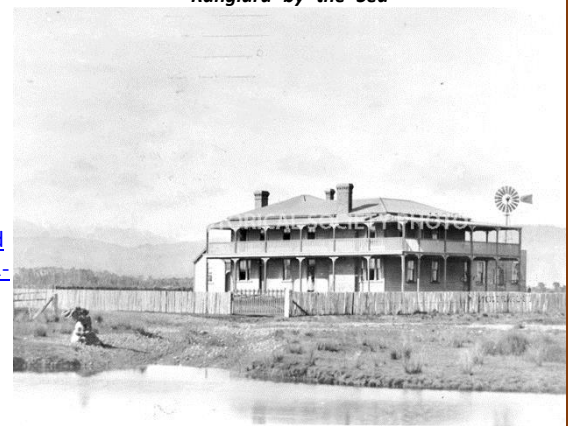
The above article is taken from the NZ Times 10/4/1895

A further article can be found below:

[https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZTIM18950413.2.28?end\\_date=31-12-1895&phrase=0&query=rangiuru+by+the+sea&start\\_date=01-01-1895&title=EP%2CNZTIM](https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZTIM18950413.2.28?end_date=31-12-1895&phrase=0&query=rangiuru+by+the+sea&start_date=01-01-1895&title=EP%2CNZTIM)



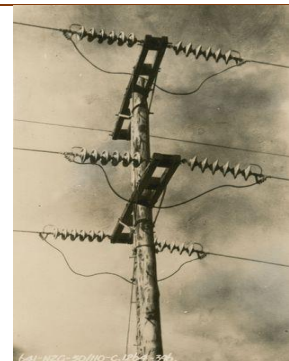
Rangiuru-by-the-Sea



Rangiuru House

1869

In the 'Latest Telegrams' column of the Star: 'The Otaki Natives have written to Dr Featherston, formally consenting to the erection of the telegraph along the beach and inviting him to be present at the commencement of the work.'



Early Transmission Lines from Mangaho (Shannon)

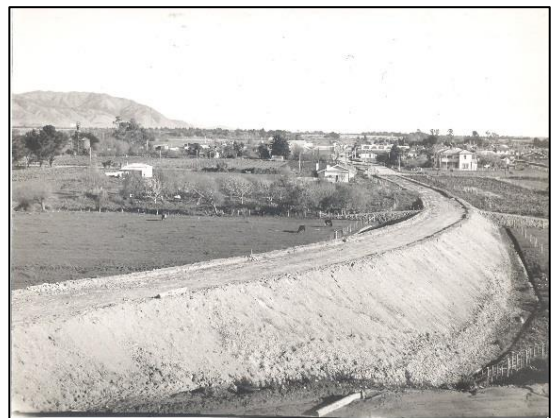


<p><b>1928</b></p> <p><b>1934</b></p> <p><b>1895</b></p>	<p>Otaki Golf Club season opened. Winners were Mrs. Sievers, Miss P Wilson, JB D'Ath and SJ Sievers. Trophies were donated and presented by Mr. WM Simcox</p> <p>At the invitation of Dr. Milne a meeting was held to arrange for a full representation of returned soldiers at the Anzac Day Service and to take steps towards forming an Otaki branch of the RSA</p> <p>Reported from a cricket match Otaki School v Te Horo School. Taylor – 5 wickets for 3 runs and Clark 4 wickets for 8 runs.!!</p>	   <p><i>Modern Day School Cricketers</i></p>
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### Building the Otaki Overbridge -2018 and 1938/1939



2018 Ramp Construction: Courtesy Mark Coote



1938/9 Ramp Construction: OHS Collection

### Interesting References and Resources

<http://www.kapiticoastmuseum.org.nz/>

A local museum at Waikanae with great Kapiti area related exhibits, photographs etc.

<https://www.nzwargraves.org.nz/>

The site of the NZ War Graves Project. Excellent site with a large amount of information.

**Do you receive your newsletter by mail? If you would prefer to receive it by email, please advise us at:**

[otakihistoricalsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:otakihistoricalsociety@yahoo.com)

**ORDER YOUR HISTORICAL JOURNAL 2017 NOW**

**Order by:**

- Internet banking to: Otaki Historical Society, account no: 38 9004 0987739 00.  
(Please ensure your name and 'JOURNAL 2017' is included in the reference field.) Then send us an email with your name, address and phone number. (otakihistoricalsociety@yahoo.com)
- Emailing Maurice King at jandmking@xtra.co.nz (please include name, address, phone number and email address).
- Filling in this form and posting it with your cheque to: Otaki Historical Society, PO Box 50, Otaki 5542.
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**Cost: \$25 Copy: Number required Postage NZ: \$4 (per copy) : Aus \$10 (per copy) Total \$**

**MEMBERSHIP YEAR AUGUST 2017 TO JULY 2018**

Please note that yearly fees for the Otaki Historical Society are set at the AGM in August and all fees are due thereafter. Single membership is \$15, family membership is \$20. Fees may be paid at the bimonthly meetings, or by mail to PO Box 50, Otaki 5542, or by internet banking. The Otaki Historical Society account no is: 38 9004 0987739 00 (please ensure your Name and 'Subs 2017-18' is included in the reference field).

**NAME/S:**

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**PHONE:**

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**Subscription \$**

**Donation \$**

**Total \$**

**(\$15 INDIVIDUAL OR \$20 FAMILY Subscription for 2017 – 2018)**

**Email address reminder** The society now has an email address: [otakihistoricalsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:otakihistoricalsociety@yahoo.com) Use this address or the postal address, Otaki Historical Society, PO Box 50, Otaki 5542, to contact the society on any subject.

**Acknowledgments:** Papers Past, KDCDC, Mark Coote: Photographer, Rex Kerr, NZETC, Meagan Roach.