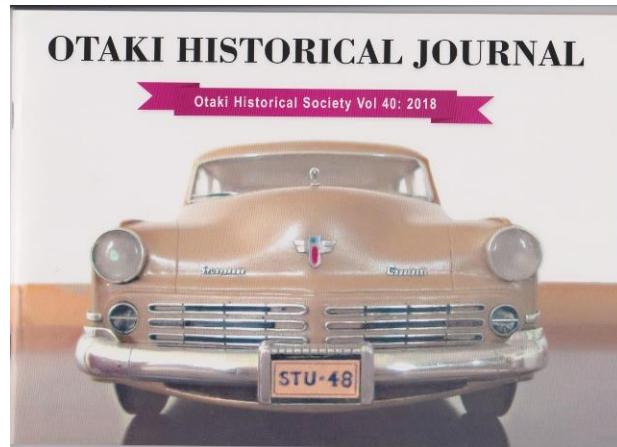


• OTAKI •
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
keeping our history alive

Newsletter •July 2019 • otakihistoricalsociety.org.nz

NEXT MEETING: 6 August 2019: Rotary Hall 7.30 p.m.



AGM and Public Meeting

Our vibrant and active committee invite existing or new members of the society to join us in preserving Otaki's history.

If you are interested in assisting the society, please contact one of the committee for further information.

Guest Speaker

We are privileged to have as guest speaker at our AGM and Public Meeting Sir Kim Workman QSO.

Sir Kim (of Ngati Kahungunu and Rangitaane descent) is a retired public servant whose career spans roles in the Police, the Office of the Ombudsman, State Services Commission, Department of Maori Affairs and Ministry of Health.

He was Head of the Prison Service 1989 – 1993. He is a graduate of Massey University and has completed post-graduate study at the University of Southern California and Stanford University. He completed a post graduate diploma in Religious Studies in 2011.

Sir Kim was a semi-finalist in the 2013 Kiwibank New Zealander of the year award.

June Public Meeting

A large audience were entertained and informed by Max Lutz and Peter Jensen who spoke of their experiences as a dairy farmer in the Rahui valley and an employee of the Rahui dairy factory respectively.

A few points follow from their presentation below:

Max – farming

- Carl Lutz, Max's grandfather arrived in Otaki 1935 with his family and they have farmed in the Rahui Valley ever since. In those days there were lots of milk factories because as the milk was taken to them by horse and cart, they had to be close to the farms. Now, milk from the whole Wellington region goes to Longburn in Palmerston North. Refrigeration came in the 1960s with the tankers.
- In the early days, the farm was subjected to regular flooding because of its proximity to the Otaki River.
- By the end of the 1940s, Carl was milking 60-70 cows. It was very hard work, especially picking choumollier feed for the cows. Now this crop has been superseded by kale.
- The farmers worked together, e.g .taking each other's milk to the factory and when making silage. They also shared labour and machinery.
- Patches of bush on their farm were seen as a waste of grazing land in earlier years and were removed for farmland. Now they are fenced off and protected from stock.

Max covered all the big developments which affected farming in general, particularly dairying in relation to their farm.eg:

- Animal health
- Transport
- Irrigation
- Machinery and mechanisation (eg hoses to trucks and tractors)
- Fencing (e.g. electric fences were a huge improvement. They were developed in Levin and are essential for controlling bulls
- Water troughs in each paddock now
- Effluent disposal – big improvement in systems which continue to improve. Some of this technology was developed in Waikanae
- Ear tags – these are now recorded electronically and part of a national register.

Peter – the dairy factory

- When he started working at Rahui dairy factory in 1968 there were 103 farms supplying milk. The Rahui dairy factory area went from Foxton – Porirua.
- In the early days the milk was taken to the factory where it was weighed and tested for its fat content. The price paid to the farmers was based on the price of cheese. The farmers got up to various pricing dodges. For example, there was a measuring gauge on the side of the tank at each farm so if the cocky put an empty bucket in the tank, he'd be paid for the volume in his tank but he'd be left with a bucket full of milk for the calves.
- A creamery opened in Rahui Road in 1897.
- Even after the milk tankers began, some milk was still transported in cans.
- There were 10 farms in the Rahui Valley then, now there are just 2.
- Huge industries supported the farms in Otaki.
- In the 1920s farmers fought over town supply quotas because the town supply price was higher. If they didn't have quota they'd be paid at the lower butterfat rate, so farmers were always chasing more quota.

Ed note: This was a most timely presentation, as can be seen in the history timeline on our website, the Rahui dairy factory was built in 1919. Another centenary to be acknowledged this year!

Other Updates

Museum

RSA Centenary Exhibition

This is an exhibition not to be missed. There are many photographs, memorabilia, documents etc, relating to the history of the Otaki RSA during the past 100 years. The biographies of Otaki men who took part in WW1 which were compiled by the Otaki Genealogical Society are an important and interesting resource available for visitors to peruse.

Students from Otaki College have completed a series of video productions which are on an interactive large screen display. These are a credit to the students and their school and are well worth a look



Reading Room

The back room at the museum has been refurbished as a work space and research/reading room. Available for public viewing will be artefacts, photographs, family histories, scrapbooks etc. etc. which are in the care of the Heritage Bank Trust and OHS. Visitors can also be given assistance to access the OHS Journal Index. We welcome this facility and encourage members to use these valuable resources for research or general interest.

Radio Interviews

These continue on Coast Access Radio and Beach FM. Undertaken by committee members Annie Bythell and Sarah Maclean, these sessions are varied and always interesting. Make sure you tune in or catch up on the Coast Access session via their website. www.coastaccessradio.org.nz. The Beach FM sessions are at lunchtime (12.40pm) on the last Thursday of the month.

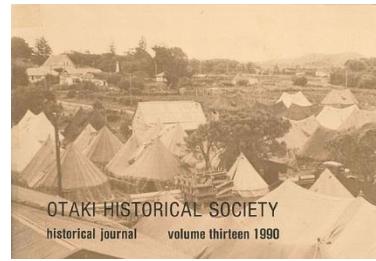
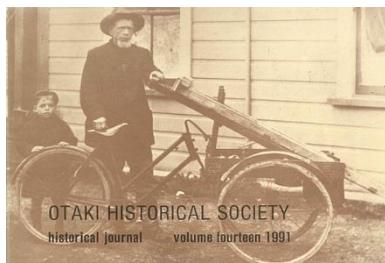
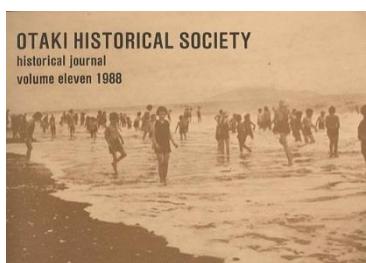
2019 Journal

Work is underway for this year's journal and a number of articles have been submitted. However, we welcome any and all contributions from members, family or friends. If you would like help in putting your memories or ideas into an article for the journal please contact our Editor, Sarah Maclean at otakihistoricalsociety@yahoo.com or otakihistoricalsociety@gmail.com, or speak to any of our committee members.

Previous Journals

The society has 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 from any of our journals can be purchased from the society. Contact us for costs and further details.



Above are covers of three past journals. Follow the link to our website to see all covers, click on the image to view the contents and make your choice! <https://www.otakihistoricalsociety.org.nz/journals>



OHS Website and Index

The updated 1978 -**2018** index is now available on the website. www.otakihistoricalsociety.org.nz The index is a valuable tool for researchers and members seeking information relating to the content of our 40 journals. Use the index to see if your interests (or family) are mentioned. If you find relevant information, refer to your journals or contact the Society to obtain past issues or digitised articles or journals.

The website also has many photographs and a very interesting timeline of Otaki's history for your viewing.

Journals and photographs can be purchased through the website and you can also join the society or renew your subscription. Submission forms for journals, subscriptions, queries are available.

OHS Facebook Page

See our page for meeting information, photographs and other updates. During May – June there were 37 likes and 32 comments made. If you have any photographs or information you would like to share please post them on the page.

Correspondence

Correspondence numbers continue to be steady and include requests for information, photographs and journals as well as business as usual.

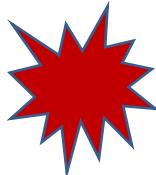
Your thoughts please !!

The committee is aware that our activities has changed little in recent years. We are interested in hearing what you, our members, would like to see changed or improved. Please give some thought to the following (and any other ideas you may have) and we will run a short survey later in the year. Please also feel free to approach a committee member at any time with feedback. You do not need to wait for a survey.

- Times of meetings
- Venue
- Speakers Topics
- Should we cover only Otaki or the wider Kapiti Coast – Horowhenua



Upcoming Events



Public Meetings

August 6th 2019: Public Meeting and AGM.

August: Family History Month. Look for displays and information at 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

	Snippets from the Press Aug – Sep	Courtesy Papers Past et al
1869	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The wreck of the Valentine Hellicar lying at Otaki Beach was sold for 55 pounds. Anchors, chains etc sold for 38 pounds. Cobbs coach had difficulty crossing the river due to flooding and did not arrive in Otaki until 1am. Telegraph poles have been laid as far as Otaki. They will be erected once they have been laid to Foxton. 	
1879	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenders called for the erection of the Otaki schoolhouse. An application by William Udy for a new hotel license in Otaki was refused on the grounds there was already sufficient accommodation in the town and the house was unfit for the purpose. The Otaki Working Men's Club licence was suspended for 'sly-grog selling. Read the interesting article and suggestions for the use of the club funds. <p>https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/MH18790801.2.12.1?query=otaki%20working%20men%27s%20club&start_date=01-08-1879&end_date=31-08-1879&snippet=true&title=MH</p>	 <i>Original School House</i>
1920	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One year after the formation of the RSA we have complaints. <p>https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/OTMAIL19200512.2.13.2?query=otaki%20rsa&start_date=12-05-1920&end_date=12-05-1920&snippet=true&title=MH,OTMAIL</p>	
1939	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Frank Wilton one of the best known and respected residents and an ex manager of the Dairy Co died. See full obituary and other interesting news in the following. <p>https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/MS19390909.2.73?query=Horowhenua&start_date=09-09-1939&end_date=09-09-1939&snippet=true</p>	 <i>Frank Wilton</i>
1939	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A bottle nosed whale, 20ft in length washed up on Otaki Beach. Fears for the safety of three men who left Otaki to search for a missing man in the Tararua ranges were set at rest when the men were found by a search party. The men, Messrs Don and Leo Cudby and Arthur Wootton Snr. left Otaki to look for Arthur Wootton Jnr. who had been expected to return the previous day. He returned safely however without meeting the three men. Mild excitement was caused at Otaki Beach by the appearance of a huge waterspout which travelled up the coast at an enormous speed.! Arbor Day was celebrated by the planting of Norfolk pines along the sea front and other trees in the Otaki School grounds The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by the Otaki Borough Council against a verdict of 370 pounds damages awarded by a jury in favour of Joseph Stevens a minor. The claim arose from an accident to the boy when he was cycling on Rangiuru Road and collided with a lorry driven by a council employee. 	 <i>Bottle nosed whale</i>  <i>Tararua Ranges</i>  <i>Otaki Beach Front</i>



Have you tested your knowledge of Otaki's history with the quiz in the Otaki Mail?

Compiled by one of our committee members, all questions are taken from articles in the OHS journals.

Check it out!!



Otaki Museum

The Shed Beauty Therapy

Chairs Hair Design

Watsons Gardens Ltd

Telegraph Hotel

Kapiti Coast District Libraries

Riverstone Café

Penray Gardens

Agar Fenwick Limited

Otaki Commercial Park

Concrete Doctors

First National Real Estate Otaki

We acknowledge our advertisers and encourage members to support these local businesses.

Email address reminder:

The society now has two email addresses: otakihistoricalsociety@yahoo.com and otakihistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Use either of these addresses, the postal address: Otaki Historical Society, PO Box 50, Otaki 5542, or the contact link on the website: www.otakihistoricalsociety.org.nz to contact the society on any subject.

Acknowledgments: Papers Past. www.kiwa.org.nz, www.doc.govt.nz, KCDC, www.thetreasury.org.nz, Otaki RSA

Sarah Maclean (June meeting notes)