

• **OTAKI** •  
**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
*keeping our history alive*

Newsletter • February 2022 • [otakihistoricalsociety.org.nz](http://otakihistoricalsociety.org.nz)



Last day of  
old school  
Building  
Otaki school

Where the old school building was: Otaki School 1988



*A small selection from our 'Growing up in Otaki' presentation*



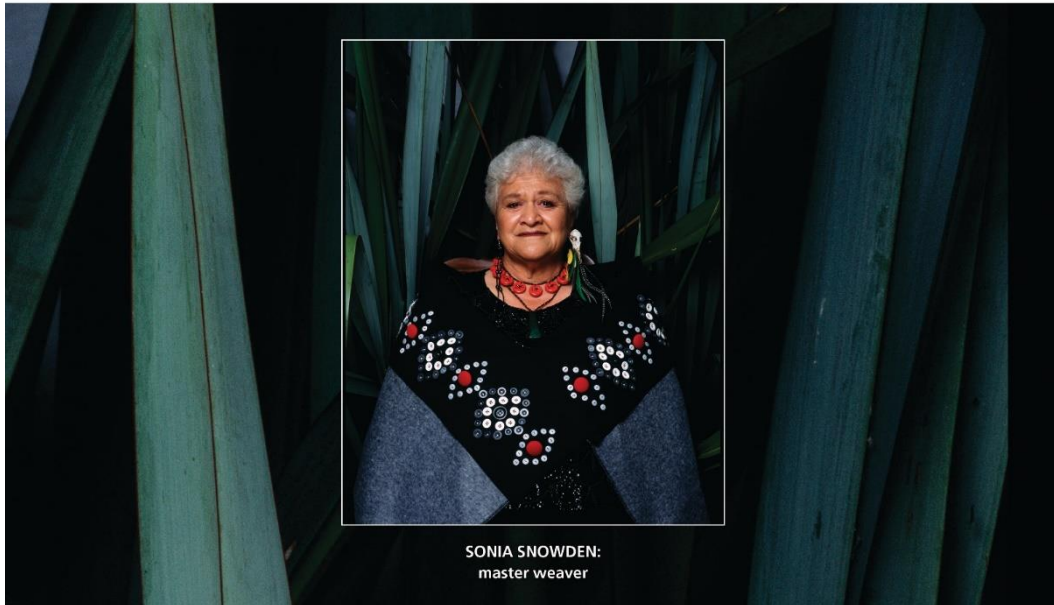
### **Journal**

A friendly reminder to those members who have not yet purchased their copy of the journal.

**Sales have been very strong and we have only a small number left. Don't hesitate to order yours!**

# OTAKI HISTORICAL JOURNAL

Otaki Historical Society Vol 42: 2021



Cost is \$20. Postage domestic \$5, overseas \$10.

To purchase a copy online use <https://www.otakihistoricalsociety.org.nz/journals> or email [otakihistoricalsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:otakihistoricalsociety@yahoo.com)

***Locally the following businesses kindly stock and sell our journals:***

- Riverstone Café
- Otaki Railway Bookshop
- Otaki Post Shop
- Otaki Museum
- Books & Co
- Maoriland

***We have adjusted the price of earlier journals we have in stock.***

Price List for earlier issues

- Vol 1 - 38 \$10 (1978 -2016)
- Vol 39 -41 \$20 (2017 -2021)
- Digitised 1-38 \$10
- Overseas post and packing \$10

**Note:** Digitised copies of articles from any of our journals can be purchased from the society. Contact us for costs and further details.



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

## **OHS Website and Index**



Click on the 'News and Events' tab to view a feed from our facebook page. This is a great way to see Facebook posts for those who do not use social media.

- The index is 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 42 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. **Please note the two links to access the index i.e. 1-40 and 41-42.**
- We have some of our past newsletters available on the website. Click on the 'Newsletters' tab at the top of the home page to view.
- The website also has many photographs and an interesting timeline of Otaki's history for your viewing. **Click on a photo to see the description.**
- Journals and photographs can be purchased from 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.

<https://www.facebook.com/otakihistoricalsociety/>



Please feel free to post memories and photos relating to Otaki's history on our facebook page. The more our history is shared, the longer it will be retained.

## **Stats from Website**

### **November**

- 184 visits
- 146 unique visitors
- 128 new visitors

### **September – November**

- 645 Visits
- 474 unique visitors
- 430 new visitors

### **Visitors were from following countries**

- NZ, US, UK Denmark, China, PNG, Canada, Sri Lanka

### **Most viewed pages**

- Otaki History, Journals and Photo Gallery

## **Stats from Facebook**

### **July – October**

- 10,277 posts made
- 1629 liked, commented on or shared



## Apology

In our last newsletter in acknowledging the retirement of Maurice and Janice King, I omitted to mention that Janice too is a life member. Janice, your contribution to the society in so many ways over many years is appreciated by members and committee alike. We all thank you.

## What we have been doing

- We are continuing the work of sorting and collating our various holdings. Recently we have had shelving installed which will make this work and future access much easier. Thanks are extended to committee member Neil Greenwood for undertaking the purchasing and installation of these shelves.
- We are contributing a monthly column to the Otaki Mail and intend featuring interesting articles and news items from the early copies of the Mail and other NZ newspapers. The first newspaper was published in Otaki in 1892. If you have missed your copies of the Otaki Mail, they are available online at <https://otakimail.co.nz/>.
- Work is also well underway on next years' issue of the journal.
- We attended a small afternoon function hosted by the Museum to acknowledge and introduce the volunteers who every week staff the entrance desk, welcoming and assisting visitors to the museum.

***Below is one of the articles recently published in the Otaki Mail*** (note the early spelling of Paekakariki)

June 29 1867

UP THE COAST

*To the editor of the Wellington Independent*

.....From this place (*Paikakairiki*) to Rangitikei, something like fifty miles, is a monotonous beach, sand on one side and sea on the other, only relieved by the native village of Waikanae, which is seen but partly, and Otaki, which is quite cheering, the parsonage, cottage, church, and the curate's house forming a beautiful picture. I found excellent accommodation at the hotel of Mr, Martin; from hence I was enabled to see the character of the country a great distance, which appeared one vast mixture of low hills and swampy flats, extending for miles without bush, and upon which were grazing a large quantity of sheep. Taking the road through sand hills, I again made the beach, and soon arrived at the Ohau river, over which, owing to a fresh in the river, my horse had all but to swim; I afterwards learnt that Cobb's coach had a track round by the sand hills and crossed at a shallow place a little higher up. I am told that Mr. H. McDonald keeps a good accommodation house here, which must be a blessing to many a weary traveller upon this sandy desert.

*A traveller*



*Otaki school, church and parsonage. 1852*

*Acknowledgement Te Papa*

## Museum

### **Exhibition Ko Ōtaki te awa/Ōtaki is the river**

The second part of this exhibition opened recently and contains a fascinating display of more stories of the Otaki community's relationship with the river, Ngati Huia's home at Katihiku, farming, gardening, recreation, gravel extraction, and more.

This is a beautifully presented exhibition and not to be missed.

## Reading Room

We remind readers of the facilities available in the Anne Thorpe reading room. This room has many records and publications available for public access. The trustees and volunteers on duty can also assist with researching and locating photographs, artefacts, estate collections etc which have been received by Otaki Historical Society and the Heritage Bank Trust. These items have been recorded on 'Past Perfect' and can be viewed on the computers in the reading room.

The OHS society now have the use of a large display board on the western wall where we intend showing a variety of our items and documents. Currently on display are photographs and information relating to Pukekaraka.

When entering the museum turn right for the Reading Room and left for the Exhibition.

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**You can also order through the order form on our website** [www.otakihistoricalsociety.org.nz](http://www.otakihistoricalsociety.org.nz)

**Reminder.....Kiwibank has stopped offering a cheque service**

As the society banks with Kiwibank we ask you to remember this in any financial dealings with us. For all financial transactions with the Society, you can direct credit to our account bank account No. **38 9004 0987739 00.**