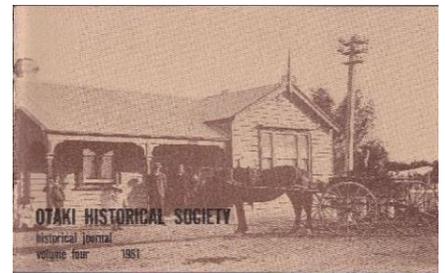
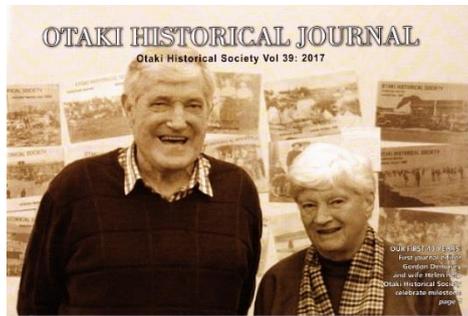


Otaki Historical Society

Newsletter • March 2018 • otakihistoricalsociety.org.nz

NEXT MEETING: 5 June 2018: Rotary Hall 7.30 p.m.



Next Meeting 5 June 2018

Droving Days and Wild Brumbies

John Taylor will be our guest speaker at this meeting. John is a member of an old Otaki family and grew up in the Convent Road – Bennetts Road area.

John will speak about his childhood and schooldays, his father's interesting life as a drover in the district and the wild brumbies that roamed the area.

Don't miss what will be a most interesting evening.

All Welcome Free Admission

Supper



Last Meeting

The speaker at our April public meeting was committee member Ian Cooksley. Always a very popular speaker Ian spoke firstly about his entry into the Forest Service at aged 16. After transitioning to the Conservation Department, he was involved in a long- term project that saw bridges built on conservation land throughout the country.

He used a map to detail the sites from Stewart Island to Thames he had worked on whilst constructing these bridges, some of which were large and others only smaller footbridges. Ian kept the audience amused with anecdotes from the time when health and safety restrictions were not a major consideration.

This very interesting presentation was followed with questions for Ian and supper.

OHS Committee Update

- The series of interviews with Coast Access Radio discussing OHS and local history in general is continuing this year. We were thrilled to have Otaki identities **Eric King** and **Heather Watson** contributing to these sessions. As earlier reported these interviews are part of Coast Access Radio's '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.
- We continue to receive requests for journals, information, advice and photographs from genealogists, historians and people interested in Otaki's history.
- The committee is currently reviewing our policies and procedures to ensure they meet current requirements. e.g Privacy Act, Copyright etc. We have also met with the museum to confirm the arrangements we have with them in relation to the collections housed at the museum, our room rental etc.

Other Updates

OHS Journals

The 2017 journal continues to sell well. Discussions and research are underway in preparation for the next issue.

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 and Index

The updated 1978 -2017 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 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.

Upcoming Events

Public Meeting: **June 5th 2018. Droving Days and Wild Brumbies**

Public Meeting: **Aug 7th 2018. AGM and Guest Speaker (TBC)**

Museum

The Fire Brigade centennial exhibition continues to attract large numbers of visitors. It is an enthralling exhibition and should not be missed, (please note that it will close on June 30). The celebrations being held during Queens Birthday weekend will no doubt see many more visitors attend.

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

Historical Otaki related snippets from the press: June-July

Courtesy Papers Past et al

1858

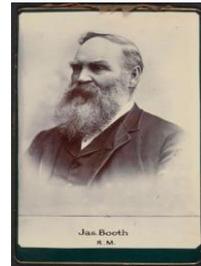
- A traveler wrote to the Wellington Independent complaining that he was forced by the Maori people to pay half-a-crown to use the bridges on the road leading to the hotel.
- A lengthy (and at times amusing) article described the electioneering parties that had visited Otaki in recent weeks. Claims of bribery of the Maori voters was levelled at Mr. A St Hill, agent for his brother Mr. H St Hill.
- Article can be found at:
https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/WI18580703.2.18?end_date=03-07-1858&phrase=0&query=otaki&start_date=03-07-1858&title=WI

1878

- In accordance with the Education Board’s calling of a meeting to elect a school committee the settlers assembled at the courthouse on 24 June. Owing to the wildness of the night only a few householders mustered, and those few objected to the meeting being held in such an antiquated building, which threatened to collapse under the violent gale blowing!! Consequently, an adjournment was made to Mr Langley’s accommodation house. Early settlers who were in attendance included Messrs. A J Hadfield, W H Simcox, J McWilliams, C J Hewson, F Bright, W Small and J A Knocks.
- The Government suspended Mr James Booth, R.M. and land purchase commissioner for improper dealings in ‘native’ lands near Otaki, for the benefit of his brother, whose services as land purchase commissioner in this neighborhood were recently dispensed with. It was found that he had accrued a block of 480 acres and another of 1600 acres near Otaki to the loss of the Government. A royal commission was appointed to investigate.



Otaki School 1920



1908

- Three parents were charged by the truant inspector with not sending children to school.
- Mr. and Mrs. James Cootes celebrated their golden wedding.

1918

- There was a fair attendance present to see the first practice of the newly formed Otaki volunteer fire brigade under Captain Bassett. The members were given bucket instruction, while the handpumps were used for the first time. Buckets of water were passed one to the other in the darkness in ‘good style’. Once the baths were full, the handpumps copiously threw to the top of a two-storied building. The pumps proved satisfactory and promise to be a great acquisition in case of an outbreak of fire.



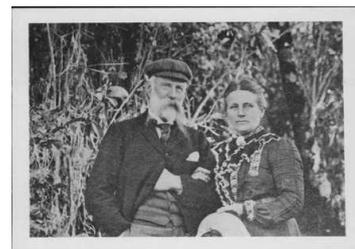
Otaki Fire Station Today

1928

- An electric fire siren was tested in Otaki and could be heard two miles distant.
- A motor van owned by Charles Cooksley was burned through the engine backfiring.
- Mr. Jeff Eagar, (91 years of age) Otaki’s oldest resident who has lived in Otaki for over seventy years, left to take up residence at the Home of Compassion in Wellington.
- Mrs. Sophia Fogden died from injuries sustained in an accident. She was struck by a car when crossing the street opposite the theatre.
- Mrs. F.M. Simcox died aged 84 years.

See following for obituary:

https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HC19280613.2.48?end_date=15-06-1928&phrase=0&query=simcox&start_date=13-06-1928&title=HC



Mr. and Mrs. Simcox

Interesting References and Resources

<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/>

Excellent topics being featured currently including the 1893 Women’s Suffrage petition which is celebrating 125 years.

<https://teara.govt.nz/en/history>

The Encyclopedia of New Zealand. An excellent resource.

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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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:		
ADDRESS:		
PHONE:	EMAIL:	
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Email address reminder: The society now has an email address: 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, Te Papa