



Newsletter • September 2020 • otakihistoricalsociety.org.nz

NEXT EVENT: 8 November 2020 – 2.00 p.m.

Ballantynes Corner – Main St - Otaki.



Stroll Down Main Street

8 November 2020 2 p.m.

Beginning at Ballantynes corner we will walk through Main Street before returning to the museum to view the exhibition and enjoy afternoon tea.

We intend having current and previous Main Street residents and business owners with us to point out areas of interest and to talk about the activities and culture of the street in earlier days.

ALL WELCOME

Any changes or updates will be provided by a further notice via email, facebook or on the website in late October.

Last Meeting

Our last meeting was our AGM. The guest speaker was Diane McAllen from Nga Taonga Sound and Vision who shared an interesting assortment of images from their archives. Of particular interest to the audience were those featuring Otaki and surrounding area and a number from the Napier earthquake.

The following were elected for the 2020 – 2021 year.

Patron	Anne Thorpe
President	Meagan Roach
Secretary	Sarah Maclean
Treasurer	Neil Greenwood
Vice President	Patsy Whenuaroa
Committee	Jeanette Carpenter
Committee	Ian Cooksley

There are still vacancies on our committee. Please consider joining us!

Members Survey

At the AGM we distributed a survey to the attendees. Thank you to the large number who completed it. The responses told us that most members are happy with our performance.

We realise however that our world in 2020 has changed and in fact the immediate future is quite uncertain. With this in mind we intend making some small changes to our programme and accordingly there will not be an evening meeting in October.

There will instead be an afternoon event at 2pm on Sunday 8 November. See above for details.

Journal



The committee regrets to inform members that due to the impact of Covid-19 and the associated lockdown etc. the society will not be publishing a journal this year. We are continuing to work with contributors and will advise next year's publishing date when finalised.



We are pleased to report that the journal will definitely be produced in 2021. Preparations are well under way and writers are busy. If you would like to contribute in any way, please contact our editor, Sarah Maclean. otakihistoricalsociety@yahoo.com

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.



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>

Correspondence

Among our recent correspondence was an enquiry asking if we had any information relating to the commemorative walking sticks presented to some passengers of the City of Auckland which had foundered off Otaki in 1878. Our enquirer was in possession of one of the sticks but the plaque was missing from it and he wanted to replace it.

Fortunately, we were able to find on Papers Past details of a function held in Otaki in 1928 when Otaki Lodge presented three survivors who were meeting in the town with walking sticks made from timber from the wreck. They were inscribed 'As a memento of your first and last visits to Otaki'

The timber was from the teak rail of the ship and had been given by Mr. H Lethbridge and the sticks made by Mr. W Macintosh of Levin.

Following are two articles which contain more details and interesting facts relating to the 1928 function and the foundering of the ship.

https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/OTMAIL19281024.2.13?end_date=31-12-1928&items_per_page=10&query=city+of+auckland+otaki&snippet=true&start_date=01-01-1928

https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HC19281102.2.7?end_date=31-12-1928&items_per_page=10&page=3&phrase=2&query=city+of+auckland&snippet=true&start_date=01-01-1928



Mast of the City of Auckland on Otaki Beach

Museum

Exhibition

The many visitors to the current exhibition have enjoyed the interesting and informative displays. If you have not yet been we recommend a visit to view Main St as it has evolved since the latter part of the 19th century.

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 the plans and details of the Rangiatea Urupa (Cemetery) which record the resting place of many tangata whenua and early settlers of Otaki.

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

	Snippets from the Press Oct-Nov	Courtesy Papers Past et al
1840	<p>A very interesting account of an 'expedition' undertaken from Wellington to Whanganui, by a number of surveyors on behalf of the NZ Company.</p> <p>(quite lengthy but worth reading)</p> <p>https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZGW/S18401107.2.9?end_date=30-11-1840&query=otaki&snippet=true&start_date=01-10-1840</p> <p><i>Right: Plaque in Adam St, London commemorating the NZ Company offices.</i></p>	
1890	<p>The following extract is from a report from Horowhenua County Council relating to roadworks in the district:</p> <p>'The road from Otaki River to south of the Te Horo station is now open for drays and stock, the bush having been cleared where necessary, and some formation done, together with culverts'</p> <p><i>Right: A stand of totara alongside SH1 at Te Horo. Some of those left after developments of roads and farms.</i></p>	
1900	<p>A 10-year-old girl, Mabel Moorby unfortunately died after eating unripe raspberries in Otaki. Several other children also became ill but fortunately survived.</p> <p>Following reports of a police raid in Haining St Wellington the following was placed in the press. 'Mr John Ah Tong, a wellknown interpreter and land agent of Otaki, desires to say that he is in no way connected with the Ah Ton mentioned in the Chinese gambling raid'.</p>	 <p>Cabinet maker John Ah Tong was probably the first Chinese Wellingtonian, arriving in the mid 1860s. He was also the first to organise a petition against Chinese immigration restrictions. In the 1896 and 1900 electoral rolls he was listed as a cabinet maker, Otaki.</p>
1910	<p>Arthur Collier was killed in the Otaki Gorge. It was declared by the coroner that he was pulling a tree root and over balanced into the river where his body was found. He left a widow and two children.</p> <p>8.67 inches of rain were recorded for August in Otaki Gorge whilst only 3.67 inches fell in the township. Rain was recorded on 24 days in the gorge.</p> <p>80 couples attended the Otaki Bowling Club social. It was reported that the arrangements were good and the hall was elaborately decorated.</p>	
1930	<p>It was reported that surgical and medical services were to cease at Otaki Hospital.</p> <p>Read report below:</p> <p>https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HC19301118.2.48?end_date=30-11-1930&items_per_page=50&query=otaki+%&snippet=true&start_date=01-10-1930&title=HC%2cEP</p>	<p>An Amateur Athletic Club was formed in the town. Many prominent names to be seen in the report below:</p> <p>https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HC19301113.2.50?end_date=30-11-1930&items_per_page=50&query=otaki+%&snippet=true&start_date=01-10-1930&title=HC%2cEP</p>

Radio Interviews

These broadcasts continue on Beach FM. Undertaken by Sarah Maclean, these sessions are varied and always interesting. Make sure you tune in to the Beach FM sessions are on the last Thursday of the month.

OHS Website and Index



Our website has recently been refreshed. 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 new index updated with entries from the 2019 journal is now available.

The index is 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. **Please note the two icons to access the index i.e. 1-40 and 41.**

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 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.

<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.

OHS Public Meetings

November 8: Stroll down Main Street.

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

Thank you!

Otaki Museum	The Shed Beauty Therapy
Chairs Hair Design	Harvey Bowler
Telegraph Hotel	Kapiti Coast District Libraries
Friends of Otaki River	Coast Access Radio
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You can also order through the order form on our website 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**.

Please ensure your name is included in reference field

Acknowledgements: Wikipedia.com, envirohistory.com, Horowhenua.kete.net.nz