

Newsletter • December 2020 • [otakihistoricalsociety.org.nz](http://otakihistoricalsociety.org.nz)

**NEXT EVENT: TBA**



### **Acknowledgement**

The society sincerely thank the Otaki District Commercial Growers for a generous donation received during the year. We appreciate the recognition and will use the money to continue our work in preserving Otaki's history, including the publication of our annual Journal.

### **Last Event**

In early November a group of members and visitors enjoyed a stroll through Main St remembering and discussing (and debating the location of) early retailers and residents of this very historic part of Otaki. At the conclusion of the walk we adjourned to the Otaki Museum to view the current exhibition featuring Main St and to partake of afternoon tea. Many thanks to those who contributed details and memories.



## Current situation of Historical Societies and related organisations.



We were sorry to recently receive notice from the Feilding Historical Society of the dissolution of their society due to lack of members and interest. Other societies have ceased to exist or have amalgamated with museums etc. It is becoming obvious that these are not isolated cases as our own member numbers are decreasing and it is difficult to find people with the time and enthusiasm to join the committee.

We realise that we need to meet the expectations of our members and the public in general and are open to changing our operations if required. The survey undertaken at the AGM did not indicate any strong preferences regarding meeting content, times, or locations etc. If you have had further ideas or if you could not attend that meeting and would like to comment, please consider the following.

- Newsletters:** do they meet your expectations? i.e contain relevant information, are easy to read etc
- Meetings:** are they held frequently enough? too often, calibre of speakers, daytime or night preferred etc
- Outdoor events:** Otaki based? Or wider area e.g. Te Horo, Manakau.
- Reading Room:** do you use this facility? Are you aware of resources and archives held by the society?
- Website and Facebook:** do you use these?

We welcome comments, ideas, or requests at any time

Email: [otakihistoricalsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:otakihistoricalsociety@yahoo.com) or speak with a committee member.



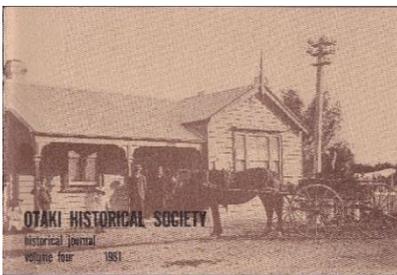
### Newsletter Postage

Do you receive the newsletter by post? As the time, resource and cost of handling hardcopy newsletters is quite significant we would appreciate and encourage anyone who uses email to consider receiving future issues in this way.

If you would like to change please advise us of your email address.



**Reminder** Subscriptions (due now)



### Journal

As reported earlier we will be producing a Journal in 2021. It is intended that this 42<sup>nd</sup> issue will be launched at the AGM in August.

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](mailto: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>

## **Museum**

### **Exhibition**

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



### **Interesting Websites**

You may like to browse some of the following websites during the Christmas holiday period.

<https://www.wellingtoncityheritage.org.nz/buildings?tpl=building&q=>

Photographs and history of many Wellington buildings.

<https://manawatuheritage.pncc.govt.nz/>

Excellent site where content and photographs can be downloaded and shared or saved.

Note: Type 'Otaki' in the search field and view early photographs of Otaki and district, or just browse the entire collection.

<https://horowhenua.kete.net.nz/>

Levin Library's site. Click on explore and make your selection.

<http://www.historicmanawatuhorowhenua.org.nz/index.htm>

Interesting site covering Horowhenua and Manawatu.



*Enjoying the stroll through Main Street*

	Snippets from the Press Dec - Feb	Courtesy Papers Past et al
1914	<p>Christmas was a busy time in Otaki in 1914. Patients at the hospital and sanitorium were well looked after and entertained. See details of this and other Otaki happenings below</p> <p><a href="https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZTIM19141229.2.61?query=christmas+otaki&amp;snippet=true">https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZTIM19141229.2.61?query=christmas+otaki&amp;snippet=true</a></p>	
1857	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bullocks raised in Otaki on supplementary feed were sold for top prices to Wellington butchers. ('as good as can be seen in London markets' was a comment passed in the press)</li> <li>Mr Eagar appointed Deputy Postmaster at Otaki</li> </ul> <p>See an interesting account of Mr Eagar below</p> <p><a href="http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Cyc01Cycl-t1-body-d4-d121-d2.html">http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Cyc01Cycl-t1-body-d4-d121-d2.html</a></p>	
1858	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr Eagar was adding to his Post Office duties by undertaking droving to Wellington.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NOTICE.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>To the Settlers on the West Coast.</i></p> <p><b>T</b>HE Undersigned on the 1st of January, 1859 will commence travelling as Cattle Drover. Such of the Settlers on the West Coast, as may wish to avail themselves of his services in driving Cattle, &amp;c., to Wellington, are requested to communicate by letter, to his address at Otaki.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">HENRY EAGAR, Senior.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">December 11, 1858.</p>
1862	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surface gold had been located at Otaki and a party of prospectors was making a diligent search</li> </ul>	
1863	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christmas Races were obviously one of the festive attractions in the town as early as January 1863 as the article at right reports.</li> </ul> <p>The lack of rules is interesting with the same horse winning both heats of a race and Mr Ransfield being both organiser and judge.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OTAKI.</b></p> <p>The usual monotony of this place was somewhat relieved on New Year's day by races, which were got up by Mr. James Ransfield, who collected all the subscriptions and also acted as Judge.</p> <p>The following were the races run:—</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hurdle Race. Three horses started for this race; but one threw his rider, so the race was between a chesnut colt and a bay mare, which did the running well with no balking at the hurdles; but the colt came in winner both heats.</li> <li>2. The Otaki Stakes. Three horses started for this and ran both heats almost neck and neck—one winning by only a length.</li> <li>3. Ladies' Purse. Single event. Three horses also started for this, but one threw his rider and nearly broke his own neck.</li> <li>4. Consolation Stakes. Only two horses were entered for this race—one belonging to the Ngatihua tribes, and the other to Mateawa's king natives. This was the most spirited race of the meeting. The first heat was won by the Mateawa horse, but the other gained the next two, though not without hard pushing.</li> </ol>
1900	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Otaki Mail recorded the instance of a well known local sheep farmer who lost 200 pounds by selling his wool clip for 71/2d the day before the Wellington sale which brought 10d</li> </ul>	
1920	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Otaki residents raised 28 pounds for a memorial at the Cottage Hospital in memory of Miss Annie Gillies who drowned when crossing the Otaki River in 1897. The memorial was to be in the form of a piano which would be of great use to the institution.</li> </ul>	
1926	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10,00 tomato plants were lost by a local grower due to a heavy frost</li> </ul>	

## **Radio Interviews**

These broadcasts continue on Beach FM. Undertaken by Sarah Maclean, the sessions are varied and always interesting. They are usually aired during the last week 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](http://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**

Our next meeting will be early in 2021. Details to be advised.

## **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)



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
Agar Fenwick Limited	Te Wananga o Raukawa
Concrete Doctors	First National Real Estate Otaki
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Otaki Today	

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**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: [PapersPast.natlib.govt.nz](http://PapersPast.natlib.govt.nz), <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/>**