

Library Lovers Month - Tell Us You're Story

Thursday 7 February 2019 10 am Ōtaki Library

Jean Albert – Talked about the time she was a little girl and travelled over to the Wairarapa to attend the wedding of Lena Matenga and Kerehoma Roiri. She remembers they broke down on the Rimataka Hill and had to wait hours to get the car fixed. Jean mentioned how car sick she was travelling over the hill. They missed the wedding ceremony but made it to the wedding reception (very late) by the time they got there everyone was very merry.

Jean also talked about the wedding of Henare Tahiwī and Isabella Wallace; she has photos of her grandparents attending the wedding at Rangiatea Church.

Kaye Carkeek- Was 18 years old when she married her husband. They meet at Otaki College. They got married in the year of 1966 at Rangiatea Church; Rev. Taepa was their marriage celebrant, he was at retirement age. Kaye's wedding dress was made from a family friend. Their wedding reception was at the Otaki Memorial Hall. Weno Tahiwī played piano at the wedding. Lorna Pritchard was a florist on the main road and did the flowers for the wedding. Billy (?) was the photographer, Kaye is not 100 per cent sure what happened but they only ended up with half the wedding photos she thinks he might have lost a photo roll. They went to Waireke for their honeymoon and then came back to Otaki where they bought a house on Freemans Road. 52 years later and Kaye still lives in the same house.

Nella Warwick - Attended polytechnic in Wellington and became good friends with Leone Sutton from Te Horo. Nella went to Te Horo the weekend and that's when she met Collin (Leone's next door neighbour) "a hick from the sticks". They married December 1966 at the St Columba's Presbyterian Church in Naenae but moved to Otaki after that. Nella made her dress and the bridesmaid's dresses. She later cut the sleeves off her wedding dress so she could wear it to balls.

Sarah Mc?- Got married at Waikanae beach at their beach house in the year of 1975. Her uncle was a minister and married them. Sarah made her own dress; she brought the material from Farmers in Christchurch for about \$15. Her brother in law was the photographer.

General comments –

People did not go overseas for their honeymoons

Rev. Taepa married many local couples from Ōtaki/Kāpiti

Most people made their wedding dresses themselves or got them made by family members or friends.

The popular shops to get your wedding dress made from was –

Thomas (Wellington)

James Smith (Wellington, Porirua, Coastlands)

There were not many wedding dress shops around where you could try different styles on and buy a dress straight away.