

Eating Out Ōtaki Thursday 4 April 2019

Harry Clark – Harry brought Kere’s Fish and Chop shop off the Webster family in the early 80’s. Kere’s fish and chip shop was along the main highway in Ōtaki on the corner of Author Street, it is the building that subway is currently in. At that time, there were only two fish and chip shops along the main highway. Harry owned the shop for three years. He used to live the next street over in Dunstan Street. Norm Vincent owned the other fish and chip shop on the main highway – there was a story that Norm paid a hundreds of dollars to get his batter recipe right.

Heather Watson – as a family they did not eat out much as there were always plenty of vegetables and fruit in the garden and her dad would go out fishing so there would be plenty of fish. Heather remembers that there were many places to eat along the main highway and main road. Heather remembers getting lollies and ice cream from the Ideal Tea Rooms on the main high way. She also mentioned it was the famous meeting place where everyone would meet before the dance next door in the theatre. Heather use to go to the Mid-Way Dairy along Waerenga Road, it was where About Kitchen factory is. Heather also enjoyed many times at Bill Conner Ritz Milk Bar she would go into the corner to the peanut machine, reach her hand under the machine, and steal peanuts to take to the movies.

Elaine Heenan – Owned the Horse Shoe Café on the main highway by the Ōtaki Bridge it is now called River Cottage. They brought it in 1976 and owned it for 6 years. They mainly served a Devonshire tea. This include a pot of tea or coffee, two scones and three sandwiches for \$1.75 they also served a lunch menu. The jam used on the scone was homemade. Elaine enjoyed the time they had well owing the café, it was challenging at times as they had five children to get that work life balance. Elaine applied and the café became part of the historical trust.

Alan Stead- Owned the Te Horo Dairy on the main highway, also known as Reds Café before it burnt down 6 years ago. They took the dairy over in 1977.

Noel McBeth- Lived at Ōtaki beach and remembers the restaurant at Byron Browns campground being popular. There were also two dairy’s out the beach. Noel talked about Les Broad and his pie shop it was behind Kere’s restaurant. Noel said Les made the best pies and everyone in the room agreed, he also mentioned that he stored all of his flour for his pies on the toilet floor.

General Discussion:

Mrs Royal would give her broken biscuits to the kids.

The Hing’s would give the fruit away to the kids if it were speckled.

The Coffee Pot on the main highway was the first place to have a TV. Many people would go there to get a drink just to watch TV.

The Tea Rooms on Marine Parade at Ōtaki Beach.

Ideal Tea Rooms served the biggest ice cream.

List of Eating Places:

The Golden Chicken

The Golden Towers

The Ritz Milk Bar

Mrs Royal's Bakery

Kere's Restaurant

The Blue Lagoon

The Horseshoe Cafe

The Ideal Grill and Tearoom

Bryon Brown Resorts

The Coffee Pot

Les Board Pies

Denzel's Tea Rooms