

# Tōku Whare: Old Ōtaki Houses

Matariki event 6 July 2017 at Ōtaki Library

## Question about the oldest house in Ōtaki (+ follow-up discussion):

- Clifton Lodge was built in 1880s
- Merle Metekingi's house in Main St was built in 1881. The original Edhouses shop built at the same time as Merle's house.
- The current Edhouses building (now Maoriland Hub) opened in 1924. Additions were built several times.
- Main St was named in 1921, before then the road was part of Mill Road.
- Mill Road went from the post office to the mill (n.d).
- Fires were frequent, destroying buildings.
- Farm houses in Mangaone Road were built around 100 years ago
- Ōtaki's hotels are all pre-1900
- In 1878 "City of Auckland" ship was wrecked in Ōtaki. People took fittings and wood from the wreck and used them for houses and furniture.
- There were a lot of blacksmith shops (n.d)
- 1922 piped water available
- 1924 electricity connected to houses
- 1978 Sewerage connections
- 1893 Saint Mary's presbytery
- Tasman Road was extended to beach in 1919. The Rangiuuru end was developed in 1890s for a resort. Marine Parade came later.

## People asking for information about particular houses:

- 16 Rangiuuru Road (there is an Ōtaki Historical Society article on it) was called "Taumanuka" after the land block name. The bach was used by trappers. It was a dairy farm, farmed by Mick Jones' father. The present kitchen was the original building. Mick Jones built on to it. The sleep out is original. It was the first house in Rangiuuru Road to have electricity connection. The milking shed also had electricity.
- Cook homestead on Rangiuuru Rd also had electricity. It had swimming pool and tennis court, stucco exterior.
- **Nan Heginbotham** shared a photo of her Stewart grandparents' villa on corner of Kirk and Lemon Streets. The property was several acres with cows and an orchard. Bedrooms were on the north side, kitchen on the south, parlour north and east. The bathroom and washhouse were outside. The house was built to face the road.

## Discussion Hospital / Sanatorium complex:

Current Women's Health Centre buildings were part of the cottage hospital in 1899 and became a maternity annexe in 1930s.

In 1907 a large TB sanatorium was built.

An ambulance shed was behind the hospital. The house for the ambulance staff **was** on right before going to hospital

Sleep outs were built next to many houses for TB patients.

## General discussion about schools:

School at Rangiuru was burnt down in 1902-3. The school house was near the beach. After the fire the school was built in Mill Road.

Motor camp at Moana St was a series of cabins opposite Byron Brown's.

Rahui Lodge has had many owners. A horse trainer lived there.

The current "Crazy Ladies" café in Moana Street was originally an Anglican Church.

The Otaki Beach Butchers shop (now a house) was built over a tennis court in 1951.

Many houses in 1920s-30s had tennis courts.

### **General discussion about gardens:**

Don Watson's mother and father grew poppies and potatoes in Kirk St.

Land for 1946 plant nursery (belonging to Molly and Jim McCormack) was chosen because of good light for carnations.

Ōtaki violets were sold at Wellington Railway Station.

### **Certificates of title: are useful for land location rather than house information**

Please note this was a memory-sharing session – where people willingly shared their personal reminiscences and memories of old Ōtaki. However we have learnt that not everyone remembers the same thing the same way. Please do not think that the information provided here is definitive.