OTAKI HISTORICAL SOCIETY (INC.)
HISTORICAL JOURNAL VOLUME 14

CONTENTS

	Page
EDITORIAL	1
EXTRACTING HISTORY FROM THE BOROUGH ACCOUNTS — Otaki 1927 — by Doug Olson	2
FROM SHEPHERD TO WELDING ENGINEER — by Alfred (Dan) Pacey	6
OTAKI FORKS — Gateway to the Tararua Mountains — by Chris Maclean	9
BOOK REVIEWS	19
THE CHILDREN OF THE OTAKI HEALTH CAMP — A View of the Early Years — by Margaret Tennant	20
THE MAYORS OF OTAKI — by Daphne Meyer	27
RANGI TOPEORA - by Teremoana Sparks and W.H. Oliver	32
AGNES McDONALD AND HECTOR McDONALD — by Anthony Dreaver	32
A TOWN FULL OF TREES — by Anthony Dreaver	37
THEN AND NOW — by Ross Macpherson and Barbara Swabey	44
OTAKI LIBRARIES 1872-1991 — by Margaret Long	47
PLAYCENTRE IN OTAKI — by Liz Jull, Sue Ransfield and Thelma Pike	60
DELVING INTO THE ROBINSON STORY — From a family history published by Hugh Jones	64
SOME RECONSTRUCTIONS — Manuka Street, Otaki — by Keith Matthews and Margaret Long	69
ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH, KUKU, 1890-1990, Part I — by Margaret Keeling	74
ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS WITH OTAKI 1930-1964 — by Len Moss	82
OTAKI 1990 — by V. Anne Murphy	86
FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 1991	91
MEMBERSHIP LIST — 1991	92
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	94
INDEXES — Subject Photographs and Sketches Maps Authors	95

EDITORIAL

THE COMMITTEE is pleased to present the 14th issue of the Otaki Historical Journal. The crown of this issue is surely the index, subject, authors and illustrations, of the first 13 issues. Fran Young has done this by hand but Ross Macpherson is now transferring it to computer so that updating will be easy. However did we manage without an index?

This year our topics are largely Otaki-based thanks to the industry and goodwill of local contributors. We move north as far as Levin with Tony Dreaver's analysis of an early petition to the government to have trees felled, and east through Otaki Forks on a fascinating journey with Chris Maclean pushing early routes through the Tararua Mountains.

There are many more stories to be told — soon — or they will be lost. There is, for instance, in the Society's collection a photo of the old cordial factory in Matene Street but no story to go with it. Again people must have many things to tell about the depression of the thirties, some even of the influenza epidemic of 1918. Both have been lightly touched on in earlier journals but there is more to tell. Little or nothing has been written about Otaki's Hospital, Sanitorium, hotels or theatres.

We were pleased to get permission to reprint two essays from the *New Zealand Dictionary of Biography* on people of the Horowhenua area. What more fitting in an Otaki journal than to celebrate Rangi Topeora in both English and Maori? Margaret Tennant approaches the Otaki Health Camp in an innovative way through the eyes of some of its consumers, giving a new perspective to the subject.

I hope that if people have letters, records, diaries, photos or stories of the past they will get in touch with the editor or another member of the committee.

Margaret Long
16 November 1991