

January 2004: At high tide on Monday afternoon the water backed up into Teone street area. When the tide went out the water receded and as quoted in report below ... *the worst flooding in living memory has been of small consequence to Koitiata ...*"



18. February Storm and Flooding.

The high winds experienced did minor damage at Koitiata. Some trees were toppled and some minor damage to roofs occurred. The support structure to a Rapaki St. home was torn asunder. This was due to a poor construction method. The Fire Brigade tied down the roof to secure the structure of the roof.

The flooding of the Turakina river however was of more concern. This soon became apparent to local residents. The rising river soon topped its banks and spread out over the flood plain. The main problems or as a consequent of this was the depth of water over the main access road and subsequent siltation. The main flooding affecting the residents of Koitiata was road access from the main highway at Turakina.

Apart from the flooding of part of Teone St. the village was not affected. The geographical location and elevation of the village saved everyone from getting flooding problems.

Other inconveniences were the loss of telephone lines and cell phone capabilities. The loss of electrical power supply caused some inconveniences due to the duration of the main period of approx 3 days of non supply. Further small periods were shrugged off as of no major problem. This necessitated the usage of two available electrical generators which were kindly lent for some help for continuation of supply to some deep freezers in Rapaki St.

Some residents took advantage of the opening up of the forest exit route to Santoft for going to work and access to supplies. However the requirement of speed restrictions and lights on vehicles at all times was not adhered to by some people. This may have been because of no knowledge of this requirement. Many thanks to Mr. McCarthy of Rangitiki Forests for making the roading access available.

One good thing that the flood accomplished which others have tried to no avail, was the opening of the tidal outlet to the old river course. The situation now has made this part tidal at high tides. This in turn has been beneficial in making the ford water depth lower and more practical for general usage.

In summation the worst flooding in living memory has been of small consequence to Koitiata as compared with local farmers and occupiers of houses along the access road to Turakina and elsewhere who have suffered huge financial losses. Thanks have been received from the residents of Scotts Ferry and the Red Cross for the emergency clothing and household items donated by representatives of our community.