

## Hall and Fire Shed

The hall and fire shed complex has had six stages of expansion to arrive at the facilities we have today. It began in late 1981 when the concrete floor was poured for a 7.5m x 6m shed to house fire gear provided by the Forestry Department.

That stage was completed in 1982 and at that point it was *'the fire shed'*. County Council personnel decided that to avoid any future issues with the building's use and/or ownership, it would be better to call it *'the hall'*. It has continued to be 'The Hall' ever since. That 1981 version was available for use by the Koitiata community for meetings and functions, as well as being a store for the fire-fighting gear.

Soon after in 1983/84 the extension for the toilets and kitchen was added. The single roomed building continued to serve as both the community centre and the fire shed.

Another shed was added to the south side of the existing building in 1985, which doubled the building's size. That area also stored the County's tractor and mower.

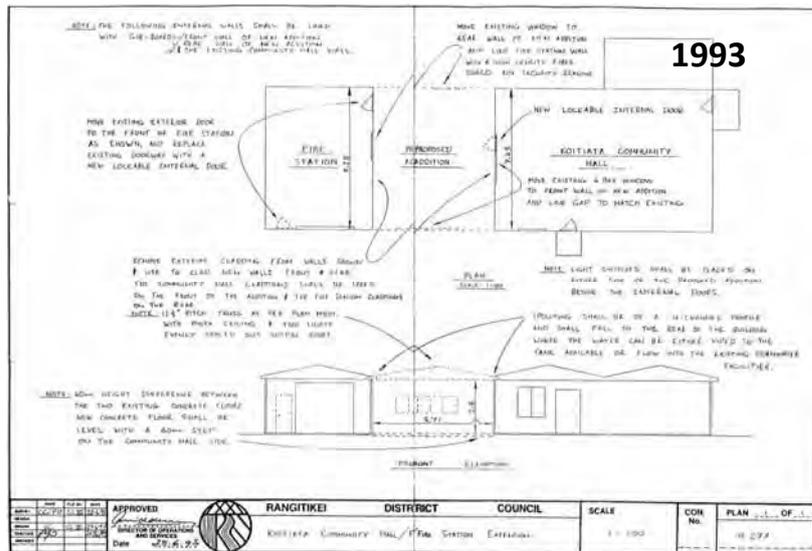


Life was easier with this extension, as quoted from the KCC chairman *"the two sliding doors on the original building have been incorporated on front and back end of portion housing tractor and trailer.... now possible to drive through this portion of building."*

In 1987, in response to being supplied with a real fire engine and needing somewhere to store it, a new fire-shed was built. This time it was a separate stand-alone building being 6 metres south of the hall, and large enough for the engine and all of the existing fire gear. With appropriate pump and ceremony, the new fire shed became a Fire Station and was officially opened on the 12th December 1987.

The relocation of the fire gear enabled the hall area to extend and encompass all of the internal floor area, and that is the current main hall area as it is today.

In 1993 funding was available and the open space between the two buildings was filled in with another 6m extension to the hall. This was built during 1993/94 and that extension is the current store room.



In 2001 the fire shed was replaced with the current shed. That extension completed the hall and fire-shed complex as it is today.

The majority of the labour for the hall and fire sheds has been provided by Koitiata residents, with materials financed from local authorities, grants and from within the community.



Many internal improvements have been made in the hall recently. New kitchen units were installed during 2010/11, a new gas hot water system for the kitchen in 2014, a new suspended ceiling with insulation and lights in 2015, and new soft wall lining and a colour change inside during mid-2016.