

## Getting Serviced

When the village started, it was an un-serviced camp ground. The streets were just lines on a map, they didn't actually exist. It was just tracks in the sand, through the marram grass, low scrub and lupins — and more sand. There was no electricity, no telephones, no street lights, no services of any kind. And that's the way it was for almost the first fifty years.

Electricity only came as far as Tunnel Hill in 1960 and residents petitioned the Power Board, asking for them to extend the power lines. The response in 1961 was “yes, but ... and only if the ‘settlers’ guarantee £400 (collectively) per year.” RCC took up the case and it appears that the leasehold status of the village was an issue. RCC followed it up in 1963 and finally, after 4 years of effort from residents and RCC, a connection was planned and approved Sept. 1964 and installed in 1965, (*actual date not known*).

Street lights were approved for installation by RCC in February 1965, but nothing happened. The lights were out. A “Leaseholders meeting” in Aug 1978 voted against street lights. Lights still out. A survey in Nov. 1978 voted to have street lights and in January 1979 the street lights had been installed and were finally turned on.

Until 1968 the streets were gravel over sand, and sometimes under the sand. From records it appears that it was 1969/70 before all streets were sealed in the village.

A document from 1979 states that “... streets renamed ... and signs put up.” We don't have any information as to what the origin is of our street names or what they mean. The different development stages had resulted in section numbering being a bit of a mish-mash and in 1979 the current street number system was implemented.

There was talk re a phone box in 1968, and it appears there were phones connected in the village in Aug 1972. It is not known when phone system was first installed.

A broadband internet service became available in Koitiata in 2010 but was unreliable and replaced in 2011 by the current Inspire Wi-Fi internet and phone system.

The first sign of any retail commerce in the village was in September 1920, when RCC gave permission to Mr Alfred Yarrow, a baker of Turakina, to “build a dwelling-house and shop combined.” This was to be on the section he leased at 25 Rapaki street, but it never happened and Alfred Yarrow moved to Manaia in 1923. Yes, it's the same Yarrow's and look at where that business is now. Imagine the smell of fresh bread wafting over the village every morning.

There are anecdotal reports of a shop being operated from the premises at 22 Rapaki street but no records have been located.