

Fire Brigade

The Fire Brigade is a relatively recent part of our history. Following extracts from documents, outline where it came from and the expansion, between 1978 and 2001.

1978: *Turakina Beach Residents Assn requested via RCC "... portable water-pump and hoses for temporary firefighting purposes until a permanent fire service was established."*

1982: *"... new shed ... to house equipment for village and forest ... pump, hose, siren, beaters supplied by Forestry, system of calls on siren being arranged, key in glass fronted box beside door... residents offered to make trailer."*

1983: *"... decided to hold fire drill Saturday for purpose of forming volunteer fire brigade."*

1984: *"...a trailer chassis was donated ... much time putting a deck on ... now stationed at hall with fire equipment on board for immediate use ... need 9 residents to form a Brigade."*

1987: *"... new Fire Appliance, new Fire Station ... eight willing men in team ... new appliance used in real fire, and ... agree fire team made good save."*

1988: *"... team consists of twelve men and two ladies, as telephone operators."*

2001: *"... new fire shed ... built in place of 1987 shed ... to house two fire appliances."*

Camping Ground

The first camping ground was at the end of Omanu street on the grass area known as the domain. It was established when Wainui street was added to the village in 1964.

There appears to have been dressing sheds and public toilets from around 1962, in the area where the camping ground is now. The 1968 aerial photo on page 19 clearly shows two buildings in that location. Plans on file for the current shower and toilet block suggest they were built at the end of 1977 or early 1978.

The council suggested in 1982 that the camp be relocated to *"a spot adjoining present conveniences"*, also that a recreation area be developed. In 1986 the camp was eventually relocated to its current location in the new Rapaki street subdivision. It was intended that 14 Rapaki street was to be purchased to allow for the camp area to be expanded, but that never eventuated.

Ship Wrecks

There are two recorded ship wrecks on our end of the beach, both pre-dating the establishment of Koitiata. The Fusilier which ran aground in January 1884 is well known, probably because the remains were still visible and accessible for many years. Less well known, although much closer to Koitiata, was the wreck of the Robina Dunlop, which ran aground at the mouth of the Turakina river in August 1877. Both vessels were under ballast at the time and no lives were lost in either wreck. Copies of photos and newspaper reports from the time will be able to be viewed on the History page of the Koitiata web site.