



FIRE TEAM.

A volunteer fire team was formed of seven men and we have had quite a few practices together and on the 28 February 1987 we had a combined exercise with the Marton and Ratana Fire Brigades, which was a big help to us, and I am sure this exercise was a big advantage at our recent fire. I must thank the ladies who put on a wonderful morning tea for the three fire teams after the exercise.

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Fire Brigade

The Fire Brigade is a relatively recent part of Koitiata's history. Extracts following 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 nine 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."*

The Rangitikei Mail

August 31, 1978

Suggestions by Turakina Beach Residents

At the annual meeting of the Turakina Beach Residents' Association on Sunday, the retiring chairman, Mr Les Anderson, welcomed the county riding member, Mr G J Briant, the Rangitikei County Council clerk, Mr M C Griffiths, and the county overseer, Mr Les Vincent, and a large gathering of about 70 residents.

The meeting passed several proposals for improving conditions at the beach. They included a request for more road restriction signs, such as 50 kph speed limits, and "Drive Carefully - No Footpaths". It was also suggested that street names should be erected.

Following complaints about the discharge of guns in the beach area, the County Clerk, Mr Grif-

fiths, said it was unlawful to discharge or carry a loaded firearm in the confines of the Kōitiata Domain, as the beach is known. Steps would be taken to ensure that no misuse of motor vehicles would be permitted in the Domain.

Discussions were held on the purchase of a portable water-pump and hoses for temporary firefighting purposes until a permanent fire service was established.

Officers elected were: Chairman, Mr Joe Davis; secretary-treasurer, Mr Noel Abbott; committee, Messrs Phil Cornish, Jack Tremaine, Brian Bayley.

The new chairman thanked the retiring chairman, Mr Anderson, the retiring secretary, Mrs Mavis Farr, and the committee for their past efforts. He also expressed the hope that closer liaison between the new committee and the County Council would be a benefit to all the residents in the Domain.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
TURAKINA BEACH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION 1979

16 NOVEMBER, 1979

On the 26 August, 1978 at a meeting of 70 members of the Association, a new Committee was elected.

In attendance were representatives of the Rangitikei County Council Messrs. M. Griffiths, L. Vincent and Mr. Bryant a County Councillor.

The new Committee comprises as elected:

Chairman:	Joe Davis
Secretary/Treasurer	Noel Abbott
Committee:	Phil Cornish
	Jack Tremaine
	Brian Bayley

A vote of thanks was recorded to the outgoing Committee.

Matters dealt with during the year.

- (1) Street Lights: 40 Street lights have been installed after a postal vote of residents and back owners was taken. (14 were for lighting and 23 against).
- (2) Poppers cut and left on the spot by the County Council were cleared by a Working Bee. Special thanks in this regard to Messrs. Walker, Fraser and Richards.
- (3) Street Names: Streets have been renamed in accordance with the County Council's plan and street name signposts have been erected.
- (4) House Numbering: The Committee hopes to complete house numbering and deliver them to residents. It is proposed that the committee will hold a Working Bee to provide wooden house numbers for each section.
- (5) Speed Limit Signs: have been erected and in view of no footpaths and many children playing, it is in the interest of all beach residents to observe these.
- (6) A Public Phone Box was suggested but a definite "NO" reply was received from the Post Office. However, many residents have telephones for use in emergencies.
- (7) Mr. Griffiths of the County Council made it clear that it is unlawful to discharge or carry a loaded firearm within the confines of the domain.
- (8) The County Council replied in response to a request for firefighting equipment (namely a pump) that the County was doing a Survey of the area and the matter would be taken to the Fire Service Commission at a Council level.

To date no decision has been reached.

KOITIATA COMMUNITY COUNCILCHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 1981

On 10 March 1981, the seven nominees for seven positions on the newly formed Koitiata Community Council met. For personal reasons, one nominee withdrew. The remaining six signed the Declaration by Councillors, pursuant to Section 103 of the Local Government Act 1974. The extraordinary vacancy was filled by appointment, of the only late nomination at the July meeting. The seven members are A.J.L. McIndoe, J.H. Richards, D.R. Taylor (Mrs), L.J. Tremaine, M. Burberry (Mrs), N.N. Abbott and B.S. Bayley.

The Community has adopted a set of Bylaws. Each Councillor has a set and the public are entitled to view these on request. Also, all the Councillors are Honorary Rangers. They are all approachable people and will be willing to assist you in any way on request, with information etc.

The Rubbish Dump has reached the end of its useful life and the Council is in the process of hearing objections to the relocating of same just to the north east of the Domain. Hopefully, it will be in use at an early date. We notice that people are reluctant to dump their rubbish in the tip head, thus causing at times quite an unnecessary pile up. With the new tip, we hope everyone will try harder. Also, children use it as a playground. They love smashing anything glass, creating a danger to everyone. Before long someone's child will come home with a badly gashed foot and we are quite a way from a doctor. The remedy is in the parents hands.

Animal carcasses on the river and beach frontage: unfortunately, as long as we have a river outlet and there are farms along that river, we will have this problem. However, in the near future we hope to have material readily available so that this offensive matter can be burned under supervision.

While I am talking burning, we live in a fire restricted area, so if you wish to burn anything, you must obtain a permit to burn from the Forestry Fire Ranger, Mr Noel Abbott. This is important.

The Public Showers and Conveniences on the beach frontage are a target for vandalism quite frequently. A meter miser will be fitted to the showers to give them a timed flow. They will automatically "cut off" if left running. Our thanks must go to Mrs Leighton for her efforts in keeping these conveniences clean and usable and also for looking after the meter boxes at the caravan park. Neither chore being the most relished at times.

Some of you may have noticed a concrete slab on lot 65 in Wainui Street. By the time you are reading this newsletter, there will probably be a shed erected on this site. This is to house fire fighting equipment for the village and forestry. The initial equipment will be supplied by the Forestry. The Council had hoped to see the building and equipment installed before Christmas. It could possibly still be but more likely to be in the New Year. Of course, equipment will not operate by itself so there will be volunteers called for later to train for fire fighting. But more about this when it is organised.

A meeting of Koitiata Section holders held on 2nd August 1982 supported the constitution of a Community within the Rangitikei County.

A special Order constituting the Koitiata Community was confirmed at a meeting of Rangitikei County Council held on 9th October 1980 and the Community came into being on 1 April 1981.

The Council consists of seven members four representing permanent residents and three representing other property holders.

The Councillors were elected by postal ballot and will hold office until the next local body elections in 1983.

The present Councillors are:-

Mr. A.J.E. McIndoe JP.	Chairman	Wainui St. Turakina Beach
	Chartered Accountant	
Mr. M. Abbott	Painter	Wainui St. Turakina Beach
Mr. J.N. Richards	Photographer	264 St. Hill St. Wanganui
Mr. J. Iremaine	Contractor	14 Jackson St. Wanganui
Mr. A. McKenzie	Butcher	Kapaki St. Turakina Beach
Mrs M. Burberry		Wainui St. Turakina Beach
Mrs. K. Robb	Married Woman	133 Mt. View Rd. Wanganui

Fire Equipment. A portable pump and hose together with a siren and sets of beaters have been supplied by the Forestry Department. The equipment will be housed in the hall building. It is hoped in the near future to get a light trailer for transporting the equipment in time of emergency. A system of calls by the siren is being arranged by Mr. M. Abbott.

In case of an emergency a key for the Hall will be placed in a glass fronted box beside the side door of the Community building. I understand several residents have offered to help make a trailer and our thanks go to them for their offer.

Cows. The Committee has had continuing discussions with County representatives about the dairy cows using the road daily. The Council had a meeting in the Turakina Hall last year with farmers using Beach Road with satisfactory results in all but one case -

Mr. Johnston now moves his cows through his own property and they only cross the road in one place.

The County levelled the sides of the road in one area so that the cows could be encouraged to walk on the grass. An employee on a motorbike was going to ride along beside the cows and encourage them to use the grass verge. This has not been done and as a result the tendency is to let the cows out onto the road and to wander along in their own way.

According to the County an alternative bridge was being prepared to keep the cows off the road bridge. Nothing seems to be happening as yet on this matter. Mr. Vincent the County Overseer assures in that progress is being made to improve the cow situation.

Domain. Camping grounds. Suggestions have been made to the County that the camping area be moved to a spot adjoining the present conveniences and that the flat area adjoining the conveniences be developed into a recreation area. The suggestion is that the present Domain area then be roaded and subdivided into building sections.

RANGITIKEI COUNTY COUNCIL

KOITIATA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CIRCULAR TO ALL SECTION HOLDERS

FIRE EQUIPMENT

The New Zealand Forest Service will be holding a practical demonstration for the use of the Fire Equipment on Saturday, 25 September 1982 at 10.30 a.m. The demonstration is to be held at the Dam near the Rubbish Dump.

All interested persons are invited to attend.

M. C. Griffiths
COUNTY CLERK

0317M

RANGITIKEI COUNTY COUNCIL

KOITIATA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

All residents of Koitiata who are interested in learning how to use the fire equipment and those interested in forming a Koitiata Volunteer Fire Brigade are advised of a Meeting and demonstration to be held at the Community Centre on Saturday, 9 April 1983 at 9.00 a.m.

The last demonstration held on 25 September had a disappointing response, if you are interested in forming a fire brigade please attend this meeting.

M. C. Griffiths
COUNTY CLERK

The County Clerk advised that the County would be undertaking the cost of planning and development of the subdivision. No costing had been done and therefore no accurate estimate on the cost of each section could be given although present indications would put the figure at \$5,000.00. The standard of subdivision would be appropriate to a beach settlement. The subdivision would have some effect on the value of the present properties at Koitata but it would not necessarily have any effect on the rates. In fact, because there will be more rateable properties the rates could be reduced in comparative terms.

Moved: Mr B. S. Bayley

"That the Reserve and Camping Ground remain in the same area that they presently occupy and that the staff of the Rangitikei County Council prepare a subdivision for the remaining half of the domain area recently purchased by the Rangitikei County Council."

Seconded: Mr G. F. Clark and carried.

Resiting of Camping Ground

As the proposed subdivision of the Domain area in which the Camping Ground is presently sited is not going ahead, the Camping Ground will not be resited.

Community Centre

It was advised that the fire shed was available for Community purposes at a charge of \$5.00 per night.

A social Committee was formed to organise further social functions. Those nominated to for the social committee are:

Mr Rex Price
Mr Terry Hunt
Mrs Rangi Hunt
Mr Geoffrey P. Clark
Mr Leslie Smith
Mrs Margaret Blythe

Fire Drill

Ratepayers and Residents expressed concern that no one was trained to operate the fire equipment. Councillor Abbott pointed out that the New Zealand Forest Service gave a practical demonstration on 25 September 1982, and very few residents turned up for the demonstration.

It was decided to hold another fire drill on Saturday, 9 April 1983 at 9.00 a.m. at the Community Centre for the purpose of forming a volunteer fire brigade and to hold another demonstration, all section holders would be circularised of the time and place.

It was pointed out that several of the vacant sections were overgrown and presented a potential fire hazard.

Councillor Abbott advised that he had devised a system of signals for the fire siren. Short blasts would indicate a fire in the village area and a long continuous wail would signify a Civil Defence or emergency.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Local Body Elections:

The County Clerk advised that the Electoral Roll would be open for public inspection on 17 June 1983. The Election will be held on Saturday, 8 October 1983. Nominations for election would be called on 1 August 1983 and nominations would close at noon on Tuesday, 2 September 1983.

There are seven positions available on the Council, if 7 members are nominated there will be no election. Those nominated will become the Kaitiata Community Council. If more than 7 members are nominated an election will be held in the normal manner.

Those eligible to be nominated to the Council are persons with a ratepayer qualification, usually the person shown first on the valuation roll is the ratepayer. This person can reside in the community or outside. A resident can also be nominated for the Council but must actually reside within the Kaitiata Community.

Public Toilets

Mrs Leighton has advised that she wishes to discontinue her duties cleaning the public toilets, however, she will continue her duties until a suitable replacement is found. Any person wishing to fill the position should contact the County Overseer.

Roading

Ratepayers and Residents advised that the surface of Rapaki Street was not upgraded satisfactorily and that water was flooding and running into the sewerage systems of nearby properties. The County Overseer advised that the uneven road surface will be corrected in the next financial year when the road is sealed and that the drainage problem will be taken care of at the same time.

Cattle

The ratepayers and residents advised of their concern at the use of the Turakina Beach Road as a cattle race because of the damage to the road and to vehicles using the road.

The County Overseer advised that talks were continuing with the farmer concerned and that a bridge will soon be constructed to remove the congestion on the one-way road bridge.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.30 a.m.

- (a) Local Recreation & Community Development Scheme, at the Rangitikei County Council and a grant of \$150 has been received.
- (b) To the Internal Affairs Department through the Local Authorities Community Facilities Funds.

This application will need to be approved by the Rangitikei County Council. A representative from the Internal Affairs Department is meeting me in Turakina on the 31st May and is coming to the Beach to see the project.

- (c) An application has been made to the Dudding Trust in Marton for a grant and I have been advised that the application will be considered next September.

Trailer. A trailer chassis to be used to carry the fire fighting equipment was donated by Mr. Sonny Reardon. Councillor McKenzie spent much time putting a deck on the trailer and it is now stationed at the Hall and has all the fire fighting equipment on board ready for immediate use.

Tractor Mower. The County have an old tractor and mower which they are overhauling. When the work is completed the unit will be stationed at the Beach and will be used primarily to keep the playing area in Te One St. cut. Councillor McKenzie has cut this area with his own motor mower for the past year or so.

Subdivisions. The County is going to cut up a further area to provide 27 sections for building. An earlier proposal was to subdivide the present domain but there were objections to this proposal. In late March a new proposal was made to all section holders and they were asked to make their choice of three options and reply by 30 April:

38 replies were received,

8 section holders preferred the original scheme

25 preferred the scheme to subdivide an area off Teone st. Adjoining the conveniences.

5 had no particular preference.

The suggested subdivisions to be done in three stages will create a new road around the outskirts of the settlement from Wainui St to Teine St. Rapaki St and Omana St will be extended to join the new road around the outskirts of the settlement. In the letter of April 1984 Rapaki St was shown as ending short of the new road around the outskirts. Following discussions at the last Community Council meeting it has been decided to continue Rapaki St onto connect with the new road around the outskirts.

The County staff have been surveying the subdivision area and the County hope to commence work on the subdivision during the winter. Anyone interested in getting a section in the subdivision should contact the County.

Donations I think it is desirable that a record should be made of donations made towards the Hall project.

I list below ones I can think of, not in any particular sequence.

Marton Friendship Club	1 Large Zip heater and offer of wall heaters
Mr. F. Jeremy	} Work on lining toilets, kitchen and building sinks and benches in kitchen
Mr. W. Cornish	
Mr. E. Farnleydale	
Mr. Sonny Reardon	Trailer chassis and wheels
Mr. A. McKenzie	Fixing water supply and pump for Hall. Completing trailer donated by Sonny Reardon.
Mr. N. Abbott	Organising supplies for kitchen and liaison with County
Mr. J. Blyth	Paint for undercoats and promises to lay tiles on kitchen floor.
Mr. Newman	Labour wiring hall kitchen and toilet area
Mr & Mrs. K. Huddleston	Windows
Mrs. L. McIndoe	Piano and Formica extension table and chairs- Tea Trolley and cups and saucers.

KOITIATA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1984

ROADS. All roads in the settlement were sealed before the end of the 1983/84 sealing season.

In the next few weeks they will be given another seal. The County will widen portions of Rapaki St. before the roads are given the new seal.

COMMUNITY HALL. Since the last newsletter the toilets and kitchen have been completed and painted. The whole kitchen and toilet area is very attractive.

Special thanks must go to Mr. Noel Abbott who painted the whole area - to Messrs Jermy and Cornish who finished the the lining and fitting in of sinks and cupboards, Messrs McKenzie and Ramsdale who were responsible for work on the spetic tank, fitting of pumps and the working of the water system.

→ The exterior of the building must be painted in the next few weeks. A call is made for volunteers to do this work, contact in the first instance should be made with Alan McKenzie (Phone 855). An early response to this appeal would be appreciated.

We await replies to our applications to various bodies for grants towards the cost of extending the Hall. The suggestion was that the hall should be extended by ten feet. The suggestion has now been made that the extension should be 20 feet rather than 10 feet. This would give the space for improved recreation facilities in the Hall plus an area 20x10 which could be used to house the firefighting equipment plus the County's tractor mower.

FIREFIGHTING. The Community Council wishes to form a Volunteer Fire Brigade in the settlement.

→ A meeting will be held in the Community Hall, on Sunday 14th October at 10.00am. Purpose to try and get a core of 9 residents to form a Brigade.

PARKING. In the next few weeks the Council hopes to be able to arrange for the area on the western side of the hall to be cleared and levelled for the purpose of providing a parking area adjacent to the Hall. Some of the sand removed will be used to fill in & level the area over the septic tank. Along the boundary of the property immediately behind the hall a wall of tyres will be made to stop any of the sand fill falling on to the adjoining property. The Council is grateful to Mr. Alan McKenzie for obtaining old tyres to be used for this purpose.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB VISIT. On Friday 26th October about 100 members of the Marton Friendship Club plus additional patients from Lake Alice Hospital will visit the settlement. The visitors will be entertained in the Community Hall. This is an Annual visit much appreciated by the elderly people in Marton.

→ A special appeal is made to all residents for a contribution towards the afternoon tea that day.



FIRE TEAM.

A volunteer fire team was formed of seven men and we have had quite a few practices together and on the 28 February 1987 we had a combined exercise with the Marton and Ratana Fire Brigades, which was a big help to us, and I am sure this exercise was a big advantage at our recent fire. I must thank the ladies who put on a wonderful morning tea for the three fire teams after the exercise.

NEW ZEALAND FIRE SERVICES.

As your Chairman, with the big changes taking place at the Forestry Depot which is now practically unmanned, I together with the Rangitikei County Council Secretary, Mr Stringfield, wrote to the New Zealand Fire Services explaining our concern at the fire protection of the Community. The New Zealand Fire Services District Fire Officer (Wanganui), Mr Peacock, Regional Fire Officer (Palmerston North), Mr Smith and his Deputy, Mr Christensen, paid the area a visit and with myself made an inspection of the residential area and fire equipment. They explained that our Community can not come under the New Zealand Fire Services because of Marton and Ratana Brigades being so close, but we all agreed we definitely deserved help and they placed us on a priority list for fire gear and a fire appliance, as one became available surplus to their requirements. Since then the gear has arrived and the fire appliance is at Palmerston North awaiting book clearance. The cost for the engine is twenty dollars for Change of Ownership so I hope this appliance will be another asset to the Community. To make use of that asset we will need more people to know how to handle and maintain the machine. The New Zealand Fire Services will put on two one day courses on fire fighting, one in May and one in September. Anybody wishing to attend, please contact me for further information.

BEACH ROAD STOCK.

It gives me great pleasure to thank the Rangitikei County Council for their efforts with the up grading of the Beach Road verges, so that the cows are now driven off the road where possible. A big improvement for us and our cars and, of course, the road.

RUBBISH DUMP.

Over the last two months there has been a big improvement and with a little more thought from everybody by dumping their rubbish over the pit head, the improvement can continue. Also, being a dry dump, if dumping fish or meat etc, take a shovel and dig a hole and make sure it is buried. This means less flies and smell.

Special thanks to Ron Eustace who lately has been giving his time, keeping the dump clean with tractor and blade.

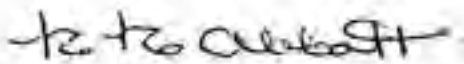
FIRE.

As stated earlier, there was a fire at Mr and Mrs D. Taylor's on the 11 April 1987. The fire team and helpers did a wonderful job of fire fighting and I have been asked to pass onto the fire team and helpers from the Deputy Fire Officer, Marton, the Chief Fire Officer Ratana and the District Fire Officer, Wanganui, congratulations on their efforts. The following day after the fire, residents helped clean up the mess and gave bedding and household items etc and installed a builders box for power. The ladies supplied morning and afternoon tea to all who helped - a really wonderful Community spirit. It really made me feel humble and proud to be a resident of Koitiata Beach Settlement.

BOWLING GREEN AREA.

There will be a Meeting on Monday 1 June 1987 at 10 a.m. at the Koitiata Community Hall for all to discuss the viability and costs of any future development on the area. This concerns everybody, so please attend.

Last but not least, I wish to thank the Koitiata Community Councillors for their ideas and help, and also the Rangitikei County Council and their representatives who attend our Meetings. Also our Riding Member, Mr T. Lethbridge. Without their help and interest in our area, we would not have made the progress we have made.


Noel N. Abbott
CHAIRMAN

5 May 1987

REPORT FROM NOEL ABBOTT, CHAIRMAN, KOITIATA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER AND CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - HALF YEARLY

Since my last report, several items of interest to all have eventuated.

Firstly, we now have our own Fire Appliance, a new Fire Station and eight very willing men in our fire team, who give their time and effort to attend practices and are on call for any fire fighting in our area. Our special thanks must go to these men; also Wanganui, Marton and Ratana Fire Services for all their help and support. Our thanks also to the Rangitikei County Council, who maintain the machine. By the way, the appliance has been used at a real fire here, and I am sure the residents all agree the appliance and fire team made a good "save".

To remind everybody, in case of a fire DIAL 111 or go to the Community Hall where next to the side door is a glass with a key behind. Break the glass, unlock the door and our siren switch is in the storage area just inside the door on the lefthand side (far wall). Turn the switch on and leave on. Stay, if possible, until the first fireman arrives.

Emergency Carpool

Has been used three times since the last report - may I add with success. So this is proving to be a great asset to our Community. Our thanks to drivers and those who helped.

Garage Sale

This proved to be a great success, over \$700 being raised for Community Projects. Many thanks to the organisers, the givers and buyers, and to those who made donations, and of course to all the helpers and Jim Mant for the raffle.

First Project

The electrical wiring of the Fire Station lights and hotpoints etc. This has been completed thanks to Martin Pritchard who did all the labour at no charge. Thanks Martin. We are grateful also to Frank Jermy and his helpers for boxing, digging and levelling and floating the poured concrete for the erection of the firestation. To Trevor Jurgens as well for making up the brackets for the suction hose (he charged for the cost of steel only) and to those who dug the trench for underground power and levelled off the back of the firestation. The Community Council agreed that seeing that so much has been done by Community effort, we will be holding an official opening of the Fire Station on *Sat 12th* December 1987 at 1.30 p.m. The programme is as follows: Official Opening, inspection of Station and Appliance, and demonstration of fire team. After this, there will be afternoon tea and a few drinks in the Community Hall. All householders are welcome. If you and yours intend coming along, (and we hope you will - and ladies a plate please), ring or contact Noel Abbott or Ray Vicars. This is for catering purposes only.

Civil Defence

The team has been brought back up to full strength again. Our thanks to the Old Brigade for past services and welcome to our new team members. A special afternoon, early in the New Year, is being arranged with a get-together afternoon tea and a film about the Bay of Plenty Earthquake. While on Civil Defence, a reminder that the Civil Defence Siren call is a short blast of 30 seconds duration. The siren is checked every second and fourth Saturdays monthly at 9.00 a.m.

Bereavements since last Report

Mrs Rangī Hunt and Mrs Sylvia Hammond. We offer heartfelt sympathy to all their families from our Community.

Camping Ground

This is being mown down to the front next to the toilet block including power points. Mr Ron Sargeant is the Camping Ground and Toilet Block Warden and is also responsible for the booking of camp sites (No Camping overnight except in Camping Ground).

Recreation Afternoons

These are held at the Community Hall for children and others on Saturday afternoons 1.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. (games and refreshments). This is being tried out by Mrs Julie Pritchard and Mrs Judy Wilson for the betterment of the Community and deserves our support.

Rubbish Dump

This is your dump! Please try to keep it tidy by dumping over the pithead. This will help to improve the look of the area.

Recreation Nights

Eddie Ramsdale, Arnold Nation and Hilton Farr are the Committee to run these nights every Thursday at 7.30 p.m. They prove to be a lot of fun.

In finishing this report on behalf of all the Councillors and myself, best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

N. N. Abbott
Chairman
KOITIATA COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Firefighters Have New Station at Turakina Beach

by Glynnis Harding

The Koitiata settlement at Turakina Beach may be small, but it is a closeknit community with great spirit and determination.

The population of 120 permanent residents have banded together to build a new fire station, which was officially opened last Saturday afternoon at Koitiata.

Present at the opening ceremony were Chief Fire Officer Joe Kawana from Ratana Pa, Deputy Chief Fire Officer Paul Hudson from the Marton Volunteer Fire Brigade, and Chief Fire Officer Ian Connelly from the Bulls Brigade.

Turakina Beach Fire Chief, Mr Noel Abbott, welcomed guests.

"The building of the fire station has been a wonderful community effort", Mr Abbott said. "The finance from a garage sale in September and our working bees have helped us to finish our new fire station".

Mr Abbott invited the Turakina riding member of the Rangitikei County Council, Cr Tim Lethbridge, to speak on behalf of the Council, and to open the door of the new station.

Cr Lethbridge said: "The fire station is a credit to your community. The facility would not be here unless you had done all the work and raised the money yourselves. "The effort is only typical of what you, at Koitiata, have put into all your endeavours.

You have this degree of resourcefulness".

Cr Lethbridge commented that the close proximity of the Santofi forestry was a good reason to station a fire engine at Turakina Beach.

Benefit to Forestry

"The fact that you have shown responsibility in this area is of benefit to the forestry", said Cr Lethbridge.

The fire party at the beach presently consists of 9 firemen, with prospects of another joining their ranks. Most of the firemen started their service at the same time.

The firemen are pleased to have the support of the Marton, Wanganui, Ratana and Palmerston North Brigades.

After the official opening of the station, firemen gave a demonstration with the Koitiata fire truck, a New Zealand Fire Services vehicle, previously owned by NZ Fire Services at Rangiwahia.

The water supply to fight fires will come from private water tanks, small ponds, or the river at Turakina Beach.

Standing outside the new fire station at Turakina Beach after its official opening last Saturday are Cr Tim Lethbridge (left), who represented the Rangitikei County Council at the ceremony, and Fireman Martin Pritchard. At the wheel of the fire engine inside the shed is Fireman Bob Willis, who was preparing to demonstrate the vehicle. "Mail" photo.



Members of the Turakina Beach Fire Brigade were pictured at the official opening of the beach settlement's new fire station last Saturday. The firemen are [from left]:—

Back row: Peter Fraser, Bob Willis, Brian Bayley, Rob Newman, Martin Pritchard, Ron Sargent.

Front: Fire Chief Noel Abbott, Arnold Nation.— "Mail" photo.

BJM:MAG
224:PRVWK

KOITIATA COMMUNITY COUNCIL - JUNE 1988

CHAIRMAN'S HALF YEARLY REPORT

Carrying on from my last Report, to let Residents and Bachholders know what is going on in their Community.

CIVIL DEFENCE

As promised, a Civil Defence Meeting was held, and a film of the Civil Defence Emergency of the Bay of Plenty earthquake was shown, which was very interesting to all who attended. One of the main priorities for our Sector was to be issued with a C.B. Radio, incase telephones - road communications were out. Also a welcome to our new Civil Defence Wardens, your help will be appreciated.

Our next Civil Defence meeting will be held when the C.B. Radios are issued, and all Wardens will be trained in their use.

Remember, Civil Defence is people helping people.

KOITIATA FIRE PARTY

The team now consists of twelve men and two ladies, as telephone operators. With our new fire station and our appliance and equipment, we will prove to be a success if called upon. Please remember the fire alarm is situated on the front of the fire station. Break glass, turn on switch and leave on, try if possible to stay at alarm until first fireman arrives, so there is no confusion as to where the fire is. Please ring 111 first as this will alert New Zealand Fire Services, as the Koitiata Fire Party's job is to do as much as possible until Ratana or Marton Brigades arrive. We had a combined exercise with the Marton and Ratana Brigades on 18 June 1988. Thanks to the New Zealand Fire Services for our further training, also thanks to the wives of the fire party who put on a very nice morning tea after the exercise for the three fire teams.

CARPOOL

Is working most successfully. Please remember in an emergency, if hospital or doctor and transport is needed, use your Carpool telephone numbers.

COMMUNITY HALL EXTENSION

The interior of the Hall has been extended to take in the area that was used as storage. We now really have a good sized hall. Mr Cliff Fraser, who was in charge of organising voluntary labour and Works orders for materials has the following comment:

"A Special Thanks to all those people who helped with the alterations to the Hall and to those who made donations."

KOITIATA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

DECEMBER 1988

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Since the last Report, the Community Hall extension has been completed. Thanks to the Dudding Trust, your Riding Member and the Rangitikei County Council, we received a Grant of \$1,350.00 for our material costs from the Dudding Trust, so with all labour supplied by the Community, it simply meant the whole job had been completed without any drain on our rate estimates, thanks to all.

Fire Team.

The Fire Team now has about 11 members. A new Fire Chief, Mr Peter Fraser and a new Deputy, Mr W. Wills were appointed, and are also the new Rural Fire Officers. We thank all you chaps for the time and effort spent at practices, and we all know that if called upon you will give a good account of yourselves, for our protection.

Civil Defence.

We now have a special C.B. Radio for Civil Defence emergencies. Should roads and telephone communications be out, we have contact with C.D. Marton and Wanganui. This is a good asset to our Community. The Civil Defence Officer for our area, Mr Max Benseman, came down for an evening Meeting in October, to instruct our Civil Defence Wardens in its use. He commented on a very good attendance.

Recreation Nights.

Bowls - and a great deal of fun. If you feel like attending and having an enjoyable evening, every Thursday 7.30 p.m. - come along. I am sure you will be made welcome.

Mowing Front Area.

Our special thanks must go to Mr Bill Wills for the time and effort he put into the mowing of this area, plus the Camping Ground. It certainly is a pleasure to see this area so tidy. Thanks also to those who have lent their trailers, and picked up and returned the mower to the Rangitikei County Council yard.

River Mouth and Beach Access.

This is becoming quite a concern to all, as the river continues its movement southwards. It certainly does not enhance the area. Access to the beach is difficult. We all hope it will block off, so it can be opened up out in front, otherwise we will become a river settlement instead of a Beach Settlement.



Roll on the long, hot summer — Koitiata's fire crew is ready

By Colin Rowatt

Koitiata's rural fire party members are seeing red these days... lots of it.

But it's the cheery red of their two fire appliances now housed, for the first time in a long time, in their own purpose-built "shed".

The new Koitiata Fire Depot, which will be officially opened this afternoon by Rangitikei Mayor John Vickers, is the fifth fire appliance shed at Koitiata since 1985.

The first shed, which was home for the village's original, battered, old Land-Rover fire appliance, ultimately turned into the Koitiata community hall.

And, as that facility was expanded, the fire depot was shifted further along until it ended up at the opposite end from where it started.

And that's where the new shed has been built.

Fire party chief Peter Bamford said the new depot represented a kind of joint venture between the community and its fire party of 12 and the Rangitikei District Council.

The council put up the \$17,000 for the Skyline kitset garage, but it was the fire party members who put it together with advice and assistance from Skyline rep Clayton Grant and some local carpentry expertise.

Mr Bamford said almost 600 voluntary man-hours had gone into the project, which also involved the building of a sand-retaining wall along the back and down one side of the new shed.

Timber materials for that — about \$500 worth — were donated by local company Santoft Roundwood.

Earnslaw One forestry company and Jensen Electrical of Marton had also sponsored the project in various ways.

Mr Bamford said that, with the building project now completed, the fire party would be able to get back to its regular training programme to prepare for what he suspects



PHOTO: COLIN ROWATT DSCN0086

Koitiata rural fire party chief Peter Bamford (right) oversees the final preparations for the opening the new fire depot.

could be a busy summer.

Koitiata rural fire party is the biggest, most organised and best equipped in the Rangitikei and does duty throughout the district as the second-line fire-fighting unit behind the local New Zealand Fire Service brigades.

Mr Bamford said two summers back the

party was called out 16 times to help deal with some major, potentially serious fires.

Last summer there were a mere two call-outs.

But with one call already this season, Mr Bamford reckons his men could spend this summer again eating a lot of smoke.



Picture: HAMISH WHITE

ABOUT 80 Kaitiata residents and invited guests turned out for the official opening of the beach settlement's new firefighting headquarters last Saturday. The \$17,000 two-berth kitset garage was erected by the local fire crew and officially opened by Rangitikei Mayor John Vickers. Bulls ward councillors Bob Major and Jill Strugnell congratulated the community as did Nga Ariki elder Alexander (Bill) Murray and RDC regulatory services manager Dorstan Hayman, who administers Rangitikei's rural firefighting teams.

The District Monitor

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12 October 2001

High praise for RDC and suppliers

Koitiata may be a tiny settlement that is hardly recognised on a map. However their Rural Fire personnel are an integral part of the local fire safety scene ..

Last Saturday Rangitikei District Council Mayor Mr. John Vickers complimented the local organisation on their achievements when officially opening the new Koitiata Fire Depot.

The Depot has been a long time coming but local Fire Chief Mr. Peter Bamford said it has been well worth the wait. " We originally had an old Landrover in a shed that later became the local hall so we moved along a bit. When that facility

was expanded we moved further along and it is on this site the new shed has been constructed" he said

Mr. Bamford was full of praise for the RDC in coming forward with the finance and all the suppliers went the extra mile.

"Santoft Roundwood Products donated all the timber for a retaining wall around the side and rear of the building. The building was constructed by volunteers. Skyline Garages provided the garage financed by Council and their representative Mr Clayton Grant was always on hand to give advice and



The Koitiata Rural Fire Engines in thier new housing

assistance when the garage was assembled. Forestry giant Earnslaw One could not have been more helpful along with Jensen

Electrical who also gave of their time.

With their new headquarters the Koitiata Volunteers are ready and trained to go anywhere in the

district. As well as the first response Unit at the Beach settlement they are the second line of "defence" and assist throughout the

district backing up behind the local NZ Fire Service Units. They travel some long distances and put in some massive hours fighting rural fires. The unit has travelled to the back country of Taihape and with its 2.8 Toyota, equipped with state of the art fire fighting equipment the team at Koitiata are back training and hoping for a 'quiet' summer. Prior to this weeks rain things were getting very dry and it was looking towards being a summer of high alert.

Tree finally lowered

The historical Blue Gum, out on SH1 has finally been removed.

The tree which has stood for over 100 years



PHOTO: COLIN ROWATT CR_3694

Koitiata's finest ... from left, David Coronel (seven years), Peter Smith (five years) chief officer Peter Bamford (seven years), Robin Hope (six years), Richard Corcoran (three years), Lou Corcoran (11 years), Bruce Atwell (six years), Tom Dooney (14 years), Kevin Murray (one year).

Rural firefighters blow out 21 candles

By Colin Rowatt

Koitiata's finest – the members of the Turakina seaside settlement's volunteer rural fire force – recently marked the unit's first major milestone, its 21st anniversary.

As with all celebrations involving firefighters the orders of the day included the presentation of medals and ribbons signifying varying levels of service. But the gathering also provided an opportunity to members past and present to reflect on the unit's history.

Originally established in November 1982, for the then sole purpose of fighting scrub fires that frequently threatened the village, the Koitiata Volunteer Rural Fire Force has grown up to become a valuable and useful addition to fire-fighting services in the Rangitikei.

The unit has long since shed its "Dad's Army" image to become a committed, competent team called on to deal to foliage fires throughout the Rangitikei and sometimes even to

other neighbouring districts.

The unit's initial equipment was a portable pump and hose and a set of "beaters" donated by then New Zealand Forest Service. Over the years the equipment has been progressively upgraded to the point where it now features two well-equipped appliances including a late model four-wheel drive "smoke chaser" with a 500 litre water tank. That has given the unit much greater ability to tackle fires in difficult terrain.

During the past decade the unit has responded to up to 25 call-outs in a season, several of them major property-threatening blazes as far north as Taihape and as far south as Himatangi.

The Koitiata VRFF has also provided valuable support to other volunteer fire brigades in the southern Rangitikei and regularly assists those brigades in dealing with foliage fires. The increased participation of the Koitiata team has often meant those other fire fighters have been able to return to their employment sooner than would otherwise have been possible.



June 2012

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