



Socialising the Village



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Socialising the Village

It's not just the organising that has made Koitiata a community, it's the social stuff that does it too. From the beginning, social activities have always been up there at the top of the community's priority list, and what better way to have social activities than with a Social Committee to organise it!

With the new Community Centre upright in 1982, no time was wasted in organising a social function. *"Christmas Gathering. In an effort to promote fellowship in the settlement it is suggested that a gathering be held at the Community Building 8pm Saturday 18 December."*

The hall became the centre for the community's organised regular activities and there has usually been a Social Committee behind it all. While the hall has been the hub, not all community activities were indoor.

When the river was just out the front, often a wide lagoon would form in front of the village. Some complained about how it restricted their ability to go fishing. Others just had fun having raft races.

A community event during the 1990's was the Xmas parade. People dressed up like clowns. Residents also decorated their tractors and motor bikes and bicycles.

And one of the community activities involved a fire engine which would drive around town while full of Xmas Carol singing ladies.

But one event is a mystery; from a 1985 newsletter *"...the group which organised the band function on the Domain a year or so ago ...permission given to organise similar band function on the Labour Day week-end."* Phoned Pink Floyd, it wasn't them.

Freeholding of Sections. Application to freehold sections had to be lodged with the Commissioner of Crown Lands before June 15th 1982. Those who made application to freehold their sections will have, or will in the next few days receive a Certificate of Title for their Section.

This is an important document and will need to be produced if the section is sold or a mortgage is raised on the property.

See that it is put away in a safe place and remember where you put it.

Community Centre. The building sited towards the end of Wainui Street, perhaps known as the Fire Station has been officiallt named as the Community building.

If is available for use by Community groups for meetings or functions. As Funds become available the building will be lined and furnished and probably added to. A sink top has been offered to the Council by a resident. Matters being considered for attention are:-

1. Installing of heating points
2. Obtaining a tank - preferably 5000 gallons - to provide a supply of water for fire fighting and use in the hall.
3. Painting the walls and roof
4. Doing the necessary plumbing
5. Obtaining seats and a small table for the hall

In order that these jobs and others maybe undertaken a fund raising function such as (Housie) can be organised the Council feels a separate Committee should be formed.

A note notifying property owners of a meeting to be held on Saturday 4th December at 2pm. for the purpose of electing such a committee is attached to this newsletter.

FUNDS. As a result of the efforts of some of the women in the Community and MesdamesBurberry and Leighton in particular approximately \$300 has already been raised. This money will be used on developing the community building.

Koitiata Community Council People may wonder how this Council came into being. In May 1980 the County Clerk wrote the following letter to the Turakina Beach Residents Committee :- The General purposes of a Community Council are:-

- (a) To co-ordinate and express to the County Council the views of the Community on any matter of concern to the community; and
- (b) After consulting and obtaining the consent of the County Council, to take such action in the interests of the community with respect to any matter of concern to the community as is appropriate, expedient and practicable; and
- (c) To undertake encourage, and co-ordinate activities for the general well being of the residents of the community; and
- (d) To perform such functions and exercise such powers as may from time to time be delegated to it by the County Council under section 632 of this Act or under any other Act.

Under section 632 of the Act this County Council may delegate to the Community Council any functions which in its opinion could best be handled by the Community Council except for the following:-

- (a) The powers under the Public Works Act and the Town and County Planning Act.
- (b) Power yo borrow money, to make a rate, to make Bylaws or to enter into contracts.
- (c) The power to own property.
- (d) The power to appoint or remove staff.

The Community Council is deemed to be a committee of the County Council.

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If the caravan area is left in its present location sooner or later pressure will be put on the Council to provide conveniences in the adjoining area. They could cost up to \$20000. By shifting the camping area nearer the present conveniences this cost would be avoided.

Conveniences. As seems to be a common occurrence the building is being dirtied and defaced. The Council would be pleased if anyone seeing any offences being committed would report it to a Councillor.

Notice Board. A notice board has been erected at the corner of Wainui Streets and in a few days a map will be placed in it and will be marked to show important spots in the Koitiata settlement.

Animals. Complaints have been made recently of stock being allowed to roam in the settlement and not being provided with sufficient food and water.

Will residents with stock please see that proper care is taken of them. The County By-laws have provision for action to be taken if necessary.

Christmas Gathering . In an effort to promote fellowship in the settlement it is suggested that a gathering be held at the Community Building 8 pm Saturday 18 December. Opportunity to discuss this proposal will be taken at the meeting to be held on 4th December next. It could well be an opportunity for the new Committee to organise its first function.

KOITIATA COMMUNITY COUNCIL
A.J.L.McINDOE. CHAIRMAN

MEETING

A MEETING OF SECTION HOLDERS AND RESIDENTS OF KOITIATA SETTLEMENT WILL BE HELD IN THE COMMUNITY BUILDING WAINUI STREET ON SATURDAY 4th DECEMBER 1982 AT 2.pm.

BUSINESS. TO ELECT A COMMITTEE TO ORGANISE FUNCTIONS AT THE COMMUNITY BUILDING.

GENERAL

A.J.L. McINDOE
CONVENOR

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Housie - Cards. Mr. Eddie Ramsdale is keen to organise a housie or card evening possibly in November. The idea is to hold evenings at regular intervals during the summer and to hold functions during the afternoon in the winter period. Housie or cards could be organised dependent of the wishes of those attending.

Mr. Ramsdale offers the following proposals.

Subject to enough interest being shown among local residents it is proposed to hold Housie and card sessions or any other form of recreation at times to suit residents.

SUGGESTED Summer months (During daylight saving period) Evening meetings commencing 7.30pm. OTHER MONTHS Meetings commencing 2pm.

→ A meeting to discuss these ideas will be held in the Community Hall on Sunday 28th October 1984 at 2.30pm.

BUSINESS- To ascertain if there is sufficient interest to warrant holding regular Housie or card sessions.

SUBDIVISION. The Council has finalised the plans for the proposed subdivision of the area adjoining the conveniences. Work will commence about Easter 1985 and the subdivision levelling and roading should be completed during the winter and sections will be available for purchase towards the end of 1985.

CATTLE. We will have to endure the mess made by Mr. Greens cows. A start has been made at providing an alternative bridge for his stock adjoining the road bridge near Scotts road. During the winter girders were laid over the stream. The approaches were graded out and recently metal has been tipped on both sides of the stream. Maybe by the end of this season the bridge will be completed.

GARAGE SALE. A very successful garage sale was held in July and a net sum of about \$370 was raised. Our grateful thanks go to all those who donated items for the sale. A refrigerator donated for the sale was kept and forms part of the furniture at the Hall. Part of the money raised will be used to purchase a reconditioned stove for the Hall and to pay the cost of providing a heavier wiring from the street to the Hall.

GARAGE SALE It is proposed to hold a further sale towards the end of the year. When you are spring cleaning please keep any surplus items that could go to the sale.

A.J.L. McINDOE
CHAIRMAN

1 October 1984

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Before moving away from the Hall I must on behalf of all the residents thank Mr.F.Jermy and his assistants for the work and advice they have given with his whole project. In addition to the Hall the kitchen and conveniences are permanent evidence of the debt we owe to Mr.F.Jermy and his band of assistants Bill Cornish, Noel Abbott, Ernie Ramsdale and others. Mention must also be made of Alan McKenzie and E.Ramsdale who were responsible for installing the septic tank water pump and water system.

A further application has been made to the Dudding Trust for a grant to help meet the cost of additional electrical wiring and lining of the Hall. Mr. Newman will give Voluntary labour for the wiring.

Subdivision. During July County staff worked on levelling the area beyond the existing conveniences. An area sufficient to provide 19 extra sections and a camping ground has been levelled and at present is over sown with lupin to hold the ground until sections are sold. Kerbing and provision for underground wiring has still to be done. It is expected that the sections will be available for sale by Christmas. Any persons interested in acquiring a section in the subdivision should get in touch with the County.

Conveniences. A new roof and spouting has been put on the conveniences

Roads. Last year the remaining metal roads in the settlement were sealed and a few months later they were given a second seal. It is pleasing to know that all the streets in the settlement have been sealed.

Firefighting. We have a trailer and fire fighting equipment garaged at the Community Hall. A pole has been erected at the back of the building and a siren will be fitted in a few days. The siren will warn all the settlement in the case of an emergency. The Committee wants to form a firefighting group to act in emergencies. Will any interested in joining the group please contact Mr.N.Abbott.

Recreation. Two sections at the back of Mrs Rawcliffes residence in Wainui St, have been purchased by the Committee. It is proposed to use portion of these sections to provide a bowling green. The sections have been cleared of lupin and it is intended to level them in the near future.

Cattle. The Green cows are always a nuisance on the Beach Road. During the year a race has been built in the Greens Property towards the main road - this will keep the cows off portion of that road. A low level bridge has been started beside the present one way bridge. As soon as sides are put on the new bridge we will be free of cattle using the present one way road bridge.

Cards. Over the summer and autumn some residents have attended card evenings held in the Hall. They have been enjoyable and will probably be revived after the winter. Once the additions to the Hall are completed some indoor bowls evenings will be started. An effort may be made to have some housie evenings too.

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.

Mtn.Friendship.Club	1 large Zip Heater and offer of wall U.
Mr. F. Jermy)	Work on lining toilets, kitchen and
Mr. W.Cornish)	building sinks and benches in kitchen
Mr. E.Ramsdale)	

Sonny Reardon
A. McKenzie

N. Abbott

J. Blyth

Mr. Newman
Mr & Mrs. K. Huddleston
Mrs. M. Burberry
Mrs. L. McIndoe (dec)

P. Young

Trailer chassis and wheels
Fixing water supply and pump for hall
Completing trailer donated by S. Reardon
Organising supplies for kitchen, painting
kitchen, conveniences and Liason with County.
Paint for undercoats & promise to lay lay
tiles on kitchen floor.
Labour wiring hall, kitchen and toilet area.
Windows
Large panel heater
Piano, Formica extension table & chairs, tea-
trolley, large alum. teapot, electric kettle
cups saucers and plates.
Table tennis top and trestles

Labour Day weekend.

Bands on Domain - On the Saturday of Labour Day weekend the Committee has given the group which organised the band function on the Domain a year or so ago permission to organise a similar function on the Labour Day week-end. Definite requirements have been laid down for the function and before final approval is given the group organising the function is to report progress to representatives of the County, Police and the Koitiati Committee at a meeting to be held later this month.

The proposed activities will be :-

Saturday 26th.	Bands till 1 am Sunday stalls to be erected on Domain.
Sunday 27th	Stalls to operate. No further band functions.
Monday 28th	Organising committee to be responsible for cleaning up Domain. Any profits from the weekend to be used for improvements in the settlement.

Opening of Community Hall. The Community Hall is to be opened on Saturday afternoon 26th October. On the same afternoon we will have our Annual visit from members of the Marton Friendship Club and some inmates from Lake Alice Hospital. A large bus load will come from the Friendship Club and a minibus load from Lake Alice. All local residents are invited to be present at the function - a very entertaining afternoon is assured to those who attend. In addition you will get personal pleasure in seeing the enjoyment the elderly residents from Marton get from the visit.

Mesdames Rawcliffe, Leighton and Burberry are making arrangements for providing afternoon tea for the visitors. Help is needed for baking cakes, saviours for the afternoon tea. Items such as Pikelets, Scones Cakes, sponges, sandwiches, will be needed. Would any who are prepared to help in this matter please contact Mrs Leighton Ph 702
Mrs Rawcliffe Ph 828

On the afternoon assistance will be required in arranging the afternoon tea and the serving of it. Some men will be required in the morning to set up the hall.

Yours sincerely,

LOGAN McINDOE
CHAIRMAN

5.9.85

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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 Rangi 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

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A Special Thanks to you, Cliff, for your effort and work.

CAMPING GROUND

Once again a special thanks to the Rangitikei County Council and our Riding member, Councillor T. Lethbridge, for the Rangitikei County Council Grant towards costs incurred as far on the camping ground. As recommended at the Community Meeting held on 29 May 1988, your Community Council has a priority purchase of the section next to the camping grounds. This will be for future extensions. The Warden and Caretaker of the Camping Ground and Toilet Blocks is Mr Ron Sargeant, phone 787.

COMMUNITY MEETING

This meeting was held on 29 May 1988, and it was very gratifying to see such a good attendance. It certainly gives your Council some idea of the community's wants and its priorities.

RECREATION NIGHTS

Every Thursday night, good attendances and a lot of fun with bowls. The Hall now takes three mats. A good night out and not far to go.

CHILDREN AND OTHERS

Last year, Julie Pritchard and Judy Wilson ran fun afternoons on a Saturday for our younger generation and others. These afternoons were enjoyed by those who attended. Thanks Julie and Judy.

This year they are being run again on trial by Mrs Julie Pritchard, starting on 23 July 1988 at 1.00 p.m. Please give your support to a worthwhile effort.

TELETHON APPEAL - 25 JUNE 1988

Thanks must go to some of our Ladies and supporters for the Cake Stall, Bring and Buy and Donations, which were held in the Community Hall on the Saturday afternoon, \$149.00 being raised and donated from the Community to the Appeal.

RUBBISH TIP

Some improvement has been noticed in keeping the Pit reasonable, but a few thoughtless people are still dumping rubbish, but not over at the pit head. One warning has been issued by the Rangitikei County Council for the dumping of raw offal. Remember, raw offal and fish bring flies and rats. This is a dry pit so please bring a shovel and bury your raw offal and fish.

RATES

A small increase this year, but when you consider its the first in three years. This has only been possible by Community effort in helping ourselves, voluntary labour etc, it's a real good effort by all.

The Rangitikei Mail

August 4, 1994

First trees planted to beautify beach

THE FIRST tree plantings in a beautification scheme at Turakina Beach started recently. The programme originated from resident Claire Atkin's suggestion donations rather than birthday gifts could be used to buy trees. Due to

her generous gesture a fund of \$120 has been raised to get the project underway. The Turakina Beach community were pleased to have two of their first permanent residents, Hilton and Mavis Farr, do the inaugural planting.

KOITIATA RESIDENTS SOCIAL CLUB

PRESIDENTS REPORT 1994/1995

It is my pleasure to present to you the annual report.

April 94

saw another popular and successful Easter function held in the hall, which was well supported by locals and friends.

May 94

we assisted in the celebration of Mr and Mrs Farrs 60th wedding anniversary. This occasion was marked by the planting of two shrubs along the playground frontage made possible by the generous donations surrounding Claire Atkins birthday in lieu of presents. The approved purchase and installation of the playground slide from the Duddings Trust has certainly proved a worthwhile and popular acquisition.

July 94

During this month we were again able to facilitate the senior citizen afternoon tea and everyone enjoyed the entertainment hosted by country and western singer Joan and friends.

October 94

Labour weekend saw another successful market day, made possible by the many generous donations and support from the community. My thanks to all that participated.

November 94

Previous fund raising and donations enabled the purchase of four more shrubs, these were also planted along the playground frontage.

We are waiting on supply of two pre-ordered shrubs.

December 94

The childrens Christmas again commenced with the annual parade attracting floats of various descriptions. All floats and costumes deserve recognition. Santa like always was the man of the hour and all children were ecstatic with their presents and the meal provided. Following this successful day was an equally successful evenings entertainment provided by Joan and friends. Again the pot luck dinner theme never fails to fill the hall.

Now that the storeroom has been completed all social club property can be safely and tidily stored.

Without a doubt one of the best community orientated events has been the weekly craft afternoon providing skills and a great social atmosphere.

In conclusion, special thanks must extended to my secretary



Pettanque
1990's



Xmas Carols
1991



Xmas Parade
1991



Beginning of
the tree
planting on
beach side of
village 1994



Xmas Parade 1994



Raft Race 1995



Xmas Parade
1997

Grooving in Turakina

The highlight of my Turakina New Year was undoubtedly the dance at the community hall. A humdinger that went on into the pre-wee hours — wee being 1, 2, 3am etc; pre-wee being the biggest hour of all, which is 12.

I HAD arrived after the fashionable time, which was about 7.30, and most of the material involved in "ladies a plate" had become just that — plates. The informal rules are that if you want a bench beside the trestles then you're there before 8pm — when you can also get the pikelets, the home-cooked ginger cake, the club sandwiches before they start to curl and the top half of the keg.

After 9 you get the semi-club sandwiches, created by people who haven't been able to work out how many layers were involved, the half of the keg that's left when the bubbles have left also, and those flat squares of dried industrial glue with raisins in them that you'll also be able to get at 10, 11, 12.

And of course you dance. You dance foxtrots, quick-steps, waltzes — all done by spreading the fingers



of your right hand around the bowling ball of hip of your country partner and rocking side-ways while moving backwards round the hall. In fact you can dance polkas, tangos, sambas and rumbas in the same way. To do line dancing you probably just flip your partner open like a mussel shell until she is beside you, and rock on, babe.

You learn much in the intervals between dances; for instance you learn that there are 30 Massey Fergusons at Turakina Beach. In fact you re-learn this information because you learnt it here, on this very occasion last year. From, may I add, the very same person.

The most interesting person I met was Les. Les had lived for some years in my homeland of Buller and had worked in the mines of Denniston. We swapped tales of the bath house — four hundred naked men plotting the revolution at the monthly stop-work meeting — lighting the fire at 5.30 in the morning — with gelignite! (It burns like sugar, but don't drop it!)

Then Les told me he could have been a contender. He'd been a boxer, and a mighty fair one at that. He'd fought three times with Eddie Morrison, a local hero who went to the Empire Games in Cardiff, 1958 and should have won. He wuz robbed, of course.

"We worked on the coalface together, and it was me who found the top of his finger when it got chopped off — cripes like trying to find a flea on a black dog. Anyway I did but they never got it back on; bit dirty I suppose."

Anyway, Les fought Eddie three times — "two of them were exhibition matches, and it was really close. Then we had a real bout and he knocked me out — but not by much!"

Then, said Les, Eddie had gone on to knock out Australian champion Tony Madigan — who himself went on to go the full distance with Cassius Clay. "So if he could give Clay a good go and I could give Eddie a good go, who knows what I might have done in a title chance?"

It was a good night — so good, that we all felt we could have gone on. And we did, elsewhere.

My New Year's resolution was to get fit. So, statistically, was yours. At least 90 percent of us, figures reveal, resolve each year to get fit. Well, I thought I could dedicate the odd

column to a "get fit with Peter Hawes" section — like Steve Gurney did recently. So, here goes:

Day one: Now, like me, you probably haven't actually got out of a slow walk in the last twenty-five years. So, take it easy!

Day two: Having taken it easy all day you're probably a bit hung over. So we'll start tomorrow.

Day three: Find a nice level path which is soft underfoot — we don't want RSI of the knee joints — and lean forward until you are in danger of falling on your face.

You will find that one leg or other will pop out in front of you to stop this happening. Still leaning dangerously forward will ensure that the other leg will now do the same, as you pivot over the initial leg. A series of such defensive reactions will now occur. This is known as running.

Run in this way for about 45 seconds, then allow your stomach to start to churn. Follow this by activating a swirling faintness in your head. After several more steps fall headlong to the ground. Gasp torturously. Look up and try and make the clouds spin sickeningly above you. Turn as green as possible and take out your cellphone. Using your remaining reserves, dial for help.

We'll get on to day four another day.

Just Doing Unorganised Social Stuff

Of course, people didn't come here to be organised, they came for fun. They came to go fishing or swimming or to go to the beach or to just play around on the river in a boat. Whether permanent or weekender or day visitor, going to the beach is for fun!



1922

Above: Rowing across the river 1922

Right: Having a swim in 1948 while Dad and his mates catch fish. Then just over 50 years later we came back to live here in Koitiata.



1948

Below: If it's a bit far to walk to the beach, catch a bus. You'll get your exercise when the bus gets stuck.



2008

1930's / 40's



2005



Above: Many hands make light work of a net full of fish.

Left: Building shelters on the beach.

Below: Bob Morton was a real favourite with the kids, taking them for a ride in his horse and dray. *(photo at 68 Wainui street)*

1930's / 40's





Above: Are there ever any more than a few whitebait?

Right: No outboards needed back in the 1920's.

Below: George and Charles Harr with bags of ducks at 5 Omanu street in 1945.



Below: Crossing the river over to the beach and back again, the 1920's style.



Below: Trying to cross the river 94 years later, no style.

