

CONTENTS

Editor's notes	4
MILESTONES	
Our first 40 years – preserving the past	5
Fifty years of kindergarten in Otaki	14
Players go from readings to full productions	17
OTAKI HISTORY	
Health camp a big part of Otaki history	20
History told through glass bottles	24
SS <i>Otaki</i> – the ship that led to the scholar	26
The Bills family of Otaki	31
Highway 70 years ago	34
Turn-of-the-century Devonshires	35
Treasures from Otaki-Maori Racing Club	38
Gem from the archives	41
Hotels dominated early 1900s life	42
Unearthing the past with genealogy	46
MEMORIES	
Life at the old Otaki Post Office	49
The dairy factory Dinnisons	51
The Moffatt farm at Waitohu	56
Stream a big part of Moffatt history	59
'Baby' gallops through	61
OTAKI LIVES	
Louise Jull "lived life to the full"	62
LIVES PAST	
John Saunders – the man who did not intend to stay	65
Erna Winterburn-Somers – college stalwart	67
Yung Jack Mun – from war-torn Toisan to Otaki	70
Malcolm Murchie – quiet achiever	75
Alec Hughes – devoted to Rangiatea Church	77
EXHIBITIONS	
OHS celebrates with exhibition	79
Heroism of sea battles commemorated	81
OTAKI TODAY	
Sharing skills to make a better world	85
As it happened – news in Otaki 2016-17	88
OTAKI HISTORICAL SOCIETY	
Old journals still available	92
President's report	93
Otaki Historical Society committee	94

The *Otaki Historical Journal* is published every December by the Otaki Historical Society (Inc). The Society was founded in 1977 and a journal has been produced every year since, except in 2001. Correspondence from readers and contributors is welcomed.

Contact editor Ian Carson: 06 364-6543 or ian@idmedia.co.nz
Advertising: Debbi Carson 06 364-6543 or debbi@idmedia.co.nz

Otaki Historical Society, PO Box 50, Otaki
otakihistoricalsociety@yahoo.com
www.otakihistoricalsociety.org.nz
ISSN 0110-5647