

# An outline Chronology of

Kaimai Outdoor Centre [Aongatete Lodge]  
now known as  
Aongatete Outdoor Education Centre

- 3 July 1979 KOC an Incorporated Society
- June 1982 Electricity available on site at last.
- Nov 1982 Tauranga Jaycees finish ablution block
- 20 Feb 1983 First school at Lodge.
- 10 June 83 Whakamarama School has weekend at Lodge - reward for fund raising effort described as "nothing short of amazing"
- July 1983 Pittsburgh pot belly installed in dining room.
- Sept 1983 \$1,500 spent on tents, billies, fry pans
- Oct 1983 Floor slab poured for staff accommodation wing on Main Block.
- Nov 1983 Site for second dormitory has been pegged out.  
Girl Guides planting shrubs under direction of Colin Pettigrew.
- Feb 1984 Telephone installed after Harold Shepherd donated \$100 to cover cost.
- Sept 1984 "Bunk-a-bed" raises over \$20,000. Harold Shepherd main co-ordinator.
- Nov 1984 Commercial toaster bought - \$600.
- Dec 1984 Shelving in pantry & storeroom installed by Brent Martin & Peter Sharp.  
Working Bee to lay pipes for effluent overflow from showers and kitchen.  
New term loan \$25,000 guaranteed by R. Palmer, F. Nettleingham, C. Bevege, M & N Ross.
- Feb 1985 Start on foundations of second bunk house.
- March 1985 Aerial map at scale 1:5,000 cost \$170, to be framed and hung.
- April 1985 Roof on second bunk room.
- July 1985 New valuation of buildings done for free by Derek Vane - \$332,000.  
Decision made to use "Aongatete Lodge" to prevent confusion with other Lodges in Kaimai Range.
- 11 Aug 1985 Open Day attended by c 100 visitors.
- Aug 1985 Decision made "that no alcohol, drugs or cigarettes be allowed in Bunk Houses"
- 11-13 Oct 1985 Orientation Course held for teachers and other users next year.
- Sept 1985 Frank Nettleingham honoured for his years of service by naming the second bunk house after him.
- Dec 1985 Mattresses for Nettleingham Bunkhouse \$2,500, now on site.
- March 1986 \$111 made from Goose Drive. Clothes line erected. Katikati Lions Club donates 5 tables and 10 forms for dining room.
- June 1986 Murray Boyes reports that after struggling for 12 months the Garnia grass has been killed.
- July 1986 2 new Blue Seal stoves \$3,729 installed, replacing originals
- 10-12 Oct 1986 Orientation weekend
- Feb 1987 Topsoil spread around Rimu tree to stop it dying.
- Aug 1987 3 Matai planted to mark transition from Forest Service to DoC.
- Dec 1988 Decision taken to install a gravity fed water supply 2.2 km pipe needed.
- 11 June 1989 Gordon Kingsbury died.
- July 1989 Gravity fed water supply in operation - 250 gals per hour. Roy Robinson led this project.
- March 1990 Discussions on site for proposed Activities Centre.
- June 1990 We clear our loan and put \$10,000 into an interest bearing account.  
Frank Robinson becomes part time caretaker.
- 12-13 Oct 1991 36 people booked in for Orientation Course led by Munro Scott.

March 1992 Hall site cleared.  
 May 1992 Moved by Roy Robinson that Sir Edmund & Lady Hillary be invited to become our Patrons.  
 Sep 1992 Murray Boyes and Frank Nettleingham dig drain to remove water ponding on hall site. There were repercussions from DoC later on.  
 Nov 1992 Munro writes to DoC, Rotorua (Terry Burgess) re Lease renewal and permission to erect an activity hall  
 Dec 1992 Munro, Murray and Frank N, meet with Carole Long and Terry Burgess from DoC. Burgess unhappy with our lease agreement. We're unhappy our rent to rise from \$10 to \$1,000.  
 14 Oct 1992 Orientation Course for users in 1993  
  
 March 1993 Ask DoC for permission to build a hall on our site  
 May 1993 Field trip to Whirinaki Forest Park to view the confidence course there.  
 May 1993 Terry Burgess for DoC requests a meeting with us re our lease  
 Aug 1993 Damage to door & theft of equipment from Education Store Room.  
 Oct 1993 Stoves turned round 180° to stop users putting hot pots on formica benches.  
 KOC produce new lease document for DoC as requested  
 Nov 1993 No progress with new lease agreement with DoC  
 Dec 1993 Still no progress with new lease agreement with DoC  
  
 Feb 1994 Difficulties with DoC - new lease 'forced on us' for permission to build.  
 11 May 1994 DoC (Burgess, Willy Shaw, Carole Long) met us to go through the proposed lease agreement which they had asked us to produce. KOC members still unhappy with Terry Burgess' attitude.  
  
 24 Jul 1994 Burglary  
 6 Sept 1994 Burglary - \$2,854 kitchen ware and cutlery stolen.  
 14 Dec 1994 Another meeting with Terry Burgess who tells us to remove our water pipe line, that our Hall site is outside our boundary, that DoC would consider a boundary extension to accommodate a Caretaker's residence.  
  
 Feb 1995 Insurance risk assessor from NZI on site. Recommends locking kitchenware away. Our excess is to rise from \$250 to \$1,000.  
 6 March 1995 Met with Allan Jones from DoC on site. He thought that DoC Rotorua might let us keep the water pipe line if we removed the high level cable across the river.  
  
 May 1995 Recently installed barbecue stolen.  
 June 1995 Recladding main block  
  
 11 Dec 1996 Meeting on site with Chris Clark and Allan Jones from DoC. Sorting out areas for proposed hall and cottage, also although our current lease has 12 years to run, pressure from Terry Burgess (DoC) suggests that a new lease would be advantageous to both KOC and DoC.  
  
 May 1997 Newspaper advertisement of new lease for Lodge with DoC so we can build Cottage for caretaker.  
  
 April 1998 Start made on cottage for caretaker.  
 13 Sep 1998 Working bee at cottage - lawns, landscaping etc.  
 Oct 1998 61 people reply to our advertisement for a caretaker/custodian.  
 Our monthly meeting held in the nearly completed caretaker's cottage.  
 New Marshal water heater installed and working well.  
 Nov 1998 Ray Bavage appointed custodian. BBQ installed and shelter built by Ray.  
  
 Feb 1999 New filtration system installed.

March 1999 "NZ Health & Safety" engaged to provide hazard, health and safety manuals so we comply with new Health and Safety legislation.

April 1999 Professional help sought to draw up a Health and Safety Manual.

24/25 April 1999 All roofs repainted by Katikati Tramping Club

July 1999 Kitchen repainted

Oct 1999 Frank & Roy Robinson design & fit seating front of Dining Room to protect wall

Nov 1999 Marshall heater replaced, Ray Bavage finishes work on gas fired barbecue, new Kingcat mower purchased \$3,800.

Feb 2000 Rex and Denis meet with Graeme Murray (a professional fundraiser who takes 20% of funds) to engage him as fundraiser for our new hall.

March 2002 Terminated our arrangements with Graeme Murray who had been promising but not delivering on fundraising for hall.

July 2002 Subcommittee formed [Bill Scapens, Paul Whitaker, Murray Carline] to expedite construction of 'Activity Centre'.

11 Oct 2002 Bill Scapens and his son Roly pegging out the site for Activities Centre, Denis chainsawing the felled Rewarewa.

2002 Greg Dawson appointed as Caretaker/Director

Feb 2003 Concrete floor for Activity Centre poured.

July 2003 Acoustic tiles fitted to dining room ceiling after it was painted [Greg & Bill Scapens].

Sep 2003 Work continues on lining Activity Centre and construction of climbing wall. [Greg & Bill Scapens + members at working bee.]

Sept 2003 Instead of clients bringing their own firewood, fuel to be made available as part of the rental. Greg takes the first sessions of archery with Te Ranga Primary.

Jan 2004 Roy & Frank Robinson lead a working bee to replace water pipeline across the river.

3.4.2004 Mayor Graeme Weld officially opens Activity Centre. Good attendance from past and present Committee members and general public.

14.4.2004 Because the Apata Hall has been burnt down by a touring Englishman, our last 2 meetings have been held at Bill and Mennie Scapens' home, and tonight at Bev and Frank Robinson's home.

July 2004 Aongatete Lodge wins Trust Power Community Award.

May 2005 New commercial 'coin in the slot' washing machine and drier installed \$4,650.

July 2005 Bill Ward lays cobblestones around main block and front of Nettleingham. Total project costs \$2,750  
2 new Blue Seal commercial stoves purchased for kitchen \$7,000

August 2005 New tables and forms bought for dining room \$5,100.  
Death of Munro Scott recorded. Denis to organise a photo to remember his long serving membership.

Nov 2005 We employ a contractor to mow main grassed areas to free Greg for running the climbing wall and taking the archery.

Dec 2005 Vandalism costing nearly \$1,000 [mostly recovered] from a 21st party. Committee decides not to hire our facilities again for this kind of activity.

Jan 2006 Ablutions Block painted by Katikati Tramping Club members

18 July 2006 Decision taken to hire a contractor to supply wood to fuel Marshal heater and dining room heater. Up until now committee members have had working bees to cut and cart wood from around the district.

25 July 2006 Pipe under driveway dug up, unblocked and relaid.  
 Sept 2006 Marshall Heater replaced \$3,400.

Feb 2007 Bill Scapens has designed a new woodshed and led several Committee working bees to demolish the old "bike shed" and build the new model.

June 2007 All ropes used on the climbing wall have been replaced.  
 Aug 2007 Under Anne Ames' leadership, the upgrade of the Ablutions Block is completed. Several working bees of Committee members, repainted the interior after the floors had been tiled.

Sept 2007 KOC has signed a new lease agreement with DOC.

Apr 2008 Lady Hillary agrees to remain as our Patron after the death of Sir Ed.  
 Nov 2008 The electric supply cable from transformer to the main block was finally buried.

Dec 2008 New Marshall water heater installed

Feb 2009 Bernice Wright heads the task of rewriting our Health and Safety Manual. This mammoth task is completed by May 2009.

March 2009 New computer for Caretaker/Director Greg Dawson.  
 Aug 2009 Fan installed in Dining Room to help circulate warm air.

27Sep-17Oct 2009 No bookings taken for 3 weeks so we can renovate Main Block. New vinyl laid in Pantry, Kitchen, Dining Room (\$17,000). New stainless steel benches in kitchen (\$5,500), new benches in Pantry. Project led by Bill Scapens. Lots of committee help over the 3 weeks. New brick surrounds for Dining Room fire.

Jan 2010 Greg Dawson' office in Bardsley Cottage linked up to satellite broadband with Farmside.

April 2010 Working bee for all members. Filled a skip with junk stored in Munro's green shed + old piano.

May 2010 Began employing Jacqui Hewitson for 4 hours per week to clean windows, walls, vinyl etc.

Aug 2010 Van Dykes from Putaruru here to finish laying vinyl in the rest of the main block.

April 2011 Working bee at water intake. [See photos]  
 Nov 2011 Platinum Play Confidence Course installed (\$78,000 including soft fill and retaining wall.)

Dec 2011 New 'Zipp' water heater for kitchen installed (\$1,500)  
 May 2012 Keith Pyle developed our website with Zeald (\$3,500). Decision to abandon the word "Lodge" from our name to not have us confused with top line accommodation places advertising on the web. Now to be known as AOEC - "Aongatete Outdoor Education Centre."

June 2012 Denis Skilton takes over as Bookings Officer using our new web site on his broad band.

*Please get in touch with Denis if you know of things which should be added to or deleted from the above. Also please correct any errors - of fact or spelling !!*