

The Fernridge Pipeline

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The Fernridge Water Supply Association Incorporated.
(Established 1988)

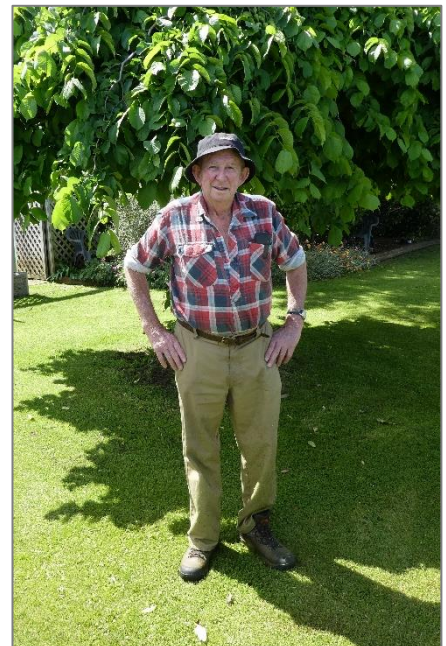
A BIT OF A CHAT WITH IAN GRAY

Ian served the Fernridge Committee for some 22 years. Starting in 1992 (and with a 4 year breather from May 2000), he retired in 2018. He recalls, when starting, he became assistant to -Chairman Frank Davison, and so started accumulating his encyclopedic knowledge of our network. When Frank died On 12 December 2011, Ian found himself in the deep end of the Fernridge pool.

But when he retired from Committee work in June 2018, the Chairman Alec Birch acknowledged to the AGM:

“Ian, though typically a very modest man, has made an outstanding contribution and has set a very high standard. I guess Ian’s lasting legacy is the network of isolating valves installed on the reticulation, and the documentation associated with them.”

We still rely on Ian’s knowledge of our underground spaghetti network of 32 mm PVC pipes serving our 100 households. In fact, he now has his own “apprentice” – our Deputy Chair Duncan Simpson, who takes Ian with him for field work. Duncan and Ian are mapping the mysteries of this unseen world. Duncan does not want to be dropped in the deep end; as Ian was.



Born in Masterton into the Gray dynasty of Wairarapa Transport, and educated at Wairarapa College, he is married to Jean and they have 3 sons. Ian was a builder by

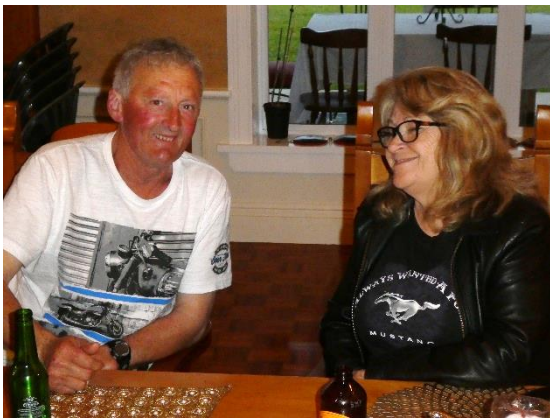
trade. The Grays bought a section in Tararua Drive in 1989 and Ian built the house they still live in. Also helped Jason Luttrell build our new pump shed in 2010.

Something you may not know about Ian – he flies radio-controlled model aircraft.

COMMITTEE BBQ AT 540 UPPER PLAIN ROAD



Thanks to Cathy Davys and Ron Meilink for making their home available for the committee barbecue on Sunday 29 September. Wind and rain forced the revellers into the baronial dining room . A roaring fire, fabulous food and the opportunity to meet friends and family of Ron and Cathy all made for a great night together.



Paul Dickens & Sandy Hansen



Coral Birch, Maree Garstang, Jason & Linda Luttrell

ANOTHER THEORY AS TO THE ORIGIN OF "FERNRIDGE" BY JOHN THOMPSON OF UPPER PLAIN ROAD.

The earliest reference to Fern Ridge that I can find is at Kaituna. This comes from the Dagg family history. Robert Dagg had purchased land on the Upper Plain and also in Kaituna Valley where his son James Dagg ran Spring Valley.

The Kaituna Cheese Factory was established on Mr Falconer's property "Fern Ridge.

Robert Dagg was very active in getting schools established in both Upper Plain and Kaituna. The earliest official record is for Fernridge, dated 23rd September 1864. The school opened in May 1865 with a roll of 14 students and was officially recognised in 1866 and by that time the roll had grown to 20.

Robert Dagg is recorded as the first chairman for the Fernridge school committee in 1875 and held this position until 1878. It is not known who was in charge of school administration between 1864 and his appointment in 1865 as records have been lost.

Kaituna school was established in the Kaituna Valley on 30th March 1891. It is believed the location was on Spring Valley farm, on or near Dagg's road. The school was destroyed by fire on 31st January 1895, possibly, the result of a burn off.

On 4th February 1895 the school resumed in Mr James Dagg's House. On 30th October 1895 a decision to move the Kaituna school to a site near the Waingawa was made and the new school opened on the 11th October 1902. (7 years) The building was a similar plan to Upper Plain school, however the building was never lined inside and was bitterly cold in winter.

The site is on the Waingawa road, to left of the Black Creek crossing, a swing bridge for the students. The site did not get sun until late morning and lost it by 2.00pm in winter. Students from Waingawa crossed over the river by a swing bridge which was located about 2km west. There was a horse paddock about 100 yards West from the school.

Kaituna Co-op At this time the Kaituna Co-op, reg 90, also known as Waingawa Co-op was established on Mr Falconer's property "Fernridge", 1902/03 located on the corner of Waingawa road and Kaituna Settlement road (Falloon Settlement) The Kaituna Hall was built and became an important part of the very active community, including "Fernridge" school.

At the opening of the Co-op, Mr Falconer officiated. "He gave those present the history of the development of the undertaking detail and hoped that the whole of the "Fernridge" farmers would support it"

Conclusion

Robert Dagg's interest in both the Kaituna and Upper Plain schools and his position on the school committee suggests that he put forward the name "Fern Ridge" and that this name came from the Cheese Factory on his property Known as Fernridge.

References:-

Fernridge school history. 125th Jubilee Celebration 1991. Fernridge school history 1867.

Opening of the Kaituna Cheese Factory 1903. Wairarapa past 17, 2012.

Dagg family history. Beth Heald Takapau.

Grass Roots Business, A record of Wairarapa Dairy Factories by Henry Christensen.

GETTING UP CLOSE TO CRYPTOSPORIDIUM

Found in the MDC public water in July/August 2003, but unable to penetrate the Fernridge fine filters or survive our ultra violet light treatment, this alien parasite is highly resistant to chlorine - so often trumpeted as the solution for water schemes like ours. We are proud of the fresh mountain stream taste and purity of our chlorine and cryptosporidium-free product.

It's about the same size as a human sperm - 3-6 microns. A micron is 1/1000 of a millimetre. You need a microscope to see these little buggers and the eggs (oocytes) are about 4-6 microns too. Those oocytes cannot pass our 1-micron filters at the pump shed. If there is a crypto bug out there called Houdini, he may try to get his oocytes though. But then our UV filters would kill them. If ingested by a human, (not fortunate enough to be on our scheme), the bug causes Cryptosporidiosis, a gastro-intestinal sickness. The oocytes cannot handle being boiled for a minute or more. Although first named in 1907, it was not realized until 1976 that they caused sickness in humans.

We used to classify them as protozoa, but now most taxonomists put them in the Kingdom of Protista. They are neither animals, plants, nor fungi.

Their lifecycle and appearance look like something that you might find on one of the moons of Jupiter or in a Sc-Fi horror film like "Alien". Perhaps it's just as well we cannot see them without serious magnification. But the same could be said about the weird tiny stuff that goes on out of sight with human reproduction – so no finger pointing at cryptosporidium!

What's with the crypto bit? Those oocysts, after entering the gastric system burst open and release 4 little sporozoites. These are the critters that do both sexual and asexual breeding inside the human host. It's that behavior which makes you sick – as some readers will be feeling reading this.

But when Ernest Tyzzer first discovered and named Cryptosporidium in 1907, he was puzzled that he could not spot any sporozoites inside the oocysts. Probably just needed a better microscope. Now "crypto" means hidden or secret – as



in crypto currency. So Tyzzer named the bug Cryptosporidium. It's amazing what some people do in their spare time.

WHERE WOULD WE BE WITHOUT CHRISTOPHER HOLMES?

In the history of our water scheme committees, no one can outperform the record (for years of service) of Chris Holmes, formerly of "Highden" (626 Upper Plain Road), but now living at Matahiwi. Chris is probably the "Father" of the Fernridge water supply. Does that make his wife Lindy, the mother? The "baby" is now 31 years old.

One day back in 1987, Chris was contemplating just how poor the bore water quality at Highden had become. He chatted to neighbour Virginia White of "Waiana" who was having the same problem "Just imagine," they thought, "if we could pump river water up from the Waingawa River". These wild notions were mentioned to the late Steve Blakemore of 'Stonely Nursery' across the road. And so FWSA was conceived.

Now, it so happened, that Steve worked for the Wairarapa Catchment Board (now Greater Wellington Regional Council). In very little time the engineers at the council were fired up, drawing plans and doing calculations. Tenders were called for a gravity-fed system, the first well was dug, and a system of pipes buried to provide water from Highden right down to the Evans Road chook farm.

Then came the Daniell subdivision of Tararua Drive. All those sections needing water. Finally, in 1994, the Oldfield subdivision in Burnetts Road extended our pipes westward, with the highest tanks up there not much more than 1 metre higher than the original 195000 litre water reservoir on Pat Chapman's farm. The little Highden irrigation system had grown to serve 100 households from Evans Road westward to Burnetts Road.

During the Catchment Board planning phase, a group of Upper Plain locals (Chris Holmes, Alan James, Derek Daniell, David Brown, Ian Galbraith, Brian O'Connell, and Mike Eastwood) set about incorporating our Association. They applied to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies in December 1987. A slowish process, we were officially incorporated in August 1988. Construction started next. So, Chris not only conceived the new association, he was there at the birth!

His Grandfather Harry had farmed in this area. Chris probably has deeper roots here than any of us. Our Association is inextricably linked to Highden (now farmed by Chris and Lindy's son Tom) and the Holmes family.

Chris and his wife Lindy were to have a long involvement with the new Association which was named FWSA. Wise men came to Committee meetings held at Highden and chaired by Alan James. Chris was on the committee for 28 years from 1987 to 2015. His wife Lindy was also on the committee from 2004 to 2007 and was our Secretary for most of that time. At the 2012 AGM, the Association made a special presentation to Chris for 25 years of service. It always pays to remember your roots.

YOUR COMMITTEE

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Paul Dickens | Chairman |
| Graeme Want | Treasurer and water testing |
| Duncan Simpson | Deputy Chair |
| Sandra Hayes | Secretary |
| Grant Allan | Legal stuff, member liaison. |
| Grant Backhouse | |
| Andy Cassells | |
| Paul Dickens | |
| Tony Garstang | newsletter |
| Sandy Hansen | |
| Sandra Hayes | |
| Mark Kitchingham | |
| Ross Lerwill | |
| Jason Luttrell | |
| Ron Meilink | |
| Richard Page | |
| Alec Birch | Immediate past Chairman, Plant Guru, Telemetry... |



November committee meeting at the Luttrell home. Absent (and difficult to photograph) Grant Allan.

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