



Purifying Spring, Matangi.

WILSON & HORTON

THE NEW GUIDE
 TO THE
 LAKES AND HOT SPRINGS,
 AND
 A MONTH IN HOT WATER.

BY THORPE TALBOT,

AUTHOR OF "PHILISBERTA," "GUINEVERE," "BLUE CAP,"
&c., &c.

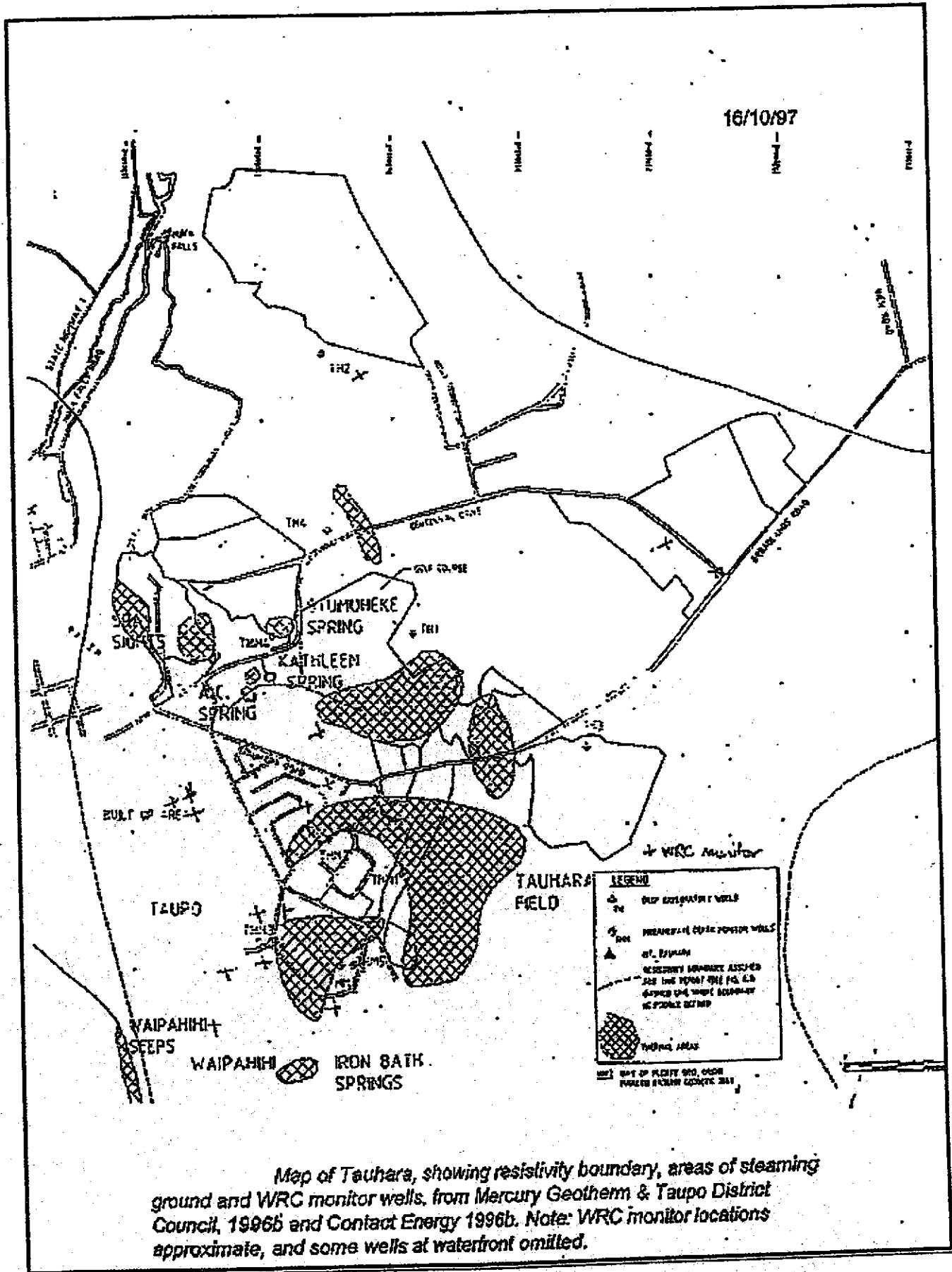
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Appendix 5: Historical Documentation

Spa Thermal Park - Rotorua's Recreational and Scenic Reserve



part of the time at Mr. Edward Lofley's private accommodation house in the paradisiacal glen to which he has given his name and much beautifying labour, and we can strongly recommend that. And we stayed another part of the time at Wairakei, but our recommendation of that won't go into a single sentence—so more anon.

In Lofley's Glen one gives oneself up to laziness. So sheltered and balmy and restful is it that one's active faculties succumb. There is as great a dearth of external excitement as in the Happy Valley of Rasselas; but Mr. Lofley can give you some most exciting reminiscences of his own career in this country, and if you form one of a sociable party, as we did, you can pass a very pleasant time at the Glen. It is a curious place. You approach it by a gradual and winding descent through a valley, by the border of the creek. Mr. Lofley has planted trees of all varieties everywhere; when they are all grown the place will be a perfect forest. Rounding a high steep bluff at the foot of the descent, you come suddenly into the Glen, with its quaint little cottages set here and there amidst shrub and flower-beds. A hot creek runs right through the valley, and gets married to a cold one just below the main buildings, and then the twain, made one, flow on in cheerful unity down to the Waikato. Another instance of two souls "going whacks" in a single thought, or, rather, in a single gully. Two hearts that beat, or gush, as one. Natural selectionists should find food for thought in the wise union of the hot and cold temperaments displayed here. The practical Lofley found a unique and profitable bath. He has covered it in for a considerable distance with *raupo*; has cultivated foliage all about it; has fenced off both hot and cold with a partition, and hollowed out each compartment till swimming depth is obtained; has made a waterfall just below, and built a good dressing-room on the bank, with steps down into the water. You can parboil yourself in the hot section, till you feel sufficiently done; then roll easily over the partition into the cold section, and freeze yourself firm again. The water is not anything like freezing, really; but, in sudden contrast with the hot, it feels so. If you prefer a lukewarm bath,

there it is,—where the two streams join and run down to the fall. You can run down with them, if "so disposed," and, standing below, can let the warm stream play in full force on your shoulders and back. Altogether it is a fascinating bath, and people go a long way to enjoy it.

There are other curiosities about the place, notably the carved door of Mr. Lofley's dining-room, and some other grotesque Maori images about the grounds, one of which would present a more proper appearance if he had been carved in breeches, or at least a kilt.

Lofley for years followed the avocation of guide in this district, and won himself a high reputation in that way. He brims over with a quaint originality, and tells some of the funniest anecdotes of his experience.

On the second day of our stay in the Glen we went sight-seeing. Following the warm creek some way down the gully, we turned to the left, up a hill and down again, till we came to the steep bank of the Waikato. That river just here presents a strangely beautiful aspect. Bright blue in colour, wide and deep, and comparatively still—save where it whirls in little foaming eddies—it flows between steep, vertical cliffs for a long distance.

The first wonder we saw was the Crow's Nest, a geyser that plays at regular intervals, sending up a fountain of hot water from five to a hundred (?) feet in the air. I give the above wide margin because, no matter what assertion you make about the height of geysers, someone is sure to contradict you. No two people ever agree about these things. Some say that Crow's Nest has been seen to throw up to thirty feet; others assert that it never goes higher than ten. When we saw it the altitude of the highest spray was about fifteen. With a margin of from five to a hundred therefore, one has a chance of being correct. But take your choice of heights, reader; say thirty feet, if you like; say sixty—say a hundred. It will be all the same in a thousand years.

Lofley told us a good story about some tourists who visited Crow's Nest a year or so ago. At that time the interval between the eruptions was exactly four minutes and a-half, and the regularity



of action could be betted on. The geyser was quiet when the tourists reached it, and they climbed up the cone to look down the crater. And there they got to disputing, I don't know what about, but probably it was over the height the water would go. One gentleman, be it noted, was a rich Aucklandor, who had no family himself, but owned a brother who had comparatively little wealth and a number of children. And this rich Aucklandor was foremost among the disputants, and stood on the very edge of the crater. Well, Lofley, who knew the habits of the Crow, just stood down outside the cone, and looked at his watch, and smiled and winked at the universe as one anticipating a *lark* (no ornithological joke intended). And then there was a sudden rumbling roar, a hiss, and a swoosh, and up went a million (?) gallons of water, fizzing a thousand (?) feet into the air! and a crowd of yelling tourists fell backwards from the cone, and rolled off in all directions. They were none of them hurt—of course, Lofley knew they would not be—beyond a slight splashing or so, but they thought they were killed out and out. Lofley went to pick up the rich Aucklandor, who, opening and shutting his eyes in a feeble, death-stricken kind of way, gasped out, "Good—good-by! I'm gone! I—I leave everything to Sam." Sam was his brother.

Threading a circuitous path, o'ergrown with fern and ti-tree, we came presently to the Witch's Cauldron. Standing to leeward of it is quite equivalent to a vapour bath. It is a huge cavernous hole in the side of a hill; full of water that boils furiously and perpetually. The steaming, and hissing, and seething of it are awful. Every now and then a little extra activity below sends the water splashing in big waves over the edge of the basin into the river. The rocks around and above are of every colour of the rainbow almost—yellow, pink, brown, crimson, and blue-grey. All round the cauldron is warm ground, and within a hundred yards of it is another, almost as well deserving the title as the first. All this bank of the Waikato is studded with springs and steam-escapes, and in most of the craters of these grow fern and lycopodium of a lovely vivid green.

On our third day at Taupo we attended, from curiosity, a Native Land Court. It was held at Tapuwaharuru, in a long wooden building used generally as a concert-hall, evidently. The drop-scene screening the stage presented a most grotesque appearance. It is the work of the amateur Constabulary of this district, and they certainly deserve credit for the powerful imagination and reckless liberality of colour displayed in this their handiwork. I should say that the design had been wrought out immediately after a *haka* and unlimited *waipira*. In the centre of the curtain is a huge, red, crab-shaped human face, with great ears projecting off the upper corners, great eyes glaring out above a wildly wondrous nose, great claw-like hands striking out immediately below the ears, and a great tongue lolling out of a hideous red cavity of a mouth. The tongue and eyes suggest the Maori grimaces in a war-dance; the general effect is suggestive of the ugliest nightmare ever a human being suffered.

The Court was in full action when we entered. The Judges and clerks were busy scribbling away for dear life; Mr. E. was alternately interpreting and keeping in check the eloquence of a voluble Maori; Mr. M. stood propping up one of the stage pillars and making notes. That is, he was ostensibly making notes; my own private conviction is that he was, *de facto*, making more poetry, and illustrating it with caricatures; but, of course, I may be in error. Once I thought I caught him "making eyes" at a pretty damsel near the door; but here, of course, I may again be wrong.

The natives were resting in their customary attitudes of ease on the floor, round the room and down the middle. They were very quiet and well-behaved, listening intently to the evidence given, and giving their own in turn with lucid intelligence. The evidence, as interpreted, would have been a great deal more interesting to us outsiders if there had been less pedigree in it. The Maoris are terrors for pedigree. They are worse than race-horses or prize bulls; trying to understand their history is almost as maddening as trying to understand the book of Genesis. And trying to understand their land affairs would addle the brain of a Prime Minister. The relationship between tribes and individuals

Liquor for troops was start of Spa Hotel

Staff Reporter

TAUPO — The historic Spa Hotel — which had its application for renewal of a liquor licence declined by the Bay of Plenty Licensing Committee recently — faces an uncertain future.

Built on an Armed Constabulary camp site in the early 1800s, the hotel's fortunes have waxed and waned in recent years.

A claim by a former owner for \$380,000 damages against the Taupo Borough Council is still pending in the Rototua Supreme Court.

Lodged by J. W. Birnie Ltd., the writ relates to flooding at the hotel in December, 1969, and February, 1971.

After running the Spa for 21 years, Mr Birnie and his wife were forced to let it go to auction on January 29, 1972.

Since then, the hotel has changed hands three times.

The present owners, Sentinel Holdings Family Trust, Auckland, bought the hotel from Spa Properties Ltd recently.

The liquor licence expires on June 30, and the company is making inquiries into the licensing committee's refusal to renew it.

Though the hotel manager, Mr R. G. Manning, was informed by the licensing committee that the application had been declined, he was given no reason.

The Spa is the oldest hotel in the Taupo district and has a colourful history.

It was started by Edward Loffley when, as a quarter-

master in the Armed Constabulary, he was given permission to sell liquor to the troops.

Then a constabulary depot, the hotel was operated with a canteen licence.

This dubious form of licence apparently satisfied the requirements of the day — till Loffley sold out to Joseph Joshua some time in the 1870s.

FISHERMEN

When Joshua took possession, he found he had no title to the land. He negotiated with the Crown for what became known as Joshua's Lease. It was not confirmed till several years later.

J. W. Birnie Ltd finally bought the freehold from the Crown in 1954.

Round 1895, Joshua, who had catered extensively for tourists and fishermen, sold the Spa Hotel to Joseph Gallagher.

Before the Spa was really in business again, Gallagher had bought and closed down the Taupo Hotel, because it conflicted with his interests in the Lake Hotel, and transferred its licence to the Spa.

But this took two years. Legislation permitted the transfer of a licence only one mile a year. So, nothing daunted, Gallagher set up a

temporary bar in the Spa Road area. He moved to the Spa Hotel when the second year had elapsed.

Another former member of the Armed Constabulary, Gallagher already owned the Lake Hotel, established in the centre of Taupo in 1878.

Things did not run smoothly for him. The couple he installed to look after the Spa left it unattended for a period and the canteen licence was lost.

FOR 21 YEARS

The Gallagher family ran the Spa Hotel till after World War I, then there were several changes before Mr T. A. Heath took it over.

In 1951, it passed into the hands of this son-in-law, Mr Jim Birnie, whose wife, Eunice, is the daughter of the late Mr Heath.

The Birnies met and married at the Spa Hotel and lived there for 21 years, before relinquishing it for auction.

The two bad years which brought deep flooding and silting through many of the hotel buildings placed the Spa in financial difficulties.

Since then, successive owners have had ambitious plans for developing the hotel and the surrounding seven acres of land. Some neces-

sary upgrading has been done, but finance appears to have hindered any further work.

REMINDED

The Spa's older buildings are reminders of New Zealand a century ago, typical of the architecture brought by European settlers. One accommodation building is the original Armed Constabulary headquarters.

Probably the hotel's biggest draw card is its Maori meeting house, which is used as a lounge. Joseph Joshua bought it for 150 pounds and it is now insured for thousands of dollars.

Known as Tiki Te Tamamutu, the meeting house had been virtually abandoned at the Oruanui Pa when Chief Tamamutu moved to Taupo round 1850.

It is believed that the carvings in the meeting house were the last set done by the Maori master carver, Wero. They have been dated at between 1800 and 1810.

Wero's carvings in the Spa meeting house are thought to be the first done with metal tools. Before then, the Maoris used stone and bone implements.

Reputed to have been one of the all-time great Maori carvers, Wero is said to have completed five meeting houses.

PROHIBITED

Two either decayed or were destroyed, one ended up in a museum in Vienna, Austria, and the carvings from from another, adorn a church in Hamburg.

But there is no danger of the Spa Hotel meeting house being sold overseas. During the early 1900s Parliament rushed through a Bill prohibiting its removal from New Zealand. Apparently, a wealthy United States tourist wanted to buy it.

The meeting house was used at the Spa as a dining room during the early days, when many world famous people, including European Royalty, stayed there.

However, meeting houses are not traditionally for eating in, and a tapu was placed on the Spa's dining room. Till 1935, when a dining room was added to the back of the meeting house, licensees had difficulty employing Maori waitresses because of the tapu.

CLIMBED ON WAGON

Taupo's early hotel proprietors appear to have been astute businessmen. When the band-wagon passed, they jumped on, manipulating and aggregating.

Three of them had all previously been in the Armed Constabulary: Edward Loffley and Thomas Balfour Noble were both connected with the commissariat and Joseph Gallagher, a fighting man with an urge to take up store-keeping in Taupo.

Loffley started off the Spa Hotel, Noble took over the Taupo Hotel and Gallagher founded the Lake Hotel and later also acquired the Taupo Hotel.

The oldest hotel in the district is the Spa. It appears to have been operated by Loffley with a canteen licence.

At the outset, as a quartermaster in the Armed Constabulary, he was granted permission to sell liquor to the troops. The Spa was then a constabulary depot.

This dubious form of licence apparently satisfied the requirements of the day, but a spanner was thrown in the works when he sold out to Joseph Joshua, sometime in the 1870s.

When Joshua took possession he found he had no title to the land. He negotiated with the Crown what became known as the Joshua Lease, which was not confirmed until several years after he started his negotiations.

Deposited plan No 4573, approved in 1887, shows the lease of the Spa land to be virtually the same as it is today.

where the Lands and Survey Department's native plant nursery is now established, and the Otumuheke block were also acquired by Joshua, the latter being freehold.

Mr Birnie's company purchased the freehold of the Spa from the Crown in 1954.

The only access to the Spa in the early days was through the Otumuheke block and a legal road through this area still exists.

Joshua proved himself a very able man. In addition to conducting the hotel presumably under the Loffley licence, he started up the Spa Coaching Company which ran a service between Taupo and Rotorua through the Spa, Broadlands and Reporoa.

He catered extensively for the tourist traffic and fishermen and sold out to Gallagher, probably round about 1895.

Gallagher was already the proprietor of the Lake Hotel, which he established in 1878.

Another spanner clanged into the works when the couple looking after the Spa left it unattended for a period. The canteen licence was lost.

The Taupo Hotel was established in 1870 where Casson and Prater's building now stands. It was taken over by Noble in 1876.

Gallagher married one of Noble's daughters and when her father died, with an eye to business, Gallagher bought the Taupo Hotel and closed it down, as its continuance as a licensed hotel conflicted with his Lake Hotel interests.

ferring the licence to the Spa Hotel. This took two years, as legislation permitted the transfer of a licence only one mile per year.

A temporary bar was set up in the Spa Road area and shifted down to the Spa when the second year had elapsed.

The Gallagher family retained the Spa Hotel until after World War I. After that there were several changes until 1935, when it was taken over by Mr T. A. Heath.

He ran the business until 1944 and sold out. There were about four different people in the hotel until it came back on Mr Heath's hands in 1951.

The business was then taken over by his son-in-law, Mr J. W. Birnie and Mrs Birnie, Mr Heath's daughter, who have conducted it ever since. The third generation of the family is now involved, their son Mr Ian Birnie, having recently assumed an increasing responsibility in its administration.

Historically, the Spa

Hotel is of great interest, its lounge, once a Maori meeting house, and Maori carvings therein, being protected by Act of Parliament.

This part of the property was acquired by Joshua some time in the 1870s for £150. It was a tribal meeting house at Oruanui and was re-erected on the Spa Hotel site sometime before 1882.

A separate article on the meeting house appears elsewhere in this issue.

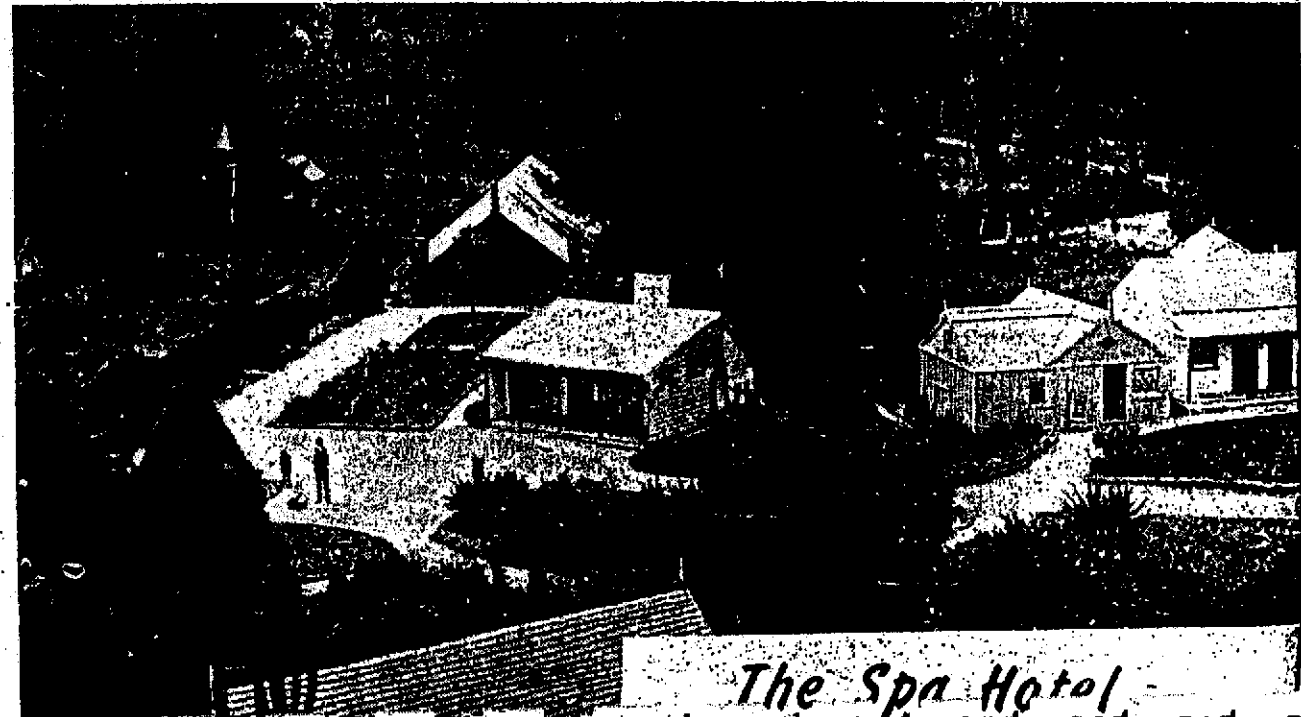
The Birnies live in an attractive rambling old cottage on the Spa Hotel property. The lounge was once the Armed Constabulary's orderly room.

When it was renovated it was found that every joint was morticed and tenoned and most of the timber was golden kauri. Mr Birnie believes it came to Taupo prefabricated via Tauranga.

This and other buildings forming part of the cottage and some elsewhere on the property, all have shingles under the existing iron roofs.

A drawing by Fox, in about 1887, suggests the Spa Hotel area was originally used before the arrival of the Armed Constabulary. It depicts what is believed to be a large house and another smaller building.

HOTELS



Spa Thermal Park - Ruchbank Recreational and Scenic Reserve

TAUPO DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES



TASK FORCE GREEN PROGRAMME

BACKGROUND

During 1998, Council undertook research into community employment initiatives within the Taupo district. A joint approach by central and local government enabled resources to be carried out to identify possible employment opportunities. This involved visiting a number of settlements around the lake and meeting different groups and organisations covering education, training, community services and regional development. Background reading of Council files, maintenance and capital works programmes, provided a lot of information, as did various reserve management plans.

The Taupo district is divided into four wards, with Taupo and Kaingaroa wards combined into the Taupo/Kaingaroa Committee. The other two wards have a representative community board, with service centres in Turangi and Mangakino.

In determining budgets for the 1998/99 financial year, the Taupo/Kaingaroa Committee provided \$15,000 for community employment projects following a submission by New Zealand Employment Service to the draft 1998/99 Annual Plan. The two community boards did not consider that they had the financial resources to undertake TFG projects that time.

OBJECTIVES

- In planning the employment project, Council set the following objectives:
- to help the long-term unemployed improve their skill base to assist them return to the workforce
 - to achieve an asset that has long lasting value and benefit to the community
 - to utilise government subsidies to complete a project at a minimum cost to ratepayer
 - to develop a programme to identify and promote local employment opportunities

Although research was continuing, sufficient information had been gathered worthwhile projects identified, thus a programme of work could be formulated to during 1998.

The final list of projects identified for each of council's three areas follows.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| • Taupo/Kaingaroa Committee | 40 projects |
| • Turangi/Tongariro Community Board | 8 projects |
| • Mangakino/Pouaui Community Board | 7 projects |



Appendix 6: Community Employment Initiatives

Extracts from "Taupo District Council Community Employment Initiatives:
Task Force Green Programme"
Taupo District Council, 1997

PROJECTS

1 RIVERBANK RESERVE AND TAUPO CEMETERY MEMORIAL WALKWAY

The development proposal for the Taupo Cemetery extension in 1993 identified the creation of a Memorial Walkway down the bank of the cemetery to the Riverbank Reserve along the Waikato River. The first section of walkway being completed in 1995 under a Conservation Corps scheme.

Since then, there have been a further three stages under Task Force Green. This work has included clearing blackberry and scrub, creating walkways, constructing wooden retaining walls and steps, along with planting native trees and shrubs.

The following photos show part of this area before all the blackberry was removed, then after further clearing and a walking track created.



5 COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

The Taupo District Council has been involved in both Task Force Green Community Task Force projects since 1994. During this time there have been projects with some 49 participants.

Of these 19 are in work or training, 12 are still presently enrolled with no other and 9, although still enrolled, are in temporary or casual work. Another 9 have moved from the area, or have an unknown outcome.

Of the 19 in work, 3 have gone on to work for the Taupo District Council.

Many of the participants return the areas they have been involved in to view progress of the trees and shrubs they have planted.

A Taupo District Council working party is presently reviewing the opportunity a scheme operating in the township of Mangakino.

It is anticipated that projects such as the Riverbank Reserve and Taupo Memorial Walkway, the Shepherds Road Gully Walkway and the planting of Urban Greens will continue in the future, subject to the availability of their respective funding.

Earlier projects in the area such as the Spa Thermal Park Walkway and Kowhai Walkway at Acacia Bay, along with the Riverbank Reserve mentioned earlier, all began with work undertaken by the Conservation Corps.

As a result of most projects being of an environmental nature, with planting ground work development, the Parks and Recreation section of Council Community Services Division, has been responsible for the supervision of community employment projects.

Prepared by
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November 1997



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