

Karori and its people

Chapter 4: The town centre – heart of Karori

If there is a place in Karori that can be referred to as its heart, it is the land on which the Karori Public Library now stands. Since 1844 this area has been used by the Karori community for public purposes - for worship, as a public meeting place, a place of learning and of governance. The exact dimensions of the original site are now lost in the subsequent numerous excavations and road alignments but it was originally 33 x 66 feet and was situated near the front of the present library and directly opposite the Parkvale Road intersection.(1) To this original plot of 1/20 of an acre parcels of land have been subsequently added and the cumulative effect has provided the opportunity for the development in this century of the Karori Town Centre.

The land on which the Library is built was originally part of that surveyed by the New Zealand Company as Section 36 in the Karori District. Its first owner was John Yule of Glasgow.(2) Having purchased a land order, the New Zealand Company system entitled him to participate in a ballot held in London for the order of choice of sections. When the Wellington town and Karori sections had been surveyed and plans drawn, the holders of Land Orders then were able to make their choice of sections in the order in which they had drawn in the ballot. He chose town acre 180 in Taranaki Street and his choice of 100 country acres in Karori was Section 36. His method of selecting this land was described in his obituary, ‘when he came to make his choice of land, he went out to Karori way, climbed the highest tree he could find on an eminence, and choosing, a spot where he saw the tops of the trees somewhat level, he settled on it.’(3) Section 36 was a rectangular piece of land with its frontage on to Karori Road between Marsden School and Beauchamp Street and running south to the

junction of Duthie Street and Messines Road on the eastern side and Kano Street on the west. During 1841 John Yule and his brother Moses set about clearing part of the land and by December had subdivided the section into five acre lots numbered 1 to 20 and offered them for sale. The well-positioned lots 1 and 2 were bought by James Hair for £73.10.0 on 17 July 1843.⁽⁴⁾ There is little information about Hair's life in New Zealand. He farmed in Karori and had some interest or connections in Sydney as he made several trips back and forth and went there permanently in 1846 or 1847 defaulting on the mortgage on his Karori land. But in 1843 or 1844, when the Karori settlers held a meeting about building a hall that would serve as a chapel and school, it was James Hair who gave part of lot 1 for the purpose and vested it in Trustees. No record of the grant was legally registered nor was there any initial record of Trustees being appointed but all the subsequent land transactions recognised the existence of Hair's grant.

The Karori settlers directly responsible for building the chapel on Hair's land were those in the community who were of the Wesleyan, Presbyterian and Congregational or Independent religions. Along with other small chapels in outlying areas the Karori Chapel became part of a circuit visited in rotation by the various clergy. It was built with community labour and from local materials. No photograph or image of the chapel remains but the few recorded memories describe a small wooden building consisting of two rooms with a pulpit, a fireplace and plank seats of unplanned timber. The ground surrounding the chapel became the final resting place of some early Karori settlers. The actual number of burials that took place has never been established but in 1934 it was estimated that there had been at least fourteen interments.⁽⁵⁾ Possibly one of the first to be buried there was 15 year old George Collier who died in May 1844 while working on the road to Karori. It is believed his

parents, George and Elizabeth Collier, were also buried in the cemetery with George Collier being one of the first and longest-serving Trustees of the Chapel.(6)

The Karori Chapel, Sunday and Day School was opened on 24 September 1844. It was celebrated with tea taken in the building. This would be the first of many community events and celebrations that took place in and around the building with tea parties being particularly popular in the early days. In 1845 the Wesleyans began a day school and in 1847 the building was enlarged by about one-third. In a letter to his father in 1850 Justice Henry Samuel Chapman, who owned Section 35 in Karori, made the following observation about the various religions in Wellington.

Methodists, Independents, Ranters [Primitive Methodists] and Baptists will unite and build a Chapel which serves also for a schoolhouse. This is the way the Karori Chapel was built, with some small pecuniary aid from us. One time the Wesleyan will preach - another time the Independent - now and then the Baptist will come up, and as the poor are not very fastidious about doctrine, they go to hear all. These people have educated all the children of Karori. The Clergy of the [established] Church will not fraternise with any other sect – they sneer at the efforts of dissenters and they cannot bring themselves to believe that here each church or congregation must depend on the general opinion of its usefulness. The Bishop thinks that all the aid that persons like myself may choose to afford should go to him to be disposed accordingly to his discretion ; I go on the principle of extending such moderate aid as I can afford to any body of men who will educate the children of the Industrious classes. I used the word poor before, but it is an improper word – we have no poor here, except the drunken few.(7)

In November 1857 Charles William Schultze made a generous gift to the people of Karori when he donated £20 towards the establishment of a library. Schultze was a successful Wellington businessman who had made money in flour milling. He represented the Wellington Country Districts on the Provincial Council in 1854 but in the 1857 election he was defeated by Thomas Dalton McManaway. To the £10 awarded to him for campaign expenses he added another ten and along with similar donations from two other people the 'Karori and Makara District Library' was established. Why Schultze decided to donate this money for the purpose of establishing a library in Karori is unknown but his intentions were placed under close public scrutiny when, in 1858, the Wellington Country Districts seat unexpectedly became vacant and Schultze stood in the resulting by-election. The two newspapers of the day traded accusations about his gift and a public meeting in the chapel building, now referred to as the 'Karori School House', attracted 40 people and continued late into the evening. Schultze won the by-election over his opponent Joseph Bowler and was on the Provincial Council until 1865, serving as Speaker from 1861-1865.(8)

The day school run by the Wesleyans appears to have ceased in the 1850s but in 1860 the Karori Public School moved from a private home to the school house and continued there until 1875 when it relocated to the present Donald Street site. Mrs Cole, who attended the school as a child in 1863, remembered 'having to walk several miles through thick bush to school, and for that reason received only 12 months tuition in her life. The children attending that old school, in the chapel amidst the cemetery, required as equipment only a spelling book and a slate.'(9) The building required repairs in 1871 and the community liberally subscribed for the purpose. In the latter part of the century it continued to be used for church services, Sunday

school and as a place used for meetings including those of the Road Board. The first meeting of the Karori Borough Council was held there on 2 October 1891.

The Library Committee boosted the stock of books by holding penny readings. These were social events held in the evening where stories were read aloud and those present contributed money to buy more books. The library was financially supported by the subscription of the members and from 1883 it began to receive a subsidy from the government. In 1920, just before the Karori Borough amalgamated with the city, the City Librarian visited the Karori Library and found a stock of 2000 volumes with 84 subscribers. The Town Clerk W. F. England was in charge of the library and it was open from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm on week days, from 10.00 am until 12.00 noon on Saturdays and from 7.00 pm until 10.00 pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings. The City Librarian noted that there had been many enquiries from Karori residents as to whether the library would continue after the amalgamation to which he had replied that the 'policy of the Library Committee was to extend library facilities in the suburbs.'(10)

While the Karori Borough Council held their first meeting in the old school house it was not long before the councillors were debating the need for better accommodation. When an offer of land from Stephen Lancaster for the erection of new council chambers fell through, attention focused on using the old school house site and the decision was made to take the necessary steps to acquire the land. The council sub-committee charged with the task reported they could not find the deeds to the land and negotiations began with the Trustees who were willing to vest the land in the council. But when advice was sought from the Department of Lands and Survey it was discovered there was no title and it was technically part of the derelict lands of the New Zealand Company. At that time, there was a case before the Supreme Court

to establish Crown title over these lands and the Council was advised to wait on the outcome before a title would be issued.

The old school house building became increasingly dilapidated and the Borough Council meetings moved to the St Mary's Parochial Hall situated on Karori Road opposite the present day St Teresa's Church.⁽¹¹⁾ In early 1902 the old building was condemned and the Council asked the Library Committee to remove their books. It was sold to W. Spiers for £5 and was removed from the site in July 1902. The foundation stone for the new Borough Council Chambers was laid on 9 August 1902. In the belief that the title for the land would soon be issued by the Department of Lands and Survey the council continued with its plans for a new building commemorating the Coronation of Edward VII containing municipal offices, a library and reading room. A government subsidy of £200 was granted and building began in 1904.

However, soon after building activities began an irate Mr Kells, a dairyman of Kilbirnie, wrote to Premier Rt. Hon Richard John Seddon complaining about the Council building over a graveyard of early Karori settlers and demanding an injunction against the activities. In the resulting correspondence Kells was indignant at the Council's actions but unable to accurately identify those who had been buried at the site. By the following year the Borough Council Chambers were completed but the legal ownership issue was still unresolved. Proceedings were then taken against the Mayor, Councillors and Burgesses of the Borough of Karori under the Crown Suits Act 1881 to establish the Crown's title and right of possession. The judgement was in favour of H.M. the King and the land reverted to the Crown on 30 August 1905.⁽¹²⁾ The necessary final step however, to grant the ownership of the land to the local authority by way of statute, would not be enacted for another 30 years.

The Karori Borough Council purchased a section adjoining the Council Chambers in 1904 and enlarged the building in 1908. In 1930 several fireplaces and walls were removed to make two rooms into one, thus enlarging the space for the library. As a result of the increased space the amount paid to the Librarian Mrs V. Wiffen to clean the library was increased from 15 to 20 shillings a week.(13) The issue of the ownership of the land was raised once again by the Wellington City Valuer in 1934 and the advice given was there had been no change in the situation since December 1905 when the land had reverted to the Crown. The Department of Lands and Survey advised that three things were certain ; ‘the land is at present vested in the Crown, its status is a burial ground subject to the provisions of the Cemeteries Act 1908 and it cannot be vested in the City Council for municipal purposes without the authority of special legislation.’(14) The enactment of the Reserves and Other Lands Disposal Act 1934 sec. 21 finally vested the land in the Wellington City Corporation and included the provision that if any human remains were found, the area should be set aside as a reserve or the remains disinterred and re-interred in a public cemetery. In early 1935 the remains of six people were discovered during the realignment of the footpath in front of the library and re-interred in the Karori Cemetery in plot 54, path D, division p3. No more human remains have been found during the major building work that has taken place on the site in 1968/69 and again in 2004/05. After extensive research Kitty Wood, a member of the Karori Historical Society, identified those people whose remains were re-interred in 1935. It is believed they were James Brodie (1812- 1861), Elizabeth Collier (1799-1873), George Collier (1805-1865), James Kelt (1812-1856), Henrietta Lessington (1827-1864) and Daniel Wright (1823-1856). In 1996 the Karori Historical Society was instrumental in erecting a memorial to their memory.(15)

Major alterations to the library took place in 1936. The contract was awarded to G. H. Colly at a cost of £434. Partitions were removed to create one large library space that took up one half of the building. The other half contained the children's library, attendants' desk, staff room, toilets and a large walk-in safe that was a remnant of the Borough Council days. There were new steps and an improved entrance along with rewiring and repainting.(16) The new layout may have encouraged membership; the *Wellington City Handbook* for 1935/36 reports 627 subscribers and 43,059 issues, by the following year there were 914 subscribers and 53,751 issues. In the 1940s there were also two book clubs in Karori and the need to attract subscribers to the public library was important. In 1941 Mrs H. Robertson of Standen Street wrote to the City Council asking if the Karori Library could be open two mornings a week instead of in the evenings as she had to shop in the mornings and it was inconvenient to go out again to the library. Her suggestion was acted upon within a month of her writing the letter and new hours were adopted for all branch libraries, opening on Tuesdays from 10.00 am to 12.00 and 1.00 pm to 6.00 pm.(17)

In 1947 the front portion of 251 Karori Road, the section on the eastern side of the library, was designated for Community Purposes and in 1951 an area of about 27 perches of land was set aside for Library Purposes. The Karori Progressive Association complained to the council about the inadequate size of the Library and an extension of 300-400 sq feet was proposed but not undertaken. In 1955 the Council acquired the property owned by the former Mayor the late Benjamin George Henry Burn between the Library and the Post Office on the corner of Beauchamp Street and Karori Road. The six-roomed house was removed from the site to be used as a caretakers' house at Ben Burn Park. Located at 47 Beauchamp Street it now houses the Karori Childcare Centre Inc.

The Karori Progressive Association had first proposed building a community hall in 1945 but this was not pursued until 1956 when the Karori Community Hall Committee Inc. was formed and fund raising began. It was initially intended to build a community hall with frontage on to Karori Road but the space and configuration of the existing buildings lead to an alternative proposal that involved an exchange of land between the council and the Post and Telegraph Department in 1959.(18) The plans for the proposed community hall with a frontage on Beauchamp Street were designed by the architects Gabites and Beard and in 1963 the Chairman of the Karori Community Hall Inc., Edward Millais (Ted) Harcourt announced that tenders for the Community Hall had been called. The community contributed £14,000 towards the fund from door to door collections, raffles, a Queen Carnival and strictly supervised all-night Dance-a-thons. A grant from the Golden Kiwi increased the total to £21,000 and a large barometer recorded the amount contributed. A final appeal, intended to raise another £5000, only raised half the required amount and another subsidy was needed to complete the project. On 16 July 1964 the Karori Community Hall was officially opened by the Mayor Francis (Frank) Kitts. The opening ceremony included a performance of the Karori Dramatic Society's play 'Collect Your Hand Baggage'. The £30,000 building had taken 20 years of community effort to achieve and upon its completion the administration of the hall was taken over by the Karori Progressive Association.(19)

Throughout the early 1960s the Karori Progressive Association continued to lobby the Wellington City Council about the library's inadequate size and state of repair. There was a general acceptance that the building was nearing the end of its useful life as the Wellington City Council deferred necessary maintenance or undertook short-term solutions such as installing fluorescent lighting salvaged from

the City Engineer's building. The announcement that Karori was to get a new library building was made in 1965 but the tenders were not called until 1968. It was designed by the Architectural Division of the City Corporation's Department of Works and Planning and the contract was awarded to L. Turksma Ltd at a cost of \$49,381. The new building was a single-storied, open-plan design in a basic 'L' shape that effectively doubled the floor space of the old library. The design also included new public toilets.(20) Construction was undertaken in two stages with library services operating out of the old portion of the building while Stage I was completed, and then moving into the new area while Stage II was finished. The new Karori Public Library was officially opened by the Mayor Sir Francis Kitts on 24 November 1969. At the opening special thanks were given to the staff and library patrons who had put up with what were described as 'atrocious' conditions during the construction of the new building. Although the new library was double the space of the former one the opportunity to expand the building by constructing another wing at a later date was an element of the original design.(21)

Patronage of the new library increased dramatically in the year following its opening. With more space available the Librarian Ruth Thompson asked the community to donate materials relating to the history of Karori. The Karori Historical Society, established in 1973, placed its local history collection in the Karori Library shortly after and it continues to be a feature of the library collection.(22) At the time of her retirement in 1982 Ruth Thompson had served the Karori Library for 35 years. She remembered the cramped and cold conditions of the library in the old Council Chambers where the library had originally shared the space with the Post Office and Plunket Rooms. On Friday nights many family groups had used the library after completing their shopping. She also noted the changes in the role of librarians who, in

the past, had mostly stood behind a desk issuing books but were now more involved in assisting the public to locate information.(23) Those people known to have been Karori Librarians are W. H Young , B. G. H. Burn, W. F. England, Miss Laurenson , Mrs V. Wiffen , Mrs Hoenings (formerly Mrs Hogan and originally Molly Macassey), Miss Ruth Thompson, Mrs Dorothy Mitchell, Bronwen Hvid , Michaela O'Donovan. In the late 1990's the position of Branch Librarian ceased to exist when the Wellington City Libraries focused on developing geographic clusters of libraries where senior staff moved between branches.

In the 1930s post office services moved from the Council Chambers to the first purpose - built post office building in Karori. It was a domestic - style timber-clad office with a clay tile roof, on the corner of Beauchamp Street and Karori Road. It opened on 28 January 1935. This building was in use until 1976 when post office services moved to temporary accommodation on the opposite side of Karori Road in preparation for the construction of a new building on the old site. Four years later the new building was officially opened on 21 May 1980 by the Member of Parliament for Ohariu Hon. Hugh Templeton. The two-level building, clad in brown brick, was designed by Synaxon Hill Group Architects and built by H. L. Parker Trust for a cost of \$324,000.(24) The new post office building originally housed a Gordon Crook hanging sculpture that today is in the Victoria University School of Education Studies, formerly the Wellington College of Education.

The main issue of the 1980s was the lack of progress with the proposed extension of the Karori Library and the protracted negotiations with the Smith Family Trust relating to the acquisition of land around the library site. In 1971 brothers Harry and John Smith had bought 7 Beauchamp Street to provide access to the rear of 251 Karori Road, the property next to the Library, whose front portion had been

designated for Community Purposes in 1947 but later re-zoned as Residential A. Three years later they bought the section at 249 Karori Road and the three properties together formed an L shaped piece of land adjacent to the Library and behind the Community Hall. In order to build the new Post Office on the corner of Beauchamp Street and Karori Road the land to the west of the Library building was changed in designation from Library to Post Office Purposes. Any Library extension would therefore need to take place on the adjoining property 251 Karori Road. Concerned about being deprived of access to their land the Smith family lodged an appeal with the Planning Tribunal which resulted in the properties at 7 Beauchamp Street and 249- 251 Karori Road being re-zoned from Residential to Office and Industrial B4 (Karori Special) in 1983. The Council purchased the front half of 251 Karori Road for a proposed Library extension in 1986 but were unable to proceed because of other higher priority library projects. The Smith family wished to sell the remainder of the land in one block to the City Council and from 1986 to 1988 the two parties were engaged in difficult negotiations. Community groups lobbied the Council to make the land available for community and recreational purposes while some local businesses favoured the development of light industry and offices. At one point the land was put on the open market but in December 1988 it was purchased by the Council for an undisclosed sum.⁽²⁵⁾ In July of the same year Mobil NZ purchased the existing Karori Services Garage along with the next door property at 241 Karori Road to the east of the service station. The old style garage and petrol pumps were replaced by a modern development known as the Pegasus 21 design incorporating a shop that is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.⁽²⁶⁾

During the protracted negotiations between the Smith Family Trust and the City Council one of the main issues was the lack of commercial property available in

Karori. With the acquisition of the Smith land the Economic and Business Development Unit of the Council built, at a cost of \$485, 000, the Karori New Venture Centre on 249 Karori Road directly behind the Mobil Service Station with an entrance from Beauchamp Street.(27) The 18 units were designed for the establishment and development of small businesses and were suitable for offices, light manufacturing, craft or service enterprises being between 100 to 560 sq feet in size on two levels. The Karori Venture Units were part of a city-wide initiative that had begun in 1984. By 1991 the Council had over 100 workspaces available with low rentals and short lease arrangements. The Karori New Venture Centre was officially opened on 27 March 1991 by the Minister of Commerce Hon. Philip Burdon and at that time 11 of the 18 units had been leased. But in early 1992 it was reported that the Council's city-wide venture units had lost a total of \$30,000 in the previous 6 months foreshadowing an economic downturn that would not see the full potential of the concept realised in the suburb of Karori.(28)

Another building whose construction utilised the newly acquired Smith land was the Newman Centre, the home of the Karori Arts and Crafts Centre Inc. The Karori Arts and Crafts Society was incorporated in 1967, following a public meeting chaired by Wybrants Olphert. Jean Blennerhassett (nee Lennie), a sculptor, became the Society's first President. Members had met in private homes and various halls for nearly 30 years until the bequest of Dorothy Newman enabled them to build the Newman Centre. The City Council gave permission for the erection of a 200 sq metre building on an area of land designated Karori Community Area at 7 Beauchamp Street behind the Community Hall. The building was designed by Paul Lenihan, Senior Architect with the Wellington City Council and built by Christensen and Allan. It was officially opened on 2 November 1993. In 2005 the membership

numbered 480 and the range of activities included painting, photography, crafts and walking, book and garden groups. Annual exhibitions of work by members are a feature of the Karori community calendar.(29)

The economic realities of the 1990's that impacted on the success of the Venture Units also affected the Karori Progressive Association when they began to lose money on running the Community Hall. Unwilling to pass the rising costs of maintenance and electricity onto the various community groups that used the hall the Association experienced its first loss of \$5,000 in 1990.(30) The Association hoped the Council would take over the hall and develop it into a recreation centre as had occurred with Khandallah's Nairnville Recreation Centre. By 1992 the Karori Progressive Association was losing \$500 a month on the operation of the hall and was unable to carry out necessary maintenance; in September 1992 the hall passed into City Council control. The Karori Progressive Association President, Ken Salmon stated that the hall would be rented to the Community Hall Committee that would continue to manage the facility but hoped the Council would carry out the necessary development to provide for the recreational needs of Karori people.(31) Eventually, frustrated by the lack of progress in the development of a recreational centre, the Karori Progressive Association walked away from managing the hall in 1993 and a group of volunteers called the Karori Community Hall Development Committee took over the redevelopment plans that included a basketball court, squash court, improved facilities, Citizens Advice Bureau and Toy Library. The redevelopment project cost over \$750,000 with support from the Lotteries Commission and the Terawhiti Licensing Trust. It was officially opened by the Mayor Mark Blumsky on 30 March 1996 with a street parade and demonstrations of sports and dance in the new gymnasium. On the same day the path from Karori Road to the Recreation Centre

entrance beside the Library was opened by the Mayor and named W. F. England Lane after the Town Clerk who had served the Karori Borough Council from 1894 to 1920. The name for the lane had been suggested by the Karori Historical Society.(32)

In 1992 the Karori Rotary Club presented the Commemorative Brick Project to the Karori Library to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the first Karori Borough Council meeting held on the site in 1891. Children from the local schools sponsored each of the 2000 bricks making up the courtyard design that approximately represented the location of the original 1844 chapel. Each brick was numbered on the paving plan and children could identify their brick by checking the index. During the 2005 redevelopment of the Library these bricks were reused on the ramp beside the library.(33) Another item of interest at the library entrance was the original foundation stone of the Karori Borough Council Chambers that was re-laid in 1979 along with a commemorative plaque presented by the Karori Historical Society. Many Karori residents will remember the sundial, historic lamp, the enormous rock and the concrete seat that was formerly in front of the Borough Council Chambers and were features of the area for many years.(34)

In early 2000 the attention of the Council again focused on the need to extend the Karori Library and a capital expenditure of \$2.9 million was placed on the 2001/02 draft annual plan. However a series of public consultations identified a number of issues concerning the provision of community services in the central Karori area. The scope of the project was widened to also include the needs of the Community Centre, situated on the St John's site, along with addressing traffic problems. A \$5 million upgrade of the Karori Town Centre was approved in 2003. The plan included a new Library to be built on the existing site, a new Community Centre located in the defunct Venture Unit facility that would bring together existing

community services plus road improvements to increase safety for both motorists and pedestrians. The \$3.4 million library building was designed by the architects Warren and Mahoney. The two-storey building significantly increased the space available for library and information services and included a café. During the construction period library services operated out of the St John's Centre on the corner of Campbell Street and Karori Road. It was officially opened on 3 December 2005 by the Mayor Kerry Prendergast beginning a new chapter in the provision of public library services in Karori. (35)

The Karori Town Centre project had its share of problems. The difficult layout of the available land, a legacy of previous decision making, dominated the planning options along with the competing demands of interested community groups. But as a result of the project the people of Karori can today enjoy a wide variety of centralised community and recreational services; reflecting the investments that have been made by the Karori Borough Council and the Wellington City Council in developing the area surrounding the small plot of land given by settler James Hair to the people of Karori.

Notes:

1. A legal description of the land can be found in the Reserves and Other Lands Disposal Act 1934, sec. 21.
2. For information about John Yule see Wood, Katherine M. 'John Yule 1908-1899', *The Stockade*, no. 16, Oct 1983, pp. 1-4.
3. *Evening Post*, 15 Sep 1899, p. 6.
4. Commissioner of Crown Lands to The Under-Secretary for Lands, 14 May 1934, Lands and Survey (L & S), 48636, Archives New Zealand.

5. *ibid.*
6. Wood, Katherine M, 'The Site of the Present Karori Public Library : 150 years of Continuous Public Use', *The Stockade*, no. 25, 1992, pp. 3 – 17. In 1935 the remains of 6 people were uncovered. The sexton who removed the remains noted that one was a young person of 15-20 years. Mr Barker, Sexton to Town Clerk, Wellington City Council, 22 Mar 1935. 00001 : 684 : 22/60 Land 253 – 257 Karori Road, 1927-1987, Wellington City Archives.
7. Henry Samuel Chapman to his father, 28 August 1850, vol. 3, qMS-0420, Letters, Alexander Turnbull Library.
8. Graham, Ruth, 'Charles William Schultze and the Establishment of the Karori Library : Philanthropy or Political Bribery?', *The Stockade*, no. 30, 1997, pp. 11-18.
9. *New Zealand Freelance*, 6 Feb 1935, p. 5.
10. Herbert Baillie to The Chairman, Library Committee, 2 March 1920, 00001 : 885 : 24/13 Pt 1, Library : Karori, general file 1920 – 1958, Wellington City Archives.
11. The Parochial Hall was built in 1881 and administered by the St Mary's Vestry. It was located on Karori Road approximately where the Marsden Flats are situated, opposite St Teresa's. It was used for Sunday School, dances, lessons, gym, flower shows, concerts, bazaars and for Borough Council meetings from 1898 to 1904.
12. Commissioner of Crown Lands to The Under-Secretary for Lands, 14 May 1934, L & S, 48636.
13. Chief Librarian to Town Clerk, 1 July 1930, 00001 : 885 : 24/13 Pt 1 Library : Karori, general file 1920 – 1958, Wellington City Archives.
14. Department of Lands and Survey to City Valuer, 8 August 1934, 00001 : 684 : 22/60, Land 253 – 257 Karori Rd, 1927-1987, Wellington City Archives.
15. *Evening Post*, 18 Mar 1995, p. 2.

16. The measurements of the room were : Main library public room – 1,535 sq feet, Junior room – 247 sq feet, Back room, working space Strong room, staff room – 485 sq feet, Total 2,267 sq feet. *Karori News*, 21 May 1968, p. 1.
17. Mrs H. Robertson, 19 November 1941, 00001 : 885 : 24/13 Pt 1, Library : Karori, general file, 1920-1958, Wellington City Archives.
18. *Karori News*, 18 Dec 1959, p. 4.
19. *Karori News*, 29 May 1963, p.1, *Karori News*, 18 Aug 1964, p. 8.
20. *Karori News*, 21 May 1968, p.1.
21. *Karori News*, 2 Dec 1969, p.1, McKeon, Brian. 'Karori Branch : Wellington Public Libraries' *New Zealand Libraries*, Aug 1970, pp. 121-127.
22. *Karori News*, 5 May 1970, p. 7, Graham, Ruth, 'Local History @ the Library', *The Stockade*, no. 36, 2003, pp. 40-45.
23. *Karori News*, 6 Apr 1982, p. 1.
24. Startup, Robin M., 'Letters from Karori : Postal Services over the Years', *The Stockade*, no. 29, 1996, pp 8-16.
25. Smith, Helen, 'The Heart of Karori : The Smith's Place 251 Karori Road', *The Stockade*, no. 35, 2002, pp. 23-37. *Karori News*, 19 May 1987, p. 1. *Karori News*, 20 Dec 1988, p. 1.
26. *Evening Post*, 14 Feb 1990, p. 18. There had been a garage on this site from as early as 1929.
27. *Evening Post*, 19 Feb 1991, p. 18.
28. *Evening Post*, 31 Jan 1992, p.1.
29. *Western News*, 23 Jul 1990, p. 5, *Western News*, 29 Oct 1993, p. 9, *Western News*, 27 Apr 2005, p. 14.
30. *Western News*, 24 Jun 1991, p. 1.

31. *Western News*, 25 Sep 1992, p.1.

32. *Western News*, 29 Jul 1994, p.13, *Western News*, 22 Mar 1996, p. 9, *Western News*, 5 Apr 1996, p.1. Lithgow, R. W., 'W. F. England Lane', *The Stockade*, no. 29, 1996, pp. 17-18.

33. *Western News*, 28 Aug 1992, p. 1.

34. The red rocks outside the library were returned to the South Coast in 2005. The historic lamp and foundation stone were relocated into the new design but the concrete seat could not be saved.

35. *Western News*, 30 Nov 2005, p. 3, pp. 9 – 16.

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