

APRIL
22nd
1987

Old Urenui Church to be Removed

The Calvin Presbyterian Church was opened in Urenui on April 23, 1924.

The section of land along the main road, next to the billiard parlour, was donated by Mrs Helena Topless, wife of Samuel Topless (father of Reg), and Sam donated the materials for the building of the church, paid the tradesman and supervised the voluntary labour.

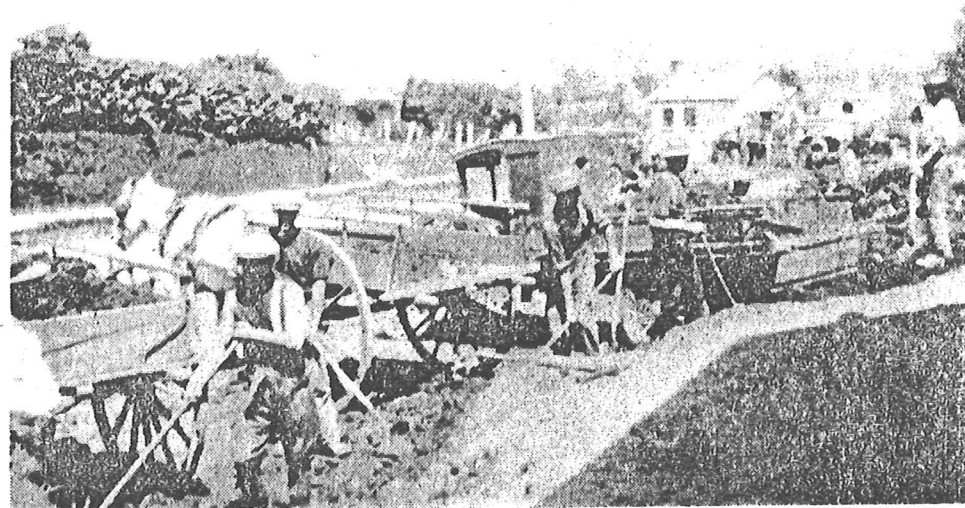
Now, 63 years later, the church and land has been purchased by Joel Busby of Urenui.

Bruce Baker of Pukearuhe has purchased the old kauri and heart rimu building and intends to shift it onto his land.

Presbyterian services were discontinued 10 years ago, but residents in the area can still recall the early days.

Urenui parishioners have always maintained and provided the materials and labour for repairs, and painting of the church as long as the church remained open to them.

The Calvin Ladies Guild, though small in numbers, have, in the past 30 years, provided the additional interior furnishings - replacing chairs with forms, all assembled, stained and varnished in the church. Carpet, other internal furnishings



Local volunteers prepare the section for the Calvin Presbyterian Church in Urenui, opened in April 1924. The section, materials and labour were all donated, and the church was opened debt free.

The building visible across the street in the photograph is the old library (formerly the old school), where the monument now stands.

and wall heaters were also provided.

When the church needed painting, the guild ladies raised money for the paint and organised the labour force.

JOINED

In 1972 the Methodists joined the Presbyterians for combined worship, the respective ministers taking alternate fortnightly Sunday

services - thus leaving the Methodist Church for the use of the combined Sunday School. On the fifth Sunday, the congregation joined the children for a family service.

In 1977 the time of the Presbyterian service was changed from 10 am to 11.15 am. Attendance declined and the services were discontinued.

Methodists continued to use the church until 1978 when permission to use the church was withdrawn.

The last wedding to be celebrated in the church was in 1977 when Marie Melville married Fred Lambert.

The Calvin Guild ladies continued to meet each month for the next two years to care for the church and lawns.

Service Star For Urenui Fireman