



St John's Anglican Church

Ohura Rd, Whangamomona

1924

Use:	Church	Historic Value:	3 out of 5
Materials:	Timber, iron roofing	Architectural Value:	2 out of 4
NZHPT Registered:	Not registered	Technical Value:	- out of 2
Legal Description:	Pt sec 7 Blk1 Whangamomona Township Blk1 Mahoe SD	Symbolic Value:	1 out of 3
		Rarity Value:	- out of 2
		Townscape Value:	1 out of 2
		Group Value:	1 out of 2
		Overall Heritage Value:	8 out of 20



From 1902, Whangamomona had visiting Anglican Mission priests and lay readers for the Anglican settlers. The first officially recorded service was on 18 February 1906, with 25 people attending, and by the 15th of September in the next year, the first Baptism and Communion service was undertaken. The priests serviced the area from Awakino to Toko, consequently often having to ride four hours between services, sometimes arriving to find no congregation.

These services were usually held in private homes, the hall, the school, or an empty building. They were also held in odd places, such as Whangamomona Tunnel. However, by 1920, it was decided a separate building was needed, and so a church building fund was set up.

Archdeacon Evans laid the foundation stone on 28 September 1924, and three builders – Alf Dugg, Laurie Sith and Lynn Carver (who was 17 years old, and a volunteer assistant), built the St John the Evangelist Anglican Church. The whole project took less than three months, and cost a total of £582.89.

The church was sourced by travelling vicars for many years – Rev. Young being the first one - who rode horses, bicycles and later motor cars to be able to maintain the pastoral care and worship in each district. A decline in population by 1950 led to the district of Taranaki East transferring to become part of the parish of Stratford, and services at Whangamomona were only held once a month.

The attendance at most centers in the district gradually reduced, and then ceased, although up to 1968 services were still being held at St Peter's Purangi, St John's Whangamomona, Toko Church and Douglas Church. In February 1976 the Anglican-Presbyterian Co-operating Parish of Taranaki East was formed from these districts, but by 1990 this agreement was dissolved, and the churches reverted to the Holy Trinity Parish.

By 2004, St John's was still being used as a regular centre for worship. The roof has been replaced, and most of the exterior was recently painted, with local supporters maintaining the grounds. It stands as a reminder to the faith and hard effort put in by the pioneer settlers, and is a living centre of worship.



Bibliography

Whangamomona's History (1997)

St John's Church Whangamomona 1924-2004 Commemorative Booklet