

Lanes Cottage

Built 1879 - Resorted 2015

Donated to Bushtown Heritage Park and the Waimate Edwardian Heritage Group by Margaret and Harold Prue of Waimate and restored by Waimate Edwardian Heritage Group members

This cottage built in 1879 has been given by Margaret and Harold Prue for restoration by Waimate Edwardian Heritage Group members and having been strengthened and relocated is now permanently sited on a street which is to depict 'Old Waimate' as part of the Bushtown Heritage Park.

Until September 2014, the two-roomed wooden cottage consisting of a living area and bedroom was situated at 95 Parsonage Road, Waimate.

Mrs Prue's grandparents Frederick and Matilda Lane were married in England in 1870 coming to New Zealand in 1873 and settling in the Waimate district where they purchased eleven and a half acres of land to farm.

The cottage was built in 1879 and family members resided there until the 1970's.

Mr and Mrs Lane brought up a family of nine children in this small cottage – no mean feat by today's standards. No electricity, running water or sewerage connections to make life easier.

Another two-roomed outbuilding was built as the family grew, girls sleeping in one room and boys in the other. That outbuilding is long demolished.

Mrs Prue remembers visiting uncles living in the cottage and the 'long drop' toilet facilities out the back.

A small band of Group members have worked tirelessly to restore the cottage, physically doing the immense amount of strengthening to bring it to the standard required for the shift to Bushtown and once sited here further restoration and refurbishment have taken place.

During the past five years fundraising for this project has been ongoing to reach this point. Items from deceased estates, members and the general public have been gifted to the Group to refurbish the cottage and organisations have made monetary donations to assist.

Local contractors have generously supplied their assistance for free. Our Group values and appreciates the support given by our local community and Bushtown Waimate Inc.

The Official Opening Ceremony took place on Saturday 14 March 2015 when Mrs Margaret Prue cut the ribbon and declared the Cottage open. This was a special moment for the Waimate Edwardian Heritage Group as it took place during the Group's 10th Anniversary weekend of Heritage Celebrations.

This project highlights the Edwardian Group's interest in the preservation of Waimate's heritage and early history.

Members are thrilled that Lane's Cottage is part of the Bushtown Heritage Park complex and will be available for their members, locals and tourists alike to enjoy.



*Mrs Margaret & Mr Harold Prue
outside the cottage at 95 Parsonage Road
prior to restoration commencing*