

Public Files
Loc. Bridge. Purangi

R. George.

COUNTIES

of

INGLEWOOD & STRATFORD

**PURANGI BRIDGE
OPENING**

8th March, 1956

COMBINED COUNTIES OF INGLEWOOD AND STRATFORD

PROGRAMME FOR THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE
WAITARA RIVER BRIDGE AT PURANGI.

THURSDAY, 8th MARCH, 1956

1.30 p.m.—National Anthem.

Inglewood County Chairman (F. Laurence, Esq.) will introduce speakers.

Stratford County Chairman (B. Hutchen, Esq.) will speak on behalf of the Combined Counties.

Councillor for East Riding (I.C.C.), A. J. Webb, Esq., and Councillor for Ngatimaru Riding (S.C.C.), W. N. Bertrand, Esq.—Address and Welcome on behalf of local people.

County Clerk, Inglewood County, will present apologies for absence and provide details of history and costs of bridge.

Speakers:

E. P. Aderman, Esq., M.P. for New Plymouth, on behalf of Local Parliamentary Representative.

N. H. Moss, Esq., Member of National Roads Board. President of Municipal Association. Mayor of Stratford.

A. Alexander, Esq., Chairman Clifton County, on behalf of neighbouring Counties.

N. F. Little, Esq., Chairman Taranaki Automobile Association.

The Chairman will call upon the Hon. Minister to present photographs of the new bridge to Engineers and Contractors as follows:—

A. A. Babbage, Esq., A.M.I.C.E., A.M.N.Z.I.E., Designing Engineer.

E. H. M. Adams, Esq., A.M.I.C.E., A.M.N.Z.I.E., Supervising Engineer.

Messrs. McMillan and Julian, Bridge Contractors.

Chairman will express Council's thanks to those connected with the construction of the Bridge, and to those who accepted invitations to the opening.

Chairman will call upon the Hon. Minister of Works to address gathering and declare the bridge open. Mrs. F. Laurence will cut the ribbon.

This completes the ceremony at the bridge and guests will then proceed to the Purangi Hall for afternoon tea which is being prepared and served by the womenfolk of the district.

HISTORY AND COSTS

"The Old Bridge"

From information available, it is known that the old wooden truss bridge, which previously spanned this river, was built during the latter years of the 1890's. As may be observed, the piers of the old structure are still standing. Due to deterioration, it had to be closed to all vehicular traffic in 1948 and since then it has served merely as a pedestrian crossing. The local people have endured the eight years of inconvenience with patience and cheerfulness and their desire to rejoice on this occasion is quite understandable.

"The New Bridge"

A contract was let for the construction of the new bridge on the 12th October, 1953, and was completed by the end of September, 1955, three months ahead of the scheduled time. Unfortunately the construction of the approaches took longer than was expected, but the completed job is now a reality, and in future it should prove to be an important contributing factor in the development of the farming lands in these back country districts of Purangi and Matau.

"Costs and Finance"

A preferential subsidy of £6 for £1 was granted by the old Main Highways Board for this renewal, leaving the Combined Counties to provide between them, one-seventh share of the total costs involved. Costs and respective contributions are as follows:—

Bridge Construction: £32,968, subsidy received £28,258, I.C.C. Share £2355; S.C.C. Share £2355. Temporary Footbridge as part of Contract, but not subsidised, £600. Shared by both Counties.

Approaches: First Contract: £1900, subsidy received £1628, I.C.C. £136, S.C.C. £136.

Second Contract: £3100. Subsidy at £3 for £1, £2325. I.C.C. Share, £775.

Total Costs: £38,568. Subsidy received £32,211. Inglewood County's share £3566, Stratford County's share £2791.