

LEISURE

Of passing interest

Historical features in our landscape observed by the director of Puke Ariki
Kelvin Day.

St John's Church, Kaponga

On the corner of Egmont and West streets, Kaponga, is the St John's Methodist Church. Built in 1911 it replaced an earlier church on the same site that had been constructed in 1889.

By 1910 this building had outgrown its usefulness and it was sold for demolition for £25. Tenders were called for a new church with Mr C Walker's tender of £596.15 being successful.

During the construction of the new building church services were held in the Parish Hall. Further additions were made to the church in 1927 when the Awatuna Methodist Church was purchased, cut into two for its relocation to Kaponga, and then added to the western end of the church.

In the mid-1930s the effects of the Depression were still being felt and the Kaponga Methodists made the decision to combine with the Eltham Methodists. A further combining took place in 1976 when the Kaponga and Eltham Methodists formed a co-operating parish with the Presbyterians of both towns.

