

# As we were 1930 to 1939



## District Populations 1930 to 1939

Whakatāne: 8,130  
Ōpōtiki: 5,810

## Whakatāne Hospital Leaders

### Board Chair:

1911-1934 Mr A Peebles  
1934-1941 Mr JW Sumner

### Medical Leaders:

1928-1930 Dr JB McMiken  
1930 Dr FJ Appleby  
1931-1937 Dr JL Frazerhurst  
1937-1963 Dr ET Dawson

### Nursing Leaders:

1923-1938 Miss DE Giffney  
1938-1943 Miss M Gribben

### Management:

1921-1939 Mr F Prideaux



**Whakatāne Hospital Board 1936**

**Standing from left:** Mr CA Suckling, Mr FC Yeoman, Mr RW Schofield, Miss DE Giffney (Matron), Mr F Prideaux (Secretary) and Mr AF McGougan  
**Seated:** Mr L Buddle, Mr FJ Savage, Mr JW Sumner (Chairman), Dr JL Frazerhurst (Medical Superintendent) and Mr FJ Burt



**Senior Staff and Nurses Whakatāne Hospital 1937**

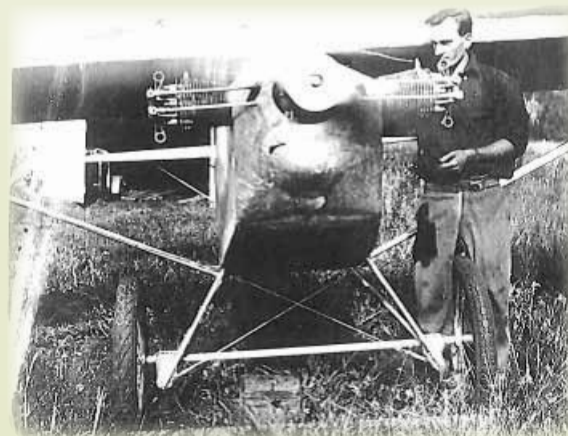
**Maternity Nurses standing from left:** Miss D Shaw, Miss J Turner, Miss JA Molloy, Miss D Keating, Miss J Waddington, Miss G Holmes, Miss R Black, Miss Peake, Miss Simmonds, Miss Nepia, Miss Dreaver and Miss K Drummond  
**Seated:** Dr F Appleby, Sister NA Harding, Dr JL Frazerhurst, Matron DE Giffney and Dr JC Wadmore  
**Front row:** Miss Hunt, Miss Patterson and Miss Wadmore

## Timeline

Eastern Bay ▶  
of Plenty Area

**1930**

A home-made aeroplane, the *Spirit of Whakatāne*, built by Whakatāne residents (John Allison, Sam Armstrong and Vic Allen) made its maiden flight.



**1936**

Whakatāne Hospital.

**1938**

Plans were made for additions to Mens ward and Nurses home at Whakatāne.



**1939**

The Whakatāne St John's Ambulance service formed using an ambulance similar to this one.



◀ Whakatāne Medical Superintendent's house built.

The Bay of Plenty Beacon registered as a tri-weekly local newspaper.

New Zealand (NZ) ▶  
and World

**1930**

School and Native Nursing Services were combined as Public Health Nursing.



◀ The 1930's saw the introduction of the Iron Lung respirator. An airtight metal tank which forced the lungs to inhale and exhale, was developed for use with poliomyelitis affecting the respiratory muscles.

**1931**

7.9 earthquake in Napier and Hastings killed 256 people. ▶

The Great Depression affected the whole country. Unemployment in NZ rose from 500 in 1924 to approximately 80,000 in 1933. Among the effects were that nurses were required to either 'retire' at the end of their training or take a salary cut for an additional year of employment.



**1937**

A third poliomyelitis outbreak in NZ.

**1938**

Social Security Act introduced providing free health services "from the cradle to the grave."

**1939**

World War II started and the 28th Māori Battalion was formed. 30% of NZ doctors and many nurses served overseas causing serious staffing shortages in NZ so married women were allowed back into nursing ranks to fill staff vacancies.



Two year Nurse Aide training introduced.

Insulin 'sub-coma' and convulsive therapy introduced for schizophrenia and depression.