

# As we were 1950 to 1959



## District Populations 1950 to 1959

Whakatāne: 13,850  
Ōpōtiki: 5,190

### Whakatāne Hospital Leaders

#### Board Chair:

1945-1965 Mr J Mullins

#### Medical:

1937-1963 Dr ET Dawson

#### Nursing:

1947-1951 Miss K Miller  
1951-1967 Miss CP Booth

#### Management:

1921-1939 and 1945-1951  
Mr F Prideaux  
1951-1969 Mr AJ Regan

### Ōpōtiki: Hospital Leaders

#### Board Chair:

1950-1959 Mr J Redpath

#### Medical:

1951-1970 Dr DF Fromow

#### Nursing:

1952-1952 Miss E Gillespie  
1952 Miss T Mayo

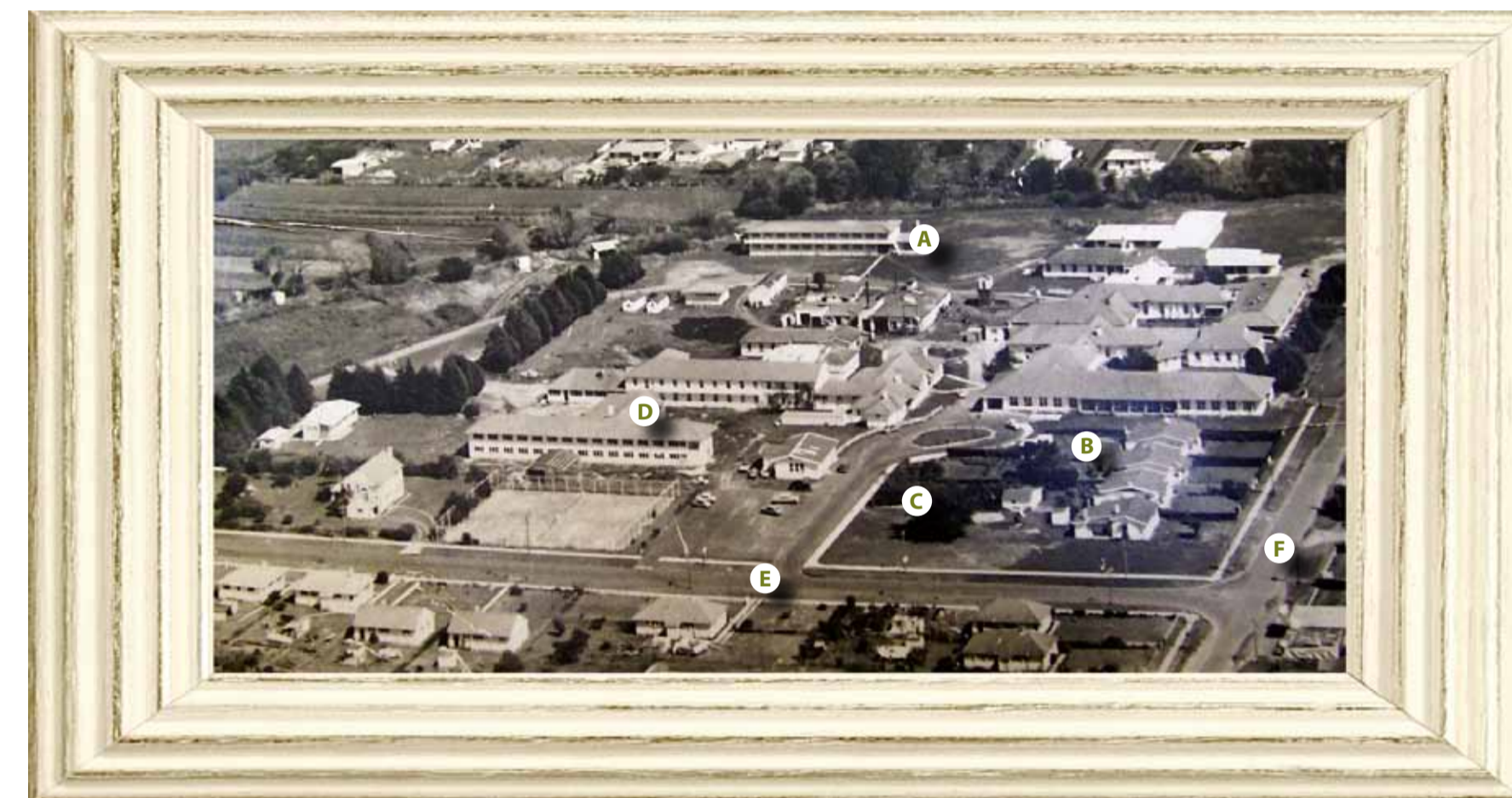
#### Management:

1952 Mr D Laurie



1951 Ōpōtiki Hospital

From left are: Dr J Simock, Dr James, Matron Gillespie and Dr D Meredith



1957 Whakatāne Hospital site map

**A** - Domestic staff quarters built in 1950 (in 1960 building became Geriatric Ward and in the 1980's became the Psychiatric Unit, Te Toki Maurere), **B** - Site where the Dawson Block now stands, **C** - Site where the Godfrey Santon Block now stands, **D** - 1928, 1941 & 1957 Nurses homes - now demolished, **E** - Garaway Street, **F** - Stewart Street

1959 Miss Clara Phyllis Booth  
Matron at Whakatāne Hospital 1951 to 1967



## Timeline

Eastern Bay ▶  
of Plenty Area

### 1950s

Whakatāne Hospital had 50 beds, 30 male, 20 female, plus a maternity unit.

Henry Rongomai Bennett, NZ's first Māori psychiatrist later became Medical Superintendent of Tokanui Regional Psychiatric and Psychopaedic Hospital for Waikato/Bay of Plenty.



### 1950

Mr John Cunninghame appointed as first full time surgeon at Whakatāne and retired in 1991.

The Whakatāne Female Domestic Staff Quarters built.

### 1951

Whakatāne became an 'A Grade' Nurse Training School. Miss Jane Seymour Principal Tutor 1952-53, followed by Miss Leslie Turner in 1954 who retired in 1974.



### 1952

New 'Woodlands' hospital opened in Ōpōtiki as a general hospital. Later Ward 2 converted to Maternity and Children's wards and Ward 1 enlarged to become a Geriatric Ward.



### 1956

Murupara and Kawerau Maternity Hospitals opened.



### 1958

Mrs Marion Wilson, Whakatāne Hospital's first and only teacher employed in the Paediatrics Ward until 1980.

Miss Brenda Rogers, Sister-in-Charge of Maternity Annexe from early 1950s to late 1960s, pictured here with the Hospital Basketball Team (sitting second from left)

New Zealand (NZ) ▶  
and World

### 1950s

William Kolff designs the artificial kidney machine.

NZ's first mobile X-ray unit introduced in Taranaki for tuberculosis screening.



### 1950

The Department of Health employed 205 Public Health Nurses, 41 specially trained to deal with tuberculosis.

British Empire Games held in Auckland.



### 1953

Hillary and Norgay conquered Everest.

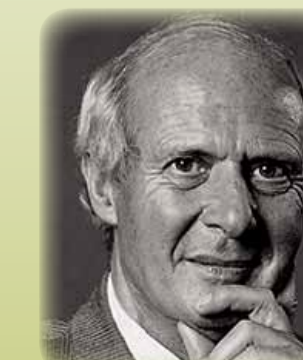
Tangiwai rail disaster claimed 151 lives.

HM Queen Elizabeth II tours NZ.



### 1956

A poliomyelitis vaccine was developed by Dr Jonas Salk.



### 1958

Sir Brian Barrett-Boyes performed first open heart surgery in NZ at Greenlane Hospital, the first use of Heart-Lung machine in NZ.

Obstetric, district and public health nursing included in the General Nursing programme and three year Psychiatric Nursing and Male Nursing programmes were established.