

Fires in the Upper Hutt district

1865

New Zealand Spectator and Cooks Strait Guardian newspaper 22 February 1865

Fire at the Upper Hutt - We are sorry to bear of the total destruction by fire of Mr Haslem's steam saw mills (formerly Plimmer & Haslem) at the Upper Hutt, together with about 17,000 feet of sawn timber and a very large quantity of firewood. The fire took place about 4 o'clock on Saturday morning. It appears that Mr. Haslem was the first to discover that his mill was on fire, when he immediately gave an alarm, and his neighbours were quickly on the spot, but in consequence of the rapid progress of the flames and the scarcity of water, very little could be done towards endeavouring to save the property. We understand that Mr. Haslem was insured only to the extent of £600 he will therefore suffer great loss, as the property destroyed was estimated at about £3,000.

(Reference Papers Past website New Zealand Spectator and Cooks Strait Guardian newspaper 22 February 1865 page 2)

1885

West Coast Times newspaper 29 January 1885 page 2

Fire at the Hutt – Wellington 28 January – The residence of Mrs Barton Trentham Upper Hutt was totally destroyed by fire valued at £500. No insurance.

1886

West Coast Times newspaper 16 January 1886 page 1

Fire at Upper Hutt – Wellington 14 January – A four roomed cottage belonging to Thomas Webb labourer Upper Hutt was burned down between noon and 1 o'clock. It is insured for a small amount in the South British.

1889

Wairarapa Daily Times 02 January 1889 page 2

Fire at Upper Hutt – Wellington Wednesday – The homestead and dairy at Huntley's farm Upper Hutt occupied by Mr Wilson and owned by Mr Nicholas Reid of Wellington was destroyed by fire last night. The buildings were insured for £720 in the British. No particulars has reached town how the fire originated .

1893

Nelson Evening Mail newspaper 27 December 1893 page 2

Death in Hospital – Wellington this day – Mr Sullivan who was injured in a fire at the Upper Hutt died in the hospital this morning

1910

Northern Advocate newspaper 13 April page 5

Sawmill Burned Down in Upper Hutt district - Wellington 13 April – Henry Alexander's sawmill at Whiteman's Valley Upper Hutt district was completely destroyed by fire yesterday morning

1914

In March 1914 the fire and explosion destroyed the Benge and Pratt store and eight [8] people died.

Poverty Bay Herald newspaper 15 September 1914

Baigent Bros sawmill at Akatarawa near Upper Hutt was totally destroyed by fire. The mill and plant were worth about £1200. The works employed 20 men. There was no insurance

(Reference Papers past website Poverty Bay Herald newspaper 15 September 1914 page 6)

1923

Evening Post newspaper 24 January 1923 page 6

Fire at Upper Hutt – Fire totally destroyed the six roomed residence of Mr Victor Von Tunzelman at Maoribank Upper Hutt at 1 o'clock this morning

1933

Evening Post newspaper 23 October 1933 page 5

Upper Hutt Fire – About 140 chickens were destroyed by fire in a fowl house on premises occupied by Mr A J Severn Exchange Street Upper Hutt on Saturday. The fire is believed to have been caused by a defective brooder and it quickly gained a hold. Although the Upper Hutt Municipal Fire Brigade was summoned the fowl house was beyond salvage. The premises were owned by Mr O Robertson of Wallaceville.

1944-1946

On Wednesday 11 December 1946 or 1944 St Joseph's Orphanage situated in Pine Avenue Upper Hutt was burnt down with no loss of life. The school was later rebuilt in Gibbons Street Upper Hutt.
