

Godley House

A prominent history

Godley House was built in 1880 as a grand family home by Mr Harvey Hawkins - ship chandler, ironmonger and speculator and one of Lyttelton's leading citizens.

The land that Godley House is built on was purchased from Mark Stoddart who lived with his family in what is known as Stoddart's Cottage. This cottage is situated nearby behind the rugby grounds.

By 1894 the property went back on the market, but did not attract any bids so it reverted back to the Stoddart family.

Renowned Canterbury painter Margaret Stoddart (daughter of Mark and Anna Stoddart) lived and painted in Godley house. Several of her most well known paintings were of the house in its garden and harbour setting.

The Stoddart family lived in Godley House until 1913 when the house and the cottage were sold to the Lyttelton Borough Council, who then converted the house into a guest house and tearooms.

Why Godley House?

The house is named in honour of John Robert Godley, who came to New Zealand in 1850 for a period of two years as the Canterbury Association Agent and is known as the 'founder' of the Canterbury settlement.

A place for community

Godley House has played a significant role in the social life of the Diamond Harbour community and for visitors to the house, most recently as a restaurant and accommodation.

The house has been a landmark in the community for over 130 years and has hosted many memorable community functions and local weddings.

PUBLIC NOTICES

FOR A DELIGHTFUL RESTFUL HOLIDAY.

GODLEY HOUSE, Diamond Harbour, offers the best opportunity in Canterbury for a restful holiday by the sea. Amusements include Golf, Tennis, Bathing, Boating and Fishing.

Tariff 10/- per day.
£3 8s per week.

Write PROPRIETRESS, or ring
- Diamond Harbour Bureau



*Ellesmere Guardian
22 January 1929*

*Godley House at its
best, from the lawn*

*A popular
social hub*

At the heart of Diamond Harbour

Godley House, Diamond Harbour's iconic heritage building and destination was badly damaged by the 4 September earthquake. It sustained further significant damage in the 22 February earthquake.

Two independent reports from structural engineers advise that the building is unsalvageable and needs to be deconstructed and demolished.

Through careful deconstruction it is hoped that some heritage fabric will be salvaged.



*Council staff work to retrieve, record
and store heritage features*



*Salvaged heritage fabric and
features*

Future plans for the site

Christchurch City Council will work closely with the local community and key stakeholders to look at all future options for the development of this historic site.

For updates visit:

www.ccc.govt.nz/councilheritageassets