



All quotations are from Janet Frame's autobiography.
 © Copyright Janet Frame Literary Trust. Photo 9 © Copyright North Otago Museum.



Oamaru i-SITE Information Centre
 1 Thames Street, Oamaru, New Zealand
 Phone: +64-3-434 1656 • Fax: +64-3-434 1657



Janet Frame Eden Street Trust



9 THE BATHS



A favourite summer haunt of the Frame children, it was here that Myrtle Frame drowned in March 1937. "At the end of the street I passed the Town Baths and felt again, held within the dull red colour of the rows of seats and their spindly uncomfortable slats, the sense of the old glory of 'being at the Baths', and then I remembered after my sister Myrtle's drowning, the deliberate disentangling, the excision of the baths from my life..."

11 WILLOWGLEN



The Frame family moved to Willowglen in 1943. Janet Frame had already left Oamaru to study in Dunedin but stayed here occasionally. (Directions: Cross Fenwick Park, which is located at the end of Chelmer Street past the Gardens. At the foot of the hill is a public path. Near the top of the track, through the trees to the left, you will catch sight of the remains of the house.) "During those marvellous green and gold summer days I found a place by the creek, an old log, like the old birch log of years ago. I sat for hours watching the water, the ducks, the swamp hens..."

10 OAMARU PUBLIC GARDENS



Janet Frame described many of the features of these gardens in her writings, including the Japanese Red Bridge, the duck pond, the Peter Pan statue, the children's playground, and the fern house. "...we used to go to the fern house just to feel the experience of wetness and greenness..."

12 FINAL RESTING PLACE



At Janet Frame's request, her ashes were interred in the Frame family plot in the Oamaru Cemetery. The grave can be found next to a hedge on the Greta Street frontage of the Cemetery about 75 metres from the intersection of Greta & Tamar Streets.

Janet Frame's OAMARU



"I wanted an imagination that would inhabit a world of fact, descend like a shining light upon the ordinary life of Eden Street ... our lives, and our home, the world of Oamaru, the kingdom by the sea."

The Early Life of our Nobel Prize Nominated Writer

3067_WDB_brochure_Janet Frame_INSIDE_prf9
 23/07/07

Please read the following, then review proof. Please confirm if the proof is correct, checking copy, figure and captions. Please check and correct any errors in technical detail **marking any corrections required on proof clearly in red**. Nominal corrections can be made eg. single words, numbered references etc. No responsibility will be taken for any errors in the entire product not marked on this proof.

I/we have read the terms and conditions of The Flying Lizard Limited supplied with the estimate for this described project. Please return this proof or a copy of the proof to us by fax.

- Approved (please tick).
- Approved with corrections (please tick).
- Make corrections and supply clean proof (please tick).

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Janet Frame...

...was New Zealand's most distinguished author (CBE; Nominee for the Nobel Prize in Literature; Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters; two Honorary Doctorates; Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement; Arts Foundation Icon). In 1990 she was awarded New Zealand's highest civil honour, the Order of New Zealand.

She wrote over 20 works of fiction, poetry and memoir, for which she won many prizes including the Commonwealth Literature Prize. Her autobiography was adapted by Jane Campion into the internationally acclaimed film *An Angel at my Table*, an inspirational story of triumph over adversity and of the struggle of an artist to find her true place in society.

Janet Frame was born in Dunedin in 1924, the third of five children. Her father worked on the railways and the family moved several times before finally settling in Oamaru in 1931. Janet Frame lived in Oamaru until 1943 and later transformed many of her experiences of those years into her fiction. Her schooldays were marred by family tragedy and financial hardship, but she was raised with a love of literature and of nature, and her writing talent was recognised at an early age: "in my family words were revered as instruments of magic".

This pamphlet is a guide to some of the significant locations associated with Janet Frame's early years. By tracing her life here, you too can participate in an act of imagination by visiting the sites that still exist, as well as those that have been altered over time. Her autobiography is your recommended reference book. Echoes of Frame's Oamaru are also found throughout her fiction, most notably in the "Waimaru" of her first novel *Owls Do Cry*.



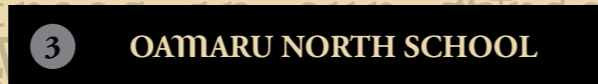
1 56 EDEN STREET

The home of Janet Frame from 1931 to 1943. (The house is open to the public 2pm – 4 pm daily from November through April.) "As soon as we arrived at 56 Eden Street, Oamaru, we children began crawling and climbing everywhere, over every inch of the red-painted iron roof, along every earthy space between the piles under the house."



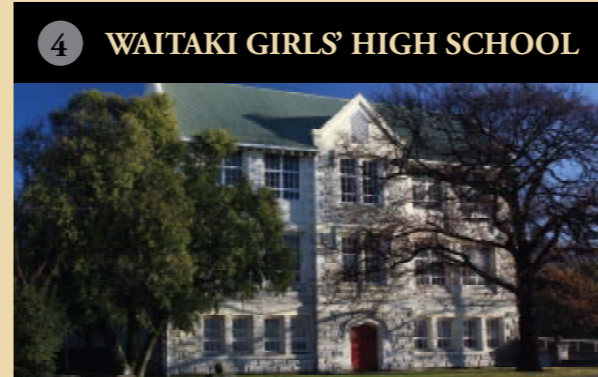
2 KINGDOM BY THE SEA

To see this view of Oamaru as enjoyed by the young Janet Frame either climb the zigzag path behind 56 Eden Street (but be careful because it is steep) or approach from Warren Street. "I'd stare down at the familiar kingdom by the sea, listening to the waves crashing over the breakwater..."



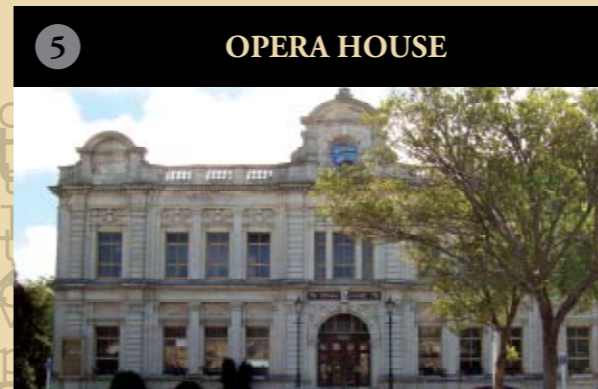
3 OAMARU NORTH SCHOOL

Janet Frame attended this primary school from 1931 until 1934. None of the school buildings from her time remain. "...more important in my memory is the walk between home and school ... I had several choices of route."



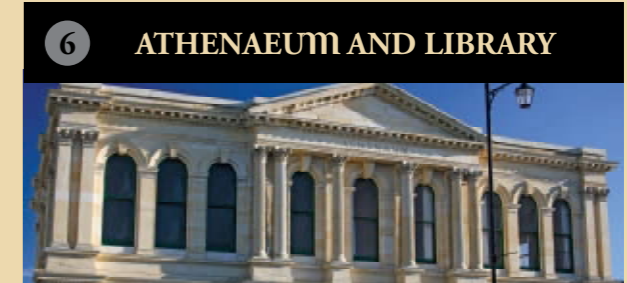
4 WAITAKI GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

Janet Frame attended from 1935 until 1942. Her favourite subjects were French and English literature and mathematics. "... I set out to Waitaki Girls' Senior High, wearing my new uniform but discarding for home use only the blazer that Aunty Polly had sewn the wrong colour. The schools were so particular about our having the correct uniform, and anything that made one's appearance different from the others was a cause for alarm and worry."



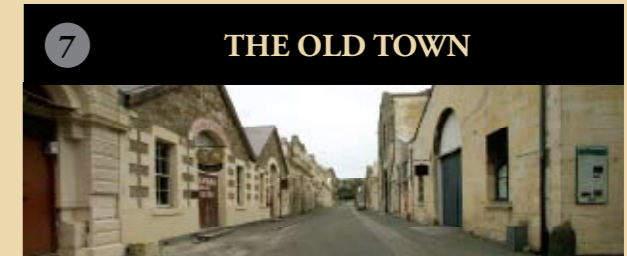
5 OPERA HOUSE

Films were screened in this theatre, and dance and music competitions were held in the May school holidays. "...a chance came at the Opera House for someone in Oamaru to make the big time in films ... an Australian company wanted a young actor.... Filled with the anticipation of being 'discovered' we flocked to the Opera House..."



6 ATHENAEUM AND LIBRARY

Now the North Otago Museum which houses a Janet Frame display. The adjoining Public Library holds a Janet Frame collection. "...the upper floor contained the library where the librarian, named, I supposed, from her own habitat, Miss Ironside, sat behind an iron grille, issuing and returning books."



7 THE OLD TOWN

Janet Frame walked through this historic area on her way to Friendly Bay, or to go fishing from the wharf with her father. "...the parts of Oamaru that caused you to shiver with the sense of yesterdays—down by Tyne Street, the grain stores and the tall stone buildings..."



8 RAILWAY STATION

Janet Frame's father was a train driver. "Dad worked all day, and sometimes, on night shift, all night, sleeping during the day, while we, the railway children, vanished into the pine plantations or along Glen Street Gully..."

3067_WDB_brochure_Janet Frame_INSIDE_prf9
23/07/07

Please read the following, then review proof. Please confirm if the proof is correct, checking copy, figure and captions. Please check and correct any errors in technical detail **marking any corrections required on proof clearly in red**. Nominal corrections can be made eg. single words, numbered references etc. No responsibility will be taken for any errors in the entire product not marked on this proof.

I/we have read the terms and conditions of The Flying Lizard Limited supplied with the estimate for this described project. Please return this proof or a copy of the proof to us by fax.

- Approved (please tick).
- Approved with corrections (please tick).
- Make corrections and supply clean proof (please tick).

Signature: _____ Date: _____