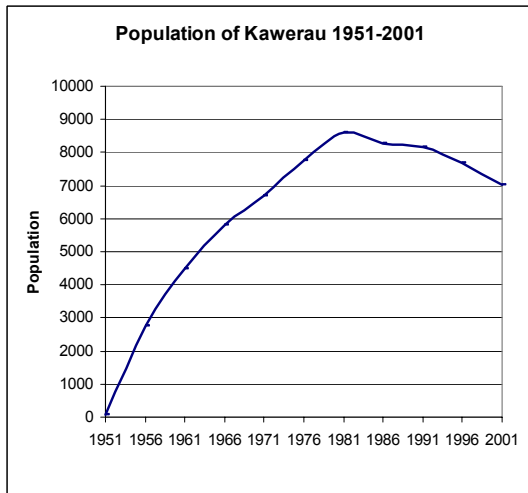


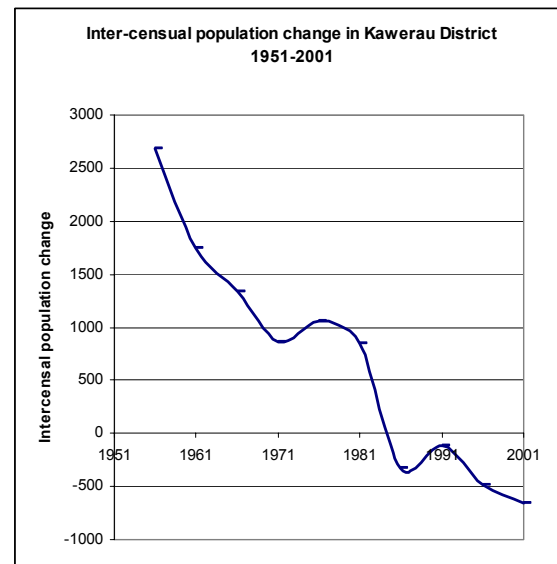
## ***Report 1. The changing population of Kawerau: 1951 to 2001.***

The following summarises some of the census evidence as it relates to the changing population of Kawerau over the last 50 years.

The demography of Kawerau reflects its economic history. The population of Kawerau grew rapidly over the first three decades of its fifty year history, reached a peak of about eight and a half thousand in 1981 and then started to decline.



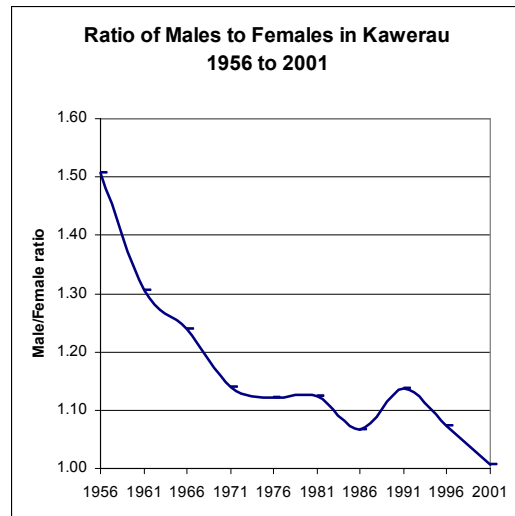
The successive change in population in the following graph shows how the town added a successively smaller number to its population each year.



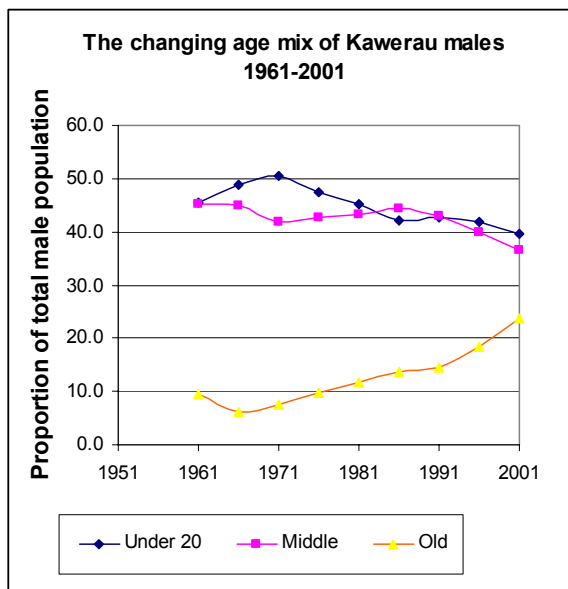
There are three primary reasons for this pattern of population change: the built in demographics of a new settlement, the reductions in the workforce of the Mill in the early 1980s, and the changing relative attractiveness of Kawerau as a place to live.

Kawerau was settled by two distinct populations: single men and young families. The town began with a disproportionately large population of men. Over time families formed and the ratio of men to women diminished.

From having had one of the highest male:female ratios in the country in the mid 1950s, Kawerau had dropped below the New Zealand average by 2001 with women now equalling the number of men.



In a parallel development the age distribution also changed. As families became established the proportion of children in the town increased. Less than 10 years after settlement the proportion of (men) under 5 had risen to 17 percent and this proportion grew to its peak of 21.7 percent in 1981.

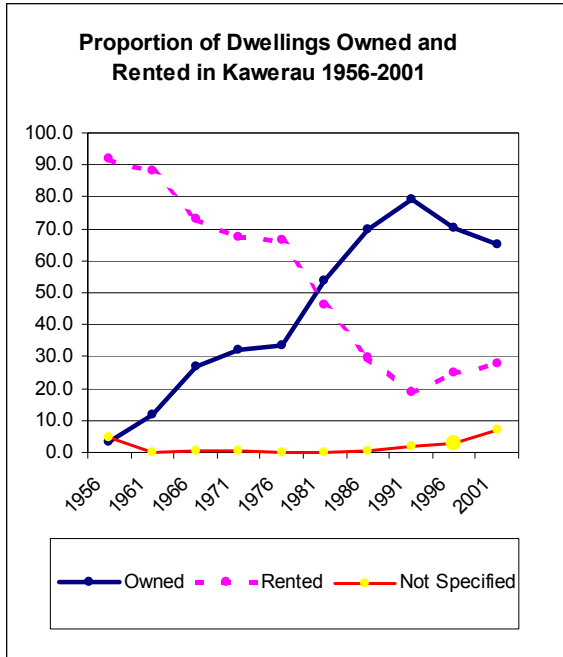


The proportion of men under 20 years old continued to rise through to 1971 but declined there after. This highly mobile age group and its growth set the scene for a marked out-migration from the early 1970s.

Unlike those men (mostly) born in Kawerau their parents age group remained fairly stable until the mid 1980s when they too began to decline as a proportion. (In this graph Middle = 20<50 years; Old = 50+)

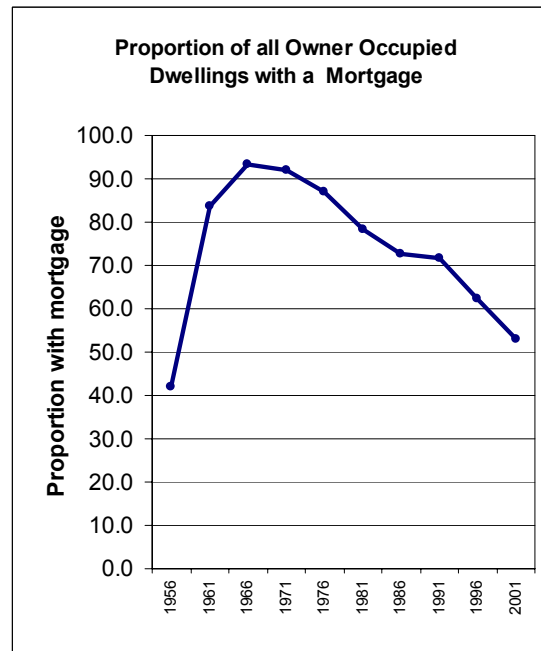
Filling the gap left by the young and middle age groups was a growing older population. The current pattern of aging we see in the town today is not new; it is an acceleration of a trend that is apparent from the mid 1960s when the older population began increasing its share of the Kawerau resident population.

Early settlers in Kawerau rented their dwellings, many of the young men living in men's quarters. As the settlement became established, incomes rose and households formed and families were encouraged to buy dwellings of their own. By 1981 half of all households in the town owned their own dwelling.

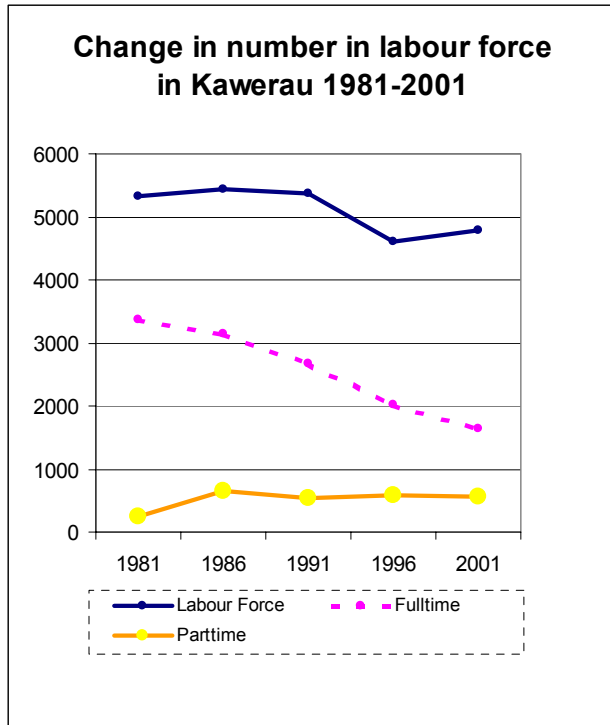


Even though the population of Kawerau began to decline after 1981 the proportion purchasing continued to rise and did not peak until 10 years later in 1991 when 80 percent owned their dwelling. Eventually tenure caught up with demographics and investment in home ownership declined. Kawerau was becoming a town of renters again.

With relatively little in-migration the proportion of home owners paying off their mortgage increased. The proportion of owners servicing a mortgage fell from the mid 1960s and by 2001 only about half of all owner occupiers held a mortgage - only a slightly higher proportion than in 1956.



What is surprising about the economic history of Kawerau is not that the population of the town declined since 1981 but that it did not decline much more rapidly. The number of fulltime jobs held by those living in Kawerau fell by over half in 20 years but the population only fell by 18 percent.



There are two main reasons for the discrepancy. Firstly in a full employment economy population change is closely associated with change in employment. When the number of jobs decline, so people leave for jobs elsewhere. As unemployment rates rose in the 1980s and peaked in the early 1990s so this link between jobs and population weakened. Instead of moving, many people stayed, the labour force participation fell and unemployment rose.

The second reason why population did not follow employment was that an increasing proportion of Kawerau's workforce had already left the town but remained employed there. More and more were commuting in from outside the town. This had the effect of

lowering the fulltime work rate of those living in the town, a trend only partly modified by the increasing number of Kawerau residents who commuted out of town to obtain work.

END

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