



PAEKĀKĀRIKI



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WELCOME TO THE KĀPITI COAST HERITAGE TRAIL

The Kāpiti Coast has a rich and colourful history. From Ōtaki in the north, to Paekākāriki in the south, you will discover sites that played a major role in the cultural, economic and social growth of New Zealand.

This brochure focuses on Paekākāriki. It is one of a set describing some of the significant historical sites in our district.

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NAU MAI KI NGĀ TAKAHANGA O NGĀ TĀONGA TUKU IHO O KĀPITI

He kōrero hōhonu tuku iho tō te rohe o Kāpiti. Mai i Ōtaki ki te raki, ki Paekākāriki ki te tonga, ka tūpono atu koe ki ngā wāhi i whai take nui ki ngā mahi ā-tikanga, ā-ōhanga, ā-iwi o Aotearoa.

E arotahi ana tēnei mātārere ki Paekākāriki. Koinei tētehi kōwae e whakamārama ana i ētehi o ngā wāhi hira o mua iho i tō mātou rohe.

*Mō ētehi atu kōrero tēnā koa whātoro atu ki tēnei
paetukutuku www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/heritage*



PAEKĀKĀRIKI HILL ROAD

SITE
1

The Paekākāriki Hill Road was built to pacify the Wellington region after the Hutt Valley War of 1845–6. British Army engineers with Māori road-building gangs completed the road in November 1849, linking Wellington and Porirua with the beach road to Whanganui. Māori produce, mail, livestock, and settlers used Paekākāriki and its hotel as a resting point for travellers and horses. From 1866 a scheduled mail coach service operated until the railway opened in 1886.

Paekākāriki Hill remained the main highway north until 1939, when Centennial Highway eliminated the arduous and often dangerous climb.

TE RORI O TE HIWI O PAEKĀKĀRIKI

He mea hanga te Rori o Te Hiwi o Paekākāriki hei whakamahuru i te rohe o Pōneke i muri mai o te pakanga o Hutt Valley i 1845-6. Nā ngā mataaro pūkaha o te Taua o Ingarangi me ngā kaihangā rori Māori i whakaoti te rori i Nōema 1849, nā, i honongia a Pōneke me Porirua ki te rori ākau ki Whanganui. He mea whakamahi a Paekākāriki me tōna hōtēra mō ngā hua Māori, te mēra, te kararehe me te hunga noho whenua hei okiokinga mō te tangata haereere me te hoiho. Mai i 1866 e tū ana tētehi ratonga mēra tae noa ki te whakatūwheratanga o te rerewhenua i 1886.

I tū ko te Hiwi o Paekākāriki te huarahi matua ki te raki tae noa ki 1939, ki te wā i whakakore ai a Centennial Highway i te pikitanga uaua, kino hoki.



'Bell' Company sightseeing bus on the summit of Paekākāriki Hill Road, view northwards ca 1920

Just Collection, Alexander Turnbull Library. Ref: 71442 ½



A heavily laden Ford model T truck making the ascent and view northwards in 1924

SC Smith Collection, Alexander Turnbull Library. Ref: 47388 ½

PAEKĀKĀRIKI TOWN

SITE
2

Beach Road, Paekākāriki

Paekākāriki (the perching place of the green parakeet) is a place where travellers have always paused for rest and refreshment. The coastal track from Pukerua Bay was the travelling route for Māori, missionaries, traders and from 1840, settlers and mail carriers.

Signs of early settlement include a 400-year-old moa-hunter camp in the dunes, and pits on the ridge above the town indicating food stores and house sites.

In the 1820s Ngāti Toa established Wainui Pā at the mouth of Wainui Stream. A smaller Te Āti Awa pā, Paripari, was a kilometre south of this site, and Whareroa by a stream to the north.

Whaler 'Scotch Jock' Nicoll and his wife, Kahe Te Rau-o-te-Rangi, opened an accommodation house at Paripari, moving to Paekākāriki in 1847. A scheduled coach service began in 1865, changing horses at the hotel stables.

After the Wellington and Manawatu Railway Company line opened in 1886, Paekākāriki grew rapidly, acquiring a school, churches and other facilities. The railway also brought holidaymakers.

TE TĀONE O PAEKĀKĀRIKI

Huarahi o Beach, Paekākāriki

Ko Paekākāriki (te pae o te kākāriki) he wāhi e tū ai te hunga haereere ki te kai me te whakaoho i a rātou, ia wā, ia wā. Ko te ara takutai mai i te Whanga o Pukerua, koia te ara haere mō ngā mihinare Māori me ngā kaihokohoko, ā, mai i 1840, he ara hoki mō te hunga whakatū papakāinga me te hunga kawē mēra.

Ko ngā tohu i nohongia ai i mua rā, ko tētehi puni whakangau moa i ngā taipū me ngā rua i te kahiwi, i runga ake o te tāone kei reira rā he rua kai, he wāhi kāinga hoki.

I ngā tau 1820, i tū i a Ngāti Toa te Pā o Wainui i te ngutu awa o Wainui. Ko Paripari, tētehi pā iti o Te Āti Awa kotahi kiromita ki te tonga o tēnei wāhi, ā, ko Whareroa ki te wāhi o tētahi manga ki te raki.

Nā te kaiwhaiwhai tohorā a 'Scotch Jock' Nicoll me tōna hoa rangatira, me Kahe Te Rau-o-te-Rangi i whakatūwhera tētehi whare nōhanga ki Paripari, i tō rāua nōhanga ki Paekākāriki i 1847. I 1865 i tīmata tētehi ratonga hoiho wakatō me te huri i ngā hoiho i ngā tēpara hōtēra.

I muri mai o te whakatūwheratanga o te raina o te Kamupene Rerewhenua o Pōneke me Manawatū i 1865, he tere rawa te tupu o Paekākāriki, arā, te whakatū i tētehi kura, i ētehi whare karakia me ētehi atu ratonga. Nā te Rerewhenua hoki i mau mai te hunga hararei.

Railway station, yards, and cottages at Paekakariki in 1910

HP 1505, Buckley Collection, Kāpiti Coast District Libraries

PAEKĀKĀRIKI RAILWAY PRECINCT

18 Tilley Road and 219 SH 1, Paekākāriki

The rail yard at Paekākāriki is registered as an Historic Precinct by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

In 1886, the first trains to use these yards were operated by the Wellington and Manawatu Railway Company.

The railway line gave rise to a string of villages between Wellington and Longburn, including modern Paekākāriki.

In November 1908, New Zealand Railways bought the assets of Wellington and Manawatu Railway Company and built the present station. In 1992, with community support, a local history museum was opened in the station building. The South End signal box was also restored by community effort.

The large shed by State Highway One was the supply depot for three nearby United States Marines camps.

From 1886 until 1972, Paekākāriki had a railway locomotive depot in order to service engines at this point, where level going gives way to the hilly section before Wellington. A turntable on Steam Incorporated land is one of the few surviving relics of this depot.



*Railway officials beside the first standard railcar,
Paekākāriki Railway Station, ca 1939
HP 1512, Buckley Collection, Kāpiti Coast District Libraries*

TE WĀHI REREWHENUA O PAEKĀKĀRIKI

*18 Huarahi o Tilley me 219 Huarahi Matua 1,
Paekākāriki*

Kua rēhitangia e te New Zealand Historic Places Trust te iari rerewhenua ki Paekākāriki hei Wāhi Whakamahara.

I 1886, he mea whakahaere e te Kamupene Rerewhenua o Pōneke me Manawatū ngā tereina tuatahi ki te whakamahi i ngā iari. Nā te raina rerewhenua i tū ai ētehi tāone iti i waenganui i Pōneke me Longburn, tae noa ki Paekākāriki hou.

I Nōema 1908, i hokona e te Rerewhenua o Aotearoa ngā rawa o te Kamupene Rerewhenua o Pōneke me Manawatū, ā, i whakatū i te teihana e tū ana ināianei. I 1992, nā te tautoko ā-hapori, i whakatūwherangia ai tētehi whare tāonga ā-rohe i te whare teihana. He mea whakahou hoki te pouaka tohu Pito Tonga nā te tautoko a te hapori.

Ko te wharau nunui i te taha o te Huarahi Matua Tuatahi te putu taupuni mo ngā puni e toru o ngā Hoia Moana o Amerika e pātata ana.

Atu i 1886 ki 1972, he taupuni tereina rerewhenua i Paekākāriki hei whakatika i ngā mihini i taua wāhi rā, ā, atu i te wāhi paparite o te whenua ka pukepuke haere i mua tata o Pōneke. Ko te whakahuringa tereina ki runga i te whenua o Steam Incorporated tētehi o ngā tāonga twahito o tēnei taupuni e toe ana.



*The relay gang that worked on the Paekākāriki railway
tunnels, 20 November 1936*

HP 1539, Buckley Collection, Kāpiti Coast District Libraries

US MARINES CORPS CAMPS

During the Second World War Paekākāriki served as a major base for American Marines fighting in the Pacific Campaign. The first Marines arrived in Wellington to a tremendous welcome on the 14 June 1942. After berthing at Aotea Quay, equipment was sorted and a parade quickly organised before the trip to the camps at Mackays crossing.

There were three main camps, all situated in or adjacent to present-day Queen Elizabeth Park. Camp Russell, located within Queen Elizabeth Park and adjacent to the Mackays crossing entrance, housed the 2nd Infantry Regiment. Camp Mackay, located across the main highway, now Whareroa Farm, housed the 6th Infantry Regiment, and camp Paekākāriki, at the southern end of the park, housed the 8th Regiment.

At one stage there were over 15,000 Americans stationed in the region. The camps were used for training purposes as well as rest and recreation for those returning from the Pacific combat zone. Paekākāriki's steep surrounding hills proved suitable terrain for marching and mortar practice, and its beaches were used to stage amphibian invasions.

To recapture life at the camps and to recognise the aid the United States Marines gave to our region, the Wellington Regional Council erected a commemorative plaque, flags and interpretation panels at Queen Elizabeth Park.



The first course in AC of United States Marine Corps 2nd Division stationed at the Marine Camps in Paekākāriki in 1942
HP 514, D Cameron Collection, Kāpiti Coast District Libraries

NGĀ PUNI TAUA MOANA O AMERIKA

I te wā o te Pakanga Tuarua o te Ao, he wāhi matua a Paekākāriki mō ngā hoia Taua Moana e whawhai ana i te Pakanga o Te Moana nui ā Kiwa. I te taenga mai o ngā hoia Taua Moana tuatahi ki Pōneke, he nui rawa te pōhiri ki a rātou i te 14 o Hune, 1942. I muri mai o te taunga ki Aotea Quay, ka whakaritea he taputapu, ā, ka tere te whakarite i tētehi whakatūtūtanga i mua i te haerenga ki ngā puni ki te whakawhitinga o Mackays.

E toru ngā puni matua, i reira katoa, e tūtata ana rānei ki Te Papa Rēhia o Queen Elizabeth o nāianei. Ko Camp Russell, i roto tonu o Te Papa Rēhia o Queen Elizabeth, e tūtata ana hoki ki te tomokanga o te whakawhitinga o Mackay. Koinei te wāhi o Ngā Hoia Matua Tuarua. Ko Camp Mckay, kei tāwāhi o te huarahi matua, ko te Pāmu o Whareroa ināianei, te wāhi o te Hoia Matua Tuaono. Ko Camp Paekākāriki, i te pito ki te tonga o te papa rēhia, te wāhi o te Hoia Matua Tuawaru.

I tētehi wā neke atu i te 15,000 hoia Marikana e noho ana i te rohe. Ko te whakangungu, te whakatā me te tākaro mō ngā mea i hoki mai i te wāhi whawhai o te Pakanga o Te Moana nui ā Kiwa te take o ngā puni. He pai ngā maunga tūpoupou huri noa o Paekākāriki mō te tāwhaiwhai me te haratau i te mahi mortar. Ko ōna ākau anō hoki hei whakatū whakaekenga ika oneone.

Hei whakamaharatanga ki ngā puni me te whakanui i te āwhinatanga o ngā hoia Taua Moana ki tō tātou rohe, i whakatūngia e te Kaunihera ā Rohe o Pōneke tētehi papa maharatanga, he haki, he papa whakamārama ki Te Papa Rēhia o Queen Elizabeth.



A farewell party in the homestead, used as the US Marines Mess during World War 2, Paekākāriki, ca 1942
HP 516, D Cameron Collection, Kāpiti Coast District Libraries

WHAREROA FARM

SITE
5

Mackays Crossing exit, SH1, 3.5 km north of Paekākāriki

When the Crown purchased the land in 1858, iwi were living and cultivating land east of the Whareroa swamp. Alexander MacKay and his family settled the land in 1859. The family farmed the land until it was sold by their youngest son, Arthur in 1936. His brother William died intestate and his farm share passed to the Public Trust and to the Wellington Hospital Board.

In May 1942 the Government claimed all the land for defence purposes. During WW2 regiments of the 1st and 2nd Marine divisions were based at Camp MacKay.

After WW2, the Land and Survey Department farmed the land as a recreational and educational farm. The farm passed to Land Corp in 1987 and the farm was closed to the public. Plans to subdivide the farm for private development in 1993 raised strong opposition.

The formation of the Guardians of the Whareroa farm in 1995 led to a community campaign which persuaded the Government to purchase the land in 2005 and transfer it to the Department of Conservation.



A photo of the 2nd MacKay homestead built by the 4th son Archibald MacKay in 1910. He died in 1913 age 59.

The house burnt down in 1965



The post exchange is the woolshed built when Arthur MacKay sold the Ramaroa farm to the Gooding Family in 1936

TE PĀMU O WHAREROA

Te putanga o Mackays Crossing, SH1, 3.5 km ki te raki o Paekākāriki

Nō te hokonga mai o te whenua e te Karauna i 1858, he iwi e noho ana ki reira, ā, e hauhake ana i te whenua ki te rāwhiti o te repo o Whareroa. Ka nohongia te whenua e Alexander MacKay me tōna whānau i 1859. He mea mahi te whenua e te whānau tae noa ki te wā i hokona atu ai e tā rātou tama mātāmuri, e Arthur i 1936. I mate tōna tuakana me te kore hoki o te wira, ā, ka riro ōna hea pāmu i te Public Trust me te Poari Hōhipera o Pōneke.

I Mei, i 1942 i te wā o te pakanga tuarua o te ao, i tangohia e te Kāwanatanga te whenua katoa hei kaupapa waonga. I te Puni o MacKay ngā matua tuatahi, tuarua hoki o te wāhanga Taua Moana.

I muri mai o WW2 i mahingia te whenua e Te Puna Kōrero Whenua hei pāmu rēhia, whakaako hoki. I 1987 i riro i a Land Corp te pāmu, ā, i katia hoki ki te hunga tūmatanui. I 1993 i tino whakahēngia te mahi whakawehewehe i te pāmu hei whanaketanga ā-tūmataiti.

Nā te aranga ake o ngā Kaitiaki o te pāmu o Whareroa i 1995, i hua ake te kaupapa hāpori nāna te Kāwanatanga i whakakikī kia hokona te whenua i 2005, ā, kia whakawhitingia ki Te Papa Atawhai.



Lands and Survey Dept enlarged the original MacKay woolshed after WW2. It was demolished for the Overbridge



The sale of the farm on 9 July 1936.

The man on the left is Mr Taylor the Land agent from Otaki, then L-R: one of the few photos of Arthur MacKay, Mr and Mrs Gooding and their son Noel. Noel's wife Elizabeth took the photo. Arthur MacKay died shortly after selling the farm

CENTENNIAL HIGHWAY

SITE
6

29 SH1, Paekakariki

Centennial Highway was officially opened on 4 November 1939. It extends from Ngauranga Gorge to the southern-most end of Paekākāriki and was built to replace the Paekākāriki Hill Road.

While many of the workers on the road came from the local area, public works camps were also established. These included one at Plimmerton on the eastern side of the railway line and one at Taua Tapu near Airlie Road. The workers at these camps were responsible for the construction of the road alongside the Taupo Swamp, through Pukerua Bay and along the coast to Paekākāriki.

A one-mile long coastal seawall was constructed as part of this project. The workers faced two major challenges; digging down to 20 feet to find solid ground next to the Taupo Swamp and working night and day on the coast to construct the seawall then back filling it to create a platform for the road. This challenging work took three years to complete.



Caterpillar diesel bulldozer surrounded by a work gang, Centennial Highway, Paekakariki, 1939

HP 1031, J Beattie Collection, Kāpiti Coast District Libraries



A section of the seawall boxing, each section was 8 feet wide at the base and 32 feet long. Centennial Highway, Paekakariki, 1938

HP 1015, J Beattie Collection, Kāpiti Coast District Libraries

TE HUARAHİ MATUA KOTAHİ RAUTAU

29 Huarahi Matua 1, Paekākāriki

He mea whakatūwhera te Huarahi Matua Kotahi Rautau i te 4 o Nōema 1939. Ko tōna roanga mai i te Apiti o Ngauranga ki te pito tonga rānō o Paekākāriki, ā, i hangaia hei huarahi kē ki te Rori o te Hiwi o Paekākāriki.

Ahakoā nō te rohe tonu te nuinga o ngā kaimahi o te rori, i whakatūngia hoki he puni Mahi Tūmatanui. Ko tēhehi ki Plimmerton ki te taha rāwhiti o te raina rerewhenua me tēhehi ki Taua Tapu, e tata ana ki te Rori o Airlie. I riro nā ngā kaimahi o aua puni rā te kawenga nui mō te hanga i te rori e rere ana i te taha o Taupo Swamp, i Pukerua Bay, ā, i taha o te takutai ki Paekākāriki. He mea hanga hoki mō tēnei kaupapa tēhehi pātū moana takutai kotahi maero te roa. E rua ngā wero nui; te keri iho ki te 20 pūtu kia tae atu ki te papa totoka ki te taha o Taupo Swamp ka tahi, ka rua, ko te mahi i te takutai, ao noa, pō noa, ki te hanga i te pātū takutai. Ka mutu, he whakakī haere kia taea ai te hanga i tēhehi atamira mō te rori. E toru rā ki te whakaoti i tēnei mahi uaua.



Work gang involved in constructing Centennial Highway, near Pukerua Bay, in 1938. Waterfall drainage systems were laid out to prevent the highway from flooding

HP 1021, J Beattie Collection, Kāpiti Coast District Libraries



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