

TCDC Heritage Review Project

**Coromandel Peninsula
Community Board Heritage Study
- Whangamata -**



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Executive Summary

This study is intended to assist the Thames-Coromandel District Council in its forthcoming review of the District Plan. Historic heritage recommendations specific to the Whangamata Community Board area are provided here for consideration by the Council and discussion by local iwi and other members of the community.

This report should be read in conjunction with the Coromandel Peninsula Thematic History and Consultant's Summary Recommendation Report (2010), also prepared by Heritage Consultancy Services. In them a thematic approach has been taken to compiling historical information in a format that is best suited to identifying and interpreting historic heritage resources in the district.

The principal recommendation made within this report is that the historic heritage resources of Whangamata and surrounding areas should be protected, actively managed and interpreted by the council on behalf of the community. Whilst scheduling of some historic buildings, sites and places on the District Plan is desirable, heritage values can also be conserved on council reserves and the DoC estate. The history of the locality may also be recorded and disseminated by the Thames-Coromandel District Library, in partnership with the Whangamata Community Library, local historians and community groups.

Historic heritage resources in the area can be enhanced or undermined by new development, whether undertaken by the council or private landowners. It is therefore desirable that the history of the area is promoted within council and throughout the wider community in order that the future of local area settlements and their environs is based on an understanding of the past. Heritage, urban design and character values need to be considered holistically so that the distinctive aesthetic of the Whangamata area's settlements and landscapes can be maintained and enhanced.



Whangamata, 17 January 1979
Whites Aviation Collection, Alexander Turnbull Library WA-74590-F

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Opoutere Bush Walk © Anne Challinor 2009

Authorship

This report has been prepared by Dr Ann McEwan (Heritage Consultancy Services). Historical research undertaken by Helen McCracken and Dr Stephen Hamilton has informed the recommendations of the report. Dr Louise Furey (CFG Heritage) has provided archaeological information and advice to the project. Susan Gresson assisted with compiling a local area bibliography.

All photographs were taken by the author, unless otherwise stated.

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Project Scope and Limitations

This report is specifically focused upon making recommendations that may be considered as part of the TCDC District Plan review.

This study should be read in conjunction with the Coromandel Peninsula Thematic History (Heritage Consultancy Services 2010). It is a summary document, outlining key aspects of the historic heritage resources of the locality. It does not purport to be an exhaustive historical study of the area nor an assessment of every historic heritage item that the community and council may seek to acknowledge and protect in the future via the District Plan.

While the author is aware of the cultural diversity of the Peninsula, both historically and in the present day, this report does not presume to tell the story of the locale from a tangata whenua perspective. Nor does it purport to be a research project based on primary research material, such as oral histories, family diaries, or historic newspapers.

While every effort has been made to ascertain the accuracy and credibility of the source material used during the preparation of this report, the author acknowledges that history can at times be fragmentary, controversial and open to multiple interpretations.

Coromandel Historic Heritage Thematic Framework

In line with national and international best practice a thematic heritage assessment framework has been developed to assist in the identification and interpretation of the Coromandel Peninsula's historic heritage places, sites, structures and narratives.

The following framework is based upon the Canadian National Thematic Framework (2000) but has been modified to suit local circumstances. The Canadian thematic framework was selected for its relevance in a fellow settler society and its brevity, which lends itself more readily to heritage interpretation outputs.

The five principal themes and their associated sub-themes, are intended to act as a sieve, or a test bed, for assessing the breadth of historic heritage resources that the district may acknowledge, identify, manage and interpret.

An individual historic heritage resource, whether a building, archaeological site or wahi tapu area, may have a number of themes attached to it. 'The consistent organizing principle for the Thematic Framework is *activity*' (Australian Heritage Commission, p. 4). The themes are not arranged in a chronological sequence and should be seen as being inclusive of men, women and children and of people of all ethnic groups, religious beliefs and political persuasions. No theme is more or less important than another.

1. Peopling the Land:

- Coromandel's earliest inhabitants - Te Tara-o-te-Ika-a-Maui
- Early European settlement
- Gold, timber and gum settlements
- Farming
- Population growth
- Holiday settlements
- People and the environment

2. Developing Economies:

- Barter and exchange
- Extraction and production
- Trade and commerce
- Technology and engineering
- Labour
- Communications and transportation

3. Governing the Coromandel:

- Politics and political processes
- Government institutions (local and central)
- Security and law
- Military and defence

4. Building Communities:

- Religious institutions
- Education and self-improvement
- Social groups and classes
- Serving the community

5. Mind and Body:

- The arts
- Sport and leisure
- Invention and discovery
- The Great Escape

A note about the area's archaeological resources:

Not all heritage on the Coromandel Peninsula is visible, much less visually significant. In fact on the majority of the places where people have lived over the last 700 years the layers of occupation, the remains of structures and the rubbish are buried under the surface of the ground. This not only applies to Maori sites – settlements of the gold and timber era, which were once thriving communities, have all but disappeared leaving empty paddocks. These places tell a story about New Zealand's past and the achievements and hopes of individuals. Written records contribute part of the story, but the physical remains of the settlements are also important.

Any place which has evidence of settlement prior to 1900 is protected under the Historic Places Act 1993 whether it is recorded or not. Known sites are assigned a unique number and recorded in the New Zealand Archaeological Association's database. Over the last 50 years archaeologists and other interested individuals have added to the database. As sites are revisited and rerecorded, the grid references are updated to GPS coordinates. However a large number of the records have locations based on map grid references and may be up to 100 m out. For this reason archaeological sites are identified in the Thames-Coromandel District Councils GIS database as having 100 m radius buffer zones. The distribution of known sites is a reflection of where sites have been recorded, and the archaeological site distribution map for each community board area has quite obvious gaps. It is important for planning purposes to recognise that the absence of dots does not mean that the area was not used in the past, or that archaeological sites do not exist there.

Risk Assessment

Sites of early occupation and use, that is those dating from c.1300-1450 A.D., have been compromised over the years as a result of coastal erosion and beach development. Dune sites, generally regardless of their age, have been affected by the same processes. This restricts our understanding of settlement pattern and changes to use of marine resources over time. The pressure is now moving away from the coast, so that areas inland from beaches are under threat. The ability to tell the story of changes through time in settlement pattern, styles of houses, artefact use and how people used the landscape has been affected. Unfortunately there are few undeveloped or unmodified areas left that can fill in the gaps. Coastal sites are also now under a new threat from sea level rise, increased storm surge and changing hydrology in the harbours and estuaries.



Beach scene at Whangamata, 1896. CW Coles Collection, Alexander Turnbull Library 14-016005-G

The Historic Heritage Resources of the Whangamata Area

The protection offered by the Thames-Coromandel District Plan needs to be extended to additional historic heritage resources located in Whangamata and their environs. Historic heritage resources on council reserves also require identification and protection.

A small number of historic heritage resources in the Whangamata area have already been identified by the NZ Historic Places Trust. In some cases information pertaining to these archaeological sites may need to be reviewed and updated to ensure that the NZHPT register remains robust and defensible.

1. NZHPT Registered Historic Places in the Whangamata area:

The following registered historic places are located in the Whangamata Community Board area. Registration recognises historic heritage value but does not in itself offer protection to registered items.

6270	Headland Pa, Matariki Forest, Whangamata	Category II
6278	Headland Pa, Maungaruawahine, Opoutere	Category II
6281	Midden, Matariki Forest, Ohui	Category II
6283	Midden / hut site, Matariki, Storm Beach	Category II
6277	Midden / Pit / Terrace, Matariki Forest, Opoutere	Category II
6271	Midden / Terrace, Private ownership, Ohui	Category II
6279	Midden / Terrace, DOC, Maungaruawahine, Opoutere	Category II
6288	Midden / Terrace, Matariki Forest, Whangamata	Category II
6289	Midden / Terrace, Matariki Forest, Whangamata	Category II
6290	Midden / Terrace, Matariki Forest, Whangamata	Category II
6291	Midden / Terrace, Matariki Forest, Whangamata	Category II
6294	Midden / Terrace, Matariki Forest, Whangamata	Category II
6272	Pa, Matariki Forest?, Onemana	Category II
6275	Pa, Matariki Forest, Onemana	Category II
6276	Pa, Matariki Forest, Onemana South	Category II
6280	Pa, Matariki Forest, Ohui	Category II
6284	Pa (peninsula), Matariki Forest, Whangamata	Category II
6286	Pa (peninsula), Matariki Forest, Whangamata	Category II
6293	Pa (peninsula), Matariki Forest, Whangamata	Category II
6296	Pa (peninsula), Matariki Forest, Whangamata	Category II
6285	Pa / Pits (peninsula – Te Puia), Matariki Forest, Whangamata	Category II
6292	Rockshelter / Midden (peninsula), Matariki Forest, Whangamata	Category II
6287	Terrace / Midden (peninsula), Matariki Forest, Whangamata	Category II

The archaeological sites listed above are the only NZ Historic Places Trust registered historic places in the Whangamata Community Board area. It is therefore desirable that TCDC works in partnership with NZHPT to address this oversight in regards to historic buildings and areas so as to ensure the National Register of Historic Places is inclusive and representative of local heritage values.

2. Local historic heritage resources actively managed by the Department of Conservation:

Opoutere midden – c. 1300

Royal Standard Mine, Wharekirauponga – tramway route 1896

Wentworth Falls, mines & valley, near Whangamata – mine drives c. 1880



Opoutere 17 January 1979 Whites Aviation Collection, Alexander Turnbull Library WA-74597-F

3. TCDC Whangamata Heritage Register

A] Recommended additions to TCDC District Plan:

There are currently no scheduled heritage items on the TCDC District Plan located within the Whangamata Community Board Area. Suffice to say this is an oversight, given the presence of historic heritage features within the locality. The following recommendations are made to begin to rectify this situation and to provide an indication of the range of historic heritage resources that might be protected and promoted by the council in partnership with the community.

Historic heritage items that merit consideration for scheduling:

- St Patrick's Catholic Church, 201 Port Road, Whangamata

The principal building on this site is a former joinery factory converted for use as a Catholic church. According to local historian Anne Stewart Ball, the site was occupied by a Mrs Shaw in the early 1930s and as well as her home it included a store and post office. Following the end of World War II local builder Alan Dunn established a joinery business here and in 1961 the building was converted into St Patrick's Catholic Church. The church is part of the parish of St Joseph's Church, Waihi, within the Diocese of Hamilton.

Principal theme: Building Communities



St Patrick's Catholic Church, Whangamata

- Whangamata Cinema, 708 Port Road, Whangamata (c.1943)

The cinema has been screening films in the township for well over forty years. It is run in conjunction with the three-cinema multiplex in Thames and is an example of the single-screen movie theatre that was once a main street feature of many small towns throughout New Zealand. In 1967 Whangamata Amusements Ltd was given permission by the Thames County Council to screen movies on Sundays, on condition that they were 'G' rated and did not clash with local church services. The building makes a colourful contribution to the appearance of Port Road and is representative of the community facilities established in the 1950s and 1960s in Whangamata.

Principal theme: Building Communities, Mind and Body



Whangamata Cinema, Port Road, Whangamata

- Whangamata Community Church, 103 Beverley Terrace, Whangamata

This co-operating Protestant church was dedicated on 31 December 1955. Presbyterian, Anglican and Methodist adherents in the area spent some years fund-raising for the church, having purchased the site in 1950. In its style and construction the church signals its purpose but also fits into the bach community.

Principal theme: Building Communities



Whangamata Community Church

- Seaview Road Bach Heritage Area, Whangamata

Comprising the full length of Seaview Road and including properties on both sides of the road. A White's Aviation aerial photograph of Whangamata taken in January 1953 shows a large number of the Seaview Road baches already in existence. These have remained surprisingly little changed up until the present day. The baches are generally more modest than many others on the east coast of the Coromandel Peninsula



Detail from Whangamata Harbour, January 1953, Williamson bach at top left.
Whites Aviation Collection, Alexander Turnbull Library WA-31975-F



114 Seaview Road, Whangamata, showing pre-1953 bach (centre) and garage (right)
in the midst of more recent residential development.

Included within the area is:

- Miss Williamson's Bach, 108 Seaview Road, Whangamata

Beverley Williamson (c.1920-2008) was the daughter of Philip and Madeline Williamson. She taught Geography at Diocesan School for Girls in Auckland from 1942 until 1974, when she retired after serving as Headmistress for a year. According to the obituary prepared by Evan Lewis, the school archivist, in 2008, Miss Williamson is remembered for her love of travelling and tramping. She was the author of *Whangamata – 100 Years of Change* published in 1988. According to local historian Anne Stewart Ball the bach was built in 1934 by H Mason at a cost of c. £150. See also Williamson Park Reserve information below.

Principal themes: Peopling the Land, Mind & Body



former Miss Williamson's bach, Seaview Road, Whangamata



Beverley Williamson

- Former home of Michael King and Maria Jungowska, 7 Wharekawa Place, Opoutere (c.1990)

The house was home to one of New Zealand's pre-eminent historians and writers for a decade and was the residence of King and Jungowska at the time of their deaths in 2004. The property was purchased from Michael King's children by the University of Waikato in 2008 and now functions primarily as a writing retreat.

Principal theme: Mind & Body



former King/Jungowska home, Opoutere

- Matariki Forest Ltd headquarters, 567 SH25 Tairua Road, south of Wharekawa

The NZ Forest Service was in existence from 1919 until 1987 and during that time it was active on the Coromandel Peninsula. It is believed that the Whangamata forest headquarters dates from c.1965. The buildings embody a vogue in the mid/late 20th century for neo-vernacular architectural styling.

Principal theme: Developing Economies



Matariki Forest Headquarters, Whangamata © Tamil Dyer 2010

B] Local TCDC Reserves containing historic heritage resources

Not all of the following reserves are identified in the relevant TCDC reserve management plan as having historic heritage resources in situ. Nevertheless the sustainable management of historic heritage resources on council reserves is desirable and will make a significant contribution to the council's efforts to protect local heritage and identity.

Michael King Memorial Reserve

285 Opoutere Road ID# 0498116100 Lot 26 DP 35103 & 285A Opoutere Road, Opoutere ID# 0498116100 Lots 18 & 20 DPS 23418

Historic heritage values: Named in honour of noted New Zealand historian Dr Michael King, who lived with his wife Maris Jungowska in Opoutere for 10 years until their deaths in 2004. The reserve arose out of local subdivision but it was dedicated as a memorial to Michael King and Maria Jungowska in 2008 with the erection of a memorial sculpture by Coromandel potter Barry Brickell.

Principal theme: Mind & Body



Fig 9 Barry Brickell *Michael King and Maria Jungowska Memorial* Opoutere 2008

Ngahere Terrace Reserve

341 Opoutere Road, Opoutere ID# 0498110000 Lt 7 DPS 14431

Historic heritage values: This reserve lies adjacent to Maungaruahine pa. A walking track linking the pa and former Opoutere School property to Opoutere Road runs across this reserve.

Principal theme: Peopling the Land

Old Schoolhouse Reserve

389 Opoutere Road, Opoutere ID# 498109900 Sec 5 Blk VIII Tairua SD

Historic heritage values: The Wharekawa Native School, which was requested by the Maori community, was built in 1908 and opened in 1909 with 31 pupils. Buildings consisted of a schoolhouse and a house for the teacher set in an open space nestled at the base of Maungaruawahine (or School Hill as it was also known). For the first three years it was called the Wharekawa Native School then a name change to Opoutere Native School reflected the name adopted for the area. The school was moved in 1953 to its present location by which time it was called Opoutere Maori School. The site was opened as a youth hostel soon after.

Principal themes: Building Communities, Mind & Body



Former Schoolmaster's house, Opoutere



Interior of former Native School, Opoutere

Opoutere Hall

1 Opoutere Road, Opoutere ID# 0498103501 Sec 23 SO 42713 NZ Gazette 1965/1016

Historic heritage values: The hall reserve is managed by TCDC and a local committee manages the hall building.

Principal theme: Building Communities

Onemana Beach Reserves

227 Onemana Drive, Onemana ID# 0498131800A Lot 351 DPS 23147

337 Onemana Drive, Onemana ID# 0498131800B Lot 356 DPS 27602

116 Bambury Place, Onemana ID# 0498131800B Lot 198 DPS 19759

Historic heritage values: Part of this beachfront reserve lies adjacent to DOC land on which is located Whitipirorua pa. Recorded archaeological sites are located within the reserve, including T12/16, which is fenced off. RMP recommends consultation with NZHPT with regard to any proposed building development in the reserve.

Principal theme: Peopling the Land

Moana Point Reserves

120 Tukere Drive, Whangamata ID# 0497100100 Sec 56 SO 50994 NZ Gazette 1986/1900

231 Moana Anu Anu Avenue, Whangamata ID# 0497100100 Sec 57 SO 50934 NZ Gazette 1986 / 1900

104A Moana Anu Anu Avenue, Whangamata ID# 0497100100 Lot 96 DPS 19155

117A Isabel Street, Whangamata ID# 0497100100 Lot 96 DPS 19157

128 Tukere Drive, Whangamata ID# 0497114800 Lot 179 DPS 21044

110 Awarua Place, Whangamata ID# 0497100100 Sec 58 SO 50934 NZ Gazette 1986/1900

Historic heritage values: Although the RMP makes no mention of this, this reserve includes within it a pa site on Moana Point, which was later occupied by a gum store. A plaque to the latter has been erected on the pa site and a seat installed in the same area.

Principal themes: Peopling the Land, Developing Economies



'First store' plaque, Moana Point Reserve, Whangamata

Oneroa Reserves

33 Allan Drive, Whangamata ID# 0498162300 Lots 10, 11 & 12 DPS 32132
29A Aileen Place, Whangamata ID# 0498161900 Sec 6 Blk XII Tairua SD NZ
Gazette 1925 / 755
33 Allan Drive, Whangamata - unformed road

Historic heritage values: Reserve includes a closed cemetery and the RMP includes provision for an interpretation panel for it.

Principal theme: Building Communities

Otahu Point Historic Reserve

167 Patuwai Drive, Whangamata ID# 0497529600 Lot 1 DPS 9353 NZ Gazette
2002/2160

Historic heritage values: Originally designated as a recreation reserve, this reserve has Maori historic heritage value as an urupa (place of burial). A small number of early European graves may also be found in the sand dunes. The RMP recommends consultation with NZHPT and Ngati Puu and includes provision for interpretation.

Principal themes: Peopling the Land, Building Communities



Otahu Point Reserve

Otahu River Esplanade

167 Patuwai Drive, Whangamata ID# 0497529600 Lot 161 DPS 9034
202 Kotuku Street, Whangamata ID# 0497529600 Lot 322 DPS 13953
207 Kotuku Street, Whangamata ID # 0497574200 Lot 37 DPS 14314

Historic heritage values: This area 'contains many sites of early Maori occupation' and a recorded archaeological site is located near the western end of the reserve. RMP makes no mention of management of these historic heritage resources.

Principal theme: Peopling the Land

Pukepoto Reserve

117 The Drive, Whangamata ID# 0497482200 Lot 140 DPS 23325

Historic heritage values: The name 'Pukepoto' is associated with this area but the RMP recommends undertaking research to discover why and then providing interpretation on the site.

Principal theme: Peopling the Land

Te Titoki Reserve

1100B Port Road, Whangamata ID# 0497262200B Secs 1-7 Whangamata Township
NZ Gazette 1948/218

Historic heritage values: The reserve includes the Whangamata Wharf and has been the site of many events, including fishing tournaments, over the last 50 years.

Principal themes: Building Communities, Mind & Body



Fig 25 Whangamata Wharf © Anne Challinor, October 2009

Williamson Park

418 Ocean Road, Whangamata ID# 0497435200 Pt Sec 10 DPS 23645 NZ Gazette
1948/219

Historic heritage values: The reserve is named for Philip Williamson, who bequeathed the land to the council in the 1940s. A plaque on the wall beside the entrance to reserve was erected to the memory of Philip and Madeline Williamson in 1970. The Whangamata Surf Life Saving Club (established 1949) has its clubhouse on the reserve.

Principal themes: Peopling the Land, Building Communities

C] Historic Whangamata Cemeteries

Whangamata Cemetery

Allan Block (Whangamata) Cemetery

Private cemeteries may also be the site of historic heritage values, including those pertaining to historical, spiritual, architectural and archaeological qualities.



Allan Block Cemetery, Whangamata © Tamil Dyer 2010

Whangamata Bibliography

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Williamson, P 'Whangamata Reminiscences' *Ohinemuri Regional Historic Journal* (7, May 1967)

See also

Papers Past (New Zealand digital newspaper archive) available at <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz>. 'Papers Past contains more than one million pages of digitised New Zealand newspapers and periodicals. The collection covers the years 1839 to 1932 and includes 52 publications from all regions of New Zealand.' There are currently (as of 22 December 2009) 1803 entries for 'Whangamata', 256 for 'Wharekawa' and 301 for 'Ohui'. Items include news of gold mine returns, fires and fatalities, shipping arrivals and wrecks.

A collection of photographs by George Gregory held by the Auckland Museum show views of the Wharekawa Bush (1890s-1912). Views of a kauri dam being tripped, bush shanties and log rafts are among the collection.



Prana Eco Retreat, Ohui © Anne Challinor 2009