

Maketu Historic Hikoi

This hikoi (walk) is based on a series of seven historic markers that are placed throughout the village, each within walking distance. The narrative in this brochure is only an introduction to these sites. Each marker presents Maketu's story in more detail with additional images.

You may view these markers in whatever order you wish. However following the numerical order in this brochure will take you on a leisurely and orderly walk of about 6km. (Markers can also be reached by car)



Each red number represents the location of an historic marker. The blue letters identify the location of historic sites specifically referred to on each marker.

- A. St Peter Catholic Church
- B. St Thomas Anglican Church
- C. Wharekahu Mission Station
- D. Wharekahu Urupa (cemetery)
- E. Ivy Isles
- F. Pukemaire Pa
- G. Maketu School
- H. Kotukutuku Gully
- I. Okurei (Town Point)
- J. Centennial Memorial
- K. Pou Whakarei (carved posts)
- L. Whakaue Marae
- M. Te Awha Marae



Continue down Town Point Rd to the village centre. Just after you pass the surf club at the bottom of the hill you will see a large stone monument.

Maketu Centennial Memorial

The Centennial Memorial was erected in 1940, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi.



The plaque on the memorial reads:

The memorial was erected on this site to commemorate the historic landing of the Arawa canoe in 1340 AD after a voyage of 2000 miles under Tamatekapua, navigator, and the high priest Ngatoroirangi. This memorial is dedicated to the Arawa confederation of tribes and their pakeha friends in grateful recognition of their valuable services rendered in peace and war, to a century of great spiritual advancement and wonderful material progress. 2 January 1940

Beside the memorial is one of twelve cannons that belonged to Maketu's most prominent early European settler, Phillip Tapsell. He brought them from Sydney to defend his trading station, which was sited on the cliff behind you. Two of the cannons were fired at Tapsell's death. This one, named Haupapa after a Whakaue leader who was a good friend of Tapsell, has remained in Maketu since his death.

You have now returned to the start of your hikoi. The final Historic Marker is located on Maketu Road at the entrance to the village (see map). Reaching this marker will involve a 10 minute walk. Or, you may want stop and view it as you leave Maketu.

7. Pou Whakarei & Maketu's Marae

This marker illustrates the most widely accepted understanding of the migration routes of Maori across the Pacific.

It also explains the Pou Whakarei (carved posts) which have been erected at this site as well as at the Wilson Rd entrance to Maketu. These pou tell history of the Arawa people as seen through the eyes of the carvers.



Maketu's Marae

Many marae (meeting places) have occupied the Maketu peninsula over the decades. This marker presents Maketu's two current marae.



The nearby Whakaue Marae is the centre of many community events including the annual ANZAC Day dawn service. The whareniui, seen here, was erected in 1928.

The Te Awha Marae (see location on map) has recently undergone a total restoration. Traditional carvings have been preserved and restored to their original condition.



The Te Awha marae is on the site of the historic Maketu Pa which figures prominently in many paintings and photos from the 19th century such as the one above.

Historic Maketu

One Community, Two Histories



HISTORIC HIKOI

Maketu's Maori history begins over eight centuries ago with the arrival of the first human inhabitants of Aotearoa (New Zealand). And its shared Maori-Pakeha history begins 250 years ago with the arrival of the first Europeans.

Take an historic hikoi (walk) through our village and experience its rich heritage.

1. One Community - Two Histories



The historic marker adjacent to the boat ramp introduces you to the theme of this Historic Hikoi. Maketu is one community with two histories. Maketu's Maori history begins with the arrival of first human inhabitants of Aotearoa (New Zealand) approximately eight centuries ago, and the arrival of the Arawa waka (canoe) under the command of Tamatekapua.

Maketu's shared Maori-Pakeha history began almost 250 years ago when the English explorer, Captain James Cook sighted Maketu and noted it in his journal. However, it wasn't until the mid 1800s that Maketu had an established European population and became an important trading hub in the Bay of Plenty. The most significant of Maketu's early settlers was the Danish merchant, Hans Felk (also known as Phillip Tapsell)



2. Commercial District



The present commercial district in Maketu village has been the centre of the community since the earliest days of Pakeha settlement. Since then a general store has been located continuously on the site currently occupied by Maketu Landing and Maketu Pies.

The Maketu Health and Social Services building was the old "Olympia Theatre", screening movies until the early 1960s when it fell victim to the arrival of TV and the bright lights of Te Puke.



Maketu's fish and chips shop has hardly changed since it was immortalised in a 1975 painting by the artist Dame Robin White. It is one of New Zealand's most recognised paintings.

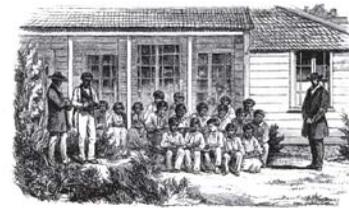
At the waterfront you would have found a wharf where sailing ships docked bringing goods to provision the growing provinces in the Bay of Plenty and beyond.



St Peter's Catholic Church, built in 1886, sits prominently in the center of the village and is only slightly younger, by 20 years, than St Thomas Anglican Church.

3. Spencer Avenue

Spencer Avenue was the centre of the early European settlement of Maketu. In the mid 1880s you would have found the Wharekahu Mission Station here.



Among other things, a school for Maori girls was started here by Mrs Ann Chapman, wife of CMS missionary Rev Thomas Chapman who was responsible for

establishing several churches in New Zealand. There was also a police station, courthouse, and harbourmaster's residence.

At the top of Spencer Av is the Wharekahu Urupa which is the most recent of many burial grounds on the Maketu peninsula. This cemetery has been used for burials since the 1840s. It is the final resting place of many of Maketu's prominent Maori and Pakeha residents.

Beyond the Wharekahu Cemetery is a ragged but stately Norfolk Pine which was reportedly planted by Prince Albert, Duke of Edinburgh, in 1870 to mark the Jubilee of Queen Victoria. Rev Seymour Mills Spencer later built a house near the tree, where he lived with his daughter Charlotte (Lettie) who conducted a private school in the attic. This property was known as "Ivy Isles" and was the most elegant home on the street, surrounded by many trees and beautiful gardens. Sadly, it burned to the ground in 1905.



4. Pukemaire Pa / Maketu School



A school was opened on this site on 2 June 1927. Previously, the school was part of the Wharekahu Mission Station on Spencer Av. The gate posts, carved in Rotorua, were added in 1937 to celebrate the 65th anniversary of a school in Maketu.

At the end of the road, just past the school, you will see a path to the Pukemaire Pa. It is a short walk along this path to the top of the hill which was the site of Pukemaire Pa.

This site offers a beautiful view along the coast which made it an excellent defensive position. Several different tribes used this location over the centuries, and many battles have been fought here. In 1864 a British regiment established a redoubt named Fort Colville on this site, aided by loyal Te Arawa tribes.



From this marker, travel along Church Rd to the end of the street where you will see a short walkway to St Thomas Church.



St Thomas Anglican Church is the second oldest church in the Bay of Plenty. Construction was begun in 1859 but was delayed for ten years because of an argument between two local chiefs over the ownership of the foundation stones. During those years, the boards were laid out waiting for building to resume. Children played on them and the marks of their hands and feet can still be seen on some of the beams inside the sanctuary.

Continue down the hill to the intersection of Little Waihi Rd and turn right a short distance to Kotukutuku Gully

5. Kotukutuku Gully



For centuries this gully has been the scene of continuous activity by Te Arawa people. Remnants of hangi stones (earth ovens), middens (shell waste), and cultivation of crops can be found here.

The gully was also the direct route to Little Waihi estuary where warriors could surprise their enemies seeking to attack the pa on Okurei.

As you exit the walkway through the gully continue a short distance up Little Waihi Rd to Arawa Av. Turn left and proceed to the next marker at Okurei (see map).

6. Okurei



When the Arawa canoe arrived in Maketu, its navigator Tamatekapua is said to have observed the point of land jutting into the bay and, pointing to his nose, proclaimed "Te Kuraetanga o te ihu o Tamatekapua", meaning that all the land behind that point of land belonged to him. Today the site is known by its shorted name "Okurei".

In 1769, the English explorer, Captain James Cook sailed into the Bay of Plenty. As with many New Zealand landmarks, Okurei received a European name when Cook, sighting a large settlement on the point, entered the name "Town Point" in his journal.

Over the centuries, many pa sites and settlements have occupied Okurei. It is also the site of several burial grounds and is wahi tapu (sacred ground).

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