

Rārangi wā

A snapshot: Western Bay of Plenty *(from its beginnings)*

Arrivals: 950-1300

Kupe then waka migrations: Te Arawa, Mātaatua, and Tākitimu, which formed the emergence of our whānau, hapū and iwi from Waihi Beach through to Otamarakau.

Ōtūmoetai Pā: 1818-1842

Ōtūmoetai Pā is 'capital' of WBoP. Golden age for Māori trade. Arrival of whalers, sealers, traders. Arrival of missionaries. Intertribal warfare.

Arrival of HMS The Herald 1826

At 9am on Friday 23 June 1826 the Rev. Henry Williams (Karuwha) and his crew sailed into Te Awanui (Tauranga Harbour) on the HMS The Herald to trade with our local Māori. This was the first European ship to arrive here. On Sunday 25th June, Rev. Henry Williams conducted his message of peace at Waikorire, Pilot Bay.

Te Papa Mission Station: 1838-1839

Alfred Nesbit Brown first visited Tauranga in 1834 with Henry Williams. They met with Maungatapu Pā chiefs looking for land. In 1838 the CMS settled for the Te Papa site. Under Brown, the Christian Missionary Society (CMS) purchased 12.5 hectares from Māori to establish the Te Papa Mission Station. In 1839 they purchased 240 hectares from the Te Papa Mission Station to Pukehinahina (Gate Pa).

Te Tiriti o Waitangi: 1840

Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Tauranga sheet 5) is signed in Tauranga. Henry Williams was influential in translating and promoting Te Tiriti o Waitangi through the Christian missionaries and through Alfred Nesbit Brown at Te Papa Station.

Western BoP Settlers: 1830 - 1875 - 1881

Phillip Tapsell 1830 Maketu. Flaxmilling in Te Puke area from 1830's. George Vesey Stewart established the farming settlements of Athenree & Katikati in 1875 and Te Puke in 1881.

Military Settlers: 1867-1878

Conflicts as confiscated land starts to be surveyed. Te Papa block subdivided and given to military settlers founding the township of Tauranga.

Lot 45: 1866 -1877

Te Papa block gifted to the Crown. In return CMS to keep one 5th for benefit of Māori. This did not happen. Repercussions to this day.

The New Zealand Wars: 1864-1867

Battle of Gate Pā | Pukehinahina, massacre at Te Ranga (1864) and Te Weranga ki Taumata | Tauranga Bush Campaign (1867) triggering raupatu (confiscation) of land.

Ōtūmoetai Pā: 1845

After the long drawn-out battles between Te Arawa and Ngāi Te Rangi during the 1830s, eventually a peace agreement was finalised on 22 September 1845, under the Tapu Titoki tree that still stands within the Ōtūmoetai Pā Historic Reserve.

Building Western Bay of Plenty from 1830

1830: Settler - Phillip Tapsell arrived at Maketū

1872: Bay of Plenty Times.

1873: The first Tauranga Port.

1875: Settlers - Katikati and Athenree.

1875: The beginning of WBoP bridges, railways, roads, housing.

1881: Settlers - Te Puke.

1882: Tauranga gazetted as a Borough.

1904: Tauranga Chamber of Commerce.

1906: Old Post Office.

1915: Omanawa Falls Power Station.

1916: Town Hall opened in Tauranga.

1924: Matapihi Bridge opened.

1948: Chinese Goosberries Te Puke.

1952: Chinese Goosberries exported.

1959: Chinese Goosberries became kiwifruit.

1959: Chapel Street Bridge.

1963: Kaimai Air Disaster.

1963: Tauranga becomes a city.

1968: Avocado Planted – Katikati.

1981: Ruahihi Canal collapse.

1988: Harbour Bridge.

1989: Western Bay of Plenty District Council.

2023: The Western Bay of Plenty is a thriving business and horticultural region with a growing multicultural population and the largest port in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Lot 45 - Town Hall: 1987 - ongoing

1987: Land grievances led to the Town Hall Occupation protesting the CMS gifting of property to the Crown and the length of time to address this issue.

1988: Civic Centre protests, arrests.

2012: Through the mahi of Te Kohinga and Otamataha Trust, the Crown acknowledged it was responsible for the outbreak of the 1864 war resulting in land confiscation. *(Te Papa: Naboth's Vineyard)*

2018: Anglican Church formal Apology to Ngāti Tamarawho and Ngāti Tapu et al for the 1866 decision.

2020: 11 Mission Street gifted back to Ōtamataha Trust.

2022: Tauranga City Council gift Civic Centre land to Otamataha Trust and enter into a 50/50 joint ownership agreement.

2023: Ongoing hui between Māori and council regarding land ownership.

Rena Disaster: 2011

New Zealand's worst marine environmental disaster.

2023 Western Bay of Plenty

Multicultural - fast growing economic hub - a tourist destination - a great place to live, work and play.

The six events in the shaded boxes are all connected to a single continuous narrative.