



## **Insite report: History of the Pūrau Reserve**

**Prepared for: Raymond Qu, Christchurch City Council Property Consultant**

Please contact us if you have any queries about this report or if you require further information

Kind regards,

Paul Focamp  
Insite Librarian

Brief: Investigate the site history at 177 Pūrau Ave, Pūrau, Diamond Harbour. It appears to be a Urupā / Native cemetery and contains a monument to Tiemi Nohomutu. The council owns the land, which has been held in trust for Public Purposes and is subject to the Reserves Act 1977.



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## Pūrau reserve

### Websites

[Kā Huru Manu, The Ngāi Tahu Cultural Mapping Project](#)



## "Purau Bay"

Purau is the large bay between Te Waipapa (Diamond Harbour) and Rīpapa Island on the southern shoreline of Whakaraupō (Lyttelton Harbour). Māori probably lived here for several centuries given its favourable location, and the rich variety of kaimoana (seafood) located within the bay, harbour and open sea. With the abundance of bush in the bay, there was also fresh water flowing all year round. The bay is also protected from the prevailing winds from the north-east and the south-west.

## Purau Native Reserve 876

Port Cooper Purchase Deed 1849

Occupational Reserve

This 10-acre reserve situated in one of the southern bays of Whakaraupō/Lyttelton Harbour was set aside as part of the Port Cooper Purchase 1849. Ownership of the reserve was not confirmed until 1868 when the Native Land Court determined that the sole owner was Wikitoria Nohomutu. In 1870 a Crown Grant was issued in her favour. Sometime prior to 1900 the land was sold and converted to general title. A portion of the original reserve can still be accessed today as it was set aside as a public reserve (1 rood and 15 perches) in 1962 at the request of Rāpaki kaumātua. The reserve contains a memorial to Tiemi Nohomutu.



## References:

- Stack, J.W. (1894) [James West Stack to Chief Surveyor - correspondence, maps and place names of Banks Peninsula] in CH98, S [Survey] Files No.26, 1890-1903, Archives New Zealand, Christchurch Regional Office.
- Taylor, W.A. (1952) Lore and history of the South Island Māori. Christchurch, N.Z.: Bascands. P60-61.
- Andersen, J.C. (1927) Place-names of Banks Peninsula: a topographical history. Wellington, N.Z. : W.A.G. Skinner, Government Printer. P172.
- Maori place names of Banks Peninsula. [Cartographic material]. Maori names from sketch plans supplied by Canon (James W.) Stack 19.11.94. Additional names by (W.H.S. Roberts & Others). W.A. Taylor. Christchurch City Libraries.

## Legend

### Data Layers

Ngā Ingoa



Kā Ara Tupuna

Kā Ara Tupuna - names



Ngā Ingoa (awa)



Ngā Whenua Rāhui (Māori Land Allocations)

Ngā Whenua Rāhui (Māori Land Allocations)

## Source



## Canterbury Maps

Latest imagery of Pūrau Reserve (captioned by "177")



[Source](#)

Map of reserve and Monolua and Pūrau Avenues (1970-1974)



[Source](#)



## *Book extracts*

### Lore and History of the South Island Maori

Taylor, W. A. 1882-1951  
Christchurch, N.Z. : Bascands, [1952]  
196 p.: ill., plates, ports ;,23 cm.  
Extract p. 61-2

The Purau Reserve was crown granted to Wikitoria Nohomutu on April 18th, 1868. The Purau Native Reserve was set aside in the terms of the Port Cooper Purchase, and it was surveyed by Mr O. Carrington assisted by Tiemi Nohomutu, Aptera Kautuanui, Tami Tukutuku, Tiemi Kohorau in the presence of Captain Joseph Thomas on July 25th, 1849. The reserve was abolished in the nineties.

In the fifties the Maori shearers Teone Watene, Pukenui Wekipiri were in the employ of the Messrs Rhodes of Purau. The name Purau would indicate usually in Maori translation a two barbed spear or fork, but there is some reason to believe it refers to a traditional mussel basket. According to the late Paori Taki (native assessor of Rapaki), Purau was the abode of a monstrous taniwha whose name was Tuna Tuoro.

Three streams enter Purau Bay, on the west is the Purau, in the centre the Waituturi and on the east the Te Wairou. Traces of the old Purau pa can still be seen on the west side of the bay near the larger stream. The grave of a chief is visible with railings around and a small memorial erected by pakehas. The memorial bears the inscription He Whakama-Mo Rangatiroa-Te Whakaraupo-I Mate I Tetau 1850. The old time cultivations of the pa were situated on section 2156 near the division of the Purau Stream. The Pa covered 10 acres and its owners in 1867 were Kapetara, Te Wakeua, Pita, Paora, Paure, Totiui, Epapara, Peue, Paoraki, and Te Oti.



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The road bordering on the east and south sides of the Purau Reserve (alongside the creek, section 35) was abandoned on December 6th, 1866. That meant that 3 roods of ground was available for general use. Mount Evans overlooks Purau on the east; Rhodes Monument, a hill of the fairies on the south; and on the west towers Mount Herbert (Te Ahu Patiki).

The rocky knob above where the original Greenwood Homestead stood was called Kokokonui. The east head of Purau Bay is Ohape and the west head is Te Ano o Kura. The island situated off the east headland of Paurau Bay is named Ripapa. The original name is lost in the mists of antiquity. It was a fort of the Ngai Tahu Tribe before the pakeha made similar use of it.

Before the Ngai Tahu possessed Ripapa it was the site of a pa of the Ngati Mamoe Tribe. Ripapa Island figures in the story of the Kai Huanga feud (Eat Relation), as the stronghold of Tau Nunu. The Kaiapoi Maoris captured it, despite a warning given to its defenders by Matenga Taiaroa. This chief mercifully allowed many of the defenders to escape through his ranks.

Mr F. Strouts visited Ripapa Island in 1870 and made a plan of the Ripapa Island Maori fortress. This sketch now in the Canterbury Museum, shows that the pa had bastions placed for flank defence, an escarpment was on the north-west side, as well as inner earthworks.

When the workmen were excavating for the pakeha forti-fications in 1888 an exceptionally beautiful greenstone axe was discovered. Two greenstone fish hooks (hei matau) were found at Ripapa and presented to the Canterbury Museum on May 6th, 1890.

[Full-text](#)

[CCL Catalogue record](#)



## Place names of Banks Peninsula and the Port Hills

Gordon Ogilvie  
Christchurch : Canterbury University Press,, 2017.  
ISBN: 9781927145937 ; 1927145937  
Extract p. 226

Purau is now a flourishing bach and lifestyle settlement with a holiday park, recreation reserve and well-patronised boat mooring facilities. The Māori Reserve exists no longer. The Rapaki hapū, having no further use for it, sold the reserve in 1914 to Mrs Harold Gardiner after being granted permission by a special Act of Parliament. Tiemi Nohomutu's grave, situated on the site of what was once his kāinga, may still be seen.

[CCL catalogue record](#)

## Living Between Land & Sea: The Bays of Whakaraupo Lyttelton Harbour

Jane Robertson.  
Auckland, N.Z. : Massey University Press [2023]  
391 p.: ill., colour maps, ports, plans ; 29 cm.  
ISBN: 978-1-99-101653-9  
Extract p. 86-89

On 1st October 1846 the Akaroa Police Magistrate wrote out and witnessed a Māori lease for the Greenwood brothers. Senior Whakaraupō chief and Pūrau resident Tiemi Nohomutu was the lead signatory. The lease extended far beyond Pūrau to include about 25,000ha of the hill country around Port Cooper - all this for an annual rental of £8. When William Barnard Rhodes purchased the lease on 6 July 1847, he was actually acquiring the right to farm all of the Port Hills, the Whakaraupō catchment and the whole of the Te Ahu Patiki (Mt Herbert) divide.

At much the same time the New Zealand Company was seeking suitable land for a new company settlement to be known as 'Canterbury'. Banks Peninsula and the adjacent plains fulfilled many of the necessary criteria. For the New Zealand Company to acquire the land, Māori title had to be 'extinguished' by purchase and Walter Mantell was charged with this task. Mantell presented the offer on a 'take it or leave it' basis. If the Māori chiefs quibbled they would have no claim on the reserves to be set aside for their use. There was no negotiation.

On 10 August 1849 the Port Cooper Deed was signed by Chief Nohomutu and 17 others. For £200 the Crown received 65,000 acres. The deed transferred 'all the land and all belonging thereto' to the queen with the exception of 850 acres



at Rāpaki and nine acres at Pūrau. All the Pūrau gardens beyond the allotted area were to be abandoned after the current crops had been harvested. It wasn't until 1870 that the nine acres was legally confirmed as Native Reserve 876 Pūrau.[3] Ngāi Tahu not only received inadequate reserve land to support their needs, but also lost control of, and access to, their traditional mahinga kai. A census in 1857 listed 48 Ngāi Tahu living at Rāpaki, 12 in Taukahara and 12 in Pūrau. Fifty years later only the Rāpaki kainga remained.

Tiemi Nohomutu died in 1850 and is buried in the public reserve along with at least 11 other Ngāi Tahu. That the reserve contains an urupā or Māori burial ground is the basis for repeated requests over the past 100 years that the reserve come under the ownership and management of Ngāi Tahu.

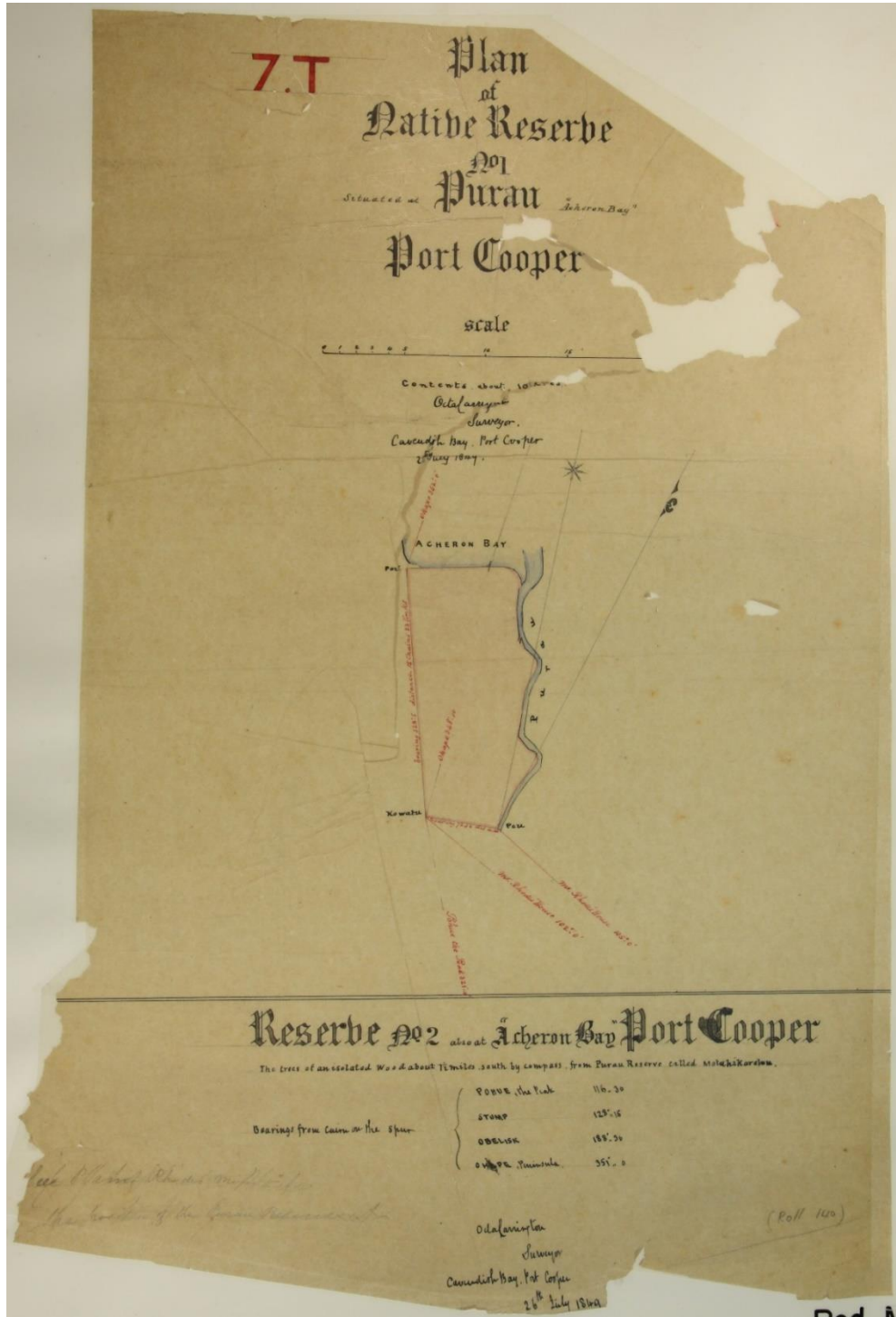
[CCL catalogue record](#)



## Maps and deed

### Red Map – Purau Native Reserve 876 (1847-1849)

Reference: R22857839: Archives New Zealand Te Rua Mahara o te Kāwanatanga: Ngāi Tahu Archive



Scope:

This 10-acre reserve situated in one of the southern bays of Whakaraupō/Lyttelton Harbour was set aside as part of the Port Cooper Purchase 1849. Ownership of the reserve was not confirmed until 1868 when the Native Land Court determined that the sole owner was Wikitoria Nohomutu. In 1870 a Crown Grant was issued in her favour. Sometime prior to 1900 the land was sold and converted to general title. A portion of the original reserve can still be accessed today as it was set aside as a public reserve (1 rood and 15 perches) in 1962 at the request of Rāpaki kaumātua. The reserve contains a memorial to Tiemi Nohomutu.

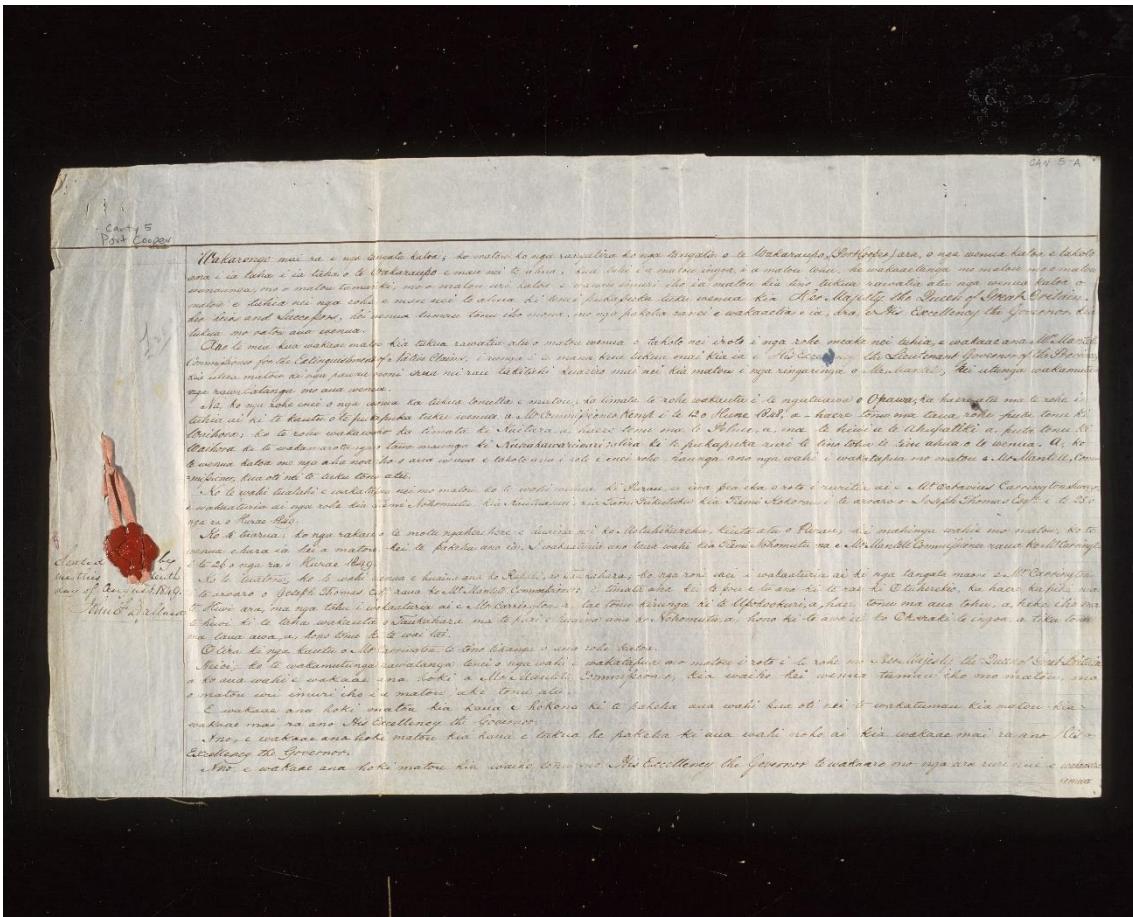
Reference:

R22857839 : Archives New Zealand Te Rua Mahara o te Kāwanatanga : Ngāi Tahu Archive

[Source: Kareao](#)

### Port Cooper Deed (1849)

Reference: Harry Charles Evison Collection: Ngāi Tahu Archive



**Scope:**

The Port Cooper Deed was signed at Whakaraupō on 10 August 1849. When the colonial officer Walter Mantell had arrived at Whakaraupō in July 1849 under instruction to secure the harbour for the new Canterbury settlement, the Ngāi Tahu rangatira Tiemi Nohomutu told him it would cost £2 million, with large reserves. Mantell rejected these terms, and the surveyors accompanying him proceeded with the survey of the future site of Lyttelton township in blatant disregard for the fact that Nohomutu and his people had not yet agreed to cede their land. Eventually, after 'bitter wrangling' between the Ngāi Tahu rangatira and Mantell, the Port Cooper Deed was signed on 10 August 1849. The agreement transferred 65,000 acres of land at Whakaraupō to the Queen, except for two reserves of 850 acres at Rāpaki and nine acres at Pūrau. Mantell had threatened the Ngāi Tahu chiefs that those who refused to sign would have no claim on the reserves. Resigned to the fact that they risked receiving nothing, Nohomutu and seventeen others accepted payment of £200 in connection with the Port Cooper purchase. For an extended commentary on the Port Cooper Deed, refer to Harry Evison, 'The Ngāi Tahu Deeds', Canterbury University Press, Christchurch, N.Z, 2005.

**Reference:**

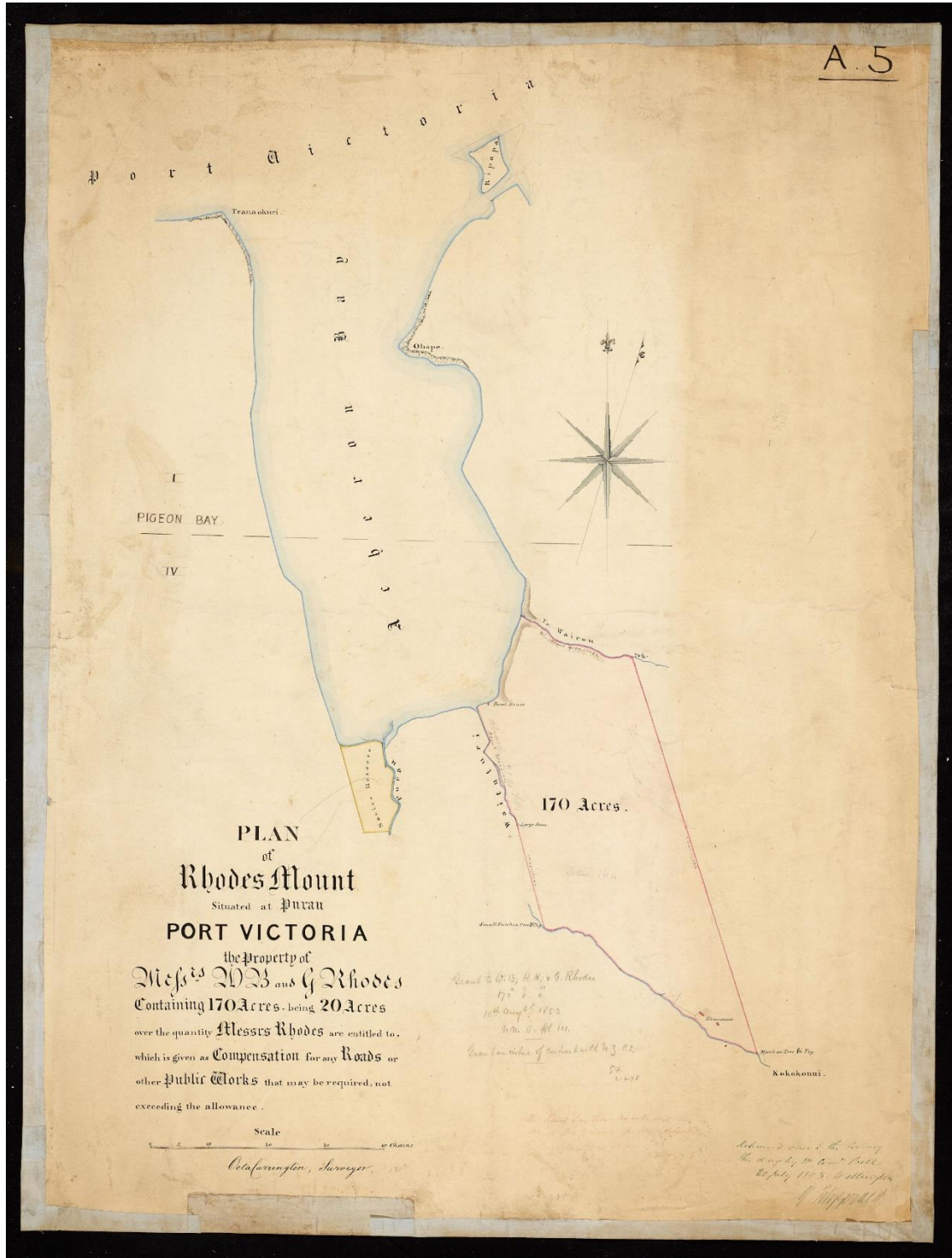
PDC : Harry Charles Evison Collection : Ngāi Tahu Archive

[Source: Kareao](#)



# Rhodes Mount, Pūrau, Native Reserve in Banks Peninsula (1852)

Reference: R22668727\_04: Archives New Zealand Te Rua Mahara o te Kāwanatanga: Ngāi Tahu Archive



**Scope:** This 10-acre reserve situated in one of the southern bays of Whakaraupō/Lyttelton Harbour was set aside as part of the Port Cooper Purchase 1849. Ownership of the reserve was not confirmed until 1868 when the Native Land Court determined that the sole owner was Wikitoria Nohomutu. In 1870 a Crown Grant was issued in her favour. Sometime prior to 1900 the land was sold and converted to general title. A portion of the original reserve can still be accessed today as it was set aside as a public reserve (1 rood and 15 perches) in 1962 at the request of Rāpaki kaumātua. The reserve contains a memorial to Tiemi Nohomutu.

**Reference:** R22668727\_04 : Archives New Zealand Te Rua Mahara o te Kāwanatanga : Ngāi Tahu Archive

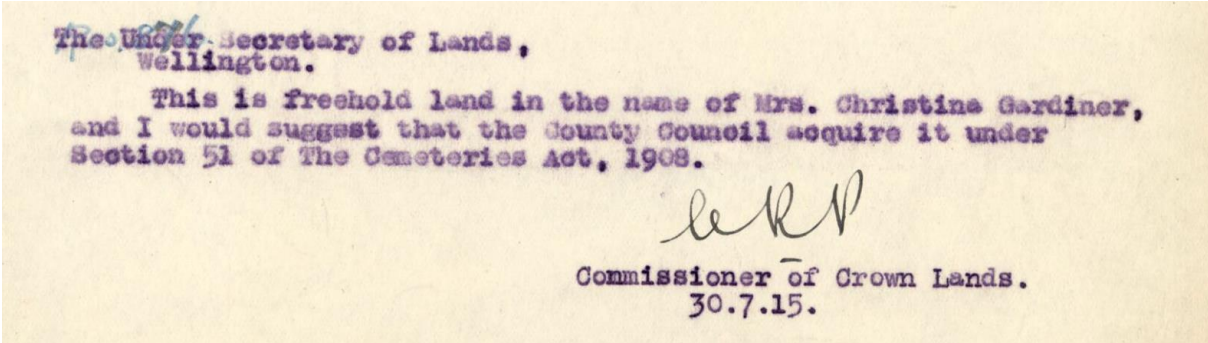
[Source: Kareao](#)

## *Reports and correspondence*

### Mt Herbert County Council papers

Mt Herbert County Council documents outline several approaches by local iwi to have the burial ground protected after that land was sold to Christina Gardiner in 1914. The burial ground area was designated a public reserve in 1962. These county council documents come from an access-restricted file at Archives NZ.

Correspondence between the Commissioner of Crown Lands and the Mt Herbert County Council (1915)



The Under Secretary of Lands,  
Wellington.

This is freehold land in the name of Mrs. Christine Gardiner,  
and I would suggest that the County Council acquire it under  
Section 51 of The Cemeteries Act, 1908.

*L R P*  
Commissioner of Crown Lands.  
30.7.15.



Correspondence between the Under Secretary of Lands and the Mt Herbert  
County Council (1915)

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your  
letter of the 26th ulto., in which you ask that your Coun-  
cil be given control of the Native Cemetery at Purau.

In reply, I have to inform you that I am making  
enquiries regarding this matter from my responsible officers  
in the Lands Department, and when their report is received  
I shall be glad to give the request careful consideration.

Yours faithfully

The Clerk,  
Mount Herbert County Council, W. F. MASSEY  
PURAU.

The Under Secretary of Lands.  
FOR ATTENTION.

W. F. M.

1/7/15



Correspondence between Commissioner of Crown Lands and Mt Herbert  
County Council (1915)

CHRISTCHURCH,

16th July, 1915.

W. A. Carpenter, Esq.,

Clerk,

Mt. Herbert County Council,

PURAU.

With reference to your application to the Hon. Minister of Lands for portion of Native Reserve 876, Purau Bay - I have searched the title, and find that the last transaction registered is a conveyance from the native owner to Mr. Gardiner, of the whole area, and in the Deed of Conveyance there is no mention of the Native Cemetery, and it is possible this Cemetery is on the road along the Bay.

I forward herewith a tracing of the Reserve, and would ask you to kindly mark on it the position of the Cemetery. I would point out that if the Cemetery is within the reserve, it would belong to the native owner.



Memorandum prepared for Director-General of Lands (1950)

Department of Maori Affairs,  
P.O. Box 3006,  
WELLINGTON, C.1.

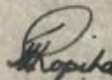
9th March, 1950.

MEMORANDUM for:-

The Director-General of Lands,  
WELLINGTON.

TE PURAU RESERVE, LYTTELTON - MAORI  
BURIAL GROUND.

1. I recently received a visit from Mr. H.H. Gardiner, of Purau, Diamond Harbour, Lyttelton, the present European owner of Te Purau Native Reserve in that area. The block is said now to contain about 9 acres and to have upon it an old Maori burial ground of about 1 rood in extent. Mr. Gardiner wished to know if there was any way in which he could have the burial ground cut off and returned to Maori control.
2. I informed Mr. Gardiner that it would be possible to have the control of the burial ground vested in trustees under Sec. 117 of the Maori Purposes Act, 1931. He then raised the matter of the requirements of the Land Sub-division in Counties Act, 1946, as to the provision of public reserves on subdivision, and asked if the setting aside of the burial ground could be taken (to the extent of the burial ground area) as satisfying the statutory requirements.
3. I have advised Mr. Gardiner that the matter is one for your Department, and have suggested that he visit your Christchurch Office for discussion. I should be interested, however, to hear in due course from you of the final decision in the matter and whether any action is to be taken in regard to the burial ground.

  
Under-Secretary.



Mt Herbert County Council note (excerpt, 1950)

"Monalua Avenue" - Approved.

The suggestion re old Maori Burial Ground being created a Reserve is approved.

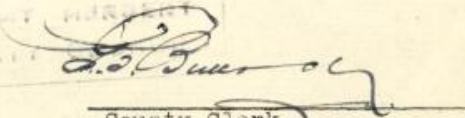
Mr. Gardiner claims that the present Main Highway traverses his land and that the Minister should agree to the old Burial Ground, plus the area of Mr. Gardiner's land occupied by the road, being accepted as his full contribution required of him under the provisions of the Land Subdivision in Counties Act 1946.

My Council approves of this.

Road to be formed to required specifications before dedication is accepted.

Building line to be not less than 33ft. from road centre.

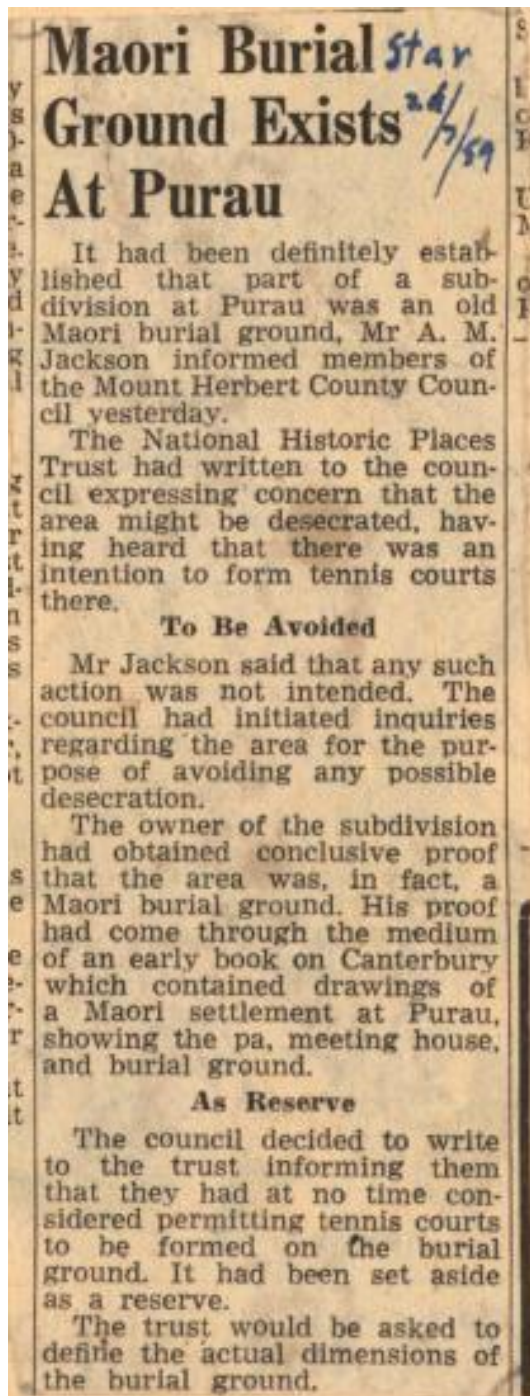
MOUNT HERBERT  
COUNTY



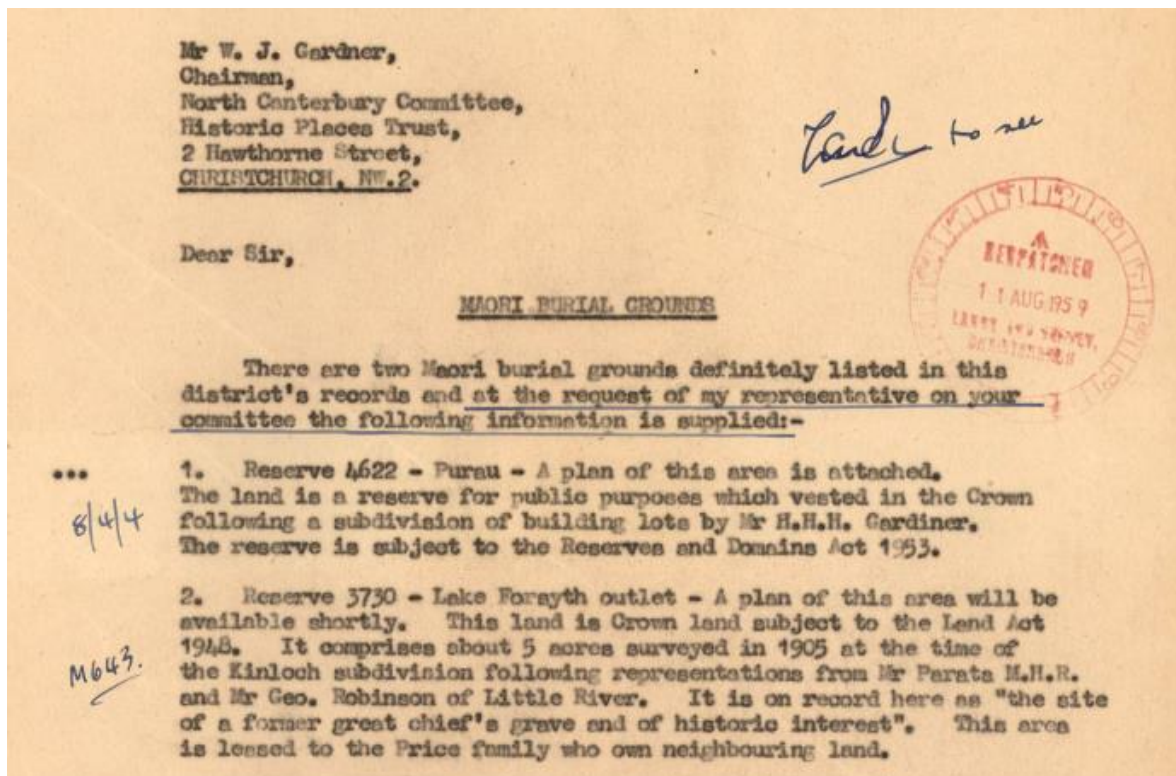
County Clerk  
Engineer.

Date: 2 OCT 1950

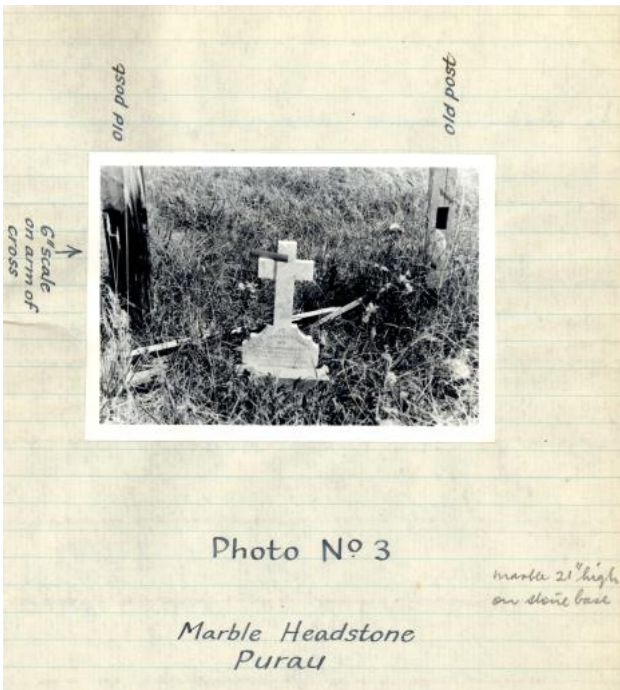
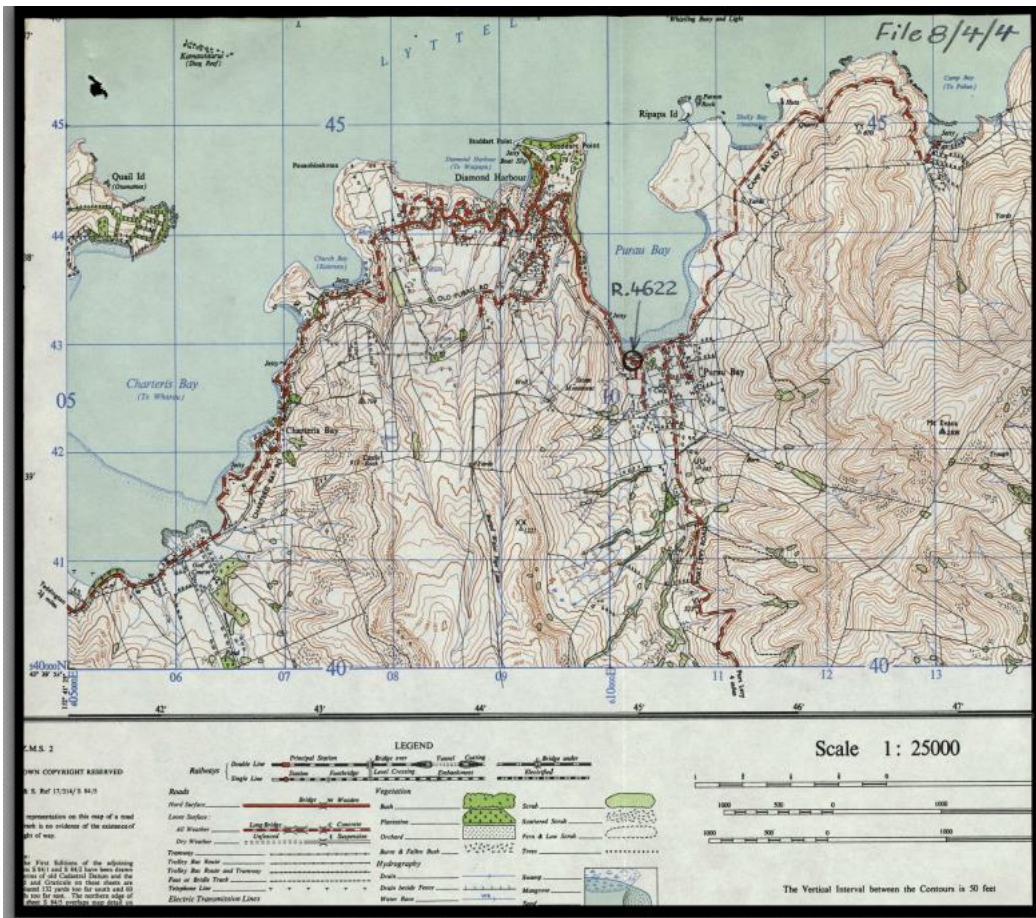




Correspondence (excerpt) between Historic Places Trust (North Canterbury Committee) and Commissioner of Crown Lands (1959)



Map and photographs contained in report by Chief Surveyor Draftsman C. Holdsworth (1960)



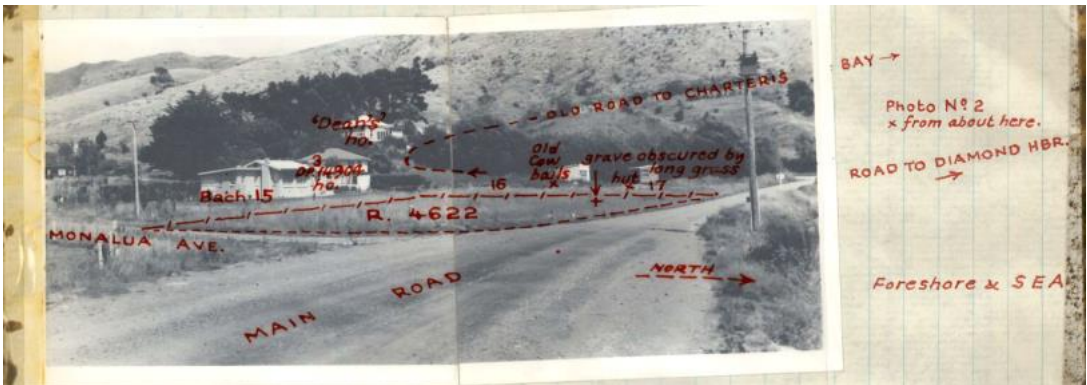
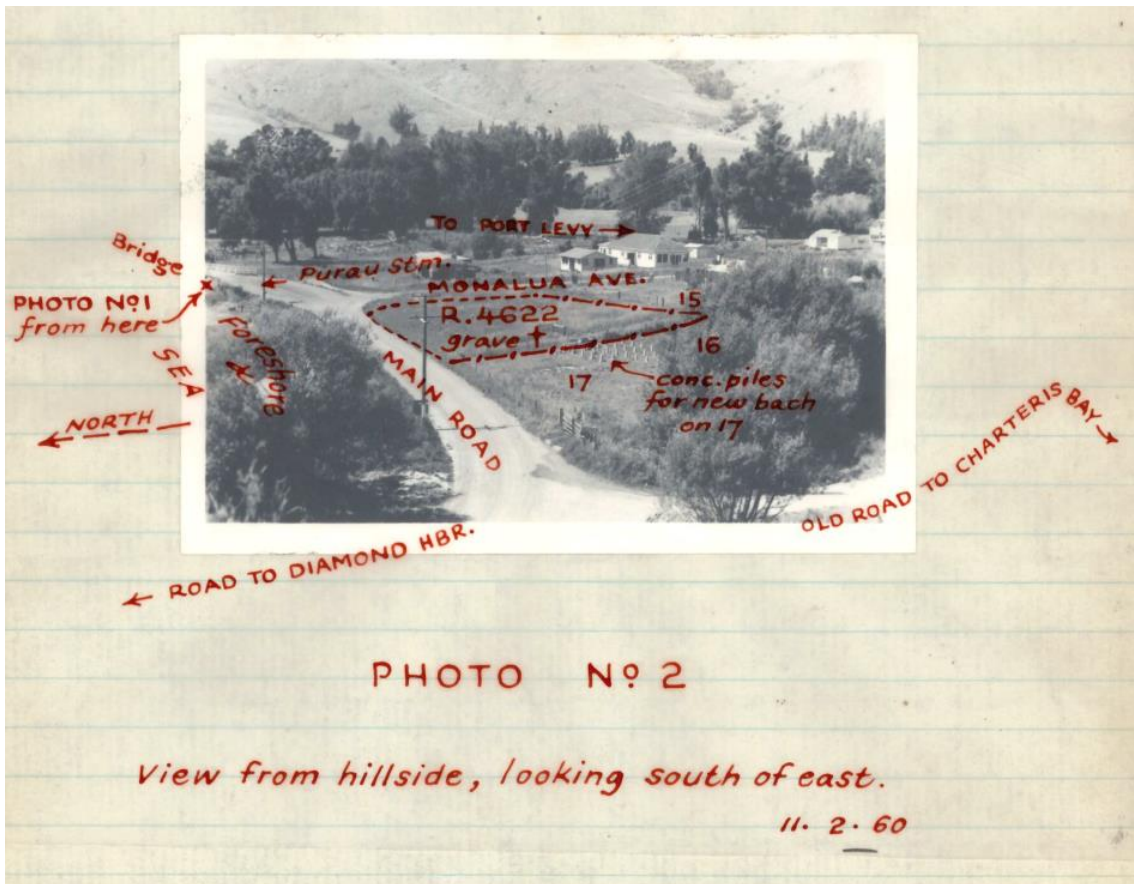


PHOTO NO 1  
View from end of bridge, Purau Str. looking south of west.  
11. 2. 60





Correspondence between Department of Maori Affairs and Lands and Survey Department (1961)

DEPARTMENT OF MAORI AFFAIRS  
(AND MAORI TRUST OFFICE)

OFFICE: OXFORD TERRACE  
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: MAORIFAIRS  
TELEPHONE: 50 565

PRIVATE BAG,  
CHRISTCHURCH.  
20 June 1961

*Mr. Holdsworth  
I would like your comments  
& recommendations, pl.  
LRL  
26/6.*

Commissioner of Crown Lands,  
Lands and Survey Department,  
CHRISTCHURCH

RECEIVED  
21 JUN 1961

MAORI CEMETERY AT PURAU

Some time ago the Mount Herbert County Council wrote to me in connection with a Public Reserve containing 1 rood 15 perches at Purau, being part of Maori Reserve 876.

Apparently this area was set aside by a Mr. H.M. Gardiner in 1951 as a Public Reserve on the subdivision of the balance of the property. It contains some Maori graves.

*ALL C.L.  
11/8  
LRL*

They ask me for my views on the area being converted into a tennis court and I suggested that they contact the Maori people of Rapaki, which they did, and these people are definitely interested in preserving the area as a Maori Cemetery.

*Brooke Brown  
Justin Morrison  
then it can  
be done Maori Res.*

I am not sure that the full area would be required for the purpose but have to advise that the Rapaki Maori Tribal Committee has now made application to the Maori Land Court under Section 439 of the Maori Affairs Act for the area to be set aside as a Maori Reservation and to be vested in the Rapaki Tribal Committee's nominees as Trustees. Such an application would depend on the attitude of the Crown. If the Crown is prepared to vest the area as a Reserve in these Trustees, then no doubt the Court would give consideration to their request that it be set aside as a Maori Reservation.

*an he  
e definitely  
had graves  
in reserve  
where.*

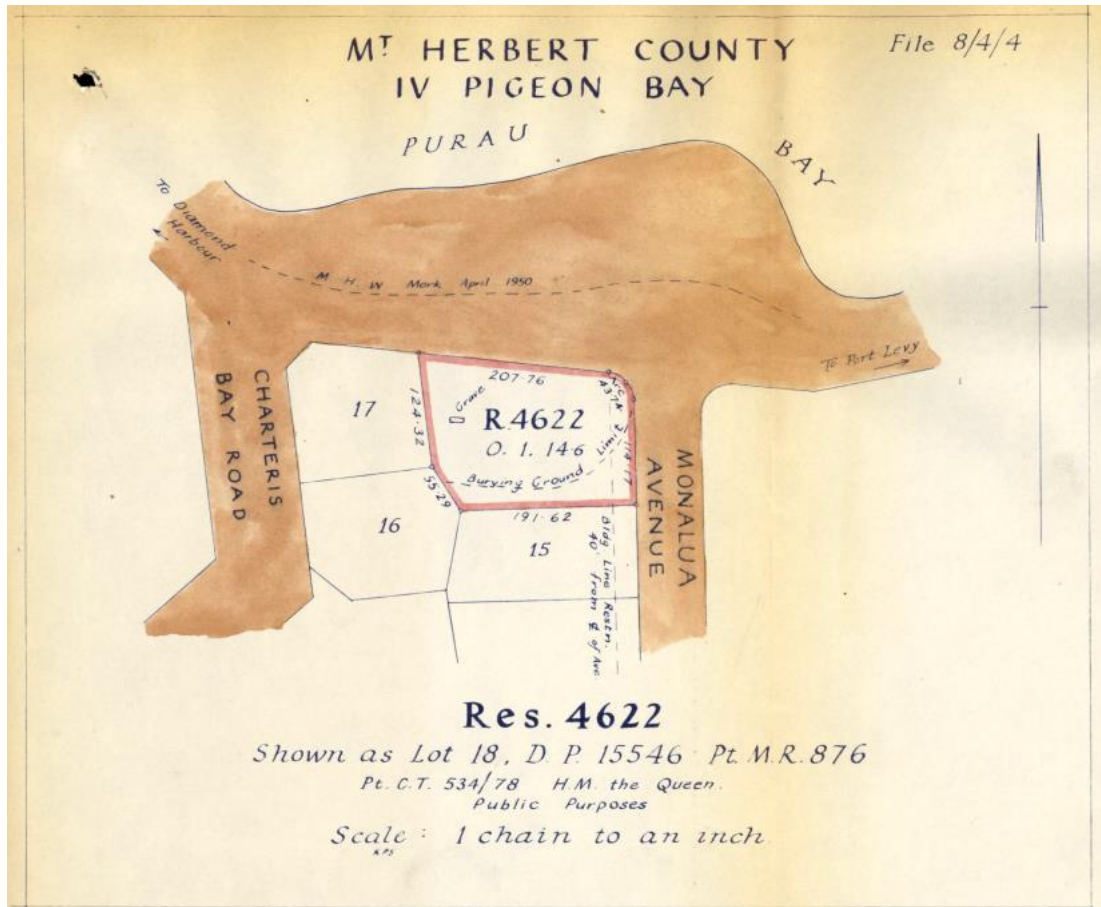
I understand it contains the graves of some of their ancestors and they are keen to preserve the area and would agree to keep it in order.

I should be grateful if you would kindly advise whether or not you would agree to the area being dealt with as suggested.

*J. Lewin*  
J.E. Lewin  
District Officer



Map featuring land designated as public reserve in 1962



Vesting of a reserve approved by the Minister of Lands on January 26, 1962

B/4-926  
R4622

**The Minister of Lands**

**VESTING OF A RESERVE IN THE MOUNT HERBERT COUNTY COUNCIL**

**PROPOSAL:** To vest a reserve for public purposes in the Mount Herbert County Council.

**LAND:** Reserve 4622 (also shown as Lot 18, D.P. 15546, being part M.R. 876), situated in Block IV, Pigeon Bay Survey District; Area: 1 rood 14.6 perches

**LOCATION:** Situated at the junction of Main Road and Monalua Avenue, Purau Bay, approximately 3 miles south of Lyttelton.

**STATUS:** Vested in the Crown for public purposes on 14 June 1951 pursuant to Section 13 of the Land Subdivision in Counties Act 1946. Subject to the Reserves and Domains Act 1953.



Extract from NZ Gazette (1962)

Extract from *N.Z. Gazette*, 1 February 1962, No. 8, page 196

*Vesting a Reserve in the Mount Herbert County Council*

PURSUANT to the Reserves and Domains Act 1953, the Minister of Lands hereby vests the reserve described in the Schedule hereto in the Chairman, Councillors, and Inhabitants of the County of Mount Herbert, in trust, for public purposes.

SCHEDULE

CANTERBURY LAND DISTRICT

RESERVE 4622, situated in Block IV, Pigeon Bay Survey District: Area, 1 rood 14.6 perches, more or less. (Shown as Lot 18, D.P. 15546, being part M.R. 876). Part certificate of title, Volume 534, folio 78.

Dated at Wellington this 26th day of January 1962.

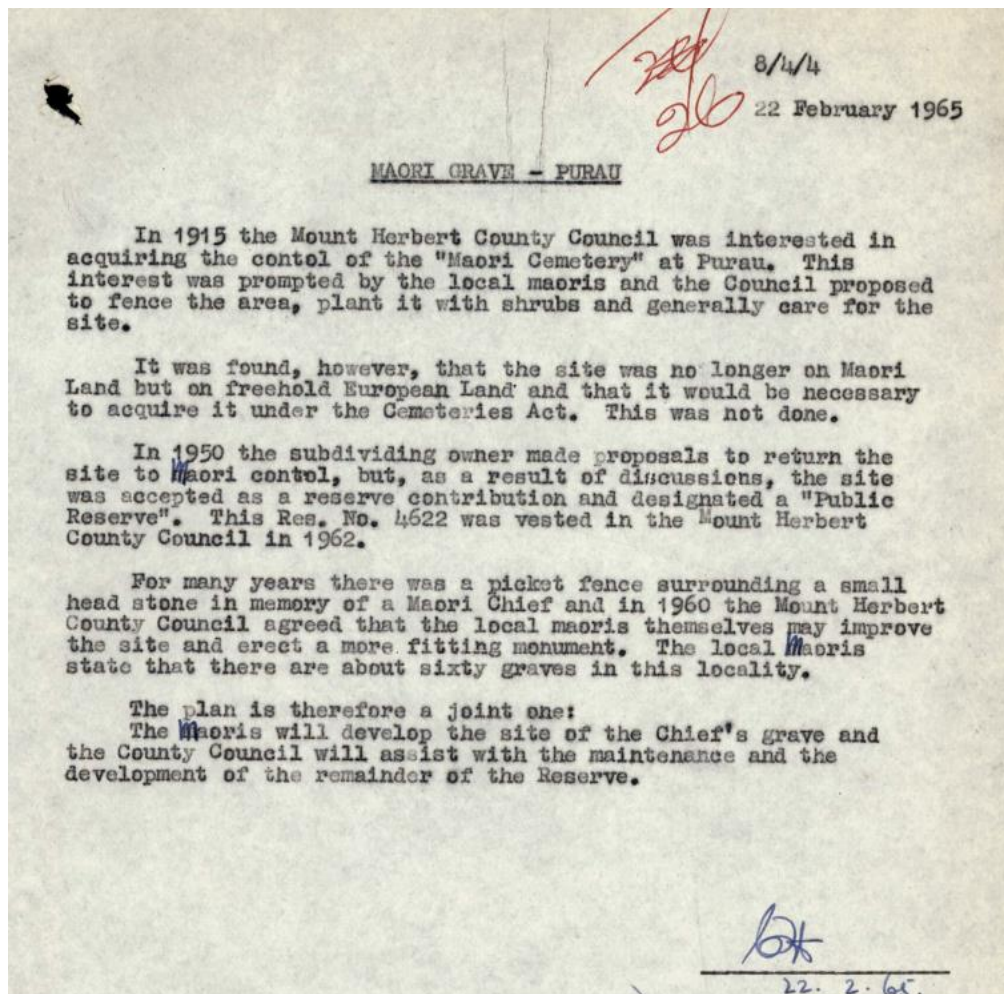
R. G. GERARD, Minister of Lands.

(L. and S. H.O. 6/1/1116; D.O. 8/4/4)

R. E. OWEN, Government Printer, Wellington, New Zealand.

Release prepared for Star Sun Newspaper (1965)

[Source for Mt Herbert County Council documents: Archives NZ](#)



## Articles

### Summary of news coverage of Pūrau reserve

Access note: CCL card number and Password/Pin needed to access “The Press” articles at [Papers Past](#). The direct links to The Star articles (2018-2019) are active.

Initial press coverage of Pūrau described Tiemi Nohomutu as a [“redoubtable warrior”](#) on January 5, 1939 (The Press, p.4 supplement) before an article in 1959 reported that the Mt Herbert County Council was seeking information on a [Māori burial ground](#) at Pūrau (The Press, October 6, 1959, p.20). The following year The Press reported that owners of sections recently subdivided were urged to discourage “curio hunters” after [“Maori \[sic\] burials were uncovered last May”](#) (September 8, 1960, p.19). Three years later the Herbert County Council gave the New Zealand Youth Historic Scientific Research and Recording Society (Canterbury branch) permission to [excavate a portion of Port Levy Road at Pūrau](#) (The Press, August 24, 1963, p.13) before concerns expressed by the Māori Affairs Department, the Rapaki Tribal Committee and the Canterbury Museum caused the council to [withdraw permission for the excavation](#) (The Press, August 27, 1963). On June 7, 2018 The Star reported that the Pūrau Residents’ Association opposed returning the land to Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke because the association viewed this as an act of [“privatisation”](#) (p.16). A week later the proposal to return the land to the hapū was supported by [Port Hills Labour MP Ruth Dyson and National list MP Nuk Korako](#) (The Star, June 14, 2018, p.19). A year later the Star reported that a [revised report](#) would be prepared by the Christchurch City Council after Department of Conservation staff indicated that the reserve status of the land should not be revoked (The Star, September 8, 2019).

## Biography

### Tiemi Nohomutu

Donald Couch

From: Tāngata Ngāi Tahu: People of Ngāi Tahu Volume Two

Edited by Helen Brown & Michael J. Stevens

Wellington: Bridget Williams Books, 2022.

ISBN: 9781990046049

Extract pp. 159-163

At a time of Ngāi Tahu population loss and displacement, followed by land-sale negotiations with Pākehā settlers and the Crown, Tiemi Nohomutu was a key leader for Ngāi Tahu in Whakaraupō (Lyttelton Harbour) and wider Te Pātaka-a-Rākohaitū (Banks Peninsula) during the 1830s and 1840s. His whakapapa is from the Ngāti Kurī (Ngāi Tahu) founder of Rāpaki, Te Rakiwhakaputa, and his



wife Te Kuku through their son Wheke and then his son, Te Ihu, the father of Nohomutu.

His mother was Moinana. Tiemi Nohomutu was born around 1790 and lived at Pūrau, where he and his whānau identified their hapū as Ngāti Te Rakiwhakaputa.

Tiemi Nohomutu married Hinetuhi, and they had one daughter, Te Kohuwai, who married Paora Taki. This couple in turn had one daughter, Ngaroimata (Wikitoria), who has no known descendants. Thus, though he was alive in 1848, Nohomutu is not listed in the Ngāi Tahu 'Blue Book'. He died in 1850, and was buried at Pūrau where his headstone may be seen today. Ngāi Tahu contemporaries of Tiemi Nohomutu included Te Whakarukeruke (perhaps ten years younger), Taununu (d. 1832), Iwikau (d. 1845) and Tangatahara (d. 1847). A ridge west of Te Poho-o-Tamatea at Rāpaki is named Nohomutu after him.

[Full-text](#)

[CCL Catalogue record](#)



The urupā where Tiemi Nohomutu was laid. The picture was taken in December 2018 by Mark Taylor. [Source: Kareao](#)



## Pūrau and surrounding area

### *Aerial photography*

Digital NZ

V.C. Browne Collection (Pūrau Bay, 1954)



[Source](#)



## *Book extracts*

### Place names of Banks Peninsula and the Port Hills

Gordon Ogilvie

Christchurch : Canterbury University Press,, 2017.

ISBN: 9781927145937 ; 1927145937

Extract p. 222

**Purau Bay:** Purau is a large bay on the south side of Lyttelton Harbour, between Diamond Harbour and Ripapa Island. Its name (also spelt Puru, Poulao, Purao and Pulao in early documents) is translated variously as 'a two-barbed spear', 'mussel basket', 'sea urchin', 'raking implement', or 'pointed stick with which to take food'. The

Continues p. 222-223

Purau was said to be the home of a fabulous monster called Tuna Tuoro, which barked like a dog, made its way underground and could attack human beings. The bay is rich in Māori history. In the mid-1950s Selwyn Te Moananui Hovell excavated part of the corner section west of the Port Levy Road intersection and discovered a great deal of material dating back to the Mōa Hunter period: necklace units, stone adzes, bone fish hooks and four Māori ovens, containing bones from three different species of moa, including a complete moa's foot. In later years there was a Māori village on the western side of the bay between Pa Creek and the Diamond Harbour spur. Its population was variable, possibly depending on the seasons. Lieutenant Joseph Fournier of the *Héroïne*, in his chart of 1838, describes 'Poulao' (Purau) as 'abandoned'. This is the first time that Purau is identified on any map.

[CCL catalogue record](#)



## Banks Peninsula: cradle of Canterbury

Gordon Ogilvie

Christchurch : Phillips & King Publishers, rev. ed., 2010.

ISBN: 9780958331579

Only six days after he had arrived at Lyttelton on 16 December 1850 aboard the *Charlotte Jane*, Edward Ward and a friend rowed across Lyttelton Harbour to Purau Bay. "A beautiful little land-locked inlet", his journal describes it. "There was a little level land at the upper end, but all around were high and wall-shaped hills, forming beautiful sites for houses of the villa kind as will start up some day yet."

Ward and his companion found the beach strewn with oysters, mussels and cockles. They walked past the Maori village by the beach and climbed up the hill to "Mr Rhodes's station" where they were entertained with bread, milk and mutton. Rhodes's garden was full of vegetables and fruit trees with everything thriving, especially maize and tobacco. There was a dairy for cheese making. Ward found the Maori down at their "pah" helpful, honest and good-natured.<sup>1</sup> A contemporary painting of Purau, produced by Richard Oliver of the sloop HMS *Fly*, is the only representation we have of the Maori settlement there. It shows three canoes pulled up on the beach with several whares and what could be fish-drying racks on some higher ground behind, just west of Purau Stream which used to be known locally as Pa Creek.

Purau (the name could mean either a two-barbed spear or a mussel basket) had been a Maori settlement or camp site for 700-800 years and the subsoil of the whole foreshore is rich in moa hunter remains. The occupants in 1850 were Nga-Tuahuriri, a subtribe of Ngai Tahu and kinsfolk of the Rapaki hapu. The grave of their chief, Tiemi Nohomutu, who died just before the arrival of the first Canterbury Association settlers, may be seen by the road at the west side of the bay.



The Purau settlement was never a fortified pa and the nearest refuge in times of crisis was Ripapa Island off the bay's eastern headland. By 1857 there were only 12 Maori left at Purau, cultivating 2.4 hectares of wheat and 2.4 of potatoes, and tending 43 pigs, three horses and two horned cattle. In 1861 there were only five people. By the 1870s, none. The reserve which had been surveyed by Octavius Carrington (assisted by Tiemi Nohomutu, Apera Kautuanui, Tami Tukutuku and Tiemi Kohorau) and set aside for the Maori by Captain Joseph Thomas on 25 July 1849, was sold in 1914 to Christina Gardiner after a special Act of Parliament had enabled the Rapaki Maori to do so.<sup>2</sup>

The bay had been known to Europeans for 20 years by the time Edward Ward first saw it. The trading barque *Vittoria* with Joseph Price aboard anchored there in mid-1831 while her master and Price went overland to the great pa at Kaiapohia to trade for flax. Most of the American, British and French whalers who visited Port Cooper from 1835 through to the late 1840s anchored off Little Port Cooper, the bay nearest Adderley Head and the open sea. But Purau or Rapaki offered the chance to trade with the Maori, especially in potatoes and pork.

[CCL catalogue record](#)

## Reports

### Ngāi Tahu Land Report (1991)

Ngāi Tahu Land Report [WAI 27], 1312p.  
Wellington: Waitangi Tribunal, Department of Justice

#### Port Cooper and Port Levy

Mantell's actions in the Port Cooper and Port Levy purchases were also the subject of complaint. The claimants alleged that Mantell was sent to "carry matters with a high hand", that he falsely asserted that the Crown already owned the peninsula, and that the Crown did nothing to rectify this (no 5). Mantell, they claimed, conducted his proceedings as an award. Price and reserves were non-negotiable, and as a consequence Ngāi Tahu were denied a fair price and adequate reserves and resources for their continued sustenance and prosperity (no 6). This led them to abandon the Port Levy and Port Cooper blocks, apart from their inadequate Port Levy, Purau and Rapaki reserves (no 7) (Ngāi Tahu, 1991, p.95).

It took five weeks of discussions with Ngai Tahu before he was able to induce them to agree to the Port Cooper purchase. In discussions over reserves Mantell was prepared to act unilaterally. At Purau he instructed the surveyor, Carrington, to mark out the reserve without Ngai Tahu consent, forcing them to abandon gardens not included in the reserve. Negotiations were difficult and intense: Ngai Tahu demanding that their title be recognised, and Mantell



insisting that he had the right to determine the limited reserves and the payments he was prepared to offer. Ngai Tahu bargained vigorously and at length, but finally accepted Mantell's proposals. The Port Cooper deed was signed on 10 August 1849, involving 59,000 acres for which the Crown paid œ200 (Ngāi Tahu, 1991, p.95).

In the allocation of reserves in Port Cooper, Mantell acted with similar arbitrary disregard of Ngai Tahu wishes or needs. The Purau reserve comprised only nine acres, and Mantell insisted that gardens beyond the reserve be abandoned. Although the tribunal had no figures for the population of the Port Cooper block in 1849, the population given in a census eight years later shows that only 11.8 acres per head was reserved, and very little of this was good land. This was grossly inadequate, especially given the poor quality of most of this land (Ngāi Tahu, 1991, p.101).

A third early run was established by three Greenwood brothers at Motunau. They had previously been occupying Purau Bay in Port Cooper. It is thought they built a homestead at Motunau in 1845 and cattle were driven there from Banks Peninsula in September 1847. By January 1850 the property was carrying some 1450 sheep, 140 head of cattle and 40 pigs (M5:14-16) (Ngāi Tahu, 1991, p.660).

The first portion reserved for us is the land at Purau estimated to contain nine acres as surveyed by Mr Octavius Carrington Surveyor and as pointed out to Tiemi Nohomutu, to Kautuanui, to Tami Tukutuku and to Tiemi Kokorau in the presence of Joseph Thomas Esqre on the 25 July 1849 (Ngāi Tahu, 1991, p.1095).

[CCL catalogue record and full-text](#)

## Ka Pakihi Whakatekateka o Waitaha: The Archaeology of Canterbury in Maori Times

Challis, Adrian J.

Science & Research Series No.89, Department of Conservation, 1995

Extract from Appendix 3: Moa remains from archaeological sites, p.87

Archaeological site M36/7 Pūrau midden Moa bones, indicates settlement of Pūrau c. 1250.

[CCL catalogue record](#)



## Banks Peninsula: Contextual historical overview and thematic framework

Louise Beaumont, Matthew Carter & John Wilson  
Report prepared for Christchurch City Council, 2014  
Extract p.44.

The first settlers to Banks Peninsula / Te Pataka o Rakaihautū, the Waitaha, arrived from eastern Polynesia around 1250 AD .... These colonists brought with them a suite of traditional technologies and skills that they applied to the new raw materials at their disposal. Archaeological investigation has revealed that this fusion created a unique material culture assemblage incorporating local stone sources, and moa, seal and whale bone to create both functional and ornamental artefacts. Archaeological sites on Banks Peninsula from this period are rare and typically small but are to be found at Purau, Pigeon Bay, Tumbledown Bay and Takamatua (Beaumont, Carter & Wilson, 2014, p.44).  
[CCL catalogue record and full-text](#)

## Banks Peninsula Landscape Study

Dan Witter & Boffa Miskell  
Report prepared for Christchurch City Council, 2007  
Extract p.11.

### **2.5 Character Area 4: PURAU – RIPAPA ISLAND CULTURAL HERITAGE LANDSCAPE**

#### **Statement of Significance**

There are two major places in this district, both with a remarkable continuity of use. Purau Bay begins as an Archaic Moa Hunter settlement and continues as a Maori village until European arrival (although there appears to have been no defended pa there). In 1843 it was the first place of European settlement in Canterbury. The Rhodes homestead for their early cattle station was built there and remains an architecturally significant building. Further along the coast is Ripapa Island which was one of the first pa in the South Island designed as a gunfighter's pa. As a place of defence it was later redesigned as a gun battery and the technological innovation, the disappearing gun was installed there. This district should be considered as a candidate for national level significance.

Dan Witter, Feb 2007

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[CCL catalogue record and full-text](#)



# Evaluation of the Customary Fisheries Management of Shellfish in the Canterbury Region

Mudunaivalu, Kusitino

Environmental Sciences, Master of Science, University of Canterbury, 2013

## Abstract

During the last twenty years there has been a growing recognition of the need to protect shellfish populations all over the world. In New Zealand, customary management tools such as rehab (temporary closures) and mātaihai reserves provide an important management strategy, allowing shellfish populations to be managed and protected in coastal waters. This thesis examined the cultural management of shellfish in three Māori reserves in the Canterbury region, at Rāpaki, Port Levy and Kaikōura. The study measured the population characteristics of three key shellfish species that are important to Māori within the reserves and compared them with similar non-reserve sites. The shellfish populations were assessed using both scientific methods and cultural evaluations using traditional ecological knowledge (TEK). The scientific methods involved assessments of the abundance; size structure and condition index of pipis (*Paphies australis*), cockles (*Austrovenus stutchburyi*) and cats eyes (*Turbo smaragdus*). Semi-structured interviews were used to gather indigenous knowledge from kaumatua and kaitiaki on the abundance of shellfish and the state of their customary fisheries. The findings from the scientific research indicated that the customary reserves had higher shellfish abundance, larger individuals and higher abundance of harvestable size shellfish. The result of the cultural assessments suggested that there are enough shellfish in the three reserves to satisfy the customary needs of the communities. The kaitiaki acknowledged that the abundance and sizes of shellfish had been greater and larger in the past compared to the present. They have observed an increase in both size and abundance of shellfish since the customary reserves have been put in place. This study showed that scientific monitoring can provide important information about the structure and distribution of shellfish and that this is critical for sustainable management. The research findings indicated that scientific monitoring and TEK information can compliment each other for improved customary fishery management. The thesis research concluded that differences in shellfish populations between the reserves and non-reserve sites may be due, not only to the customary management, but a variety of complex factors that will require further monitoring. This research, however, provided baseline data about shellfish populations which can be used to monitor future changes. From a cultural perspective the customary management is conserving shellfish populations and therefore is successful at fulfilling the customary needs of the three Māori communities.

[Full-text](#)



## The benthic ecology and community structure in Lyttelton Harbour, Christchurch, New Zealand

Knight, Grant

Master of Science, University of Canterbury, 1971

### Abstract:

Lyttelton Harbour, one of the many shallow, muddy bottomed inlets around the New Zealand coast, has a number of unusual features that affect the enclosed water. The harbour's location and the volcanic origin of Banks Peninsula affect the water temperatures, turbulence, turbidity, and the current directions and intensity, (Fig.1). These are detailed in the following chapters. The volcanic material, along with the loess coating the hills around the harbour, has a controlling effect on the amount and type of sediment on the seafloor, The fauna living in and on the substrate must be considered in relation to the, physical characteristics of the environment before any conclusions on the existence of possible communities may be formulated. The first section details the methods used in the analysis of these characteristics and the equipment used to sample the fauna.

[Full-text](#)



## Articles

### Recent news coverage in the Pūrau area

The [Pūrau Bay Holiday Park](#) closed in 2009 (Stuff, June 7, 2009) and the Canterbury earthquake of September 4, 2010 damaged the Pūrau Homestead built in 1853. Repairs began in February 2011 (The Press, p.A5. Access note: CCL card number & password/Pin required at [Aust/NZ Reference Centre](#)) and the homestead, listed by [Heritage New Zealand](#), is still occupied. Rising sea levels may cause [some roads at Pūrau](#) to be moved in the future (The Press, October 18, 2023) and the Hidden Valley Conservation Trust is restoring the natural habitat of 72ha between Pūrau and Mt Evans (Dominion Post, January 28, 2023, p.B3. Access note: CCL card number & password/Pin required at [Aust/NZ Reference Centre](#)).



The Pūrau Homestead. [Source: Heritage NZ](#)

