

HISTORY TIME LINE OF NAPIER AND HAWKE'S BAY

A partial timeline of Napier and Hawke's Bay 1769-1974.



*Port Ahuriri 1866 by Charles Decimus Barraud, 1822-1897: A view from Bluff Hill, Napier, looking north down to Westshore and Port Ahuriri. There are houses on a spit of land surrounded by water and further low-lying islands without houses. A steam ship and a number of sailing ships can be seen in the harbor.
Ref: D-040-002. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. /records/32199839*

Introduction:

Ngāti Kahungunu trace their origins to the Tākitimu waka, which arrived in Aotearoa from Rarotonga around 1100-1200 AD.

Tamatea Ariki Nui, the captain of Tākitimu, settled in Tauranga, and is buried on top of Mauao, called Mount Maunganui today. Tamatea Ariki Nui had a son called Rongokako, and he had a son called Tamatea Pokai Whenua Pokai Moana, which means “Tamatea explorer of land and sea.”

It is from Tamatea Pokai Whenua Pokai Moana that we have the longest place name, located at Porongahau – “Taumatawhakatangihakōauauatamateaturipukakapikimaungahoronukupokaiwhenuakitānatahu” where Tamatea Pokai Whenua Pokai Moana played a flute to his lover.

It is the son of Tamatea Pokai Whenua Pokai Moana named Kahungunu that Ngāti Kahungunu comes from. Kahungunu travelled widely and eventually settled on the East Coast. His grandson Rakaihikuroa, migrated with his son Taraia, their families and followers, from Nukutaurua on the Māhia Peninsula to Heretaunga (Hawke’s Bay area). Eventually, Heretaunga was brought under the control of his people, who became the first Ngāti Kahungunu as we know it today in Hawke’s Bay.

Ahuriri was an important site of Māori occupation with Te Whanganui-a-Orotū; the inner harbor; being a valued source of food. It is here that Ngāti Kahungunu were one of the first Māori tribes to come into contact with European settlers.

In October 1769, Captain Cook first landed in Napier, before continuing to sail down the East Coast on the HMS Endeavour. Cook named the Hawke’s Bay after Sir Edward Hawke, First Lord of the Admiralty. In the 1830’s traders, whalers, missionaries and other forerunners of a permanent European settlement began to appear.

Originally known as Ahuriri, Napier was founded by the government in 1855, and is Hawke’s Bay’s oldest town. The name “Napier” commemorates Sir Charles Napier, the commander-in-chief of British forces in India.

Napier Library has a wide range of resources to help you in your journey of discovery as you learn about our rich history.

This timeline includes some key events in Napier’s history – it is by no means an exhaustive list. Kia manahau!

Ngāti Kahungunu are the tangata whenua of the Hawke's Bay area. They were one of the first Māori tribes to encounter European settlers (*Wright, 1994*).

1769

- In October, Captain Cook first landed in Napier, Hawke's Bay, having sailed down the East Coast of the North Island, and along with the crew of the *HMS Endeavour* were probably the first Europeans to set eyes upon Hawke's Bay. He named the Bay after Sir Edward Hawke, First Lord of the Admiralty (*Wright, 1994*).

1795

- Logbook of *England's Glory*, a whaler, recorded passing along the East Coast.

1796

- Whaler, *Mermaid*, sailed off the coast of Hawke's Bay.

1827

- 3 February, Dumont D'Urville sailed in the *Astrolabe* off Hawke's Bay.

1829

- The ship *Nimrod* brought Barnet Burns to Mahia.

1830's

- Traders, whalers, missionaries and other forerunners of permanent European settlement began to appear. The whalers began stations at Waikokopu and Whangawehi, in Mahia (*Campbell, 1975*).



'South sea whaling fishery, 1820s'

<https://mzjostpru.govt.nz/media/photo/south-seas-whaling>, Ministry for Culture and Heritage

1833

- Missionaries began traveling to Hawke's Bay to convert the Ngāti Kahungunu tribe to Christianity (*Campbell, 1975*). William Williams was the first missionary to reach Hawke's Bay.

1834

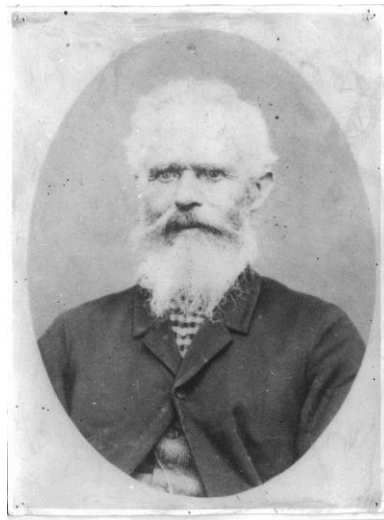
- Thomas McDonnell's chart of New Zealand showed Ahuriri as McDonnell's Cove.

1837

- Sketch made of harbour of 'Hau Ridi' (Ahuriri) by Captain Thomas Wing, master of the schooner *Trent*.

1839

- Captain W. B. Rhodes established trading stations at Ahuriri (which closed in 1841), and Table Cape. F. W. C. Sturm settled at Nuhaka.



Friedrich Wilhelm Christian Sturm (1810/1811? – 1896),
<https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/1s27/sturm-friedrich-wilhelm-christian>

1840

- The Treaty of Waitangi was brought to Hawke's Bay in June to collect signatures.

1841

- Bishop Pompallier visited Mahia twice in this year.

1842

- 16-17 November, Bishop Selwyn at Ahuriri.

1843

- 18 December, William Colenso and Rev. W. Williams at Ahuriri.

1844

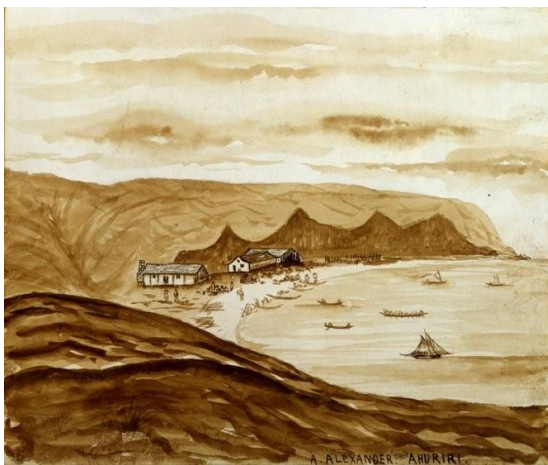
- William Colenso, a lay missionary, explorer, printer and amateur botanist, was appointed to take charge of the new mission station of Te Awapuni, Waitangi present day Awatoto, Napier.



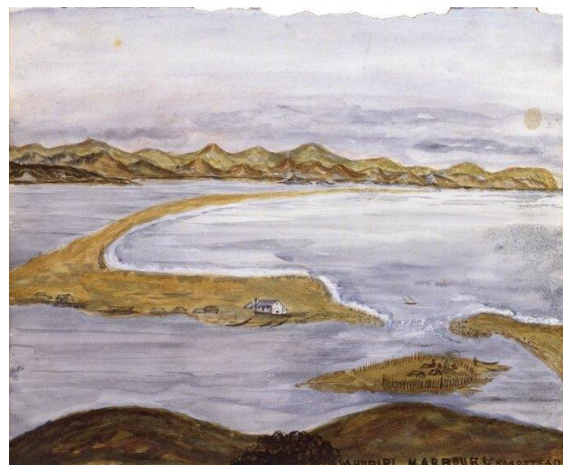
William Colenso in 1868 – <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/william-colenso-1868>
Ministry for Culture and Heritage.

1846

- 22 May, Alexander Alexander recorded at Onepoto Gully, Ahuriri.



A. Alexander's Store, Ahuriri 1850s by Joseph Rhodes (1826-1905), showing view of bay with canoes and boats, buildings and pa on shore, with Ahuriri Bluff in background. Ref: A-159-031.
Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. /records/22865873



Ahuriri harbor and roadstead 1850-1859 by Joseph Rhodes (1826-1905). Ref: A-159-033.
Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. /records/23109126

1848

- Anketell joins Alexander on Westshore Spit.

1849

- 30 January, first sheep station in Hawke's Bay established at Pourerere. It was during this time that definite steps were taken to settle Hawke's Bay.

- 26 April, Tareha and several leading Hawke's Bay chiefs invited Governor Grey to visit them to discuss a land deal. He had appointed Land Commissioner, Donald McLean, to visit the Ngāti Kahungunu tribe and begin negotiations (*Reed, 1968*).

1850

- Port Ahuriri at this time was known as 'Hourede' or 'Howreedy' as Europeans called it.
- 13 August, Colenso recorded an earthquake shock in Napier.
- 10 December, first families, the McKains and the Villiers, settled at Northern Spit, what is now Westshore.



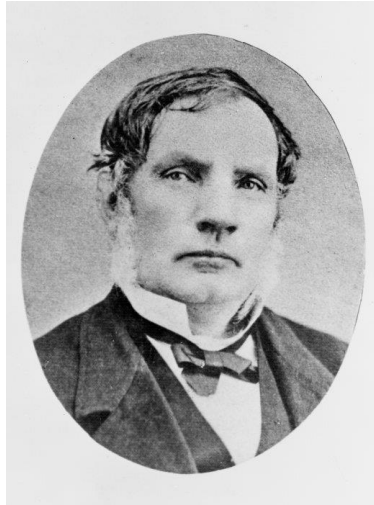
*An early view of The Spit, Ahuriri and the Western Spit taken from Bluff Hill. The development of Gough and Māori Islands, around which early land reclamation began forming West Quay, is evident.
Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawhāro Tā-ū-rangi, 3359*

- 18 December, Donald McLean arrived at Waipukurau to arrange for the purchase of 600,000 to 7000,000 acres of Hawke's Bay land (*Fargher, 2007*). Attributes of McLean's success were his fluency in Māori, his understanding of Māori protocol, and the importance of 'taihoa' (of being patient, waiting). McLean negotiated for the purchase of land at Waipukurau, Ahuriri, and Mohaka. The Ahuriri block consisted of 265,000 acres (*Reed, 1968*).
- It was this block of land that included the area known as Mataruahou or 'land adjacent to', which would eventually become the future site of Napier. Ahuriri Māori appear to have eventually accepted the terms of the deed, which provided for a landing place for their canoes and protection for their customary fishing activities as recognition of their ownership of the harbour (*Fargher, 2007*).
- Farmers and hotel keepers began to arrive with early European settlers to the region.

1851

- January, Catholic Mission established at Pakowhai by Father John Lampila, S. M., and Brothers Florentin and Basil.
- 7 April, Captain Joseph Thomas joined McLean at Ahuriri. First public house opened by William Villiers at Ahuriri.
- 7 June, first export of wool from Port Ahuriri.
- 28 October, Waipukurau block bought by Donald McLean for 2,400 pounds.
- 17 November, Donald McLean bought for the Government, the Ahuriri Block for 1,000 pounds, but it did not include Scinde Island. The tribes assembled to sign the Ahuriri

deed. As news spread of McLean's purchases, pastoralists, together with shepherds, workmen and merchants, began to settle in Hawke's Bay.



Donald McLean, circa 1870. Ref: 1/2-022067-F. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. /records/22620241

1852

- Napier's first post office opened at Port Ahuriri.
- It was estimated that 50 boats were engaged in whaling from Hawke's Bay.
- John Ormond bought 4,000 acres from Māori and named the settlement Wallingford.
- First resident in Waipukurau, C. L. de Pelichet.

1853

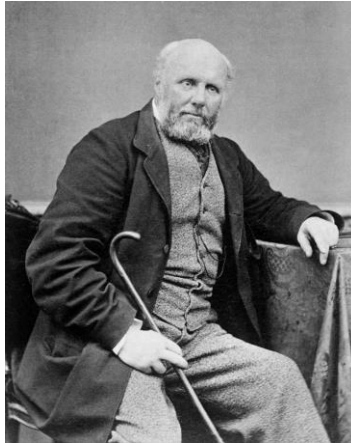
- Sir George Grey came to Hawke's Bay to persuade chiefs to agree to further land sales.

1854

- January, Alfred Domett arrived at Ahuriri as Provincial Crowns Land Commissioner and resident magistrate.

1855

- 22 February, first official use of the name 'Napier' for Ahuriri area.
- 5 April, first sale of Napier sections - 10 pound each. Alfred Domett, who drew the first plan of the town, proposed it to be named after Sir Charles Napier (d. 1853), who had defeated the Indian armed force at Meanee near Hyderabad, India. All the principal town roads and streets were named after the most prominent men in British Indian history, among them Clive, Hastings, Hardinge, and Wellesley. It was also reflected in the renaming of Mataruahou 'Scinde Island' (present day Bluff Hill). When Indian names were exhausted, he used names of the most eminent men in literature and science of the day, as well as the most celebrated English poets (*Campbell, 1975*).
- *H.M.S. Pandora* surveyed Ahuriri harbour and approaches.
- First school founded (*Campbell, 1975*).
- The town was declared a "Customs House Port of Entry" and named "Port of Napier" (*Port Ahuriri, Hawke's Bay, New Zealand: Heritage Study, 1994*).



Alfred Domett, c 1870-1887. <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/alfred-domett>, Ministry for Culture and Heritage.

1856

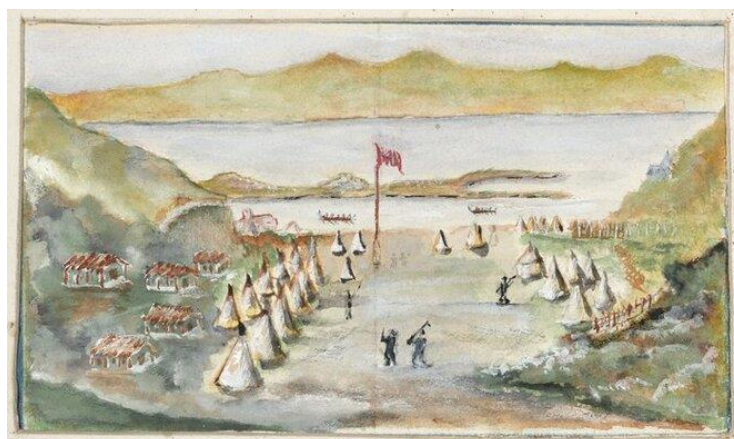
- 13 November, purchase of Scinde Island by the Government.

1857

- Shakespeare Road begun, connecting Napier with Port Ahuriri. Not finished until 1859.
- May, the first steamer visited Napier, S.S. *Wonga Wonga*. The *Southern Cross* became the first wool ship to arrive at Napier.
- Clive laid out as a town.
- 24 September, first edition of the Hawke's Bay Herald (*Campbell, 1975*).

1858

- 30 January, Ahuriri Agricultural Society was formed.
- 8 February, detachment of the 65th Regiment arrived in Napier under Col. Wyatt, settled in Onepoto Gully, until barracks were constructed at the top of Hospital Hill. Napier would remain a garrison town for over a decade (*Campbell, 1975*).



Early military encampment at Scinde Island Napier. 1859. Copied ca 1936 by Ernest Rout Balchin?
Ref: A-423-012. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. /records/22339398

- Taradale-Greenmeadows district bought from the Government by Alley and T. S. Tiffen at 5 shillings an acre. Mr Alley named his purchase Taradale, and built the first house there in 1860. Mr Tiffen named his area Greenmeadows.

- March, Catholic Mission moved from Pakowhai to Meeanee.
- 19 August, hostilities at Whakatu, involved Te Moananui, Karatiana against Te Hapuku, and Puhara. Puhara was killed.
- 1 November, Hawke's Bay proclaimed New Zealand's seventh province under the provisions of the New Zealand Provinces Act, (*Hawke's Bay Almanac, 1865*). John Ormond was first speaker for the provincial council. By this time the centre of population had shifted from the Port and Onepoto Gully to the present position. Shops were springing up in Hastings Street and around fifteen houses were recorded in Emerson Street (*Jubilee, 1924*).

1858

- Napier assumed considerable importance as the only export centre and largest town in Hawke's Bay, until 1874.

1859

- Shakespeare Road opened. Napier's first centre was Onepoto Gully and 'Main Street' refers to this as it was the first road in 1857. It went from the spit (Port) over the hill from this gully, followed Chaucer Road and came out near Pukemokimoki Hill (or island then - since used for land fill). With this road, buildings extended from Hitchings Gully (Faraday Street) along the foreshore eastwards following roughly the line of Tennyson and Emerson Streets.
- 1 January, The Napier electoral roll contained 89 names.
- 6 March, first church in Napier, St. Mary's Chapel (Catholic), opened at the corner of Shakespeare and France Roads.
- 23 April, first meeting of the Hawke's Bay Provincial Government, in the Golden Fleece Hotel, which stood on the site now occupied by the cathedral fountain.
- The Diocese of Waiapu formed.
- 3 November, Napier Athenaeum and Mechanics' Institute founded.



Athenaeum building, Napier, by Burton Brothers Studio. Te Papa ref: C.012535

1860

- By this date when Shakespeare and White Roads were formed, the town aligned itself along Hastings Street. Shakespeare Road was connected to Hardinge Road by a causeway over the lagoon.
- 7 January, first sale of town sections at Abbotsford (now Waipawa).
- Havelock North laid out as a township.
- The new Provincial Council was responsible for a range of public works including roads, harbours, hospitals and prisons (*Wright 1994, p 69*). One of the first works carried out in Napier itself was the draining of the swamp through which Carlyle Street passed and the formation of the road. Hardinge Road was, at that time, exposed to the inroads of the sea, and a causeway had to be built to connect the Spit with the town (*Jubilee, 1924*).



Napier, by Leslie Adkin. Te Papa ref: B.022040

1861

- 8 April, Captain J. C. L. Carter elected Superintendent of Hawke's Bay.
- 16 June, St. Paul's Church, Napier, erected.
- 31 July, Chief Te Moananui died at Clive.



Fence of Whakairo Pa, horse and carts alongside, and the house of Chief Tareha (possibly Tareha Te Moananui, 1810-1880), at Whakairo Pa, Waiohiki, circa 1860s. Ref: PA1-q-193-054-2. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. /records.22905459

1862

- Scheme to improve Port of Napier abandoned after expenditure of 17,000 pounds.
- 20 August, Hawke's Bay Club established.
- Native Lands Act 1862 is passed.

1863

- 1 February, first Anglican Church in Napier consecrated, and Sir Donald McLean, became superintendent of the Hawke's Bay province.
- Only three public schools in Hawke's Bay, with total attendance of 45 pupils.
- First settlement at Tikokino.

1864

- 24 November, ship *Strathallan*, from England, arrived at Napier with immigrants.

1865

- 26 February, Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions arrived.
- 17 December, ship *Strathallan*, from England, returns to Napier.
- European population of Hawke's Bay reaches 3,370.

1866

- 12 October, settlers and local Ngā Kahungunu fought Pai Mārire (Hauhau) faction of Ngāti Hineuru at Ōmarunui.
- 2 December, ship *Strathallan* returns to Napier.

1867

- 18 February, first artesian well in Hawke's Bay, at Meeanee.
- 27 March, ship *Montmorency* destroyed by fire three days after leaving Napier.



The Montmorency, waiting for the pilot boat. Dickie, John (1869-1942) Collection of postcards, prints and negatives. Ref 1/2-038662-F Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. /records/23151392.

- 8 April, last of the Imperial Forces, a detachment of the 12th Regiment, left Napier.
- 10 October, St. Joseph's Māori Girls' College opened on Convent Hill.
- European population in Hawke's Bay reached 5,175.
- Only 12 schools in Hawke's Bay, with a total of 300 pupils.
- Waipukurau laid out as a model village by H. R. Russell.

1868

- 27 February, *Barque Ida Zeigler*, from London, smashed to pieces on Petane Beach, Napier, during a heavy gale.
- 8 August, engagement with Te Kooti at the Ruakituri River, Captain Carr and Davis Canning, killed.
- December, Awatoto toll gate erected.

1869

- 5 January, capture of Ngatapa by mixed force of Armed Constabulary and Ngati Porou fighters under the direction of Colonel Whitmore.
- 10-12 April, massacre of Mohaka settlers by Te Kooti's forces, and attacks on two Māori pa.
- 9 September, Te Kooti defeated in an engagement at Tokaanu by Henare Tomoana and Hawke's Bay Māori. Rēneta Kawepō of Omaha lost his eye in the attack.



Rēnata Kawepō. Ref: PA2-2239. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. /records/22775575

1870

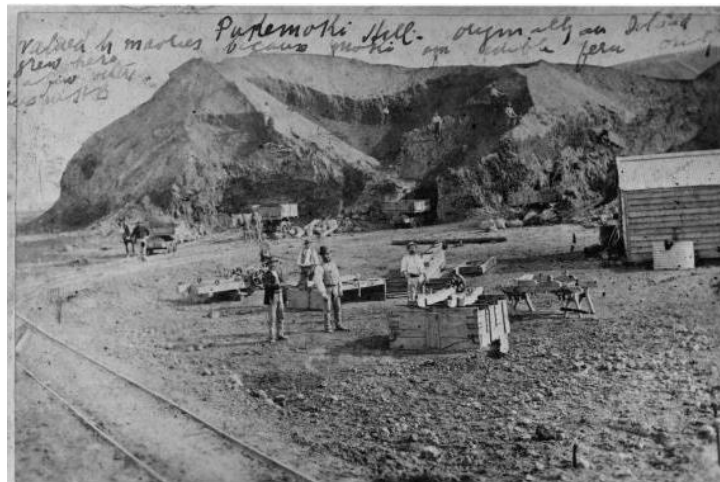
- 1870's, firms of national importance establish themselves.
- 3 April, final engagement and military defeat with Te Kooti at Te Porere.
- The honourable J. D. Ormond became Superintendent of the Hawke's Bay province.

1871

- 1 February, The Daily Telegraph was established.

1872

- Pukemokimoki Hill removed to make way for the railway to the port. Railway building commenced. The spoil filled in the hollow in Dickens and Munroe Streets.



Pukemokimoki Hill was once a prominent feature of the landscape, occupying the space now bound by Carlyle St, Thackeray and Faraday Streets. From the 1860s it was progressively mined for fill to use in reclamation work in the lower lying parts of Napier.

Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawhāro Tā-ū-rangi, 2950.

- First coach run, Napier to Taupo.
- 16 September, arrival at Napier of ships *Ballarat* and *Hovding*, with Scandinavian immigrants, who proceeded to and settled at Norsewood and Dannevirke.
- 16 November, ship *Excelsior*, from, London, arrived at Napier.
- Ship *Chile*, from England, arrived at Napier.

- Toll gate erected on Taradale Road; dues received being for road maintenance.



*Toll required: in the early days Taradale was accessible from Napier only by a toll bridge.
The Alexander Turnbull Library <http://timeframes.natlib.govt.nz/>*

1873

- Until now the only means of access to Napier was via Meeanee-Awatoto. In 1873 the present road was opened in Taradale.
- 8 July, first Hastings town section sold.
- 10 August, second Catholic Church built on Convent Hill, Napier. It was moved in 1910 to Port Ahuriri, opening as St. Mary's.
- Committee set up by Hawke's Bay Provincial Council to inquire into the possibility of constructing a breakwater at Napier.
- Norsewood District School established.

1874

- 2 February, ship *Queen of the North*, London, arrived at Napier.
- 8 March, ship *Inverene*, from England, arrived at Napier.
- 24 May, R. D. Maney cut the Taradale Block, into quarter-acre sections which he had bought from William Colenso, who had bought it from Alley.
- June, rail reached Waitangi (*Campbell, 1975*).
- July, Hukarere Māori Girls' opened in Napier



View of Hukarere Māori Girls School looking towards Cape Kidnappers 1877/1878. Collection of Hawke's Bay Museum's Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 300.

- 4 July, ship *Halcion* arrived from London.
- 12 October, the railway opened between Napier and Hastings.
- *Barque Queen Bee* arrived at Napier from London, later wrecked near Nelson.
- 22 October, ship *Helen Denny*, from London, arrived at Napier.
- October, Hawke's Bay A&P Society's show held at Hastings.
- November, ship *Bebbington*, from England, arrived at Napier.
- 26 November, the Borough of Napier was formed and planned to rectify both the "swamp nuisance" and the water supply. Under the mayoralty of Mr J. H. Vautier the area between Dickens Street and Hastings Street South, near Sale Street, was reclaimed, largely by means of the spoil taken from Pukemokimoki Hill on what was later known as the Recreation Ground (*Jubilee, 1924*).

1875

- Early 1875 outbreak of typhoid, lasting months.
- 2 February, first meeting of Napier Borough Council, with Mr Robert Stuart as Mayor.
- 12 February, *Barque Hudson*, from England, arrived at Napier.
- 1 May, Hawke's Bay railway extended from Hastings to Pakipaki.
- 8 June, ship *Countess of Kintore*, from London, arrived at Napier.
- 20 September, ship *Helen Denny*, from London, arrived at Napier.
- Tragedy in Napier, man killed his wife in small cottage in France Road (then Chappell Street).

1876

- 29 January, first gas lighting in Napier over entrance to Criterion Hotel.
- 15 February, first meeting of Napier Harbour Board.

- 1 November, abolition of New Zealand provinces took effect; country divided into counties and boroughs. The first big expenditure for the borough council was the establishment of a water supply providing for the reservoir in Sealy road (*Jubilee, 1924*).
- 20 November, first meeting of H. B. Education Board, chairman Mr Rhodes.
- December, Napier fire brigade began, Union Rowing Club (Napier) started.
- 21 December, ship *Waitara*, from England, arrived at Napier.
- 28 December, Hawke's Bay County Council elected for first time.
- First land settlement at Ormondville.

1877

- 5 January, death of Sir Donald McLean.
- 9 February, Mr H. S. Tiffen elected first chairman of the Hawke's Bay County Council.
- 20 March, ship *Fernglan*, from England, arrived at Napier.
- Schooner *Clyde* wrecked at Mahia.
- May, a massive wave knocked two cottages off their piles, flooded shops, damaged courthouse (*Campbell, 1975*).
- 8 August, ship *Queen Bee* ran aground at Farewell Spit.
- 21 November, ship *Waitara*, from England, arrived at Napier.
- 3 December, *Barque Langstone*, from London, arrived at Napier.
- Napier Working Men's Club opened (changed to Cosmopolitan Club, October 15, 1927).

1878

- April, Fire Brigade formed at Port. Engine supplied by J.G. Kinross (H.B. Herald April 1878).
- 23 May, Chief Te Hapuku died at Te Hauke.



*Carte de visite portrait of Te Hapuku, taken in the 1870s by Samuel Carnell of Napier.
<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/te-hapuku>, Ministry for Culture and Heritage.*

- 3 August, well-known chief Waka Kawatini dies at Clive.
- 27 November, H.B. A & P Society purchased 80 acres from Mr T. Tanner, Knight Bros, and Chapman, Hastings for a showground.
- December, school inspector for Hawke's Bay, Mr. Henry Hill, arrived in Napier.

1879

- 1 January, lighthouse at Cape Mahia completed
- 24 February, Chief Karaitiana Takamoana died at Napier, buried at Pakowhai.
- 27 June, ship *Celaeno*, from London, arrived at Napier.
- 13 September, big sale of residential properties at Hastings.

1880

- 11 January, ship *Adamant*, from London, arrived at Napier
- Tomoana Freezing Works started.
- Chief Rēnata Kawepō dies at Omahu.
- 16 December, first race meeting held on Hastings racecourse.



Port Ahuriri, Napier, 1880s, Napier, maker unknown. Te Papa (O.009464).



The Spit - Napier, 1880s, Dunedin, by Burton Brothers studio. Te Papa (O.036490).



Napier, circa 1880, by Burton Brothers studio. Te Papa (O.036500).

1882

- 6 April, great earthquake in New Zealand.
- First cargo of frozen meat left Hawke's Bay for London.
- Reservoir erected at Bluff Hill.

1883

- 17 September, ship *St. Leonard* (Captain Todd) arrived at Napier.
- 1 December, Public Library opened at Waipawa.
- 7 December, Hastings constituted a town board district.

1884

- January, Waipawa town board formed.
- 15 July, Roland Edwards hanged at Napier jail for killing his wife and children at Ormondville.
- First lawn tennis tournament in New Zealand held at Farndon, Clive

1885

- 20 January, poll favours breakwater at Napier.

1886

- 4 January, Hastings Volunteer Fire Brigade formed.
- May, plans approved for laying out and beautifying Clive Square, Napier.
- 10 June, eruption of Tarawera. The explosions were heard in Hawke's Bay.
- 19 August, Hastings declared a borough.
- September, Napier cathedral erection begun.
- 11 October, ship *Lairia*, from London, arrived at Napier.
- 12 December, big fire at Waipawa; more than 20 buildings, including the Post Office, destroyed.
- 18 December, great fire at Napier.
- Napier Park Racing Club founded.
- Taradale declared a town district.

1887

- 5 January, ship *Asterion*, from London, arrived at Napier.
- 25 January, first block laid in construction of Napier Breakwater.



Napier, circa 1905, Dunedin, by Muir & Moodie studio. Te Papa (C.012558).

- April, bore put down in Munroe Street with a huge flow of water, depth 156 feet. (*Campbell, 1975*).
- 10 May, *Northumberland* wrecked off Petane Beach.
- Napier Bowling Club formed. The first president was Dr Hitchings.
- First gas supplied to consumers in Hastings.

- Although the Napier Gas Company was formed in 1874, it encountered numerous obstacles in the early days and the gas was not turned on until October 1887 ("*Before and after*", D.T. 1931).

1888

- First of the Norfolk pines planted along the waterfront, Marine Parade ("*Before and After*", D.T. 1931) in order to create an English-style "noble promenade" (Shaw and Hallett, 1987).



Marine Parade, Napier, New Zealand. Te Papa photography collection PS.000786. (This image has a rights statement of No Known Copyright Restrictions).

- North British Freezing Works built on Westshore Spit.



The North British and Hawke's Bay Freezing Works on the Western Spit about 1900. Collection of Hawkes Bay Museums Trust, Ruawhoro Tā-ū-rangi, 2362 b, Hawkes Bay Today By: Michael Fowler.

- 12 November, *Barque Langstone* afire in the Napier roadstead. Much damage to vessel's decks and cargo of wool from Hawke's Bay.
- 14 December, Waiapu Cathedral consecrated.

1880's- 1890's

- Attention was being turned to the beautification of the waterfront. Napier was seen as "the perfect image of an English seaside resort" (*Shaw and Hallett, 1987*). Prior to the construction of the Marine Parade, the foreshore of Napier was very close to the houses which had been built facing the sea, consequently, the road in front of them was continually exposed to erosion. After serious damage to the road in the winter of 1888 the Borough Council adopted a scheme for permanent protective works.
- In June the following year, the first portion of Marine Parade, from Edwardes Street to Coote Road, was completed (*Jubilee, 1924*).

1889

- 14 January, ship *Waimea*, from London, arrived at Napier.
- 17 September, ship *Orari*, from England, arrived at Napier.
- 12 October, *Barque Langstone*, from London, arrived at Napier.
- 14 December, ship *Lochnagar*, from London, arrived at Napier.

1891

- 15 January, ship *Lochnagar*, from London, arrived at Napier.
- 27 February, ship *Pleiades*, from London, arrived at Napier. Afterwards beached at Akitio.
- Napier Sailing Club established.
- European population of Hawke's Bay 28, 506. Napier 8,341.

1892

- 27 May, first child admitted to Hawke's Bay Children's Home, Napier.
- 10 November, Dannevirke Borough Council formed, the first mayor was Mr A. McKay.
- 28 November, *Barque Langstone*, from London, arrived at Napier.
- 6 December, ship *Hurunui*, from England, arrived at Napier.
- 10 December, ship *Soukar*, from London, arrived at Napier.
- December, ship *Jessie Readman*, at Napier, some days after leaving was stranded and wrecked at Chathams.
- Samples of Meeanee Mission wine sent to the Paris Exposition and were awarded a silver medal for excellence.

1893

- 9 February, great fire in Hastings; 22 shops destroyed.
- 12 June, first vessel, *Taviuni*, 910 tons, berthed alongside breakwater to load a circus.

1894

- 24 February, Woodford House, Havelock North, established.
- 5 April, serious typhoid epidemic at Hastings.
- 19 November St. Patrick's Church, Napier, opened.

1895

- 15 January, ship *Margaret Galbraith*, at Napier.
- 22 October, Glasgow Wharf opened inside Napier Breakwater.
- 24 December, ship *Canterbury*, from London, arrived at Napier.

1896

- 13 January, ship *Rangitikei*, from London, arrived at Napier.
- 1 August, Hastings telephone exchange opened.
- 6 August, Mr A. H. Whitehouse licensed to exhibit a kinemascope at Hastings.
- Puketitiri sawmill established.
- Napier Frivolity Minstrels formed.
- Glasgow Wharf opened.

1897

- 19 April, disastrous flood in Napier and district. Crew of rescue boat drowned. After the Tutaekuri River overflowed at Meeanee, the water level rose substantially ("*Before and After*", *D.T. 1931*). As it subsided, it was observed that the process by which the river had spread silt over the plains could also be used to reclaim land, and this led to the reclamation of Napier South.



Creator unknown: Photograph of the flood damaged Waitangi railway bridge at Clive. Ref: PAColl-8256.
Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. /records/23071786

- 29 July, wreck of steamer *Tasmania* on Mahia Peninsula, with the loss of 10 lives.

1899

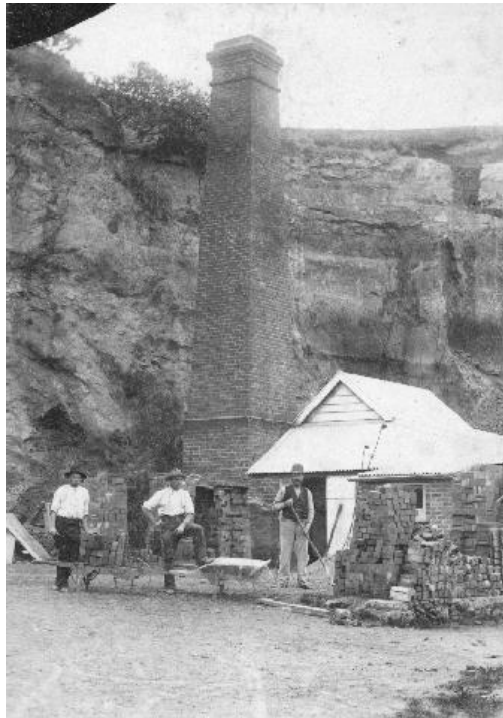
- 10 February, Rev. William Colenso died in Napier.

1900

- The rugged Napier-Taupo Road, despite its neglected condition, became more popular - at least in the drier summer months. In winter, that route, and the coastal link to Wairoa and the East Coast, were "almost impassable" (*Campbell, 1975:92*).
- In the early years of the twentieth century, Napier started to advertise itself more aggressively as a tourist centre.

1900's

- There were two newspapers with associated printing establishments, two breweries, two tailoring, two saddlery, two furnishing, and two aerated water establishments, one iron foundry, one timber mill, one brickworks, one coach building concern and one tent and sail making business (*Jubilee, 1924*).



*Brick yard, Napier 50/79, 694, 83506 possibly on Hyderabad Road, Napier
Photographer, unknown. Out of copyright Date, unknown.
Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 694*

Prosperity was boosted in Hawke's Bay with the export of frozen meat and the development of new industries (*Wright 1994*), and was also reflected in the construction of larger homesteads and extravagantly decorated buildings such as the Masonic Hotel (*Shaw and Hallett, 1987*).



Band rotunda, Napier, circa 1905, Dunedin, by Muir & Moodie studio. Te Papa (C.012625).

- Described in the *Cyclopaedia* (1906) as "a hotel without a rival in the Hawke's Bay (with its noble double balcony fronting the finest marine promenade south of the Equator)". The eighty bedroomed 'house' boasted, "extensive wine cellars, a splendid billiard room and a fine dining room [with] accommodation for two hundred guests". When the town's farewell to its troops heading off to the Boer War the hotel's balconies and the nearby band rotunda were festooned with signs proclaiming "God Bless Our Troops" and "For Queen and Country" while crowds crammed every available space (Shaw and Hallett, 1987).

1901

- 31 March, New Zealand European population was 772,719.
- 2 June, end of South African War celebrated in Hawke's Bay.
- Īhāia Hūtana appointed chief of Ngāti Kahungunu tribes, comprising Wairarapa, Hawke's Bay and Wairoa.

1902

- Napier woollen mills commenced (Campbell, 1975).



The woollen mills building in Main Street. Don Wilkie Collection
<http://historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz/onepoto-story/>



The Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Show as it was at the Hastings Race course in the early 1900s.
Hawkes Bay Today. By: Michael Fowler.
http://nzherald.co.nz/farming/news/article.cfm?c_id=195&objectid=12145211.

1903

- Postal district of 'The Spit' renamed Port Ahuriri

1904

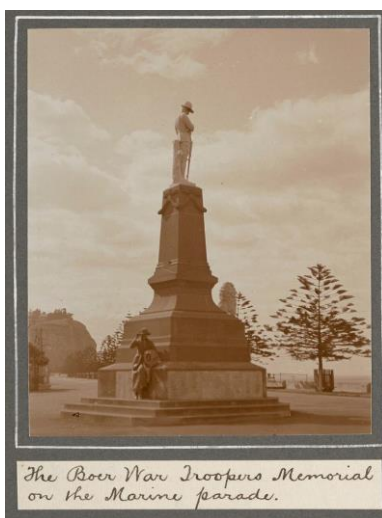
- February, Chief Henare Tomoana died at Hastings.

1905

- 9 November, Cornwall Park, Hastings, officially opened.
- 4 December, Pakipaki Freezing Works opened.

1906

- Napier population 9,054
- 10 February, Troopers' Memorial on Marine Parade, Napier, unveiled.



The Boer War Trooper Memorial on the Marine parade. Te Papa (O.045309).

1907

- 26 September, Proclamation of New Zealand as a Dominion

1908

- The Napier Carnival Executive, a committee chaired by Mayor John Vigor Brown, published a booklet in which Napier was touted as a 'charming city', 'an ideal holiday resort' with 'fine weather almost a certainty' for the visitor 'in search of change and rest' (*Campbell, 1975, p 92*). Attractions in the town included the Marine Parade and municipal gardens while further afield, bush walks, golfing, cycle trips and visits to vineyards were promoted. Brown approved projects for the borough, including swimming baths, with a children's paddling pool, the first of its kind in New Zealand.
- New Zealand population passes 1 million
- Kennedy syndicate reclaim Napier South.

1909

- 27 January, foundation stone of Hastings Post Office laid by Sir Joseph Ward.
- 1 April, Napier South sections auctioned (*Campbell, 1975*).
- 19 October, Napier Municipal Baths opened.

1910

- 5 May, first photograph of Halley's Comet, taken from Meeanee astronomical observatory.
- August, Waipawa Municipal Theatre completed.
- Lord Kitchener visited Hawke's Bay.

1911

- 2 April, the New Zealand population reached 1,008,468.
- 6 June, Gaiety Theatre, Napier, destroyed by fire.
- 8 November, official opening of Mount St. Mary's Scholasticate.



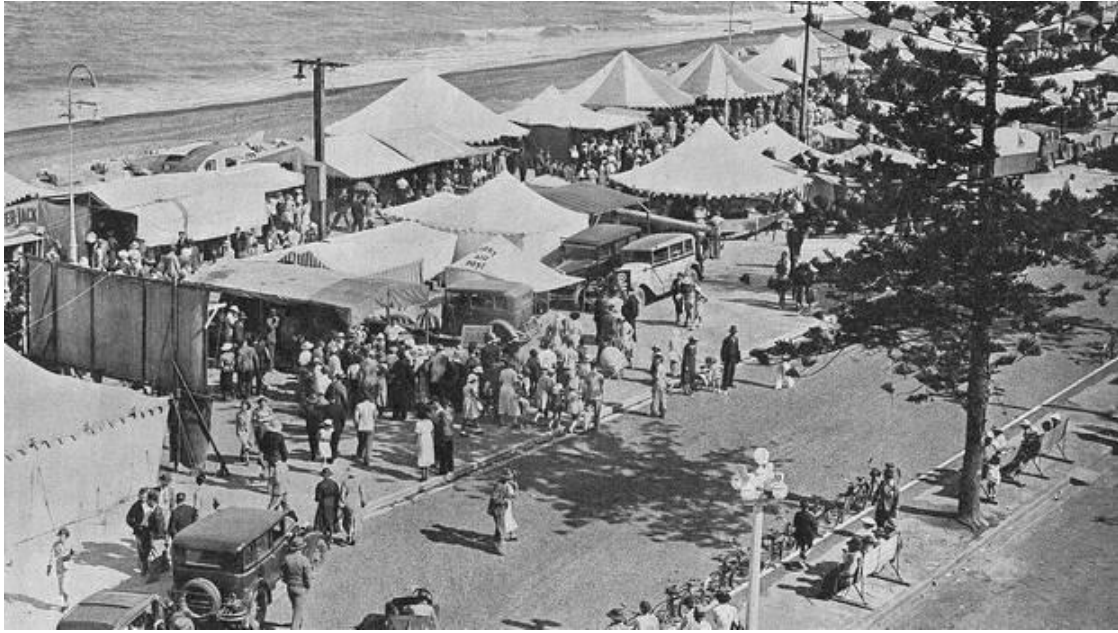
Mission Estate Winery was established in 1851 by pioneering French Missionaries, making it New Zealand's oldest winery with a fascinating past.

1912

- 29 January, construction of East Coast railway begun at Westshore, opening in 1922.
- 6 February, Havelock North constituted town board district.
- 13 November, Napier Municipal Theatre opened.

1913

- 13 September, Napier electric trams began running.
- September, Municipal Electricity supply began to operate (*Campbell, 1975*).
- First Madis Gras and Queen Carnival (*Campbell, 1975*).



The Napier Marine Parade Mardi Gras Carnival in January 1938. Image / Auckland Library, Sir George Grey Special collection. Hawkes Bay Today By: Michael Fowler

1914

- 4 August, Britain declared war on Germany.

1916

- 9 February, Hastings Municipal Buildings opened.

1917

- 22 October, fire razed three-quarters of Dannevirke.

1918

- 11 November, the armistice was signed.
- November, the influenza epidemic raged in Hawke's Bay and rest of New Zealand.

1919

- 11 November, two minutes' silence at 11am in memory of the fallen.
- 18,000 pounds collected for Fallen Soldiers' Memorial Hospital in Hastings.

1920

- 29 April, Nelson Park bought by Hastings City Council.
- 3 May, Prince of Wales in Hawke's Bay.

1921

- Napier population 14,536.
- Remodelling of Clive Square.
- Jubilee of Daily Telegraph.

1923

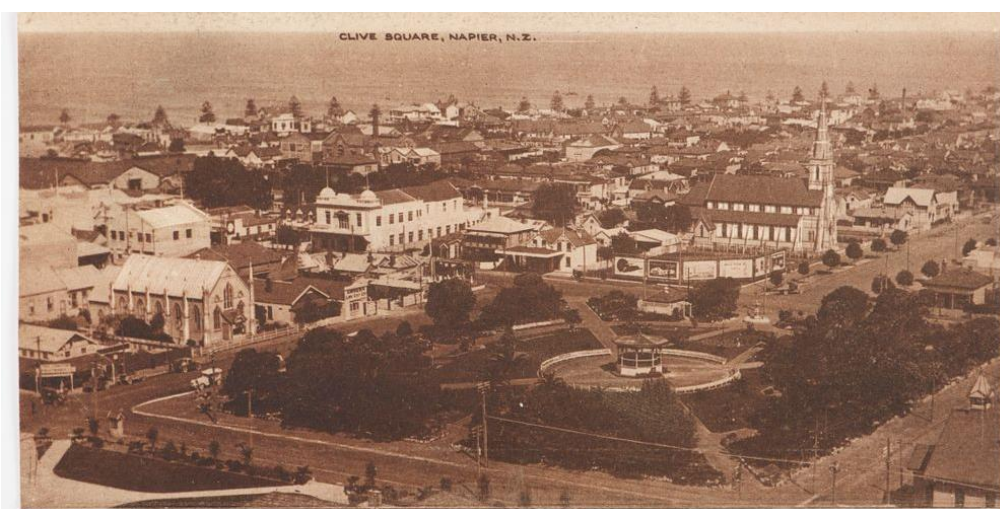
- 1 November, explosion of gas cylinder at Port Ahuriri, with fatal results.

1924

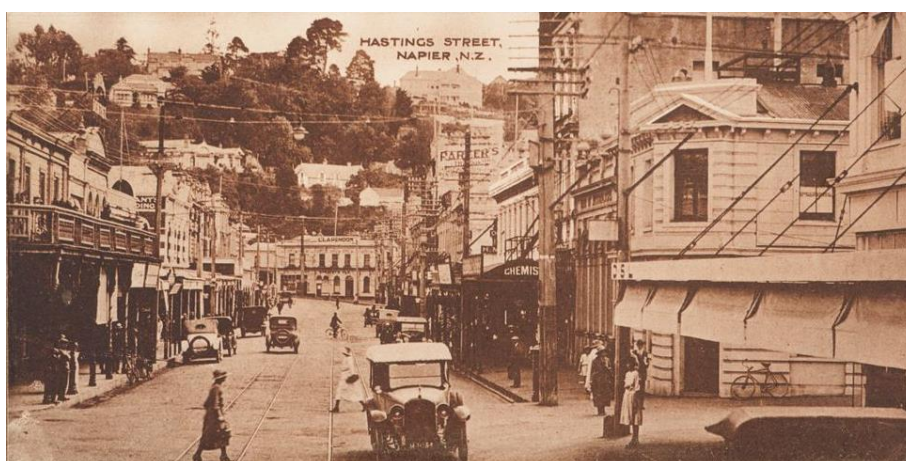
- 2 January, opening of France Home, Eskdale.
- February 20th. Central Fire Station opened in Napier.
- May 9th. Visit to Napier of H.M.S. Hood and other British warships.
- May 28th. Napier inner harbour entrance piers destroyed in easterly gale.
- September 2nd. Foundation stone laid of new Napier Boys' High School in Napier.
- November 9th. Napier War Memorial unveiled.
- 50 years of Napier City Council, 1874-1924.

1925

- 22 September, tragic railway disaster at Te Aute. Two deaths, 20 injured.
- 21 October, Hawke's Bay A&P Society new showgrounds opened at Tomoana.



Clive Square, Napier, N.Z., circa 1926, Napier, maker unknown. Te Papa (O.041732).



Hastings Street, Napier, N.Z., circa 1926, Napier, maker unknown. Te Papa (O.041729).

1927

- March, Duke and Duchess of York visit Hawke's Bay.
- 3 June, end of first Ranfurly Shield golden era (from August 9, 1922).
- Twenty-eight acres between Georges Drive and Taradale Road were reclaimed, but, by the end of the decade, Napier was only 100 acres larger than in 1916 (*Wright, 1994*).

The problem of expansion would not be resolved until after the 1931 earthquake with the raising of the Inner Harbour floor (*Campbell, 1975*).

1929

- Population of Hastings now 10,660.
- Napier Aero Club formed.



De Havilland Dragon ZK-ADR, East Coast Airways, at Beacon's aerodrome, Napier. Ref: WA-17003-G. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. /records/22791646

1931

- 3 February, Hawke's Bay earthquake, registering 7.8. This shake still stands as New Zealand's deadliest, lasting for two and a half minutes and killing 256 people.



Napier Earthquake - Emerson Street afire, circa 1931, Napier, by Arthur Hurst. Gift of Mrs J Paterson, date unknown. Te Papa (O.005480)

- Reconstruction of Napier with art deco styling

1932

- 12 May, Napier breakwater harbour development began.
- Severe economic retrenchment.

1933

- 21 January, Kingsford-Smith lands at Napier.
- 23 January, Napier Hospital re-planned following destruction in earthquake.



Copyright status 'No Known Copyright Restrictions'

1934

- 1 April, signing of the Marewa development agreement.
- August. J. Wattie Canneries Ltd. opened factory, re-registered under Companies Act 1936.
- September, former Ahuriri Lagoon area handed over to Small Farms Board for settlement.
- 13 December, Kennedy Road Bridge opened in Napier.
- 19 December, visit of Duke of Gloucester to Hawke's Bay.

1935

- Napier Sound Shell built.
- Hastings Clock Tower built.
- 23 June, St. Joseph's Māori Girls' College opened at Greenmeadows.
- July. Lord Galway visited Napier.

1936

- 12 February, opening of H.B. Art Gallery and Museum, Napier.
- 2 June, Tutaekuri River diverted.

1937

- 24 November, foundation stone of new Napier Municipal Theatre laid.

1938

- 19 February, railway gang at Kopuawhara swept away by flood, 21 men killed.
- 12 March, foundation stone of Napier Government Building laid.
- 2 July, official opening of first state House in Marewa, Napier.

1939

- 1 July, Napier-Wairoa railway opened.
- 3 September, Britain and France declare war on Germany.
- 18 November, *W. B. Walker*, the first ship to berth at Geddis Wharf, Port of Napier.

1940

- 4 April, Y.M.C.A. opened in Napier.

1942

- 9 March, air raid shelters dug on Napier foreshore.

1943

- 1 February, Waikokopu-Gisborne section, of the Napier-Gisborne railway, completed.

1944

- 24 April, beacons chosen as central airport for Hawke's Bay in development of post-war aviation.
- July 12th. Hawke's Bay Catchment Board inaugural meeting held.

1945

- 8 May, end of war in Europe.
- 19 September, first kiwi hatched in captivity at Greenmeadows Game Farm.

1946

- Pandora Point removed

1947

- 17 October, oil burning locomotives introduced on Napier-Palmerston North line.
- 22 October, 82 recipients at military and civil investiture in Napier.



Napier foreshore looking south from Baths (8), 04 September 1948, by Leslie Adkin. Gift of G. L. Adkin family estate, 1964. Te Papa (A.007354)

1950

- 18 March, Napier proclaimed a city.
- 6 October, first Blossom Festival in Hastings.

1951

- New Zealand population reaches approximately 1,940,000

1952

- 1 April, Havelock North proclaimed a borough.

1953

- 27 April, Port Jackson loaded first chilled beef cargo from Napier.

1954

- 7 January, Queen Elizabeth and Duke of Edinburgh visited Hawke's Bay.
- 10 June, Holt Wing at Hawke's Bay Art Gallery and Museum opened.
- 13 June, Pania statue erected.
- 5 October, Hawke's Bay and East Coast Fertiliser works at Awatoto opened.

1955

- 1 February, Hastings Girls' High School opened.
- 26 May, Hawke's Bay Catchment Board adopted river diversion plans.
- 3 December, Napier skating rink opened on Marine Parade.
- 13 December, memorial floral clock donated to Napier by Mr and Mrs A. B. Hurst.

1956

- 8 September, Hastings proclaimed a city.

1957

- 11 May, Hohepa Homes opened at Wharerangi.
- 13 December, Hawke's Bay Aquarium, Napier, opened.

1958

- 5 February, Queen Mother in Hawke's Bay.

1959

- 7 February, Colenso High School, Napier, opened.
- 10 October, Napier centennial exhibition and wool festival.
- 18 October, Hastings War Memorial Library opened.

1960

- 27 January, opening of Westshore Bridge, Napier.
- 9 February, demolition of Kuripapango Bridge on Taihape Road.
- 11 February, Wharerangi Home bought for Hohepa Homes.
- 24 February, New St John's Cathedral dedicated.
- 26 April, approval of Hawke's Bay Catchment Board's scheme for flood protection of the Heretaunga Plains.
- 15 May, new lights along Napier's Marine Parade switched on by Mayor Mrs Tait, as first stage in 'plan to light the city'.
- 18 May, beacons to be Hawke's Bay Airport site.
- 31 May, Higgins Wharf opened.
- 27 September, Omatua homestead, Rissington, given to Hawke's Bay Girl Guides.
- 1 October, opening of old people's home, Hastings, on behalf of Little Sisters of the Poor.

1961

- Pandora bridge replaces foot bridge from West Quay to Meeanee Quay

1962

- 9 July, first use of Hastings' Railway Station.

1963

- 3 June, flooding of Tangoio, Bay View and Onekawa.

1964

- Marineland opened.
- 15 February, Hawke's Bay Airport opened by Air Marshal Sir Hector McGregor.
- 1 April, Flaxmere became part of Hastings city

1965

- 27 January, first dolphin at Marineland.
- 9 March, opening of Titiokura deviation on Napier-Taupo highway.

1966

- 4 February, first traffic over new Waitangi Bridge, on Napier-Hastings coastal highway.
- 25 May, Wool Exchange, Napier, opened.
- 9 November, completion of first stage of Marineland, Napier.
- 12 December, Olympic Pool, Onekawa, opened.

1967

- 29 July, Port Nicholson the first ship to berth at the Kirkpatrick Wharf.
- 7 October, Hawke's Bay Sportsman of the Year, Kelvin Tremaine, captain of the Hawke's Bay Rugby team.
- 8 October, present Waiapu Cathedral consecrated.
- 25 November, Aquatic Centre, Frimley Park, Hastings, opened.

1968

- 16 March, new Fire Station, Napier, opened,
- 26 March, Police Station, Hastings, opened.
- 1 April, Napier and Taradale amalgamated, making Napier New Zealand's 10th largest city.
- 16 November, 1968 Hawke's Bay Sportsman of the Year, Margaret Hiha (hockey and tennis).

1969

- 26 June, Holt Planetarium, Napier, opened.
- 12 July, Sunken Gardens, Napier opened, Porangahau Bridge opened.
- 29 July, Professor Christiaan Barnard, world's first heart transplant surgeon, addressed a subscription dinner arranged by Napier Jaycees in aid of Napier cardiac clinic equipment.
- August 18, Haumoana Post Office opened.

- 10 October, 1969 Hawke's Bay Sportsman of the Year, Allen Christie (surf-lifesaving and swimming).
- 27 September, end of second Ranfurly Shield golden era (from September 24, 1966).

1970

- Napier population, 40,184
- 21 March, Queen and Prince Philip visit Napier.
- 30 August, Church of St Thomas Moore, Napier, opened.
- 22 October, contract signed for construction of pulp mill in Hawke' Bay.
- 13 November, 1970 Hawke's Bay Sportsman of the Year, Dean Hayes (skating).

1972

- Princess Alexandra Hospital opened.

1974

- Napier 100 years.



City of Napier float in the Napier Centennial parade, March 1974, by Ann Wilms (1921-1998). Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 19043.

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