

Commemoration for Pompallier

NORTHERN NEWS SEPTEMBER 20, 2001

By Kirsten Robertson

About 400 people gathered at Piwania in Totara North on the weekend to unveil a stone memorial commemorating the arrival of Jean Baptiste Pompallier in 1839.

Wet weather did not dampen the spirits of the crowd that represented religious orders in the region between 1840 to 1940.

The day began with a church service at Waitaruke Catholic Parish attended by Marist fathers, brothers and sisters, Anglican Bishop Ben Te Haara, Kerikeri's Uniting Church minister, Franciscan Fathers and local iwi



Hato Hohepa students at the unveiling of the memorial stone for Bishop Pompallier.

representatives.

The many visitors then made their way to

the Piwania site located on the Frears Totara North family

farm for the unveiling ceremony led by Catholic Bishop Pat Dunn of Auckland.

Mayor Yvonne Sharp said it was a wonderful day shared by a mix of creed and race.

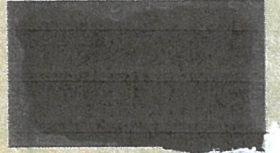
"Although Pompallier was only here for a short time he made a huge impact by unifying the local communities, a feeling that is still felt today," Mrs Sharp said.

Hato Hohepa School (St Josephs Catholic School) principal Stephen Dawson said his students enjoyed the weekend remembering events from 161 years ago.

"Catholic missionaries first arrived at Piwania, Whangaroa

in January 1840 under the leadership of Pompallier.

"It was a great chance for us to remember our unique history and story," Mr Dawson said.



SITE
OF
FIRST
MASS
6/1/1840

KAWAIAUA JACOBS ADAMS HAD THE ROCK OF ST PETERS PRODUCED

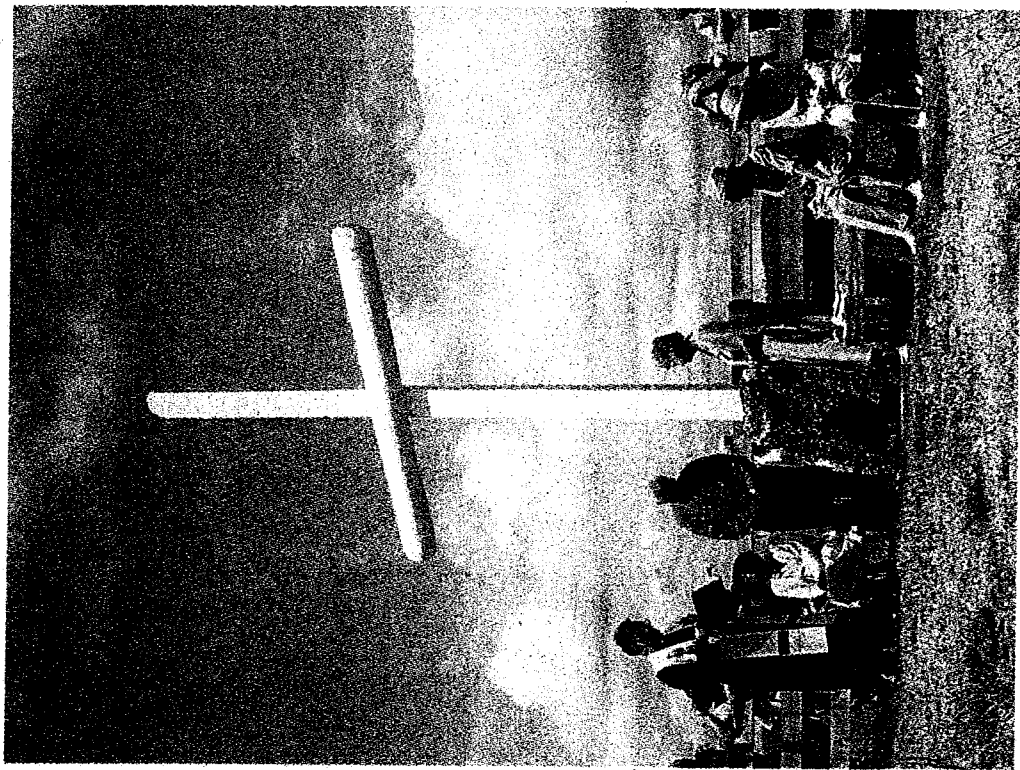


CÁIRN



Waitaruke and the Whangaroa Harbour bathed in early morning sunlight

Historic cemetery rededicated after 160 years



Pa Anthony Brown, Ihaka Riwhi Moihi and Babe Heap preparing to unveil the plaque (*Judith Crimmins photos*)

by

CYNTHIA PIPER

The small Catholic cemetery at Piwania (Epiphany) on the Whangaroa Harbour in Northland was rededicated last month, 160 years after Bishop Pompallier established a mission on Te Kuwaru, Totara North.

Earlier in the day Mass was celebrated at Waitaruke to commemorate the first Mass at the original mission on January 6, 1840. (MEMORIAL CALENDAR)

The many people at the ceremony represented Ngati Kahu of Whangaroa, the descendants of John ~~Bell~~ Hayes and Sarah Mary Simpson, and the local Catholic community.

The former mission lands are now privately owned and in danger of being included in a planned subdivision. The owner, David Frear, has permitted access to the cemetery and has allowed the Hayes family to build a fence protecting the burial site from grazing cattle.

In the days before the rededication a large cross, visible from many parts of the Whangaroa Harbour, was erected by Maori Catholics, with a plaque acknowledging the mission site.

Visitors to the Whangaroa are struck by the overwhelming spirituality and tranquillity of the harbour and its environs. In this atmosphere, enhanced by the spirit of ecumenism of the many denominations present, Ihaka Riwhi Moihi (Ngatirua), welcomed the people on to the land given by his tupuna to Pompallier.

Fa Anthony Brown blessed the cross and the cemetery. Michael Hayes spoke of his family's connection to the mission, and Mr Moihi and Babe Frear unveiled the plaque.

It is hoped that eventually a monument will be built commemorating the establishment of the mission, and that Whangaroa and Waitaruke will be included in future pilgrimage programmes. As a centre of

Catholicism it is unique, made so by the commitment Maori have made to the faith over the past 160 years.

In September 1839, Pompallier visited Whangaroa and distributed Maori prayer books and catechisms. Four months later he returned with Marist Fathers Epalle and Petit-Jean, who together with Brother Elie Regis, SM, established the mission station.

In 1841 Pompallier reported that the mission was serving eight hapu and had a native raupo chapel, a wooden cottage, a few acres of land for a garden, and a cemetery. By 1846 the missionaries had baptised 225 people and the station had become a centre for training Maori and pakeha lay teachers.

After the withdrawal of the Society of Mary to Wellington diocese, and the brief tenure of Franciscans in the early 1860s, the Whangaroa was without a resident priest for over 40 years.

During that time the faith was kept alive by the people and by the infrequent visits (after 1880) of Fr James McDonald, known to Maori as Meketanara. Fluent in Maori, and with a deep understanding of Maori culture, McDonald travelled around the Auckland diocese ministering to Maori.

After McDonald died in 1890, letters from many Maori requested that Bishop Luck ask the Pope to appoint Fr Walter McDonald as a bishop for Maori. As with his brother James, Walter could speak Maori.

Bishop Luck responded that Fr John Becker, a Mill Hill priest, would be their pastor. But Becker was stationed at Purakau on the Hokianga. It was not until 1897 that a mission station was reopened on the Whangaroa, at Waitaruke, by Dean A. Lightheart on land gifted to him by Rameka Te Tirirau.

The settlement grew over

the century to include a church, native convent school and boarding hostel run by the Marist Sisters, novitiate for an order of Maori nuns — the Sisters of Mary — marae, presbytery and kohanga reo. Families moved from the isolated coastal communities of Waima-hana and Taemaro so their children could receive a Catholic education.

The existing wharehau at Waitaruke soon became too small for the numbers of people living in the settlement, so after a hui lasting three days it was decided to bring the Taemaro meeting house, Kahukuraariki, to Waitaruke. It was loaded on to a barge and sailed down the coast and into the harbour to its new resting place.

Today the novitiate and hostel provide accommodation for people who are on holiday, attending courses, or visiting friends and relatives. It is hoped that pilgrims to the Whangaroa will also use it on a regular basis.

On Good Friday a hikoi from Piwania to Waitaruke, with all taking a turn to carry a large cross, will remember Maori Catholic tupuna who gave the land for the mission and carried their faith from many parts of the Whangaroa to Waitaruke.

No Reply

6/11/2019

To: Mr John Carter

Mayor

Far North District Council

5 Memorial Avenue

Kaikohe 0405

Dear Mr Carter,

Re Vandalization of the Historic Roman Catholic Cemetery Epiwania on Mr and Mrs Barry Reiher's property at 282 Totara North Rd., Whangaroa. (Site of Cultural Significance to Maori (MS06-20) District Map 16, FNDC.

I am writing to notify the Far North District Council of the recent damage to the 'protected' Catholic Cemetery carried out by the Reiher's (or their workers under their instructions) to the cemetery. The cemetery was part of one of the earliest Catholic mission stations established in New Zealand in 1840 on land later bought from Maori by the Catholic Church in 1869. The Reiher property contains many areas of great cultural and historical significance to both Maori and Europeans. I visited this cemetery on 21/10/19. As a great, great granddaughter of John Hayes buried in this cemetery I found the damage to this historic 'protected site of significance' deeply distressing.

I list the damage I observed below and enclose photographs of the damage.

1. The large white memorial cross erected by local Maori Catholics and its attached memorial plaque has been entirely removed without authority and thrown into an adjacent paddock. I enclose a photo of the cross in its original position taken during the ceremony to bless it in 2000, and a photo to show its present position lying on the ground down the hill (Photo 1a and 1b).
2. The commemorative shrine in the cemetery representing the rock of St Peter as a waka and carved from rock by a local Maori master carver and painted appropriately was protected by a tiled roof supported by large timber posts. The 4 supports have been hacked off at their base. They and the roof are nowhere to be seen. I enclose a photo of the shrine without the roof and its supports. (See photo 2)
3. The white painted post and rail fence around the cemetery erected using donated materials and voluntary labour has been removed and replaced by an unsightly electric fence enclosing a much smaller area. A number of unmarked graves now lie outside the fenced area. Mr Reiher asked some local people associated with cemetery if he could replace the fence with one less obvious. They unfortunately agreed but assumed the new fence would enclose the same area as the original. This is not what has been done. I enclose photo 3 to illustrate this. The original fence was where the man is standing, about 5m out from the new fence seen in the background.
4. At the end of the cemetery a large hole has been dug and a plastic tank installed. (See Photo 4) Excavation of a historic site is not allowed without supervision by an archaeologist. The roof of the plastic tank can be seen on the LHS of photo 4
5. Much of the area over unmarked graves has been planted with scrubby native plants which will make it very difficult to locate the unmarked graves when the scrub grows. The

resource consent states no earth disturbance can occur on a historic site without archaeological supervision and consent. (See Photo 5).

This serious damage has been carried out without notification and monitoring by the relevant authorities including yourselves. When they bought the property the Reiher's were well aware of the significant historical importance of the many sites on their property (Frear's Point Whangaroa Harbour) and their statutory need to preserve these intact. I sincerely hope the Far North District Council will instruct Mr and Mrs Reiher to rectify the damage they have caused and restore the cemetery to the state it was in when they bought the property.

I have also sent a similar letter to the Catholic Diocese of Auckland, the Northland Regional Council and Heritage New Zealand.


Yours sincerely,

Patsy Watson

44 Sharon Rd

Waiake,

Auckland 0630.

 Email: patsy.e.watson@gmail.com Phone: 094784817

Dear Sir
20/9/21

Mr McKinnon

Hospital

Race

Dear Doctor

After our conversation on
Tuesday last re Mr Hayes grave
here I thought I would see if I
could find any trace of his.
I found a wooden slab, propped
up against Mr McKinnon's with
these words written on it. Hoping
it will be of some help to you.

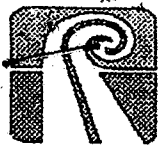
John Hayes

Wed. September 9th 1884

aged 64 years,

Yours faithfully

Med. K. Fear



**FAR NORTH
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**FORM 3
SUBMISSION on the
PROPOSED DISTRICT PLAN**

Submission must be received by
Monday 5.00pm 31st July 2000

Office Use	
Submitter #	786
Submission #	1

TO: FAR NORTH DISTRICT COUNCIL
Private Bag 752
KAIKOHE
Attention: Management Unit

31 JUL 2000

4

1. Full Name: DAVE FREAR

(PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS)

2. Full Postal Address: TOTARA NORTH RD KAEO

3. The specific provision of the Proposed District Plan our submission relates to, identified by:

Page No.	Provision No. (e.g. 11.1.6.1.3)	Provision Name (e.g. Building Height)	Map No. (e.g. 56)
	11.5 & Appendix 5	Site of Significance to Maori	Resource 26

4. We seek amendment to the specific provision listed above.

5. Our submission is: The Site of Significance to Maori MS06-20 came from the old Transitional District Plan (Whangaroa section). It is in fact the area is part of the Frear Farm at Totara North (Part Te Kuwara Block numbered 722), which contains the old catholic cemetery. The farm has been in European title for some considerable time. The fenced area is approximately 25 m by 24 metres. It is part of the archaeological site PO4/616 Roman Catholic Mission Station, identified in the archaeological survey carried out by Northern Archaeological Research for Mr Frear. (extract attached). The cemetery has been marked and fenced off.

6. The decision we wish Council to reach with regard to this submission is as follows:

The Urupa does not extend over the whole of Part Te Kuwara Block numbered 722. Amend Resource map 25 by correctly and more accurately identifying the fenced cemetery site. The area of submission (MS06-20) is marked on attached zone map; and Amend MS06-20 in Appendix 5, by identifying the correct ownership type, and fenced area (approximately 25 m by 24 metres) as the old catholic cemetery. Ie delete "maori ownership" and replace with "European owners"; add Urupa/cemetery to MS06-20. Council may wish to consider the inclusion of the Cemetery Site in Appendix 4.

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7. Do you wish to be heard in support of your submission?

YES

8. Will you consider a joint presentation
at a Council hearing with others who have
lodged similar submissions to your own?

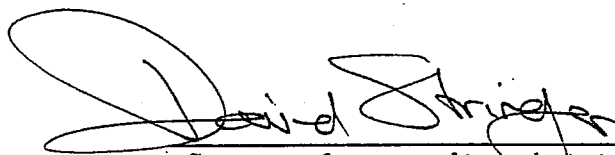
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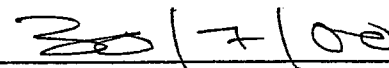
Date:

Time:

Advised:



*Signature of person making submission or
person authorised to sign on behalf of
person making submission*



Date

Address for service of person making submission:

*(Note: This is the contact address/phone number that will be used for
all further communications regarding this submission)*

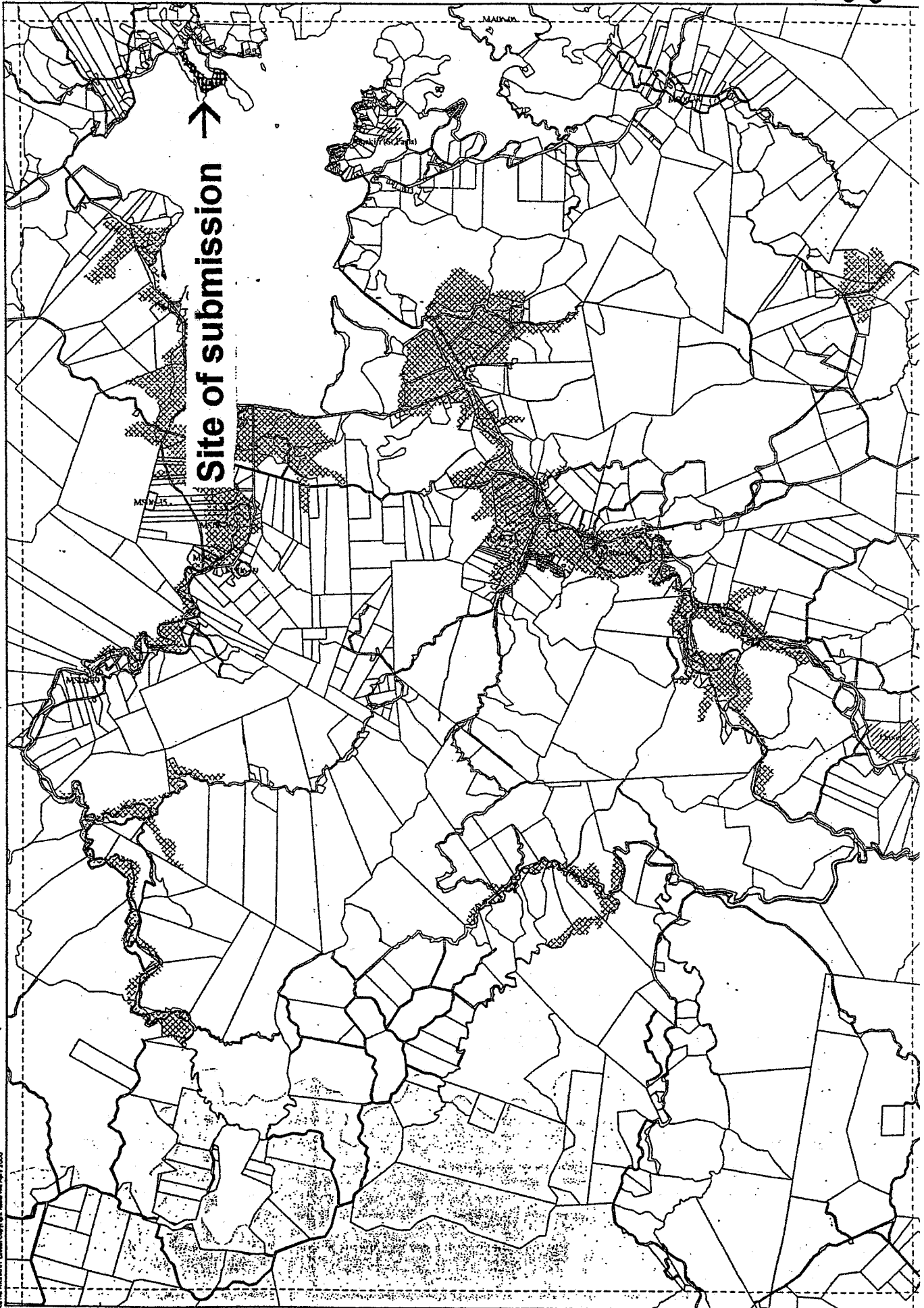
David Stringer

Thomson & King

PO Box 372 Kerikeri

Telephone No: (09) 407 7360

Fax No: (09) 407 7322



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FAR NORTH DISTRICT COUNCIL
PROPOSED DISTRICT PLAN
 Resource Maps

Scale 1:50000

0 500 1000 1500 m

17	18	19
24	25	26
32	33	34

Map 25

side, a few meters below again and to the north. Both are 5m x 5m. A further possible terrace, 9m x 5m, occurs 25m below and to the north-west of the top terrace and 15m below an intervening fence line. A flight of six to seven possible small terraces, now so badly modified they can hardly be made out, extend south-east down the ridge to the gate. Further indeterminate surface across the hill top. As with pa, P04/ 505, on the headland to the south-east, this whole hilltop appears to have been modified by undetermined farming activities. Two extensive midden scatters occur down the steep slope on the north-east side. The first occurs to the south-east eroding from the edge of the hill top to the waters edge below, over an area of 30m x 20m. Contents are primarily whole and fragmentary cockle (*Austrovenus stutchburyi*) and pipi (*Paphies australis*) with heat fractured rock and charcoal. The second shell midden, of similar contents, occurs eroding intermittently along an area of 50m at the edge of the hill down a steep cliff like slope below to the foreshore where there is an 18m long exposure.

P04/616. Midden. Historic remains? 768.2 831.1.

The site occurs at the base of a small natural flat (slump) which occurs on the seaward side of a hill. A small totara occurs 15m above to the south-east and a willow and plum tree occur 35m to the west. The site is approximately 1m above sea level.

A shell midden is exposed in the bank on the foreshore for a distance of 6m. The midden occurs from the surface to a depth of 30-50cm at one end and lenses out at the west end. The contents are mainly whole and fragmentary cockle (*Austrovenus stutchburyi*) and pipi (*Paphies australis*) with heat fractured rock and charcoal. Some of the shell is of a large size. A 20cm band of sterile yellow clay occurs below the midden. Directly below this is a layer of charcoal and soil with heat fractured rock which extends 1.5m further to the north-west than the overlying shell midden layer. This lower layer has a small exposed earth oven at the north-west end. The earth oven is approximately 50cm long and 20cm deep. A further shell hangi pit and a lens of charcoal and shell occurs 10m to the north-west.

Eroding from the bank further to the north-west and lying on the foreshore are pieces of brick, ceramics, glazed drain pipe, pieces of iron rod, concrete and occasional wooden posts. On the flat itself adjacent to the reclamation is a willow tree and a plum? tree. A small concrete water tank with a square hatch occurs on the flat 15m north-west of the willow tree.

The remains of what is thought to have been a tennis court has been noted at this site and one of Lane and Browns wooden sailing ships was lying on the foreshore which was subsequently destroyed by fire (D.Frear pers comm.).

P04/617. Roman Catholic Mission Station (Te Kuwaru). 766.6 838.1.

The site occurs on the ridge between Neilson's Bay and the Nukuwai Estuary. The site extends back along the hillside to the north-west and faces directly towards Totara North. The site occurs immediately to the north-west of the farm road. The road built by the Zealandia Fish Factory in 1933 passes 30m below to the north-east. A pohutukawa occurs on the hill side immediately below the old road. The cemetery associated with the mission occurs on the hilltop 80m to the north-west. The site is approximately 25m above sea level (Plate 6).

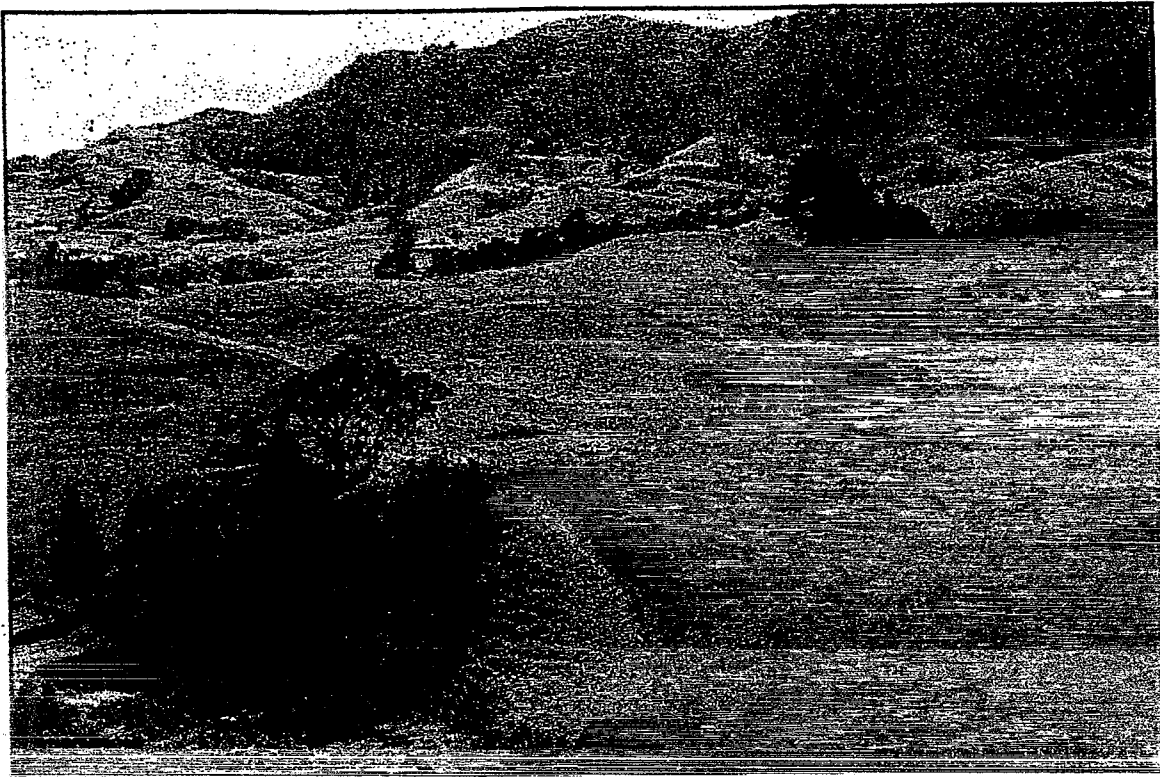


PLATE 6. THE DITCH ENCLOSURE AND SITE OF THE 1940TH KUWARU CATHOLIC MISSION (center)



PLATE 7. THE TERRACE ON WHICH THE 1940TH KUWARU MISSION STATION WAS ESTABLISHED.

The remains of the R.C Mission Station (established in 1840) consist of a flat terrace cut into the hillside on the north side of the ridge facing directly towards Lane's mill (Plate 7). The flat is 30m long x 20m wide and is slightly slumped downhill to the north-east. The terrace has a rear scarp 0.5-1m high that is visible for some 15m. The farm road has been cut down the ridge and appears to have been bulldozed across the east south-east end of the mission flat. No structural remains of the mission buildings are visible on the flat. It is possible the larger of the buildings (the church?) was at the south-east end of the ridge in or adjacent to the area of the bulldozed farm road. Part of the original perimeter enclosure/outclosure occurs on the hillside 20m to the north-west of the flat and consists of a lineal ditch, 1m and 0.5m deep, extending directly up the hill for 30m. The ditch appears to have a 1m high bank on the north-west side and a lower bank on the south-east side. The top west corner of the ditch curves around across the hillside above the back of the flat for 15m then is completely obscured by an old farm, an area of erosion and the new farm road. This section of the ditch is completely filled in, resembling a narrow terrace. Another section of an adjacent enclosure, 20m long x 1.5m deep, occurs to the south-east of the new farm road, immediately below the ridge at the beginning of the Oio peninsula, on the north north-east side. This section is completely filled in and is barely visible. A collapsed stone memorial cairn occurs on the side of the hill some 80m below the mission terrace. MEMORIAL CAIRN MOVED.

Additional Information.

The old Roman Catholic cemetery associated with the mission occurs on the hill top, some 80m north-west of the mission site. The area of the cemetery is unmarked and is presently under long grass obscuring the ground surface. No headstones remain standing, however a sandstone headstone is known to be lying on the ground (now probably partially buried) on the hill top (Frear pers comm.). A number of vague burial depressions can be made out. According to the owner D. Frear, there were six or seven burials in the cemetery, including members of the Hayes and McIntosh families, amongst others. An old access track appears to have been cut up the hill to the cemetery from the north-west at a later date. The cemetery is also listed as an Urupa under the Far North District Councils District Scheme (U3-Map No 7), has the legal description, Pt Te Kuwaru Blk, and is listed under Maori ownership.

The location and buildings comprising the Mission Station, (buildings enclosures, cemetery and saw pit) are shown on Maori land plans ML 772, dated 1867 and more clearly on ML 2194, dated 1870.

P04/618. Stratified midden. Historic remains. 768.3 837.2.

The site occurs on the small section of the remaining beach flat in Neilson's Bay, located between the small headland in the centre of the bay and the north east corner of the bay. The site is exposed in the bank at the back of the beach and on the foreshore. The site is approximately 1m above sea level.

A 10-20cm deep, homogenous, layer of charcoal stained soil with occasional pieces of burnt sandstone and shell is exposed continuously for a distance of approximately 60m along the front of the beach flat. A small earth oven, 60cm long by 20 cm deep, occurs 5m north-east of a small intermittent stream channel that cuts across the flat at this location. The exposure occurs to varying depths from the surface and overlies a sterile yellow clay. Overlying this horizon is a further layer of shell midden though is separated

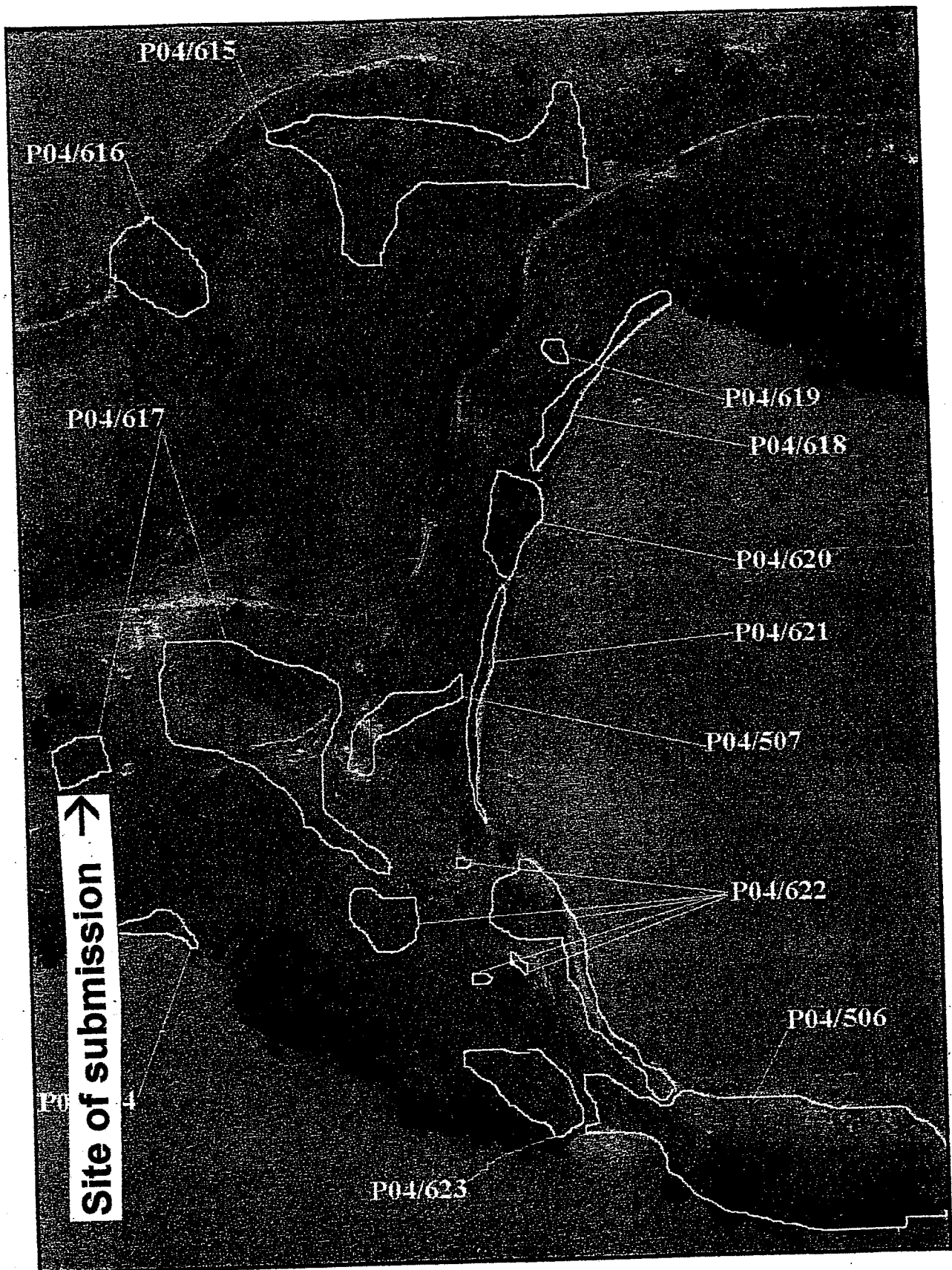
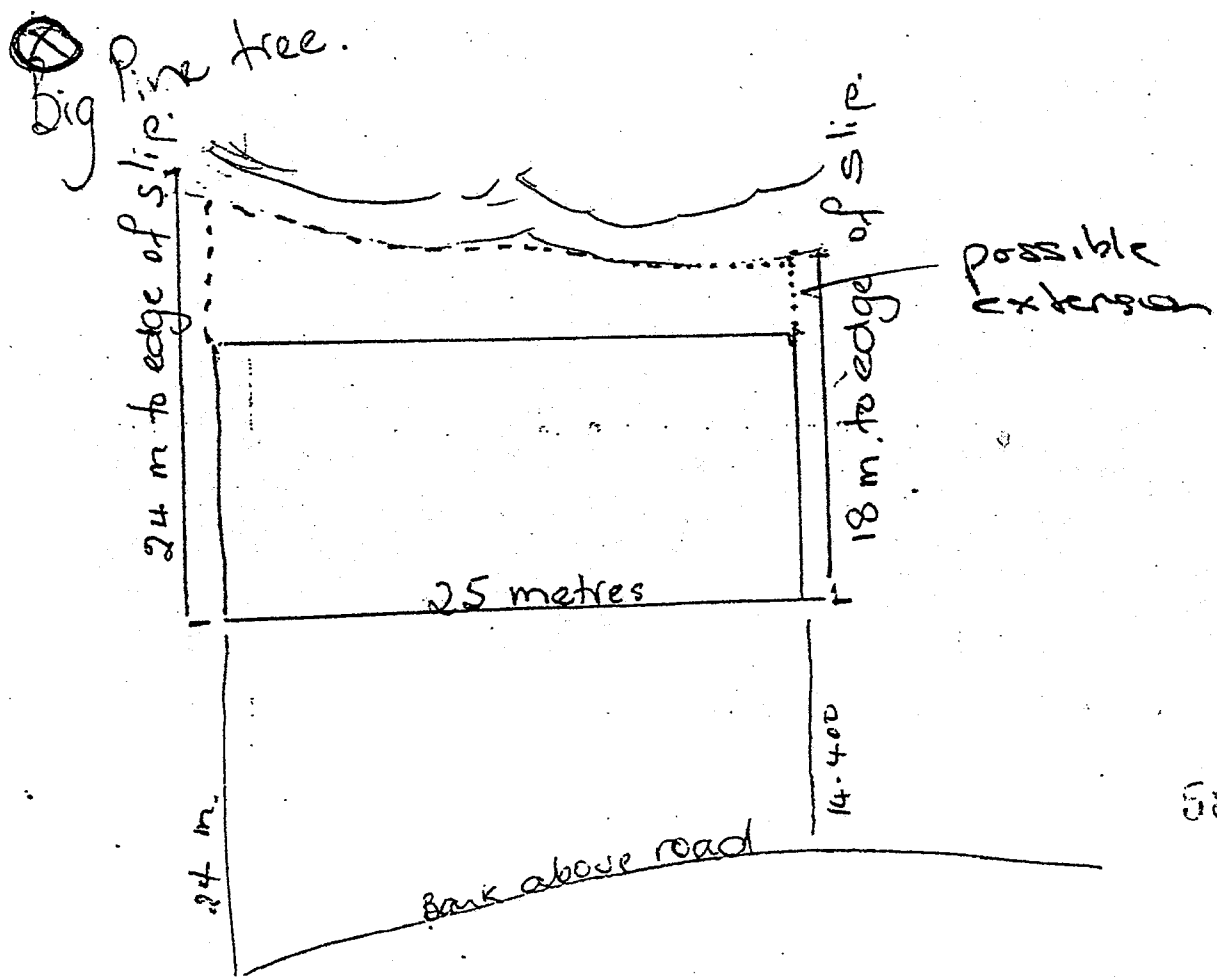


PLATE 2. LOCATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES WITHIN THE PROPOSED SUBDIVISION.

Post Office



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