

OUR HISTORY is a booklet series produced by the Heritage Department of the Auckland Regional Council (ARC). It is a cultural heritage education and advocacy project established to provide information about local history and regionally significant historic resources.

For further information:

- Contact the Auckland Regional Council Ph: 09 366 2000
- See the Auckland Regional Council website ([www.arc.govt.nz](http://www.arc.govt.nz))

# Duder Regional Park

## Our History

**Duder Regional Park is on the Whakakaiwhara Peninsula at the entrance to the Wairoa River near Clevedon. The Peninsula has a long and rich history, which begins with the visit of the famous Tainui canoe in the 1300s.**

Ngāi Tai were the first people to live on the Whakakaiwhara Peninsula. They lived there for hundreds of years, building gardens and a pā (defended fortification) on the point. It is an important place to Ngāi Tai because of its Tainui history, the excellent views over the Hauraki Gulf and the availability of food such as shellfish, eels, sharks, and berries and birds from the forest.

Thomas Duder purchased the Peninsula and surrounding land from Ngāi Tai in 1866. The Duder family farmed the Peninsula for the next 130 years. For many years, the Peninsula was used as an unfenced grazing area for sheep, while the rest of the farm was developed. From the 1930s, the Duders began converting the Peninsula into a productive farm. This involved 30 years of clearing the scrub, putting up fences, ploughing the land and sowing the pasture.

The Peninsula was also a popular place for fishing, picnics, boating and camping.

The Auckland Regional Council bought the Whakakaiwhara Peninsula in 1994. Today, visitors can still see signs of the past on the Peninsula, as well as enjoying the pockets of original native forest and some of the best coastal views in the Auckland region.

### What to see and do...

- Follow the Farm Loop Walk to Whakakaiwhara Pā and see the earthwork remains of this fortified Māori settlement (2½ hours return).
- Follow the coastal walk to one of the many beaches. Take your togs, a picnic or your fishing rod, as visitors have done for over 100 years.
- Visit the pockets of original native forest and see the trees and plants Māori used for eating, weaving, dyeing and building.
- Watch the birdlife and hunt for shells at Duck Bay (Waipokaia).
- Join an Auckland Regional Council volunteer day to help out with planting and conservation work.
- Follow the orienteering course, go horse-riding (with a permit) or mountain-biking.

Please do not remove or disturb any archaeological remains. They are an important record of our history and are protected by law.



## The First Visitors

Ngāi Tai are the Tangata Whenua (people of the land) of the Whakakaiwhara Peninsula and the surrounding Maraetai - Wairoa area. Their ancestral links with the Peninsula extend back approximately 650 years and they still have a marae today at nearby Umupuia (see Duder Regional Park map).

Ngāi Tai association with the Whakakaiwhara Peninsula begins with the visit of the Tainui canoe in the 1300s. The Tainui moored in the shelter of the Peninsula from a storm while it was travelling up east coast of Aotearoa, having arrived from Hawaiiki. The crew went ashore and ate fruit from the forest on the Peninsula. This is the origin of the name Whakakaiwhara, which means to eat (kai) the edible bracts (whara) of the kiekie vine. The place where the canoe moored is known as 'Te Tauranga o Tainui' or 'The Anchorage of Tainui' (see Duder Regional Park map).

While the Tainui canoe was moored there, a crew member called Tāne Whakatia planted a karaka berry on the point of the Peninsula. It grew into a tree known as 'Huna ā Tāne' or the 'Tree of Tāne' (see Duder Regional Park map). Though this tree no longer exists, its descendants today are the impressive karaka trees on the Peninsula.

## Early Occupation

After leaving the Whakakaiwhara Peninsula, the Tainui canoe travelled west to the Tāmaki River. It was then carried across the portage from the Waitemata to the Manukau Harbour and eventually continued down to Kawhia. Several crew members left the canoe in the Tāmaki area and settled there. Later, some of their descendants built kāinga (villages) and pā beside the Wairoa River and on the Whakakaiwhara Peninsula. These people became known as Ngāti Tai, taking their name from the ancestor Taihaua and the

Tainui canoe. Ngāti Tai was part of a wider tribal grouping known as Ngāoho, which unified all the people of Tainui descent in the region.

According to Ngāti Tai tradition, there were already people in the Maraetai - Wairoa area when the Tainui canoe arrived. They were known as the 'Tūrehu' (those who arose from the earth). One of them was Hinerangi, who now stands on Maraetai Beach in the form of a rock known as 'Ōhinerangi'. Another important early ancestor was Manawatere, who is remembered in the place name, Ōmana, or in full 'Ōmanawatere'.

## Te Hekenga o Ngā Tuatoru

In the 1600s, Ngāti Tai adopted the name Ngāi Tai. This was the result of an event known as 'Te Hekenga o ngā Tuatoru' (the migration of the three), which is famous in the history of the iwi.

According to the tradition, there were three sisters who came from another related iwi (tribe) called Ngāi Tai, in the Bay of Plenty. The sisters were sent to live amongst their Tainui relatives in the Hauraki and Tāmaki areas to escape conflict in their home area. At this time, Te Whatatau was the leading rangatira (chief) of Ngāti Tai. He lived at Whakakaiwhara Pā (see Duder Regional Park map for Figure 1) and at nearby Te Oue Pā (Figure 2). Te Whatatau travelled across to the Coromandel with his wife to welcome the three sisters. While he was there, his wife shamed him and he decided to leave her. He then returned home with the three sisters, where he married two of them; Te Raukohekohe and Motukitawhiti. The marriages cemented the union between the two iwi and from that time the name of Ngāi Tai was used in the place of the name Ngāti Tai.

Te Whatatau and Te Raukohekohe had a son called Te Wana, who became the



Figure 2

**Te Oue Pā**, occupied by Ngāi Tai, is situated several kilometres south of the Whakakaiwhara Peninsula and is clearly visible from the park.

leading rangatira of Ngāi Tai. Te Wana was a well-known warrior and during his time he strengthened Ngāi Tai control of the Maraetai - Wairoa area and the islands of the Hauraki Gulf.

## Whakakaiwhara Pā

Ngāi Tai built a pā on the point of the Whakakaiwhara Peninsula (see Duder Regional Park map). Whakakaiwhara Pā and Te Oue Pā were the main homes of the Ngāi Tai rangatira and the focal points of the Ngāi Tai occupation of the wider area. The Ngāi Tai heartland was close to the western shores of the northern Hauraki Gulf, but the iwi also had land interests beyond this area, with homes near Maraetai and Clevedon, beside the Wairoa River and even as far away as Great Barrier Island.

Like most iwi, Ngāi Tai lived in Hāpu (extended family groups) of about 40 to 60 members that were widely spread over their rohe (tribal territory). They moved around their rohe in a seasonal cycle of harvesting, gathering and fishing. This cycle continued until the arrival of the Europeans in the early 1800s.

Whakakaiwhara Pā was significant to Ngāi Tai for several reasons. First, it was the place where Ngāi Tai's ancestors had landed from the Tainui canoe and established their mana over the land. Secondly, it was an important strategic place because of its expansive views over the Hauraki Gulf and its islands. Thirdly, it was an important food storage site.

Whakakaiwhara Pā is well preserved. Today, visitors can see food storage pits, terraces, house sites, midden and a tihi (central high platform). A ditch cuts the pā off from the remainder of the headland. This would have provided defences for the pā and may have had palisading next to it.

Whakakaiwhara Peninsula was an important place for gathering and storing food and other resources. There were probably several large gardens on the Peninsula, including kūmara, taro and bracken fern cultivations. A number of remaining terraces on the Peninsula were probably occupied temporarily by Māori who were gardening there.

As well as the gardens, there was an abundance of natural resources on and around the Peninsula. Māori cleared much

of the original native forest for gardens. However, the remaining pockets of forest provided berries, plants and birds for eating, as well as plants for weaving and dying and also timber for building and canoes. An example of the original forest on the Peninsula has been preserved in an area called 'The Big Bush' (see Duder Regional Park map). This is a magnificent coastal forest, containing a canopy of tawa, taraire, pūriri, karaka and kauri.

The waters around the Peninsula were also rich in resources. The wetlands provided eels, ducks and pūkeko, while the seashore provided shellfish (the remains of which can be seen in the many shell midden on the Peninsula). There was also a shark fishing ground at the entrance to the Wairoa River. The sharks were split and dried at Whakakaiwhara Pā, a tradition that continued until about 1940.

## Early European Contact and the Tribal Musket Wars

The Hauraki tribes first came into contact with Europeans when Captain Cook arrived in New Zealand in 1769. He left the potato and pigs in the area, which quickly became important foods for Māori. In the late 1700s, timber ships and whaling and sealing boats began to arrive in the Hauraki district.

Trading soon began between Māori and Europeans. One of the impacts of trading was the beginning of a phase of long distance war raids between iwi throughout the country with existing grievances. The Northland iwi, Ngā Puhi, were the first to purchase a large number of muskets and they used them to begin a series of devastating raids throughout the country in the 1820s and 30s. Like other iwi, Ngāi Tai could not defend themselves with traditional weapons and they suffered heavy losses.

Most of the survivors moved to the Waikato region under the protection of their Tainui relatives during this period, but a number also remained in the Maraetai - Wairoa area to maintain the mana (authority) of the land.

At the time of the raids, Tara Te Irirangi was the Ngāi Tai rangatira (**Figure 3**). He lived at Umupuia, close to the present Umupuia Marae (see Duder Regional Park map). Tara Te Irirangi's daughter, Ngeungeu (**Figure 4**), was one of many women and children taken up to the Bay of Islands by Ngā Puhi. There, she married Thomas Maxwell (Tame Kohe), a crew member of a whaling ship. Later, they moved to Tāmaki but after Thomas drowned in 1842, Ngeungeu and her children returned home to Umupuia. They and their many descendants have played a prominent part in the affairs of Ngāi Tai over successive generations.

## Land Sales and Missionaries

Local iwi slowly began to return to the Hauraki district after Ngā Puhi were repelled in the 1830s, although existing tensions between Tāmaki, Hauraki and Waikato



Figure 3

Portrait of Ngai Tai chief, Tara Te Irirangi, by George French Angas c. 1847. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, NZ.



Figure 4

Portrait of Ngeungeu and Anaru Maxwell, by George French Angas c. 1847. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, NZ.

iwi remained. In 1835-6, the missionaries attempted to promote peace and stability in the Tāmaki district by encouraging a series of meetings between the conflicting groups. At the meetings, rangatira agreed to sell a large block of land on the disputed boundary between them. The land comprised 83,000 acres (approximately 33 600 hectares), extending from south of Ōtahuhu to Clevedon and included the Whakakaiwhara Peninsula.

The iwi sold the land to the missionary, William Fairburn, who agreed to keep it in trust to create a neutral area between the tribes. Therefore, although the land had been sold, Ngāi Tai and other iwi understood that they could continue to use and live there. Fairburn confirmed this understanding when he promised to return one third of the land to Māori in 1837.

After the sale, Fairburn established a mission station at Maraetai. The mission had a major impact on the lives of the Ngāi Tai people. Most converted to Christianity within a few years and some moved to Maraetai and attended the mission school. They were also

introduced to many European goods and farming practices.

The agreement became known as 'The Fairburn Purchase'. It was a complicated and confused agreement, which was investigated by the Crown in 1841-2. The Crown allowed Fairburn to keep a small piece of the land and agreed that Ngāi Tai could remain living in their territory around the Wairoa River.

## Early European Settlers

European settlers began to arrive in the Maraetai - Wairoa area from 1852. Although they became established in the area within a few years, the early settlers remained very isolated and heavily reliant on local Māori.

There were about 100 Ngāi Tai living at Umupuia at this time under the leadership of the rangatira Hori Te Whētuki, who was known to the local settlers as 'Long George'. Ngāi Tai provided crops, goods and manual labour for the settlers. They cultivated the flats inland from the Whakakaiwhara Peninsula using horse and plough, and also developed orchards of peaches, apples, pears and quinces on the flats between Umupuia and the base of the Peninsula.

## The Ngāi Tai 'Native Reserve'

In 1854, the Crown formally created a 6,063 acre (2 454 hectare) Native Reserve for Ngāi Tai, which included the Whakakaiwhara Peninsula (**Figure 5**). A Union Jack flag was given to Ngāi Tai, to mark the co-operation between them. This was erected at Whakakaiwhara Pā.

As part of the agreement, Ngāi Tai agreed to leave all other parts of the Fairburn Purchase and to live only on the Reserve. This meant that Ngāi Tai could no longer continue their traditional lifestyle of moving around their wider territory in the seasonal cycle of

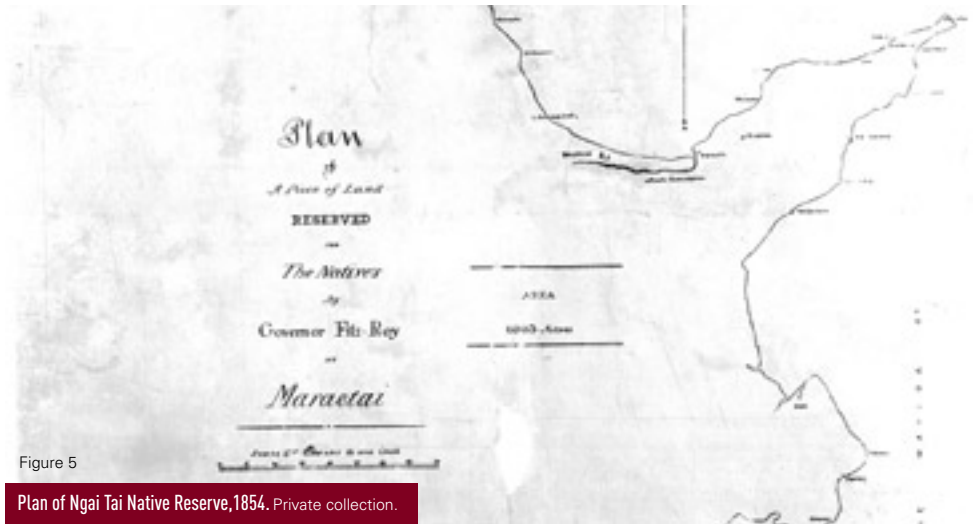


Figure 5

Plan of Ngāi Tai Native Reserve, 1854. Private collection.

gardening and fishing. Their main settlement remained at Umupuia and there were also a number of kāinga on the Whakakaiwhara Peninsula.

## War Between Māori and Europeans

When war broke out in South Auckland in September 1863, a decade of co-operation and friendship ended between Ngāi Tai and the European settlers of the Maraetai - Wairoa area. The war was over increasing pressure for Māori to sell their land to the Crown to make way for the growing European population. When Waikato and related iwi united in resistance under the Māori King, Pōtatau Te Wherowhero, the Crown viewed it as a major threat to British authority and began to make military preparations.

Ngāi Tai were faced with a dilemma. While they enjoyed peaceful relations with the Crown and with the local settlers, many also felt bound to support their relatives in the Waikato region. Hori Te Whētuki visited Governor Grey to discuss the Ngāi Tai dilemma. After talking with Governor Grey, Te Whetuki decided to remain at Maraetai

during the war. Here he maintained a neutral position and tried to prevent further fighting in the area. Many young men went to join the fighting on the side of the Māori King, while others moved outside the area until the fighting stopped.

When the fighting ended six months later, the Crown confiscated over one million hectares of land south of Auckland from Māori who were deemed to have been in 'rebellion'. The land was intended for new settlers and soldiers, and was chosen more for its fertility and strategic importance than as punishment for the participation of particular tribal groups in the war. Although the Whakakaiwhara Peninsula was not confiscated, other Ngāi Tai land was taken. Overall, the war left a divided and devastated community in the Maraetai - Wairoa area. Many Ngāi Tai people stayed in exile after the war and only a small community remained at Umupuia on the Native Reserve.

Shortly after the war, the Ngāi Tai Native Reserve was subdivided into ten blocks in accordance with the Native Land Act 1865. This meant that individual rangatira got title to each block. The iwi decided to keep the

3,500 acre (1 416 hectares) Maraetai Block, which included Umupuia, and to sell the remaining blocks (**Figure 6**).

## The Duders Arrive

Thomas Duder purchased the Whakakaiwhara Block from Hori Te Whētuki in July 1866 for 422 pounds (**Figure 7**). The Block was 600 acres (243 hectares), of which 148.2 hectares makes up Duder Regional Park today (**Figure 8**).

Duder had been living in New Zealand since 1840. He had decided to stay in the country after his ship was wrecked in Mercury Bay during his third visit to New Zealand as boson on H.M.S. Buffalo, a naval supply and convict ship. He took up the opportunity to work for the newly established colonial government, based in Auckland, and spent his first few years checking customs duties and transporting Crown officials and missionaries around the Hauraki Gulf. During this time, Duder became familiar with the Whakakaiwhara Peninsula and the Māori village of Umupuia. He was then appointed Signalman at Flagstaff (Devonport), where he remained until his death in 1875.

## Establishing the Farm (the late 1800s)

Thomas Duder's sons, William Thomas and (Thomas) John, began living on the Whakakaiwhara Block shortly after their father bought it. Thomas Duder visited from Devonport when he could and is thought to have planted a row of Norfolk Pines along Umupuia Beach. The last of these trees was felled in 2003, for safety reasons.

The first job for the two brothers was to clear and develop the land. This was made a little easier because much of the farm was covered in mānuka or fern, rather than thick native forest, because of the previous Māori gardens there.

Some big trees had already been removed for timber before the Duders bought the block. In the 1850s and 60s, Hori Te Whētuki had sold cutting rights on the Native Reserve to Europeans. The trees were removed from above Te Wharau (Malua Bay) and were sent down to the beach in a u-shaped chute, which can still be seen today (see Duder Regional Park map). The remaining forest pockets were left untouched by the Duder family.

To begin with, the Duder brothers lived in

Umupuia 1882, by A. Horne. Auckland Public Library.

Figure 6





Figure 7

Thomas Duder in 1873. Private collection



Figure 8

Plan of the Whakakaiwhara Block. Land Information New Zealand

a tent beside the mouth of the Te Kuiti stream at Umupuia Beach. When William married Jannett French in 1873, they returned together to the farm, while John moved to Devonport.

William and Jannett built a whare (nīkau house), where they had their first child, Lillian. Soon afterwards, they built a small cottage on the site of the current homestead. Here they raised six other children: William (1873), Gertrude (1875), Zealandia (1877), William Thomas (1879), Emma (1882) and Jeanette (1886) (Figure 9).

William focused on developing the fertile flats between the cottage and Te Oue Pā to the south. This involved clearing the mānuka scrub, removing and burning stumps, ploughing the land and establishing pasture. There was little timber suitable for fencing on the farm, so paddocks were enclosed by digging ditches and dirt banks, which were topped with hawthorn hedges.

The Whakakaiwhara Peninsula, which is now Duder Regional Park, was left largely undeveloped until the 1940s. It was known as 'the Run' and was used as an unfenced, extensive grazing block. The rough pasture

on the Peninsula was maintained by burning off the scrub annually. The only development that took place before then was on the swampy flats next to Duck Bay (Waipokaia). William Duder, along with local Māori, dug drains into the flats to develop pasture.

By 1900, William had developed one of the best farms in the area. His farming practices were typical of those throughout the country at the time. The farm was mainly an extensive pastoral property, with a flock of fine woolled Romney - Merino and Merino - Corriedale sheep. By 1892, the flock numbered 600, one of the largest in the area. Wool remained the biggest source of income for the farm for several decades, but the introduction of refrigeration in the 1880s meant that sheep meat could be exported to England. This made the Duder property, a lot more economically viable.

The Duders also had several other sources of income on the farm. William kept a herd of Shorthorn cattle, which were sold as three year olds for fattening. He also kept a small Shorthorn dairy herd, selling milk and butter locally and in Auckland. There were also pigs, chickens and bees as well as a large vegetable garden and orchard. In addition,





Figure 9

William and Jannett Duder with children c. 1904. Private collection

William sold mānuka for firewood and flax to the local flax mill. William and his brothers also bred thoroughbred race horses, farm hacks and mares.

Boats were used to transport goods and produce to and from the Duder farm until the road between Umupuia and Clevedon was metalled in the late 1920s. To begin with, the Duders used the local coastal shipping service. This was quite an exercise, as goods and produce had to be carried to the boat in a horse-drawn sledge at low tide or on a dinghy at high tide. In the 1890s, the Duders commissioned Logan Brothers, of Auckland to build a 33 foot shallow draft centreboard yacht called 'Lillian', named after William and Jannett's first child. This made transportation much easier as the yacht could be brought right up the stream outside the Duder house.

In 1890, the Duders built 'Rozel' on the site of their original cottage. The new homestead was named after Jannett's childhood home on the island of Guernsey (Figure 10).

It is still lived in by William and Jannett's descendants today.

'Rozel' was built after an accident which badly damaged the cottage. William and

his brother were experimenting with a new explosive material on a tree stump near the cottage when the device detonated and a large piece of the stump flew into the cottage, demolishing the dining room table. Jannett was inside at the time and, partly to calm her in her state of shock, the decision was made there and then to build a new house on the site.

William and Jannett Duder retired in 1904 and moved to Devonport with their then four unmarried daughters. Their son, Willie, took over the management of the farm with his wife, Mary (Gert) Stephens.

Tragically, William Duder drowned soon afterwards, in 1906, on his way to visit the farm. Presumably he had attempted to reach Umupuia in his sailing dinghy, after the coastal steamer he had intended to catch was delayed. Jannett continued to live in Devonport with her daughter Gertrude until she died in 1937, at the age of 98.

## New Technology on the Farm (the early 1900s)

Willie and Gert Duder managed the Whakakaiwhara Block from the early 1900s to 1937. They raised four children at 'Rozel'; William Stephen (Steve), John (Jack), Charles Frederick (Fred) and Mary Jeanette (Molly). During this period, Willie continued to develop the farm and increased its production in an era of great agricultural change in New Zealand. Wool continued to be the main product on the farm, but meat and dairying became increasingly important.

Most farming activities continued to focus on the southern flats between the homestead and Te Oue Pā. Willie also purchased more flat land beside the southwestern boundary of the Whakakaiwhara Block. The Peninsula was still used as an unfenced grazing run during this period.

Willie increased the dairy herd and switched to the more specialised milk producing Fresian cows during World War I. At this time there was a guaranteed market for dairy produce in Britain. He hand milked the cows with his sons, who were expected

to milk at least six cows before riding their horses to school.

Production increased considerably in the 1920s, as a result of more scientific farming methods, mechanisation and motorised transport. Of major importance was the introduction of artificial fertiliser. Until then, the Duders had used bone dust bought from the local abattoirs. The new fertilisers, superphosphate and 'Belgian Slag', were brought to Umupuia by boat, where they were transported by horse-drawn sledge to the paddock and spread by hand. Together with the introduction of exotic strains of grasses, the widespread application of artificial fertiliser throughout the country helped lead to huge increases in production of dairy products. This raised the standard of living in New Zealand to amongst the highest in the world.

During this period of prosperity, there were several new developments on the farm. A number of buildings were built, including a new cowshed and Woolshed, which is today used by the Auckland Regional Council Parks staff as an office and service area for farm operations (see Duder Regional Park map).

The Duder homestead, 'Rozel', in the late 1800s. Private collection

Figure 10



The Duders also purchased their first motor car and a Model T truck and electricity and the telephone were connected.

## Recreation on the Farm

The Whakakaiwhara Block was always popular with tourists and visitors. As roads improved in the early 1900s, people began visiting Umupuia Beach for picnics and camping. The beach became known as Duder's Beach from this time.

The Peninsula became very popular with fishermen and the boating community in this period. Camps of up to 50 people from the Auckland yachting community stayed for several weeks at Malua Bay, on the southeastern side of the Peninsula. A reminder of these times are the two large poplar trees at Malua Bay. During a summer camp in the 1910s, a member of the Bailey family drove two poplar stakes into the ground to support his hammock. These grew into two large trees, which are still referred to as 'Baileys Hammock' (see Duder Regional Park map). Launches and yachts from Auckland also visited the Wairoa River and anchored in the shelter of the Peninsula, going ashore for picnics or duck shooting. One regular visitor to the Peninsula, Herb Porteous, built a bach above Malua Bay (see Duder Regional Park map). The bach has now been removed.

Malua Bay was traditionally known as 'Te Wharau', or 'temporary shelter', because it was used by Ngāi Tai as a base for fishing and gathering shellfish. However, it was renamed after an interesting episode involving one of Auckland's best-known racing yachts, called 'Malua'. In 1887, the yacht was stolen from its Auckland mooring and the police and boating public mounted a large scale search for it in the Hauraki Gulf. The 'Malua' was found beached in the bay

on the southern side of the Peninsula. Three young fishermen were later sentenced to several years in prison.

Extended members of the Duder family also visited the farm for holidays. Willie's sister, Emma, and her family camped on the property for fourteen years. Emma's daughter, Vera, recalled that Emma, *"...taught us all to swim and row a dinghy, fish and spear flounder, hunt for pipis and make fritters! Those days and evenings were terrific as we shared it all with our cousins and friends."*

## Wartime (1939-1945)

Jack Duder ran the Whakakaiwhara Block from 1937, when his father retired. Jack and his wife Bessie had been living in a cottage built for them near 'Rozel' up until this time. They now moved into the main homestead, where they raised five children: John, Ian, Margaret, William and Richard (**Figure 11**).

In 1938, Jack began the job of developing the Whakakaiwhara Peninsula, which up until now had been left as an unfenced grazing run. This was interrupted by the outbreak of World War II the following year. As concern about a Japanese invasion mounted during the war, the NZ Armed Forces identified the Whakakaiwhara Peninsula as a strategically important location and began to prepare defences and carry out military training on the property. At one stage, several thousand men arrived at Duder's Beach without warning to undertake training prior to being posted overseas. On one occasion while training, some troops fired their rifles from the beach and narrowly missing Bessie Duder and Ngeungeu Zister, of Ngāi Tai, who were out fishing at the time. On another occasion, a machine gun was set up at night on the Maraetai Road and fired across the Bay outside 'Rozel' at a target

on the Peninsula causing consternation to the Duder family.

In 1942, the Air Force selected a beach just inside the point on the Whakakaiwhara Peninsula as a suitable location for an underground seaplane base. About 35 men set up camp in the area that is now the Regional Park entrance and began constructing a road around the coast to the point. Progress was very slow as the bulldozers and trucks often got bogged down in the mud behind Duck Bay (Waipokaia). The Duders were often called in to help haul them out. Eighteen months later the project was abandoned without notice.

The Air Force arrived again in 1944, this time to build a rocket range to be used for training exercises for two fighter squadrons based at Ardmore. The exercises which were held without warning involved low flying planes firing rockets at targets. This spectacle was very exciting for the local school children, but was very disruptive to farming activities.

When the Air Force left at the end of the war, they left an all-weather access road to the northern end of Duck Bay and a

Cookhouse and Messroom which became used as a farm building. The Regional Park entrance road is still called the 'Air Force Road' and it passes through 'Cookhouse Paddock', although the building itself is no longer standing.

## The Development of the Peninsula (1945 – 1994)

In 1942 Willie Duder subdivided the Whakakaiwhara Block into two farm units, which were leased to his two sons, Jack and Fred. Jack Duder's unit (212 hectares) included the Whakakaiwhara Peninsula. At this time, Willie also created beachfront sections at Duders Beach for each of his children so that they could keep an association with the family farm and beach.

After the War, Jack and later his son, Ian, continued to develop the Peninsula. Over thirty years, it was subdivided into 22 paddocks. Each paddock needed to be ploughed (which often involved removing pūriri stumps) and disced. Initially this was done with a horse team, and later with the

Jack and Bessie Duder and their children in 1980. Private collection

Figure 11



tractor. The soil fertility was improved by applying blood and bone and super and then planting a fodder crop, such as swedes and carrots. The paddocks were then sown in permanent pasture.

Fencing the Peninsula was a major undertaking. The first coast to coast fence was built in 1938, using pūriri posts. Jack then introduced a unique method using concrete posts and strainers. He constructed the posts using home-made wooden moulds and sand and shingle collected from the farm. These posts were particularly useful for the coastal sections of the fences, which had to be erected beyond the low tide mark to stop stock getting around the end of them during low tide.

Jack built a water supply dam in 1944, but lack of water for stock remained a problem on the Peninsula in dry periods. This was overcome in the 1970s, when Ian introduced a water supply system that pumped water from a bore to a tank, which then gravity fed all the troughs on the Peninsula.

The productivity of the Peninsula increased dramatically in the 1950s with the introduction of aerial topdressing of fertiliser. The efficiency of the topdressing application was improved when an airstrip and fertilizer bin were built on the ridge to north east of Duck Bay in the 1960s.

Wool continued to provide the main source of income for the farm, but the Duders also sold lambs and ewes to the freezing works. In addition, they kept a pedigree Fresian herd for dairy products as well as Aberdeen Angus beef cattle and pigs.

In the early 1960s Jack divided his farm into three further units which were purchased by his sons, Ian, Richard and Bill. The former Whakakaiwhara Block had now been subdivided into four separate farms, one of which included the Whakakaiwhara Peninsula.

Ian's unit (150 hectares) included 'Rozel' and the Whakakaiwhara Peninsula. Ian and Mary spent the next 32 years developing the farm into one of the highest producing coastal hill country units in the district. As part of his management of the property, Ian fenced the native forest remnants and planted several stands of exotic trees to control erosion and provide timber.

## Duder Regional Park (1995)

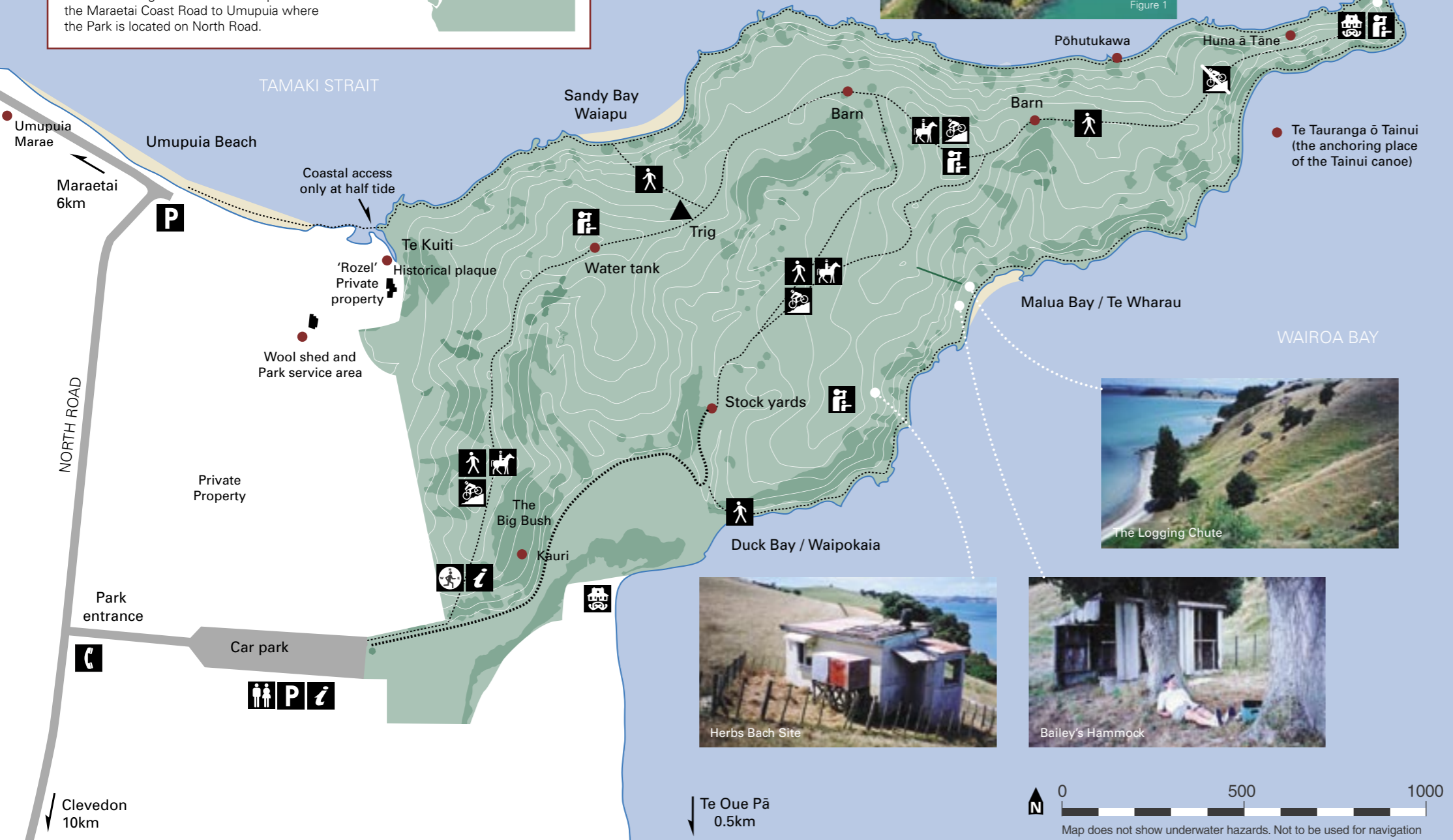
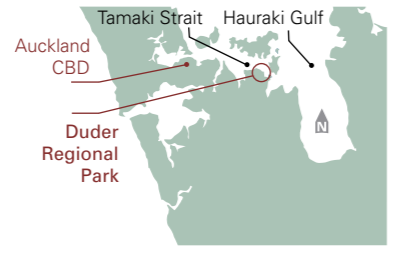
In 1994, Ian and Mary Duder sold the farm to the Auckland Regional Council, so that the environmental values of the Peninsula could be kept for future generations. The Duders retained 'Rozel' and a small area of land surrounding it.

The Auckland Regional Council now manages the Peninsula as a farmed park, while also restoring coastal forest, valley and wetland ecosystems. Duder Regional Park provides a place for people to enjoy nature, the rich cultural heritage of the Whakakaiwhara Peninsula and the unparalleled views of the Hauraki Gulf.

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This booklet was prepared by Lucy Mackintosh in 2004. It is based on a detailed history of the Whakakaiwhara Block written by Graeme Murdoch, for the Auckland Regional Council in 1996 (now produced as Auckland Regional Council Technical Publication No. 228). It was researched and written in consultation with the late Mrs. R. N. (Ngeungeu) Zister C.B.E. and other elders of Ngāi Tai, Marianne Philson and Ian and Mary Duder.

**Duder Regional Park: (50km from CBD)**  
 From Auckland CBD, head south on the Southern Motorway (State Highway 1) and take the Otara off-ramp. Turn left on to East Tamaki Road and follow Ormiston & Sandstone Roads to Whitford. From here, take the Whitford-Maraetai Road and continue through Maraetai township. Take the Maraetai Coast Road to Umupuia where the Park is located on North Road.



# Duder Timeline

- 1300s** The Tainui Canoe stops at the Whakakaiwhara Peninsula (Duder Regional Park)
- 1769** Cook arrives in New Zealand
- 1700s** Ngāi Tai chief Te Wana lives at Whakakaiwhara Pā and Te Oue Pā
- 1820s-1830s** Many Ngāi Tai leave their territory during the Ngāi Tahu raids
- 1835** Whakakaiwhara Peninsula is sold as part of Fairburn's Purchase
- 1840** Te Tiriti o Waitangi – The Treaty of Waitangi
- 1854** The Crown creates a 'Native Reserve', which includes the Whakakaiwhara Peninsula
- 1863** Many Ngāi Tai leave the 'Native Reserve' during the New Zealand Wars
- 1866** Thomas Duder purchases the 'Whakakaiwhara Block', which includes the Whakakaiwhara Peninsula
- 1866-1938** The Peninsula is used as an unfenced grazing block for sheep, while the rest of the Whakakaiwhara Block is developed
- 1600s** Ngāi Tai chief Te Whatatau lives at Whakakaiwhara Pā and Te Oue Pā. The tribal name Ngāi Tai is adopted
- 1939-45** During World War II, the Airforce occupy the Peninsula
- 1945-68** Jack and Ian Duder fence, plough, disc and convert the Peninsula to pasture
- 1995** Auckland Regional Council takes over management of the Peninsula
- Today**

