

# **ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF HUMAN OCCUPATION**

**AUCKLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL  
SHAKESPEAR REGIONAL PARK  
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**1991**

**Pages 31 - 40**

**(Please note that this plan has been superseded by the  
Auckland Regional Parks Management Plan 2002)**

## ARCHAEOLOGY

(Detailed archaeological site records are available from the New Zealand Archaeological Association Filekeeper, C/- Department of Conservation).

An archaeological survey conducted in 1981 recorded 15 sites, the majority of which were middens. 5 pa are located at the end of the Whangaparaoa Peninsula - on the hill east of Te Haruhi Bay; on Defence land on the eastern hill of Army Bay, at the northern tip of the peninsula; on the hill west of Te Haruhi Bay; and at the head of Waterfall Gully.

The pa on the western headland of Te Haruhi Bay comprises a 60 x 25m defended area situated on a flat grassy hilltop (in the vicinity of the Shakespear homestead). Here, at least six large pits (approximately 4 x 2m) are protected by a 1.53m wide by 10cm -3m deep ditch on three sides, with the cliff face forming the fourth defensive barrier.

Outside the ditch, a large midden (approximately 10m x 10m) is exposed consisting predominantly of cockles (Chione stutchburyi).

The pa on the eastern headland of Army Bay consists of 4 terraces, 9 middens and two groves of puriri and karaka trees. The terraces are obvious when viewed from the start of the Waterfall Gully walk, and are associated with 5 terraces located here. Waterfall Gully was the living area with huts built on the terraces, and the pa its defence in times of battle.

The living area on the eastern Te Haruhi headland comprises 2 terraces alongside a puriri grove, 12 small pits located on the western cliff edge, and a series of middens by the creek. The size and extent of the middens indicate prolonged heavy usage of the area for dumping shell, charcoal, fishbone and fire-cooked rock. Tuangi (Chione stutchburyi) and pipi (Paphies australe) are predominant in the middens along with whelks (Cominella adpersa), pupu-atamarama (Turbo smaragda) and karauria (Saxostrea glomerata).

The living area on the hill behind the pumpshed at Te Haruhi Bay comprises 10 terraces and 7 middens and would have provided a sheltered, well-drained site close to a bushed stream gully within 40m of the sea.

Archaeological sites are protected by the Historic Places Act 1980.

### HISTORY OF HUMAN OCCUPATION

Shakespear Regional Park has a history of human occupation that extends back approximately one thousand years. The majority of this history concerns the Maori occupation of the land which continued into the late nineteenth century. Today, the traditional history of the area has become blurred after over a century of European settlement, with the most obvious signs of the ancient past being the numerous archaeological surface features as well as the few remaining Maori place names. In spite of this, however, a basic outline of the pre-European occupation of the land can be gleaned from both oral tradition and manuscript sources. The Maori history of the Park, and in fact of the whole Whangaparaoa Peninsula is totally interrelated to the history of the coastal area between the Waitemata Harbour and Mahurangi, and reflects the migrations, conquests and occupations that took place in the area over the centuries. Therefore, the history of the Maori occupation of the area must not be viewed in isolation but in the widest geographical and historical context.

At the time of the first European contacts in the 1820's the coastline between Takapuna and Mahurangi was permanently occupied by a number of interrelated hapu or sub-tribal groups. They were part of the wider tribal grouping known as Te Kawerau and were often referred to collectively as Ngariki. The people who occupied the Whangaparaoa Peninsula, including what is now Shakespear Regional Park, were a people known as Ngati Kahu. They were predominantly of Kawerau descent and were closely related to the Ngati Rongo people of Mahurangi and also to the Ngati Poataniwha people of the Upper Waitemata Harbour. They also had ancient links with the Tainui iwi Ngati Taihaua (Ngati Tai) who occupied the coastline between the Wairoa River and the North Shore, as well as some of the islands of the Hauraki Gulf. By the late nineteenth century Ngati Kahu had also developed ties with the Te Taou people of the southern Kaipara who were part of the wider tribal grouping known as Ngati Whatua.

The specific identity of Ngati Kahu had emerged in the mid 1600's, although through intermarriage with earlier tribal groups they had more ancient links with the land. In 1890 Wiripo Potene, an elder living at Awataha Village (Northcote) with the remnants of the landless Kawerau sub-tribes of the area, explained to historian George Graham that the entire coastline and the off-shore islands had been occupied since time immemorial. He noted that after the fishing up of Te Ika roa a Maui (the long fish of Maui) the land was occupied by the ancient peoples known as Ngati Kui, Tutumaiao, and Turehu. These early iwi were absorbed by later migrant groups from the Pacific although local tradition recorded that it was from them that the art of weaving was first learnt. Kawerau tradition recalled that the famous explorer Toi te huatahi visited the area and gave his name to Little Barrier Island or Hauturu o Toi as well as to the outer Waitemata Harbour or Te Whanganui o Toi. His descendants settled with the earlier Iwi and according to local tradition they in turn were absorbed by the Tini o Maruiwi people who had migrated northward from Taranaki and occupied the entire Tamaki area, including the islands of the Hauraki Gulf and adjoining coastline.

By the late fourteenth century migrations associated with several of the famous ancestral voyaging canoes had begun to influence the Whangaparaoa area. From the north came the Ngati Tahuhu people, the descendants of Tahuhunui, the commander of the Mookakara canoe which had landed at a small bay at the southern end of Pakiri Beach. From the south came the descendants of the crew of the Tainui who had settled around the Waitemata Harbour. They included, in particular, the descendants of Te Keteanataua and his son Taihaua who occupied the islands of the Hauraki Gulf as well as the coastline between the Wairoa River (Clevedon) and Mahurangi. These people, who became known as Ngati Taihaua and later Ngati Tai, were part of the larger tribal grouping known as Ngaoho and occupied the Whangaparaoa Peninsula for several centuries.

The Ngaoho iwi had ancestral links with the crew of the Arawa canoe which had visited the area at the same time as the Tainui. After a journey of exploration throughout Kaipara and Lower Northland, the Arawa canoe had called at the Whangaparaoa Peninsula where some of the crew were hosted by the Ngaoho people. The visitors included the famous Arawa ancestor Hei and his sons Tahuwhakatiki and Waitaha. "When the Arawa reached Whangaparaoa (sic) Tahu and his younger brother quarrelled. So Tahu and his family remained behind, while Waitaha and his father went on in the Arawa." (E Shortland 1882, p 86). The sons of Tahuwhakatiki and his female relatives gave the Whangaparaoa people an important Arawa connection. This connection was further developed over successive generations as marriages were made with people of Arawa descent who had settled in the southern and eastern Hauraki Gulf.

Then, in the 1620's, a migration took place which was to have a major influence on the Whangaparaoa area. It was to lead to the formation of the tribal grouping Ngati Kahu who occupied what is now Shakespear Regional Park until the nineteenth century. A large group of Ngati Awa people had migrated north to the Tamaki Isthmus in the 1620's. Led by Maki and his brothers Mataahu and Maeaeeriki, these people conquered Tamaki and settled at Rarotonga (Mt. Smart). Over the next generation they spread northward conquering the islands of the Hauraki Gulf north to Hauturu (Little Barrier), the Kaipara district north to the Harbour entrance, as well as the East Coast from Takapuna to Te Arai. This conquest included battles at Tiritiri Matangi Island and the adjoining Whangaparaoa Peninsula where the Ngaoho people were defeated and absorbed by intermarriage.

From an incident involving Maki during the conquest of Kaipara, the tribal name Te Kawerau arose and this became the general name for the descendants of Maki and his younger brothers Mataahu and Maeaeeriki. Maki himself settled at Te Korotangi near the mouth of the Mahurangi River and later in the southern Kaipara. His sons Manuhiri, Ngawhetu and Tawhia became important ancestors for the people of the whole region. Mataahu eventually conquered and settled Hauturu (Little Barrier), while his son Rehua and his followers conquered and settled Aotea (Great Barrier). Maeaeeriki and his children settled on the land between Whangaparaoa and Omaha alongside the followers of Ngawhetu and Manuhiri. Maeaeeriki eventually made his home at Orewa while his children Te Utu and Kahu remained at Whangaparaoa occupying what is now Shakespear Regional Park. It is from Kahu that the tribal group who occupied the Whangaparaoa district until the nineteenth century took the name Ngati Kahu or The Tribe of Kahu.

Ngati Kahu married into the people they had conquered, thus developing ancestral ties with all of the previous groups who had occupied the Whangaparaoa area. They maintained close ties with the Kawerau sub-tribe Ngati Rongo who occupied Mahurangi and with Ngati Poataniwha, the Kawerau sub-tribe who occupied the northern shores of the Waitemata Harbour between Takapuna and Rangitopuni (Riverhead). They also intermarried with the people of Ngati Taihaua (Ngati Tai) who occupied the coastline between the Wairoa River and the Okura River, and, through them they developed links with the Waiohua people of Tamaki makaurau. These intertribal relationships enabled Ngati Kahu to live in peace on their land at Orewa, Whangaparaoa and Okura for over a century. However, in the mid 1700's, they began to be affected by the movements of tribal groups in the surrounding region.

By the 1720's the sub-tribal groups of the iwi known as Ngati Whatua had taken control of the area between the Kaipara Harbour and Riverhead, and they ultimately went on to conquer and settle the Tamaki Isthmus. Over several decades they had pushed the Kawerau people from southern Kaipara. However, they had concluded a number of peace settlements and marriages to secure peace. Because of this, the Ngati Kahu people and their related hapu were left alone on their land and in time developed strong ties with the Ngati Whatua hapu of Te Taou and Ngaoho who occupied southern Kaipara and the shores of the Waitemata Harbour.

At the same time, the Kawerau sub-tribal groups occupying the coastline north of the Waitemata Harbour were beginning to come under increasing pressure from the tribes of the powerful Marutuahu confederation who occupied the Hauraki Gulf. They included: Ngati Maru, Ngati Whanaunga, Ngati Tamatera and Ngati Paoa. While these Hauraki tribes were related to the people occupying the east coast between Takapuna and Mahurangi through Kawerau, and in particular Tainui ancestry, enmity developed between the two groups over the control of the bountiful fishing resources found on this part of the coastline.

Fighting between the Marutuahu tribes and the Kawerau iwi began in the 1720's and continued sporadically throughout the eighteenth century. Victories were secured by both parties; however, by the 1780's the Hauraki tribes were in the ascendancy. Ngati Kahu still remained in control of the Whangaparaoa Peninsula although the Ngati Paoa iwi had shown their dominance by constructing a small pa on the adjoining island of Tiritiri Matangi for use while on fishing expeditions. The Marutuahu tribes had also taken control of the islands of the southern Hauraki Gulf including Waiheke and occupied a large tribal domain in the Hauraki area extending south into the Waihou and Piako River Valleys. However, they did not move to drive the Kawerau people from their homes. Land was not what they sought, but rather control over the famed tauranga mango or shark fishing grounds of the coastline north of Whangaparaoa. From these grounds, thousands of sharks could be caught and dried in summer and then taken home to the Hauraki Gulf to provide a valuable winter food source.

Warfare continued between the two groups until the 1790's when a major peace making meeting was held at Mihirau' on what is now the Wenderholm Regional Park. This fragile peace was, however, soon broken and the Marutuahu iwi inflicted a major defeat on the Kawerau people at Whangateau near Omaha. After the failure of the peace settlement, the Ngati Kahu people assembled in their impressive pa Rarowhara located near the mouth of the Weiti River. Mereri, a Kawerau elder living at Awataha village in the early 1900's, explained the events which followed: "The Ngati Paoa ultimately attacked our people in the pa at Rarowhara, near Matakatia but we surprised and defeated them on the beach in open battle. Thereafter we held those places at Whangaparaoa peninsula and Te Weiti river until Nga Puhi attacked us" (in 1821). (G. Graham 1918, p87).

At the time of the arrival of the first Europeans in the area in 1820, the Ngati Kahu people remained in occupation of the Whangaparaoa Peninsula including what is now Shakespear Regional Park. They migrated over their ancestral domain between Orewa and Okura in a seasonal cycle of fishing, hunting, gathering and harvesting. They maintained kainga, or occupation sites, throughout this area although settlement was concentrated around the sheltered bays on the southern coastline of the Whangaparaoa Peninsula, and in particular at Te Haruhi Bay.

Shakespear Regional Park forms part of the district known to the Maori as Whangaparaoa or literally 'the bay of the sperm whale' (*Physeter macrocephalus*) which frequently stranded on the peninsula providing a major resource for the Ngati Kahu people. While this name strictly referred to the large bay to the north of the peninsula, it was also applied to the whole surrounding area. The pre-European archaeological sites in the park provide the best remaining assemblage of sites in the surrounding district and they indicate that the area was intensively settled over many generations.

The eastern end of the Whangaparaoa Peninsula was always an extremely desirable place to live because of its strategic location and its abundant natural resources. The peninsula, located midway between the Waitemata Harbour and Mahurangi, provided an ideal stopover point for groups travelling up and down the coast by canoe.

Most parties came ashore at Te Haruhi Bay which was generally sheltered from the prevailing westerly wind and provided a broad sandy beach on to which canoes could be hauled. The eastern end of Te Haruhi Bay is shown on an early survey map of 1859 (S.O. 892) as a native landing place and it was used in this way by travellers until the 1870's.

Archaeological evidence indicates that pre-European settlement within the Park was centred on the area between Army Bay and Te Haruhi Bay. Behind Army Bay, at the entrance to what is known as Waterfall Gully, an extensive settlement was located on four large terraces. This kainga was defended by the two fortified pa located behind the western end of Te Haruhi Bay. It was sited on extensive terraces located to the east of the Shakespear Homestead and on the large spur running inland from the present woolshed. This settlement was the main Ngati Kahu kainga until the nineteenth century and was protected by the pa located beside the Shakespear Homestead. Occupation sites indicated by midden are found around the entire Te Haruhi Bay area and a large occupation site was also located on artificial terracing in a gully above the headland at the eastern end of the bay. It is possible that this site was defended by a small pa located on the southern edge of the settlement on a headland which has largely eroded away.

The Ngati Kahu people based their settlement around Te Haruhi Bay because it provided the best site for cultivation in the Whangaparaoa district, their only other large cultivations being located at Okura near the old Dacre cottage. The name Te Haruhi literally means the weak or feeble breath and was applied to the area because it was sheltered from the main prevailing winds. This natural shelter, along with the sandy soils and the fact that the area was largely frost free, made the coastal flats and the wide valley behind the western end of the bay ideal for the cultivation of kumara, yams and gourds. The swampy areas behind the flats would also have been ideal for the cultivation of taro (Colocasia antiquorum). It would appear that the pa beside the Shakespear Homestead was constructed largely to defend the rua kumara (storage pits) that were used to store the settlement's precious food source over winter. Kumara would also have been cultivated on the sandy flats at the eastern end of Te Haruhi Bay and on the terraces associated with the settlement above the eastern headland where numerous pits were constructed for the storage of the crop.

The earliest survey maps of the park area indicate that the vegetation of the area had been extensively modified in pre-European times with the only forested areas being identical to those found in the park today. Much of the land was covered in manuka (Leptospermum scoparium) and aruhe or bracken fern (Pteridium esculentum). The root of the aruhe provided the Ngati Kahu people with one of their staple foods. Its extensive use is indicated by the number of patu aruhe (fern root pounders) found in the area by the first European settlers. The extensive swampy area to the north of Okoromai Bay and inland of the eastern end of Te Haruhi Bay would also have provided a vast resource. Here taro would have been cultivated and raupo (Typha orientalis), kuta (Scirpus lacustris) and harakeke or flax (Phormium tenax) would have been gathered for weaving and for lining houses.

The forest remnants found in the park today, in particular that found in Waterfall Gully, provide an excellent example of the coastal forest found in the area in the pre-European era. The forest, which had been extensively modified by the Maori, would have provided the local people with a wide variety of foods, medicines and building materials. Associated with all of the main settlement sites in the park are karaka groves (Corynocarpus laevigatus). Fruit from these was gathered in March and April and provided a valuable winter food source. The berries of the kahikatea (Dacrycarpus dacrydioides), puriri (Vitex lucens), titoki (Alectryon excelsus), and Taraire (Beilschmiedia tarairi) were gathered for food as was the fruit of the kiekie vine (Freyinetia baueriana) and the fleshy stems of the ti or cabbage tree (Cordyline australis). Other plants in the coastal forest had specialised uses, e.g., the whau (Entelea arborescens) which was used to make floats for fishing nets and the nikau (Rhopalostylis sapida) which was used as a thatching material. The flowering trees

found in the forest, especially puriri, kowhai (*Sophora microphylla*) and pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*) would also have attracted birds like the tui and the kereru (NZ pigeon), thus providing another valuable food source. Timber from the park area must also have been worked for housing and canoe building as is shown by the number of stone adzes found in the area over the last century. (A number of these were deposited in the Auckland Museum by the Shakespear family).

The Maori occupants of the area also harvested the bountiful resources of the sea as is revealed by the numerous middens found throughout the park. These include the remains of a wide variety of fish and several varieties of shellfish which were gathered from both Te Haruhi and Okoromai Bays. Pipi (*Paphies australe*) and tuatua (*Paphies subtriangulata*) were harvested from Te Haruhi Bay, and the tuangi or cockle (*Chione stutchburyi*) was taken from the tidal flats of Okoromai Bay. While Te Haruhi was predominantly a settlement and gardening area, Okoromai was an extremely important food gathering site. The name Okoromai means the appearance of the moon on the fifth day of the Maori lunar calendar. It was regarded as an excellent time for the gathering of eels from the adjoining swampy area as well as for the spearing of fish by torchlight on the tidal flats. Ngati Kahu also gathered kina (*Evechinus chloroticus*) and paua (*Haliotis iris*) from the rocky coastline that borders the eastern edge of the park and travelled to nearby Tiritiri Matangi Island to fish for shark and hapuku and to take mutton birds and birds eggs.

The Ngati Kahu people of Whangaparaoa lived in peace, although under the hegemony of the Marutuahu tribes, until the 1820's when both peoples faced a new threat from Ngapuhi war parties armed with muskets. Some of the Ngati Kahu people, along with members of the adjoining Kawerau iwi had accompanied a Marutuahu war party to the Bay of Islands in the 1790's and had taken part in the defeat of several of the Ngapuhi sub-tribes at the battle of Waiwhariki near Puketona. This ultimately brought disaster to Ngati Kahu and their relatives when a large Ngapuhi taua (war party) came south to avenge Waiwhariki in September 1821. Ngati Kahu, along with the surrounding Kawerau iwi gathered in Rarowhara Pa near the Weiti River mouth. Here, they faced the musket for the first time and were heavily defeated. The survivors fled inland to the Ararimu Valley (adjoining Riverhead Forest) where they lived for a time, only returning periodically to Whangaparaoa. Ngati Kahu lived in exile near Muriwai and then, after Ngapuhi defeated a combined Ngati Whatua force at Te Ika a Ranganui near Kaiwaka, they fled to the Waikato where they lived in exile for nearly a decade.

In the meantime, the people of Ngati Kahu had begun to feel the effects of European contact and had procured the pig, the potato and various material goods by the early 1800's. In July 1820 the Reverend Samuel Marsden on board the Royal Navy supply ship 'Coromandel' had observed the Whangaparaoa Peninsula which was roughly charted at this time. While Ngati Kahu were living in exile, the French explorer D'Urville sailed through the Tiritiri Passage on board 'L'Astrolabe' in February 1827. D'Urville observed the peninsula closely and the area was also visited by several timber ships seeking spars in this period. However, the first verified visits made by Europeans to what is now Shakespear Regional Park were those made in 1833 by the Church Missionary Society (CMS) missionaries who had journeyed south from the Bay of Islands with the aim of locating a suitable mission site in the Hauraki area. On 31 March 1833, Messrs William Fairburn and James Shepherd, lay catechists for the C.M.S., camped overnight at Te Haruhi Bay while travelling south. Then, in November 1833 Reverend Henry Williams and a party of C.M.S. missionaries also stayed overnight in the safe anchorage of Te Haruhi Bay.

By the late 1830's, the Ngati Kahu people had returned to Whangaparaoa under the leadership of their rangatira, Taipau, his younger brother Te Whakapiko, and Whakaatarangi. Ngati Kahu now numbered less than fifty people, having been decimated by the Ngapuhi raids, and were highly mobile, shifting between Wharepapa in the southern Kaipara and Whangaparaoa. They maintained cultivations at Okura, and often camped at Tiritiri Matangi Island to fish. However, their main kainga was

still Te Haruhi. Here, now that peace had been secured, they were often visited by Te Hemara Tauhia and his people from Mahurangi and also by Purehurehu and the Ngai Tai people who occupied the North Shore area. They were also visited by the Te Taou rangatira of Kaipara and Orakei, many of whom were closely related, being descendants of Maki and Maeaeriki. Te Haruhi Bay had once again become a camping place for canoe parties travelling along the coastline.

In November 1839 part of the Ngati Kahu ancestral domain between Okura and the Weiti River was sold to a Sydney trader named Henry Taylor by Ngati Whatua, Ngati Paoa and Ngati Tamatera. Then on 13 April 1841, the whole coastline between Takapuna and Te Arai Point was sold to the Crown as part of the Mahurangi and Omaha Purchase. This sale, which included the Whangaparaoa Peninsula and what is now Shakespear Regional Park, was not concluded by Ngati Kahu who were still in occupation of the land, but by the Hauraki tribes Ngati Paoa, Ngati Maru, Ngati Tamatera and Ngati Whanaunga who claimed the coastline from their conquest in the late eighteenth century. The Ngati Kahu rangatira, Taipau, took part in a number of private sales in the mid-1840's in which the land between Otenerua (Hatfield's Beach) and the Okura River was sold to private European purchasers. However, no land was sold at Whangaparaoa. The Crown made no attempt to remove the Kawerau tribal groups from the land, and it was not until November 1853 that it moved to finalise the purchase. It was completed in January 1854 with payments being made to the northern Kawerau hapu, as well as to Ngati Whatua and Ngati Paoa. The Ngati Kahu people were now landless. Some of them moved to the Kawerau Reserve at Puhoi and settled with Te Hemara and his people, while others shifted to the reserve set aside by the Crown at Awataha on the North Shore. Most of the tribe settled with Taipau and Te Tahamate, the grandson of the Ngati Kahu rangatira, Te Whakapiko, at Wharepapa in the Southern Kaipara.

After the final settlement of the Mahurangi Purchase by the Crown in 1854, land on the Whangaparaoa Peninsula became available for purchase by European settlers. In April 1854, Findlay McMillan became the first European owner of land in what is now Shakespear Regional Park, when he purchased 81 acres (36 ha) between Army Bay and Okoromai Bay. In May 1854, a fellow Scot, Duncan Campbell, purchased a block of land at Hobbs Bay where he settled and he also gained a grazing licence for the land adjoining Te Haruhi Bay. McMillan, who owned a store in Hobson Street, Auckland, had purchased his land as an investment. He later used it as a grazing run, and in conjunction with Campbell also grazed pigs and sheep on Tiritiri Matangi Island. The first survey plan of the area (S.O. 892A) was made by the Crown in September 1859. It locates McMillan's block at Army Bay and Campbell's lease at Te Haruhi; however, both men had relinquished their Crown Grants in the area by this time and had sought their fortune elsewhere. In 1859 the Austrian Geologist Ferdinand von Hochstetter visited Whangaparaoa and examined the coastal cliffs on the eastern boundary of the park and noted that they showed 'a very instructive section'. (C.A. Fleming 1959, p46).

In the early 1860's, few settlers had taken up land on the peninsula because of the lack of access and the basic infertility of the land. As a result, the park area remained an unsurveyed Government Reserve. At times, the various Maori groups living on the North Shore occupied the land and Te Haruhi Bay was still a favourite landing place for groups travelling up and down the coast. On 27 April 1866, Ranulph Dacre (an Auckland merchant who had been trading in timber in the Mahurangi area since 1832) purchased land adjoining Hobbs Bay, and in January 1868 he bought the western edge of Okoromai Bay, including McMillan's allotments at Army Bay. In 1866-67 his son, Charles Craven Dacre, settled on the land and constructed a home (which is still standing) at Hobbs Bay. Between 1866 and the early 1870's he ran cattle and a large flock of sheep on this property and also on the Government Reserve which he leased. Initially Dacre found the venture to be profitable and sold his stock at the nearby Wade Stock Fair. However, after scab struck his sheep flock, the venture foundered and he moved to Auckland in 1871.

In the 1870's, the park area remained an unsurveyed Government Reserve with most of the land having reverted to thick fern and manuka scrub. Then, in late 1877, the 1363 acre (551 ha) block was surveyed into ten allotments by Mr T Anderson and the first Crown Grant was made. On 16 November 1877, a grant of 120 acres (48 ha) at the western end of Te Haruhi Bay was issued to a group of Auckland men. They included: George McKay (a shipwright); Charles Forder (a clerk); John Cooper (a bootmaker); and Richard Putman (a carpenter). In March 1878 the Survey Plan was complete and the remaining allotments were offered for sale. Most were purchased between 1878 and 1883 by absentee owners as speculative investments.

In June 1878, James Dacre, an Auckland auctioneer purchased the 120 acre (48 ha) block at Te Haruhi from George McKay and his partners. In July 1878 he purchased an adjoining block of 56 acres (22 ha) in conjunction with three other investors whose interests he purchased soon after. In December 1880, Paora Tuhaere, the Ngati Whatua Chief of Orakei, who was also of Ngati Kahu and Ngati Poataniwha descent, purchased 30 acres (12 ha) on the headland adjoining the old canoe landing area at the eastern end of Te Haruhi Bay. His reasons for making the purchase are not clear, although he may have secured the land for his and his people's use while undertaking coastal voyages to the North. In February 1883, Robert Frater, an Auckland sharebroker, purchased Allotment 250 of 128 acres (51 ha) which is now mostly Defence Department land while the high bluffs above the eastern edge of the block remained unsold.

The main land purchaser in the area was Sir Robert Hamilton, Baronet of Stratford on Avon, Warwickshire, England. Having purchased the old Dacre property and homestead, he then purchased 148 acres (59 ha) above Te Haruhi Bay and 751 acres (303 ha) adjoining Okoromai and Army Bays on 18 October 1882. In May 1883 he purchased James Dacre's land at Te Haruhi Bay so that he now owned the entire eastern end of the Whangaparaoa Peninsula except for the high country adjoining the northern and eastern coastline of the block. Sir Robert Hamilton remained living in England. However, his grandson Robert Henry Anson Shakespear and his wife Blanche moved to the old Dacre homestead and began the long Shakespear family association with the area in 1883. At this time, the only occupants of the Shakespear Regional Park area were a small group of people of Kawerau descent who lived in several whare beside the beach on the eastern edge of Okoromai Bay (then referred to as Maori Bay). Here, they lived a subsistence lifestyle until the 1890's when they moved to Awataha Village, Northcote.

In the mid 1880's the Shakespear family were one of only nine families living on the Whangaparaoa Peninsula. They were barely able to eke out a living on their extensive grazing property because of the difficulty of transporting farm produce to the Auckland market. Farming became increasingly difficult during the economic depression of the 1890's and R.H.A. Shakespear began to look for new opportunities. In January 1897, he and his family moved to the newly created wildlife sanctuary on Little Barrier Island where he was installed as the first resident caretaker on an annual salary of 140 pounds, far in excess of the income he was able to earn from farming.

The 2388 acre (966 ha) Whangaparaoa property then remained idle for over two years. From the death of Sir Robert Hamilton in May 1887 it had been administered by Thomas Buddle, an Auckland solicitor. On 12 October 1899, 1333 acres (539 ha) on what is now the Regional Park was transferred from the Hamilton Estate to Blanche Shakespear, then resident on Little Barrier Island. The land was immediately leased to Everard John Hobbs who was then resident at Stanmore Bay, having moved there with his parents in the late 1880's. E.J. Hobbs also leased the old Dacre property from the Hamilton Estate and settled in the homestead which subsequently became known as the Hobbs Homestead. Hobbs used what is now the Regional Park as an extensive grazing run for store cattle and a number of horses. By the early 1900's he had built up a large farming operation based on his home property at Hobbs Bay, the Shakespear

property, and Tiritiri Island which he leased from 1901. Then in 1906 he purchased the Hobbs Block from Sir Robert Hamilton's Estate.

Meanwhile, Robert and Blanche Shakespear and their children continued to live an isolated but happy existence on Little Barrier Island. During this time the entire peninsula east of Okoromai Bay finally came into Shakespear family hands when in May 1901, Blanche Shakespear purchased the 30 acre (12 ha) block at the eastern end of Te Haruhi Bay from Paora Tuhaere's widow, Harata. E.J. Hobbs continued to lease the Shakespear property until 1910 when Blanche Shakespear and her children returned to Whangaparaoa. R.H.A. Shakespear had resigned his caretaking position on Little Barrier in 1909 owing to ill health and had died soon after. The family returned to a large kauri homestead built by R.H.A. Shakespear's son Robert Hamilton Ross Shakespear. This home is now one of the focal points of the park and is used as a Y.M.C.A. Education Centre. Prior to this, a house had, however, been built on the property. The Shakespears had given the Wallace family permission to build a retirement home on the small knoll just north of the present old woolshed. This home was destroyed by fire c. 1920 although the house site is still marked by several pines, two fig trees and a number of old garden perennials.

Over the next decade R.H.R. Shakespear, his mother and his five sisters worked tirelessly to develop their property. Scrub was cleared and pasture sown so that stock carrying capacity was raised considerably. By 1921, the sheep flock had been built up to 711 and a small herd of dairy cows was being milked. In this period, R.H.R. Shakespear married and built a new home for himself and his wife at the eastern end of Okoromai Bay (now the Park Superintendent's house) while his mother and sisters remained in the old homestead overlooking Te Haruhi or Shakespear Bay.

With the onset of the economic depression in the late 1920's, farming had become extremely difficult. Wool prices had slumped dramatically and the family relied on the small dairy herd for its main income. For a time, milk from the herd was carted to Polkinghorne's Cheese Factory at Manly. However, cream was generally taken to Arkle's Bay wharf where it was collected by steamer and freighted to the N.Z. Co-Op Dairy Factory at Mt. Eden. In the 1930's, in order to supplement their income, the Shakespears began to grow melons and pumpkins on the sandy flats behind Te Haruhi Bay, developing the renowned Whangaparaoa Crown pumpkin in the process. Melons and pumpkins were freighted to the Auckland market for sale until the end of World War II when the trade became unprofitable.

Road access to the Shakespear property was still poor in this era and most stores and farm produce were transported by sea. Wool and other heavy articles were shipped from Okoromai Bay by punt to waiting scows or steamers, although lighter produce was transported in the family yacht 'Frances'. Okoromai Bay was generally sheltered from the prevailing westerlies. However, loading proved to be difficult when the wind was in the southerly quarter. Therefore, to enable all weather loading, Robert Shakespear purchased a number of old hulks which were sunk at the eastern end of Okoromai Bay to form a breakwater. They included: the Hikurangi, Glenelg, Kakapo and Wainui, with the remains of the latter vessel still being visible at low tide.

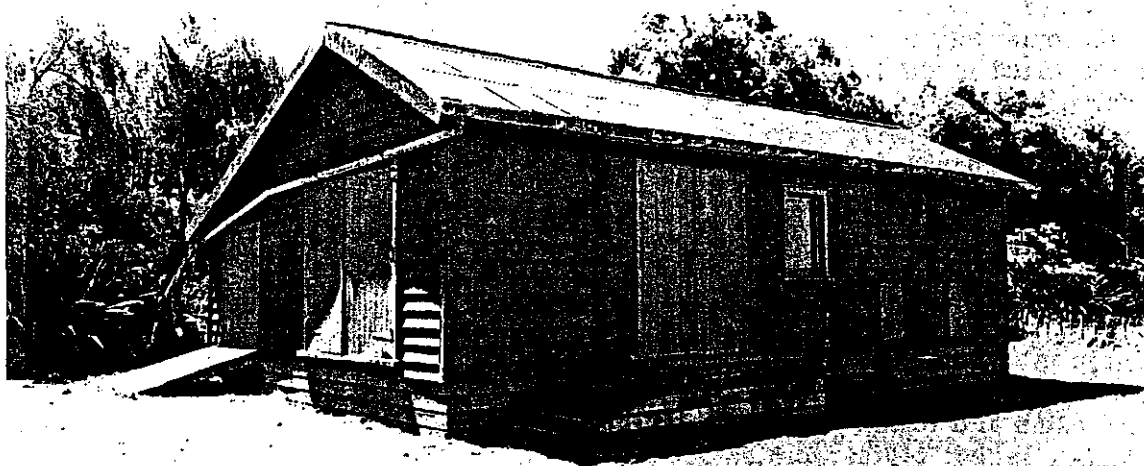
The outbreak of World War II in 1939 had a major impact on the Shakespear family. The N.Z. Army realised the strategic importance of the Whangaparaoa Peninsula in the protection of the port of Auckland and purchased 321 acres (130 ha) on the north western tip of the peninsula from the Shakespears. Here they developed a major military camp and installed a huge 130 ton gun capable of firing a 380lb shell over a twenty mile range. Stores were barged in to both Te Haruhi and Okoromai Bays by the military and an observation post and concrete gun emplacement were constructed on the Shakespear farm as part of the coastal defence network.

After World War II, the Army retained their property as a training base and firing range while the Shakespears continued to develop their farm as a mixed sheep and cattle grazing run. During the immediate post-war period when farming was still

difficult, the Shakespear family received an unexpected bonus from an event related to the origin of the name Whangaparaoa. In 1948 a pigmy sperm whale washed ashore and Mr. R. Shakespear obtained 300 Pounds for the ambergris on the English market. The 1950's saw further development on the Shakespear property with the introduction of aerial top-dressing, and as wool prices increased as a result of the Korean War. However, it was also the end of an era. Sadly, 1952 saw the death of Blanche Shakespear, ending a 69 year association with the property which was transferred to her son Robert who had spent most of his life developing it. The property was now farmed by his son Anson Shakespear, the third generation of the family to occupy the property.

In July 1967 the Auckland Regional Authority purchased 921 acres (373 ha) from W.R.A. Shakespear for the purpose of developing a Regional Park, although the Shakespear family retained both homesteads. Work on the property began immediately under Farm Manager Mr B. Harvey and Park Superintendent Mr M. Frost with the aim of developing a coastal farm park. In the early 1970's a major development programme began. It was centred on fencing, pasture development, tree planting, roading, and the construction of facilities at Okoromai Bay. In 1973 Okoromai Bay was opened to the public. Then in 1975, on the death of Mr R.H.R. Shakespear, both homesteads and the adjoining property passed to the A.R.A., finally ending the Shakespear family's 92 year association with the land. In 1976, a new access road was constructed to Te Haruhi Bay, the main farm buildings were relocated, and on 17 December 1977, Shakespear Regional Park was officially opened by the Prime Minister, R.D. Muldoon.

Development of the Park continued throughout the 1980's under Mr B. Harvey until 1986 and then Mr N. Perrott as Park Superintendent. The R.N.Z. Navy degaussing facility at Te Haruhi Bay was replaced by a new structure overlooking Pink Beach and visitor facilities were extended at Te Haruhi Bay. The farming operation in the Park was extended, stream catchments were retired from grazing and tree planting continued. In this period, the recreational function of the Park was extended and the Y.M.C.A. leased the Shakespear homestead as a residential lodge for its education camp. Today, the development phase is largely complete although the park is constantly evolving and is managed by a staff of four who cater for the needs of over 700,000 day visitors per year.



The Old Woolshed - proposed interpretation centre