

## A Changing Land: Sir Donald McLean's 'Maraekakaho' – 1857 to Today

There has never been a New Zealand book like *A Changing Land* before. The first two sections tell the story of the development of Hawke's Bay's 'Maraekakaho', one of the country's largest and most iconic sheep and cattle stations which was established by Sir Donald McLean and then consolidated by his son Douglas. Sir Donald played a prominent role in 19th century New Zealand as the government's chief land purchase commissioner and then as a cabinet minister. Sir Douglas, a major runholder by any standards, devoted much of his life to building an international reputation for 'Maraekakaho's' sheep, cattle and horse studs. Early in the 20th century, in response to the Liberal Government's determination to 'break up' the large estates, he began selling significant parts of the run. The equally fascinating final section of *A Changing Land* traces how much of 'Maraekakaho' has evolved into a varied patchwork of farms, including vineyards, smallholdings, stock and cropping farms, and olive groves.

'Maraekakaho' – then and now – has touched the lives of many hundreds of Hawke's Bay families; and the story of the McLeans' development of the great run will be of interest to all those fascinated by the country's social and farming history.

Author Alan Scarfe had a career as a builder, including work on 'Maraekakaho' land. In retirement he has completed a masters degree in history, researching and writing about Sir Donald McLean and his great pastoral run and he has also studied Maori language. This book is the result of exhaustive research over a number of years.

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**A Changing Land: Sir Donald McLean's 'Maraekakaho'** by Alan Scarfe  
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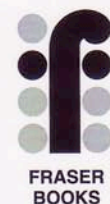
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The background of the cover is a historical painting. It depicts a large, weathered wooden building with a gabled roof. A prominent feature is a large wooden water wheel mounted on the front-facing gable. The building has several windows and a door, some appearing aged and slightly dilapidated. In the foreground, there is a dirt path or road. To the right, there are some trees and a small wooden structure, possibly a well or a shed. The overall scene is set in a rural, hilly landscape under a pale sky.

# **A CHANGING LAND**

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— 1857 TO TODAY**

**Alan Scarfe**