



Left: The new sign panel.  
Above: The school in the 1910s and 1920s.  
Below: Sailors from HMS Veronica search for pupils in the ruins.



## PRINCESS SARAH'S GRAVE

On February 3rd 1931, with a record roll of 350, the college was expecting to move into new premises under construction in Jull Street, now the site of Napier Intermediate School. When the earthquake struck, classes had just resumed after recess. The first shake saw the brick outer walls crumble into Munroe Street, and the second collapsed the upper storey on to the ground floor classrooms. Despite heroic rescues on the part of the senior boys, at the cost of more lives, nine students were killed. It took two hours to free the last of the survivors.

With their old school destroyed, a handful of students took their lessons from the principal, Mr R McLaren, under a marquee in Nelson Park. Against much local opposition and the dogged lobbying of the Board of Governors, the Department of Education decided to disestablish the college in favour of amalgamation with the two high schools. With a great deal of reluctance, about 80 boys and their masters joined their old rivals in Napier South while about 60 girls and three teachers seem to have made a smooth transition to the Napier Hill. Today the name of the College still exists in the Napier Technical Old Boys Sports Club and the Napier technical Memorial Band.

**PUPILS WHO DIED IN THE COLLAPSE OF THE TECHNICAL COLLEGE ON 3 FEBRUARY, 1931:**  
Frederick James Grant; Clifford Colvin Heath; Geoffrey Cole Knott; Rose Eileen Leverett; Irvine McMillan; Bertram Ogilvie; Lloyd Rhodes; Raymond Claude Robertson; Irvine Thomas Stead.

The erection of the panel was suggested by Philip Rankin, archivist for the Napier Boys' High School, and has been funded by Historic Hawke's Bay, the Napier Boys' High School Association, Philip Rankin, Stewart Nash and the Napier City Council.

With the support of the Hastings District Council, historic information panels are planned for sites in the Hastings District.

**An unveiling of the panel by Napier Mayor Bill Dalton will take place on Thursday 29 May at 2pm. Members of Historic Hawke's Bay, surviving pupils of the college and the general public are invited to attend.**

The grave of Princess Sarah (Ruta Kau) has been a sorry sight for a long time but it has recently been undergoing a restoration project carried out by Heritage New Zealand. At the time of writing, the gravestone has not yet been completed and installed. An unveiling will take place later in the year.

The information below has been supplied by Patrick Parsons.

### HERA TE UPOKOIRI (PRINCESS SARAH)

In the mid-1820s inter-tribal war in Hawke's Bay escalated to the degree where the Maori population vacated the province, some following Pareihe to exile at Mahia while others followed Te Wanikau, principal chief of the Ngai Te Upokoiri sub-tribe, to the Manawatu. Ngai Te Upokoiri were a warlike people, living mainly between Maraekakaho and the Ruahine ranges with pa sites at Mangatahi, Whanawhana, Kereru and Wakarara.

While in exile at Tiritea on the Manawatu River near Massey University, Te Wanikau's people heard of the killing of some of their relatives by Ngati Apa of the lower Rangitikei River. As they were preparing to avenge these deaths, Te Wanikau met with Te Hakeke, principal chief of Ngati Apa, and instead of doing battle concluded a peace agreement. In Accordance with Maori custom, Te Wanikau offered his niece Ruta Kau in marriage to Kawana Hunia, son of Te Hakeke.

Ruta accompanied her husband to his pa at Parewanui, just south of Bulls. They had five children, the youngest of which was Hera Te Upokoiri, born about 1845. By leaving her tribal lands, Ruta put her succession at risk but by Maori custom it was acceptable for one of her children to return to occupy their mother's inheritance. It was decided that Hera Te Upokoiri would return to her mother's lands at Ngatarawa and Ohiti. She joined the last heke of her people who returned to Omaha in 1862.

With a mother who was niece to a principal chief and a father who became principal chief of Ngati Apa, Hera Te Upokoiri was a woman of high rank, hence the European nickname 'Princess Sarah'. She had no children by her husband Inia Ngatau so she adopted her niece Ngawai. When the Ngatarawa blocks passed through the Maori Land Court in 1866, Hera's name was included in the Crown Grant for Ngatarawa 3, much of which is in Washpool station today.

Similarly, when the Ohiti Block was Crown-granted in 1897, Hera gave evidence in support of her claim which revealed a sound grasp of her tribal history. She was awarded a consider-



Princess Sarah, and her grave, photographed in 2002 and last month.

able acreage in her own right but although she kept a whare there, she chose to make her permanent home at Ngatarawa. She was well-respected and was painted by Lindauer in 1884. She served as principal mourner at the funeral of Airini Donnelly in 1909 and died at Ngatarawa on 20 September 1913. She was buried in a large vault on her own property not far from her house.

## HERITAGE UPDATES

### WAIROA NEWS

Visitors to Wairoa might like to take in a visit to the museum situated on the Marine Parade and open Monday to Friday, 10 am to 4 pm, and 10 am to 12 noon on Saturdays. The museum staff are currently sorting through the huge Hamilton photograph collection in preparation for a new exhibition opening in June or July.

Does anyone have family connections in the Wairoa district? Wairoa Museum has scrapbooks of family notices printed in the Wairoa Star from 1877 to 2005, taken from microfilm. These are searchable by the Museum receptionist who can forward copies on request, for a small fee. You can contact the museum at [info@wairoamuseum.org.nz](mailto:info@wairoamuseum.org.nz) or visit the website, [www.wairoamuseum.org.nz](http://www.wairoamuseum.org.nz), or by phone, 06 8383106

The Wairoa River is the focal point of the district and we are



very proud of our 5km walkway to the river mouth, always a place of interest because of the ever-moving shingle coastline and its history; road access to Wairoa did not open till the 1920s, so all supplies came up the river and all the produce went out the same way. Wairoa Museum Friends are working on heritage signage for the CBD initially, then along the walkway to give locals and visitors a little historical information about Wairoa. A brochure is available at the Museum and i-Site which includes information about the plaques already in place.

Also available from Wairoa i-Site are a brochure covering an historic buildings walk which has photos and information for 12 buildings within a couple of blocks of Wairoa CBD, and "road trips - points of interest" covering Wairoa to Waikaremoana, Wairoa to Napier, Wairoa to Gisborne. There is also a Mahia area historic walk

News supplied by Gail Menzies

### HASTINGS DISTRICT NEWS

Hastings District Council is awaiting the outcome of the peer review of the Opera House and Municipal Buildings which is due mid-May. At present both buildings are closed. The first stage of seismic strengthening of the Harveys Building, occupied by the Hastings Community Art Centre, commences on 12 May. This will be a four week project and the building will be closed to the public during that time.

Cinema Hastings is due to reopen soon after seismic strengthening and a significant interior refurbishment.

The Albert Hotel has had a resource consent for demolition approved, and this is likely to happen when the required archaeological work has been completed.

LEFT: Map of the Wairoa Walkway .  
BELOW: The Albert Hotel, Hastings.





NAPIER NEWS

The strengthening of the former Post Office is progressing well with completion expected at the end of May. The ground floor has been lowered to two different levels, and those ground floor windows which hadn't already been lowered have been brought down to the floor, to suit retail use. New Zealand Post will be returning to its old home from its temporary premises at the Balmoral shopping centre. Several shops have been created which face on to the adjacent carpark.

The building occupied by the Farmers until last year, (originally Blythes Department Store), has now been strengthened and divided up into smaller shops. The Hastings Street wing of the building was designed for an additional storey to be added and the roof was made of concrete, in order to provide the floor. Strengthening that was deemed to be too complex and so the concrete has been demolished and a light-weight roof has been built. The first floor has been sealed off, allowing it to be redeveloped in future if strengthening techniques evolve that can make it viable.

The former Robert Holt Building on the corner of Hastings and Tennyson streets has also been strengthened.

CENTRAL HAWKE'S BAY NEWS

The Coles factory is a Category One HPT registered building - one of the only remaining examples of a small rural joinery business in New Zealand. Its founder, EP Coles came to NZ in 1878, settled in Onga Onga and established his building and contracting business, later taken over by some of his 12 sons. The firm covered all aspects of house building - surveying, plans, construction, joinery, bricklaying, glazing and decorative work. They were also the local undertakers.

Bought by the Fraters in 1985, the Factory has been sold for \$1 to the Historical Society, which maintains a complex of heritage buildings in Onga Onga village.



Onga Onga Historical Society President Pauline Mackie with the former Coles Factory owners Greg, Anne and Dylan Frater.

AN INVITATION TO JOIN US

HPHB is your regional heritage preservation organisation. It is working to protect Hawke's Bay's important heritage, to provide information and to organise bus tours to historic places,

- Our objectives are to –
- Promote the identification, protection, preservation, conservation and advocacy of historic and cultural heritage in the society's area generally for the benefit of present and future communities and generations.
  - Promote the education of the public in its appreciation of heritage values.
  - Work in conjunction with Historic Places Aotearoa Incorporated (HPA), other regional societies, local and central government agencies to create better understanding and importance of heritage in the Society's area.
  - Actively promote participation in heritage events, historic tours and educational seminars.
  - Do any act or thing incidental to the attainment of the above objects.

The society's area of concern includes the Wairoa District Council, Napier City Council, Hastings District Council and Central Hawke's Bay District Council.

Subscriptions are:

Single	\$30
Family (includes two children)	\$45
Corporate	\$100
Lifetime	\$300

To join, phone 870 0513 to request an application form or go to <http://historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz/join-hpa-2/>.

NAME CHANGE

The new name of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust is now officially in use. It is **Heritage New Zealand**.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Historic Places Hawke's Bay, Postal address - 2 Arthur Close, Clive 4102

[www.historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz/category/regions/hawkes-bay/](http://www.historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz/category/regions/hawkes-bay/)

HOME PHONE			HOME PHONE		
Denis Pilkington (Chair)	Napier	835 6525	Jenny McIvor	Napier	835 6003
Robert McGregor (Deputy Chair)	Napier	835 7434	Rose Mohi	Havelock Nth	877 9474
Philip Irwin (Secretary)	Clive	870 0513	Cr Rod Heaps		
Maxine Anderson	Taradale	844 4875	(Hastings District Council)	Te Awanga	875 0455
Mike King	Napier	842 0221	Cr Annette Brosnan		
Susan Lopdell	Taradale	844 6697	(Napier City Council)	Napier	027 337 9303

H B HERITAGE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF HISTORIC PLACES HAWKE'S BAY (Inc)

MAY 2014

COMING EVENTS

FABRIC & RYTHYM

1920s NEW ZEALAND ARCHITECTURE ON FILM  
NEW ZEALAND FILM ARCHIVE SCREENING

Historic Places Hawke's Bay and MTG Hawke's Bay present this special one-off screening in conjunction with the New Zealand Film Archive. The films showcase the construction of civic buildings and monuments, domestic architecture and the architecture of industry, taking the viewer on a lively journey through 1920s New Zealand, from footage of the temple at Rātana, to evidence of the devastation of the Murchison earthquake, to street-scenes from Lambton Quay to Napier's lively waterfront. The 1920s was a period conventionally typecast as conservative during which architects were frustrated with the public's seeming lack of appreciation of the importance of architecture. Timber shortages, the rise of town-planning and the pervasiveness of the automobile all impacted on the new shape of the built environment.

Curated by Christine McCarthy, VUW Architecture School, from the collection of The New Zealand Film Archive Ngā Kaitiaki O Ngā Taonga Whitiāhua.

MTG Century Theatre, 9 Herschell Street, Napier  
Thursday 22 May 2014 at 6pm.

Suggested donation: MTG Friends and Historic Places Hawke's Bay Members \$5, General Public \$10.

No pre-booking, pay on the night.  
Join us for a drink and nibbles from 5.30pm.



Dr Moore's private hospital Upoko Poito, Marine Parade, Napier, 1920. Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawhoro Ta-u-rangi, 4623f.

SPONSORS

NAPIER TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
UNVEILING OF INFORMATION PANEL

Thursday 29 May at 2pm. See page 2 for more information.

AN AFTERNOON AT KEIRUNGA

Keirunga Gardens, 6 Pufflett Road, Havelock North,  
Sunday 6 July from 2pm to 4pm.  
Admission: Members \$10, Non-members \$15.  
Afternoon tea will be served.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
ADVANCE NOTICE

Our AGM will be held on Sunday 7 September at St Matthews Church Hall, Hastings. Please make a note in your diary now. More details will be provided nearer to the date.

HISTORIC MARKERS

One of the Committee's current projects is to compile a list with photographs of all of the historic markers in Hawke's Bay. This will include heritage-related information panels, monuments, plaques, foundation stones of significant buildings etc.

Many of these have been recorded already but there will be many, no doubt, that we're not aware of. If you know of any that we might have missed, please contact Susan Lopdell on 844 6697.

A new information panel has been erected by Historic Places HB on the site of the Napier Technical College which was destroyed in the 1931 earthquake. The site, on the corner of Munroe and Station Streets is now largely occupied by Countdown Supermarket and by a small building housing the office of Rawcliffe & Co.

The wording on the panel is as follows:

NAPIER TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
1909 - 1931

The Napier Technical College opened on this site in 1909, replacing the Technical Institute in providing trade skills in the Evening School as well as a general secondary education in the Day School to the boys and girls of Napier. It was in competition with the more academic Napier Boys' and Girls' High Schools.