



HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND  
POUHERE TAONGA

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **A cunning plan – not!**

Of all the cunning plans devised by the Royal Navy over the centuries, few have been less cunning than a plot to take two Maori from the north of New Zealand, bring them back to Norfolk Island and use them to teach convicts how to work flax.

Yet those were the instructions from on high that Lt Hanson was ordered to put into effect in April 1793.

“Hanson dropped anchor off Panaki Island – one of the Cavalli Islands near Matauri Bay – and enticed two young men aboard his ship *HMS Daedalus* with promises of gifts of iron. Taken below decks – and distracted by the baubles set before them – the two failed to notice that the ship had set sail,” says Heritage New Zealand’s Northland Manager, Bill Edwards.

“Eventually the two young men discovered that they were bound for Norfolk Island.”

The men were Tuki Taihua and Te Huru Kokoti – young rangatira; and their sense of bewilderment probably only increased when they found out what was expected of them.

“The grand plan hadn’t really been thought through properly, as Hanson was to discover when they reached Norfolk Island,” says Bill.

“It was then that it became apparent that Tuki and Huru knew next to nothing about working flax – a job that was the preserve of women and slaves; not leaders like themselves. The silence that followed this revelation must have been particularly awkward.”

Embarrassed to the core by the kidnapping – and a particularly ham-fisted, inept kidnapping at that – Norfolk Island’s Governor, Philip King, sought to reassure the two young rangatira in his charge by promising to return them safely home – which he eventually did later that year.

“Before that, though, King spent many hours with Tuki and Huru learning about their homeland,” says Bill.

“The result of this bizarre set of circumstances was a map, drawn by Tuki, depicting his known world. This map has been described as New Zealand’s first literary document.”

A reproduction of Tuki’s map can be found in an exciting new app for Android and Apple smartphones and tablets entitled *Path to Nationhood*. Produced by Heritage New Zealand,

the suite of six Northland app-based tours are available free to download, and tell fascinating stories from this extraordinary time.

Written and researched by former Heritage New Zealand staff member Stuart Park, with Professor Manuka Henare and his team at the University of Auckland School of Business providing a Maori cultural and historical perspective, the tours incorporate audio using actors like Tui Ruwhiu and Michael Hurst. Sound effects also help bring the stories to life.

“Once downloaded the tours can be enjoyed anywhere – irrespective of whether there is wi-fi or a cellular connection – making it the perfect virtual tour guide,” says Bill.

“The *Path to Nationhood* tours take people to the places where these interactions occurred and introduce them to some of the characters that made this period of our history so dynamic and extraordinary.”

The tours tell a range of stories in an engaging and accessible way according to Bill.

“Many of the stories centre around some of our fantastic Heritage Destinations in Northland so people can actually visit places where many of these people lived, and events took place,” he says.

“It’s fair to say that the app tours give people an opportunity to see history through new eyes.”

For a free download of the *Path to Nationhood* suite of Northland tours visit [heritage.org.nz/apps](https://heritage.org.nz/apps) or search for Heritage Trails through your online app store.