



HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND
POUHERE TAONGA

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MEDIA RELEASE

Meet the Missionary who brought a taste of honey to New Zealand

Wesleyan missionary in the Hokianga, Mary Anna Bumby, was a real brick.

Faced with the news – at short notice – that Lieutenant-Governor William Hobson and his entourage of six officials would be heading over to Mangungu Mission at Horeke to discuss the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi with Hokianga rangatira, Mary Anna took it all in her stride.

“Unmarried at the time, Mary faced this task on her own as her missionary brother, John, was away in Australia – and with no man of the house around, she was basically it,” says Heritage New Zealand’s Northland Manager, Bill Edwards.

“Fortunately, Mary Anna seems to have been one of those competent people with the capacity to roll with whatever punches life dished out, and just get on with things. Unsurprisingly, she did a great job hosting the official party, with guests remembering her good temper, her winning ways, and how her abundant hospitality put everybody at ease.”

They also enjoyed something a little bit beyond the normal menu for people living in New Zealand at the time.

As well as being the perfect hostess, Mary Anna also happened to be New Zealand’s first beekeeper – and Hobson and his official party may well have enjoyed some of her newly made New Zealand-produced honey.

“Mary Anna had managed to establish a hive of bees at Mangungu in 1839 shortly after her arrival in the Hokianga with her brother,” says Bill.

“Honey produced in New Zealand – something we take for granted now – was unknown before Mary Anna had arrived with her bees. Her initiative and skills as an apiarist have given her a unique place in New Zealand history.”

Fascinating stories from this extraordinary time are told 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 are a must-have for visitors to Northland, as well as locals.

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 – like Mangungu Mission – 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** or search for Heritage Trails through your online app store.