



HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND
POUHERE TAONGA

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MEDIA RELEASE

Pit your wits against the (Northland history) machine...

Fancy yourself as a bit of an expert when it comes to Northland history? Why not pit your wits against Heritage New Zealand's new Path to Nationhood app and see how you go with these 10 questions.

Q: Who was New Zealand's first commercial dairy farmer? (the answer may surprise you....)

A: New Zealand's first commercial dairy farmer was a man called Taiwhanga (later baptised Rawiri Taiwhanga). Seeing a gap in the market the former warrior, who had fought with Hongi Hika, used his knowledge of agriculture gleaned from the Church Missionary Society missionaries, and converted his land near Kaikohe into dairy gold. Over the years Taiwhanga built up his herd of cows – along with his sales of butter – supplying weekly shipments to Paihia and Kororareka. These were the first regular, recorded sales of dairy produce in New Zealand, making Rawiri Taiwhanga our first commercial dairy farmer.

Q: What famous English scientist ended up spending Christmas 1835 at Te Waimate Mission?

A: Charles Darwin. Darwin took time out from his voyage on the *Beagle* to record his general dissatisfaction with New Zealand and the Bay of Islands in his journal – until, that is, he came across Te Waimate Mission which he described in glowing terms: “The sudden appearance of an English farm-house and its well dressed fields, placed there as if by an enchanter's wand, was exceedingly pleasant.”

Q: On May 3, 1820 Rev John Butler recorded an event that took place at Kerikeri which he believed would go down in history. What happened on that day?

A: May 3 was the day the agricultural plough was first used in New Zealand. Butler later recorded in his journal: “I trust that this day will be remembered with gratitude, and its anniversary kept by ages yet unborn”. Nope.

Q: What remarkable architectural feature was attached to the Stone Store when it was first completed in 1836?

A: A timber bell tower featured on its roof. In his journal *Voyage of His Majesty's Ships Adventure and Beagle* the future Governor of New Zealand, Robert FitzRoy, noted “a church-like building of stone with a clock on the tower...”. Enquiring of missionary Charles Baker how long that “respectable looking church” had been built, he was disappointed to learn

that the 'church' was in fact the Stone Store. His sense of disappointment seems to have been further compounded when the actual chapel was pointed out to him. This, he wrote, "looked much more like a small school-house." You'll find a pen and ink illustration of the original Stone Store – complete with its snazzy tower – on the *Path to Nationhood* app.

Q: Which 'finger-lickin' good' bird was responsible for giving Kororareka (now known as Russell) its original name?

A: The Little Blue Penguin. Local history records a Maori leader from the area who lay dying, and received as his last wish some cooked penguin. His last words are recorded as: "How sweet [reka] is the flesh of the little blue penguin [Korora]". Today, Little Blue Penguins are a protected species – so hands off.

Q: Kitset homes are a common feature in New Zealand housing. Name what is probably New Zealand's most famous surviving kitset house.

A: The Treaty House at Waitangi. Built from Australian hardwood, and originally known as 'the Residency', British Resident James Busby brought the pre-cut Treaty House in numbered segments over with him from Sydney.

Q: Where was New Zealand's first road for wheeled traffic built?

A: You'll find this just out of town north of Kaeo. Interestingly – given the large number of logging trucks operating in the area today – the original road was also built for logging. In this case it was used to help haul out 22-25m-long kauri spars to *HMS Dromedary*, anchored in the Whangaroa Harbour. With help from Maori labourers, logs were winched to the top of a nearby hill, lowered to the flats below, loaded onto wagons dragged by bullocks to the water and then towed behind boats out into the harbour. The *Path to Nationhood* app takes you to a vantage point where you can see where the road went.

Q: Which New Zealand-built ship was behind our first Trans-Tasman 'underarm bowling' trade incident?

A: The *Sir George Murray*. Built in the Hokianga, the *Sir George Murray* was arrested in Sydney in 1830 for not flying the flag of its country of origin – a clear violation of international law. New Zealand at the time did not have a national flag. The *Sir George Murray* was seized and later sold by the Australian authorities.

Q: Which roving English freelance artist bemoaned the lack of hospitality from missionaries at the Hohi Mission Station when he showed up uninvited and unannounced for Christmas in 1827?

A: Augustus Earle – who takes up the story: "...they gave us no welcome, but, as our boats approached the shore, they walked away to their own dwellings, closed their gates and doors after them, and gazed at us through their windows; and during three days that we passed in a hut quite near them, they never exchanged one word with any of the party."

Q: Which notable early ship-owner and trader was nicknamed 'the Tuatara' by Maori in the Hokianga?

A: James Reddy Clendon. Clendon arrived in the Hokianga in 1829, though found it hard to get a cargo to fill his ship. Desperate to fill his boat with a payload, he sailed from inlet to inlet looking for timber to load. Maori, watching him with interest, likened him to a lizard seeking food in holes and crannies, and nicknamed him the Tuatara.

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