



HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND
POUHERE TAONGA

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MEDIA RELEASE

Rangatira's strict rules a feature of Paihia mission

Establishing a mission in Paihia in the heart of the Bay of Islands was quite possibly an answer to prayer for Rev Samuel Marsden and missionary Henry Williams.

It's also fair to say that there was a bit of help from Bay of Islands rangatira, Te Koki, a brother in law of Hongi Hika, and a convert – if not to Christianity – then certainly to the understanding that having your own missionaries close to hand had certain economic benefits.

“Te Koki asked Henry Williams and Samuel Marsden to establish a mission at Paihia, and had his men build a four-roomed mission house made from raupo in the Maori style which became affectionately known among the missionaries as ‘the Beehive’,” says the Northland Manager of Heritage New Zealand, Bill Edwards.

“They also built a church – one of the first in New Zealand.”

A formidable rangatira in his own right, Te Koki was careful to observe tapu restrictions, and expected the missionaries to do the same. His authority even extended to objects and servants within missionaries' homes.

No-one, for example, was allowed to drink from a cup he had used, lest he become ill and have to kill the offender to restore his mana [authority] and health.

Despite the somewhat fearsome reputation of their rangatira patron, it was a case of third time lucky for the Church Missionary Society. The first two missions – the original mission at Hoho and the second at Kerikeri – were characterised by inter-missionary squabbling and a remarkably underwhelming number of conversions to Christianity.

In former naval officer Henry Williams, however, Marsden had found a man well capable of leading the mission work in Paihia and the wider Bay of Islands.

“At Paihia Henry Williams and his wife Marianne led their English missionaries and Maori supporters and teachers for 30 years,” says Bill.

“On the Williams' watch the mission produced religious literature in Te Reo for those many Maori eager to read and write, and built a small village. In addition, they also oversaw the construction of the *Herald* – the second European ship built in New Zealand – which enabled the missionaries to take their religion wider.”

These and other stories 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.

Feedback from people who have already enjoyed some of the app tours has been overwhelmingly positive according to Bill.

“The tours make this incredible period of our history come alive, and tell these stories in an engaging and accessible way. 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.

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

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.