



Information Brochure

Preparing For The Sesquicentennial (150th) Anniversary Commemoration
Of The Battle Of O-Rākau (March 31st - April 2nd 1864)

HOSTED BY THE BATTLE OF O-RĀKAU HERITAGE SOCIETY INC
O-Rākau Battlefield, Arapuni Road, Kihikihi
Tuesday 1st & Wednesday 2nd April 2014

Kupu Whakataki Introduction



He reo pōwhiri e karanga ana i te takiwā
Nau mai, piki mai, haere mai.

Haere mai. e ngā iwi e ngā reo e ngā waka.

Whakatata mai ki te papa i mura ai i te ahi, i pakū ai ngā pū, i hinga ai ngā tupuna.

E whakatau ana i a koutou ki runga i te papa o te Parekura o O-Rākau.

Nau mai haere mai.

April 1st 2014 is the day we have set aside to come together to remember, to honour and to give substance to the legacy left behind by those who fought and fell at O-Rākau from March 31st to April 2nd 1864. That battle which saw so much carnage and death, which became a turning point in the history of the Waikato and Auckland provinces and indeed the entire Nation.

After 150 years, it is now time for us to take a breath, and to meditate on how far we have come and how much further there is yet to go before we can with honesty say, we are honouring the sacred legacy left in trust to this country by so many whose lives were sacrificed upon the alter of our nationhood. Those who fell at O-Rākau, Rangiaowhia, Hairini, Waiari, Rangiriri in the Waikato war, lest we forget also the War in the North, the East Cape, Waitara, Whanganui, South and Central Taranaki, Hutt valley and Wairau in the South Island. Combined the casualties of these colonial conflicts exceed three thousand people. People whose sacrifices are almost forgotten to our collective memory.

I invite you to join with us as we take time out to remember our heroes and patriots of O-Rākau and of all the wars which tore our fledgling country apart during the early settler period 1864 to 1881

Present and future generations will continue to benefit from the sacrifices made on the many and bloodied battle fields across this land, however that legacy should be balanced with a compassionate obligation to remember those who lost their lives building the foundations of our society. When we forget where we have come from, we dismiss the sacrifices others have made in our name as meaningless. In remembering the past and those who fought for the privileges we all enjoy, we give appreciation and honour where it is due. We are today a Nation of many distinct cultures because of the sacrifices over three thousand souls have made. Their legacy deserves to be acknowledged in a compassionate and dignified way. I look forward to seeing you on this important and historic day in the history of our Nation.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kaawhia Te Muraahi'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Kaawhia Te Muraahi
PRESIDENT

THE BATTLE OF O-RAKAU HERITAGE SOCIETY INC

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. Dates:

The Sesquicentennial Commemoration is over 1.5 days. Tuesday 1st April (full day) and Wednesday 2nd April (half day). It is a joint commemoration in that the days are set aside to remember the legendary battle of O-Rākau and the end of the Waikato war, as well as the other wars of the colonial settlement era from Wairau (1843) to Parihaka (1881) and all battles in between. This is an event of national historical significance. Having the Governor General His Excellency Lt General Sir Jerry Mateparae, Te Arikinui Tuheitia Paki, the Prime Minister the Rt Hon. John Key, Te Ariki Sir Tumu Te Heuheu, the Hon Chris Finlayson Minister of Culture and Heritage and foreign dignitaries as well as Iwi and community leaders from across the country attend the day, adds to its importance as a national heritage event.

2. Preparation:

It is important if you are attending that you put some thought into preparing yourself. Dress, transport, accommodation (if staying over) critical timings, child care, medication and etc. Please prepare adequately and give yourself time, this will help you have a positive experience and mitigate any problems for you.

3. Safety:

All guests - manuwhiri are asked to check the weather forecast at least two days before and ensure you are prepared for either cold wet or fine warm weather. If you are on medication please ensure you are prepared and able to manage yourself, make sure those travelling with you are aware of your condition. Managing your health is your personal responsibility and sometimes people overlook this. Good health management is important to ensure you have an enjoyable event. An Ambulance service will be on site in the event of any emergencies. We will have in place around the area a number of drink, fruit and sweets stations for those who are diabetic or need to access these through-out the day. Ladies, appropriate footwear is required. High heels will not be suitable as the site is farmland and not flat. So low comfortable shoes will be more appropriate. Men, dress shoes will be fine, there is no need to wear gumboots unless the weather is going to be wet. Personal drink bottles are acceptable and encouraged.

4. Registrations:

There is no charge to attend the commemoration and it is an open event, anyone may attend. For those who wish to reserve a seat(s) there is a formal process. All groups and individuals are expected to register if they want a reserved seat. Registration is the only way we can be sure of the numbers to cater for. There is an administrative transaction fee of \$15 which is to be paid upon registration. This fee pays for a reserved seat, full coloured 150th souvenir program and commemoration site access card. To register go to our website orakau300.co.nz or contact our Event Manager.

Those who register will be guaranteed a seat. Students are exempt from a registration fee. However Schools and Kura Kaupapa will need to contact our Event Manager if they intend attending, as space is restricted and there is a need to ensure students are old enough to appreciate the event for what it is. It is important that Schools contact Thia Priestly directly, for further details and to check availability of space.

Those who do not register are welcome on the day. However there is no obligation upon the organisers to provide anything other than a wonderful experience. We will do our best to cater however we cannot be held responsible for people missing out on seats, programs, breakfast or lunch because they did not advise us of their attendance. Those who register will need to organise the uplift of their seating allocation, souvenir program, access card and lanyard. All enquiries for registrations to our Event Manager Thia Priestly - Phone 07 878 7333 Bus or 07 878 6825 A/H.

5. Site Access and arrival - departure timings:

The main day is Tuesday 1st April. It is a **full day** of commemoration activities and proceedings. The Arapuni Road which is the main access route from SH 1 will be closed from 04:00hrs to 19:00hrs. Only emergency vehicles, official commemoration vehicles and residents will have access.

If driving you will be required to park your vehicle at one of two designated parking areas; the Kihikihi domain (if travelling from Auckland, Hamilton, Te Kuiti and all points south, north and west of Kihikihi) or Parawera Marae (if travelling from Tokoroa, Rotorua, Whakatane and all points east of Kihikihi). These two car parks will be manned and secured by Māori Wardens through-out the day.

Coaches will shuttle you from one of the two parking areas to the Battle site proper. Coaches will commence running at 05:00hrs Tuesday morning to 06:50am and will depart the two car parks about every 8-10mins. Each coach will have a dedicated guide who will provide a briefing to passenger's en-route to the battle site.



On arrival in the morning, you will disembark from your shuttle coach and make your way to a designated "waiting area" where refreshments will be served until the first official pōwhiri. The last of the morning shuttle Coaches will arrive on site around 06:50hrs this will conclude the first run for the day. Tainui Waka (Waikato, Maniapoto, Raukawa, Hauraki) will issue a Pōwhiri to Ngā Iwi O Te Motu at 7.30am. Speechmaking will be followed by breakfast at 09:30hrs.

The shuttle service will commence again at **09:30hrs** bringing members of local and regional councils, corporate entities, schools (intermediate, secondary and kura) NZDF and the general public out to the site for the second pōwhiri at **011:00hrs**. Shuttle service will stop at **010.40hrs** ending the second shuttle run. School students and general public can choose to take part in either the first or second pōwhiri. Just be aware of the length of the day.

A standby van will be on site if people need to return to their private vehicles for emergency reasons, otherwise you will need to wait until the afternoon shuttle service returns you to your respective car park and vehicle. The final shuttle run for the day will commence returning visitors to their cars at 15:30hrs and conclude at 17:00hrs.

The second or closing day is Tuesday 2nd April. It is a **half day** of commemoration activities. The Arapuni Road will be not be closed but will have speed limits and a single lane imposed for safety reasons. No private cars will be allowed to park art or near the site. Two shuttle buses will be available to do a morning and afternoon run.

6. Kawa and Tikanga (customary laws, usages and protocol)

The battle site is not a Marae and as such the strict protocols which govern Marae do not apply. The land is privately owned and has been for 150 years. Kawa and tikanga can be practiced on the site by approval of the land owners Chris and Sue Kay who have been totally supportive of these commemorations. This being the reality, there is some scope for flexibility in terms of protocols and how we organise the day. Our intention to create a day which is a balance or blend of both Pākeha and Māori protocols creating a safe space for everyone. The only strict part of the day is during the pōwhiri which will adhere to the Tainui kawa.

7. Tangata Whenua Host Paepae Speakers:

The commemorations paepae at O-Rākau have a history of being a shared paepae between Raukawa and Maniapoto host speakers. There are two pōwhiri on the day. The first is where Tainui Waka and the host organisation (The Battle of O-Rākau Heritage Society Inc) will welcome Iwi and hapuu from across the country.



The host speakers for this pōwhiri are pre-determined well in advance of the day and unfortunately there is no room for opportunist or impromptu speakers. For the second pōwhiri to the Crown, international dignitaries and general public at 011:00hrs, the host speaking rights will be offered first to visiting tribes as a matter of respect.

8. Kapa Haka – Pā Haka:

It is acknowledged that many haka were performed during the three day siege of O-Rākau and in the years following, there will probably be a lot of interest in taking part in haka pōwhiri and ngeri etc on this special day. The actual commemoration site is confined and quite small. Anyone or any group wanting to take part in these activities on the day please contact Paraone Gloyne who is responsible for Pōwhiri. The ground and space will determine what can be done on the day.

9. Pūtatarā – Pūkaea:

For those who have putatarā and pūkaea you are most welcome to bring these along and sound them during the pōwhiri and parekawakawa – wreaths laying portion of the day.

10. Tūpuna Photographs:

Attendees are encouraged to bring along copies or prints of tupuna who fought or fell at O-Rākau and or in the wider colonial wars. These will be received during the early morning pōwhiri. A photo wall will be set up in the centre of the site and whānau can move forward and hang their photo(s) on the wall after the karanga whakataū is given. Photos may be of tupuna who fought and fell or their descendant(s) now passed.

11. Photographs and Videos:

Taking photos and videos has become an important part of any significant event. To ensure there is discipline we are restricting when and where the public can take photos and videos. In previous years we have had problems with people taking photos spoiling beautiful images. There will be four (4) official photographers for the event who will have unimpeded access to the grounds and will be taking hundreds of photographs. The media will be restricted to specific areas and will not have open access.

The public can take photographs at any time **except during the two official pōwhiri, the unveiling, and laying of wreaths and parekawakawa**. Outside of these times if any member of the public is seen on the battle site properly taking photographs or videos they will be asked to leave the property. We do not want people rushing around the site with cameras or cell phones in hand disturbing the view of others and essentially being disrespectful. Official photographs and a video souvenir will be made available to the public in the weeks following the event.

12. Translation service:

Te Puni Kōkiri of Hamilton and Te Pua Wananga Ki Te Ao faculty of Māori and Pacific Development at the University of Waikato are assisting us with the provision of translation services. We are committed to ensuring everyone who attends can understand what is being said during the day. English and Te Reo will be the official languages of the commemoration.



13. Tentage and shelter:

We are unsure of numbers attending and can only plan on what is known. On that basis if numbers escalate over what we have been advised, people will be required to sit on the grass without shelter. So please come prepared for the day. Check the forecast the day ahead and bring a small back pack bag with hat, sunscreen and water bottle or raincoat and umbrella and cushion just in case.

14. Political parties, hecklers and protesters:

This 150th remembrance day is a solemn and respectful occasion, one that happens only once. Using the day to promote political agendas and views is unwelcome and is not acceptable. Anyone who seeks to disrupt the proceedings and who breaches common courtesy and accepted good behavior will be escorted off the property in a very respectful manner. Please respect the kaupapa of this historic day and please leave your politics at home.

15. Flags – Flag Pole:

Iwi and Hapuu are invited to fly their respective flags on this special day alongside other national flags. Iwi and hapuu wishing to raise their flag are welcome to do so, but must confirm with us of this intention by **March 20th**. No flags will be accepted after this date. Those wishing to bring their flag should also ensure they bring a flag pole (6m high, 20-30mm galvanized or aluminum pipe, painted white) the flag is to be on site with the organisers by **Saturday 29th March**.



16. Dress:

Dress with the weather in mind, be comfortable. If a warm clear day is forecast wear lite but formal summer wear. Men, suits and jackets are in order. If you are an ex- serviceman or still serving, medals can be worn. Ladies, summer dresses and suits are acceptable. The paepae standard of dress remains unchanged. If a wet day make sure you have a good rain coat and suitable footware. We would If possible, like kaumaatua and Iwi leaders to wear traditional kakahu, these should be worn during the pōwhiri, laying of wreathes – parekawakawa and official photo sessions. In between these times they can be folded away. Remember this is a once in a lifetime anniversary. By the time the 200th memorial comes around most of us adults will be too frail to attend.

17. Food:

There will be a healthy breakfast served near the site at 9.30am and a lunch at 12 noon. Breakfast and lunch packs will be provided for all registered adult attendees and VIP's served from a designated area just off the battle site. Any surplus food will be shared with those who did not register. Fresh fruit and cold drinks will also be available at stations around the site. There will also be food vendors near the site for those who are less calorie or sugar sensitive or who did not register with us in advance and who would like to take advantage of these convenience food stalls. Teachers and not parents are responsible for ensuring students bring lunches and drinks if attending the day.

18. Formal Dinner (Black Tie)

A formal memorial dinner and entertainment evening is planned for the evening. This will be held at the Big Apple in Hangatiki near Waitomo. The Sesquicentennial cake will be cut and attendees will take part in a night of relationship building and mixing and mingling. You will be entertained by some of New Zealand's top artists, there will also be a space for inter-tribal entertainment. Bookings for dinner are essential please contact Thia Priestly for more information.

19. Marae accommodation:

For groups travelling distances we invite you to make overnight sleeping arrangements with several Marae in the area who would be more than willing to provide support. Please see our website for a list of contacts orakau300.co.nz

20. Memorial Whikoi:

A memorial whikoi (walk) is planned for Wednesday April 2nd. The walk will re-trace the retreat route taken by the heroic defenders of the Paa on the final day of the battle. The distance is a leisurely 3.5km walk across undulating farmland with rest points along the way. These rests will provide an opportunity for invited speakers to re-tell stories of their ancestor(s) during the battle in an intimate setting. Walkers will need comfortable shoes, a small backpack and water bottle. Lunch pack will be provided as long as we know the names of and how many will be participating. If you want to take part as a walker and or story teller please contact Thia Priestly. We take only one story teller per ancestor (Māori and Pākeha European) so that time is shared equitably.

21. Key Contacts

President (Kaawhia) media, relationships and strategic issues
Event Manager (Thia) registrations and general enquiries
Pōwhiri Co-ordinator (Paraone) haka pōwhiri
Volunteers Co-ordinator (Donna) welfare and taskings

orakau150th@gmail.com
thia.priestly@waikatodhb.health.nz
paraone.gloyne@twoa.ac.nz
dona.burt@waikatodhb.health.nz

website orakau300.co.nz

facebook <https://www.facebook.com/orakau.battle>

PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

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	Tuesday 1st April 2014
05:00hrs	Shuttle coaches commence moving visitors (Iwi o te motu) to the site from Kihikihi Domain (west) and Parawera Marae (east) as the Arapuni Road will be closed all day. Hot drinks will be available on site for those arriving by shuttle.
06:30hrs	Raising of Flags and Karakia
07:15hrs	Briefing of Manuwhiri
07:30hrs	Pōwhiri ki te motu (on the site of the original Paa)
09:30hrs	Breakfast (just off the Paa site) Shuttle service begins to move general public to the site for 2 nd pōwhiri.
10:30hrs	Prepare to receive Governor General, dignitaries and public
11:00hrs	Pōwhiri to the Crown , VIP Guests and general public
12:00hrs	Lunch
12:30hrs	Official Photo's
13:00hrs	Key note memorial speeches Mounting of Cenotaph Guard (Soldiers and Warriors) Unveiling of Sesquicentennial Taonga Dedication of taonga Inter- faith Commemoration Sermon and Prayers Laying of Wreathes & Parekawakawa Closing Address and acknowledgements
15:30hrs	Governor General and dignitaries depart
19:00hrs	Formal Memorial Dinner - The Big Apple Hangatiki

Wednesday 2nd April 2014	
06:30hrs	Raising of Flags and Karakia on site
010:00hrs	Hiikoi to the Puuniu (following the axis of retreat) Briefing & safety check Leisurely walk following the axis of retreat En route appointed speakers will talk about their tupuna and give some context to their involvement Packed lunch Return to battle site Interviews and photos
15:30hrs	Closing ceremony Closing Address Karakia - Himene Lowering of Flags (Karanga- Putatara-Pipes) Poroporoaki
16:30hrs	Visitors return to home locations
18:00hrs	Thank You BBQ (for volunteers and sponsors)

This program is subject to change without prior notice and at the discretion of the organisers. Updated souvenir programs will be available on the day.

Remembering Our History...
Honoring Our Heroes...
Healing Our Spirits...
Building A Nation....

REMEMBER

- CHECK THE WEATHER FORECAST AT LEAST 2 DAYS BEFORE

- MEDICATION



- UMBRELLA (SUN OR SHINE)



- SUNSCREEN IF FINE



- WATER BOTTLES



- HAT



- NIBBLES



- DAY PACK

