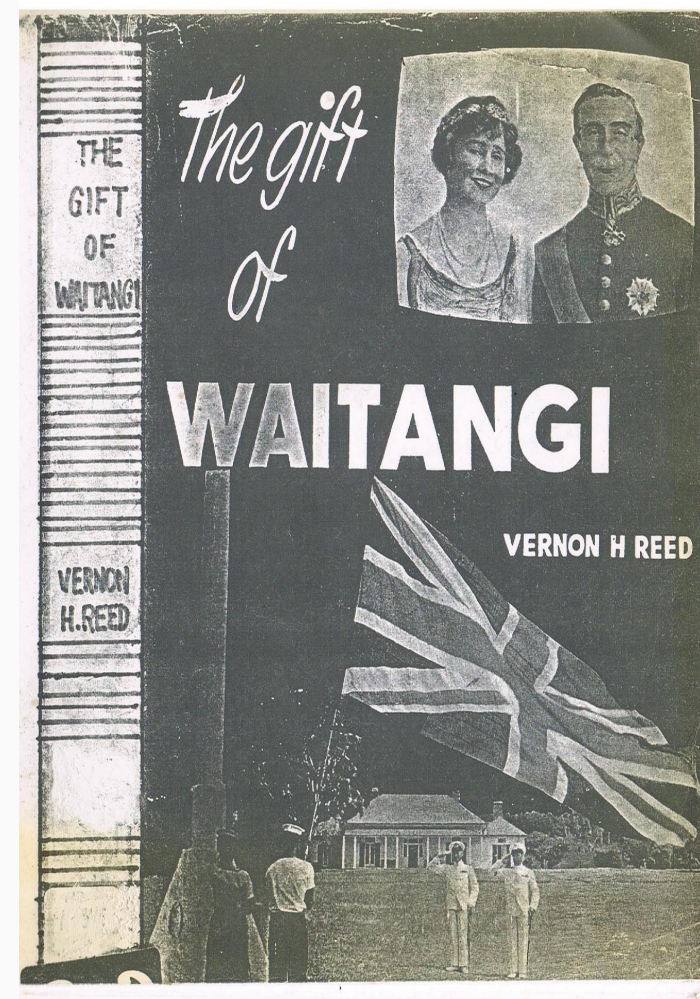
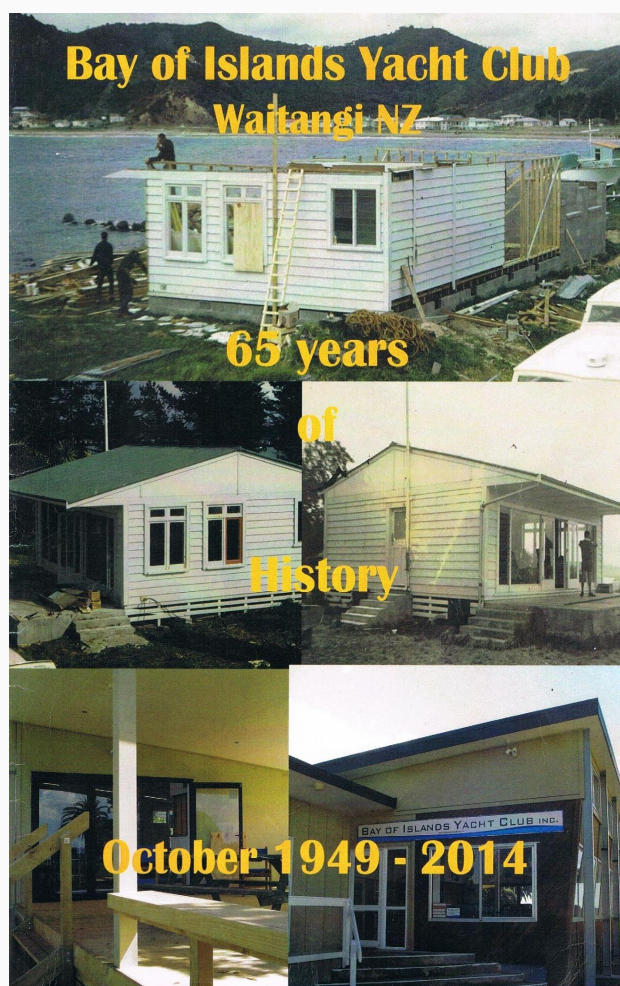


# The Gift of Waitangi

Bay of Islands Yacht Club History- Part 1

Information in this presentation was obtained from the books *The Gift of Waitangi* by Vernon Reed

Bay of Islands Yacht Club Waitangi NZ-65 years of History by Peggy Valder and anecdotal information.



# The beginning

**The beginning of our Club not only starts with the inaugural meeting of the “Paihia Yachting and Boating Club” held in Paihia in October 1949, but with the acquisition of Waitangi by Lord and Lady Bledisloe and the gifting of this estate to the people of New Zealand**



**In 1832- James Busby was the first European to reside permanently at Waitangi.**

**The Busby family stayed until appropriately 1880 and then the property changed hands several times. It is believed that the original Busby estate may have encompassed anywhere from 9000- 11000 acres.**





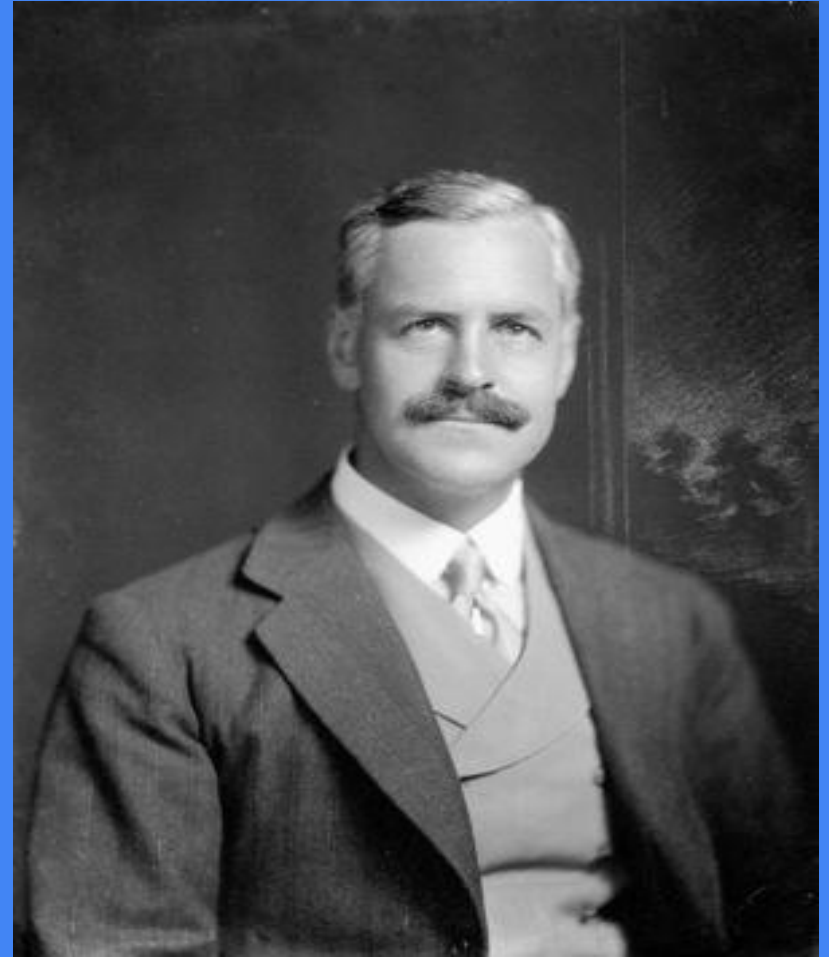
**The original Busby house was built in 1834 and enlarged to its current size in 1840 and was renamed by Lord Bledisloe as the Treaty House.**



The Treaty of Waitangi was signed on February 6, 1840 on the lawn in front of the the Busby's House.

**In 1900 Vernon Reed, of Paihia used to visit the Waitangi property and became aware of its historical significance. From 1911- until the Bledisloes purchased the property in 1932 Vernon Reed lobbied to have the government purchase the land as a national memorial.**

**It appears that without Vernon Reed the Gift of Waitangi may never have happened.**



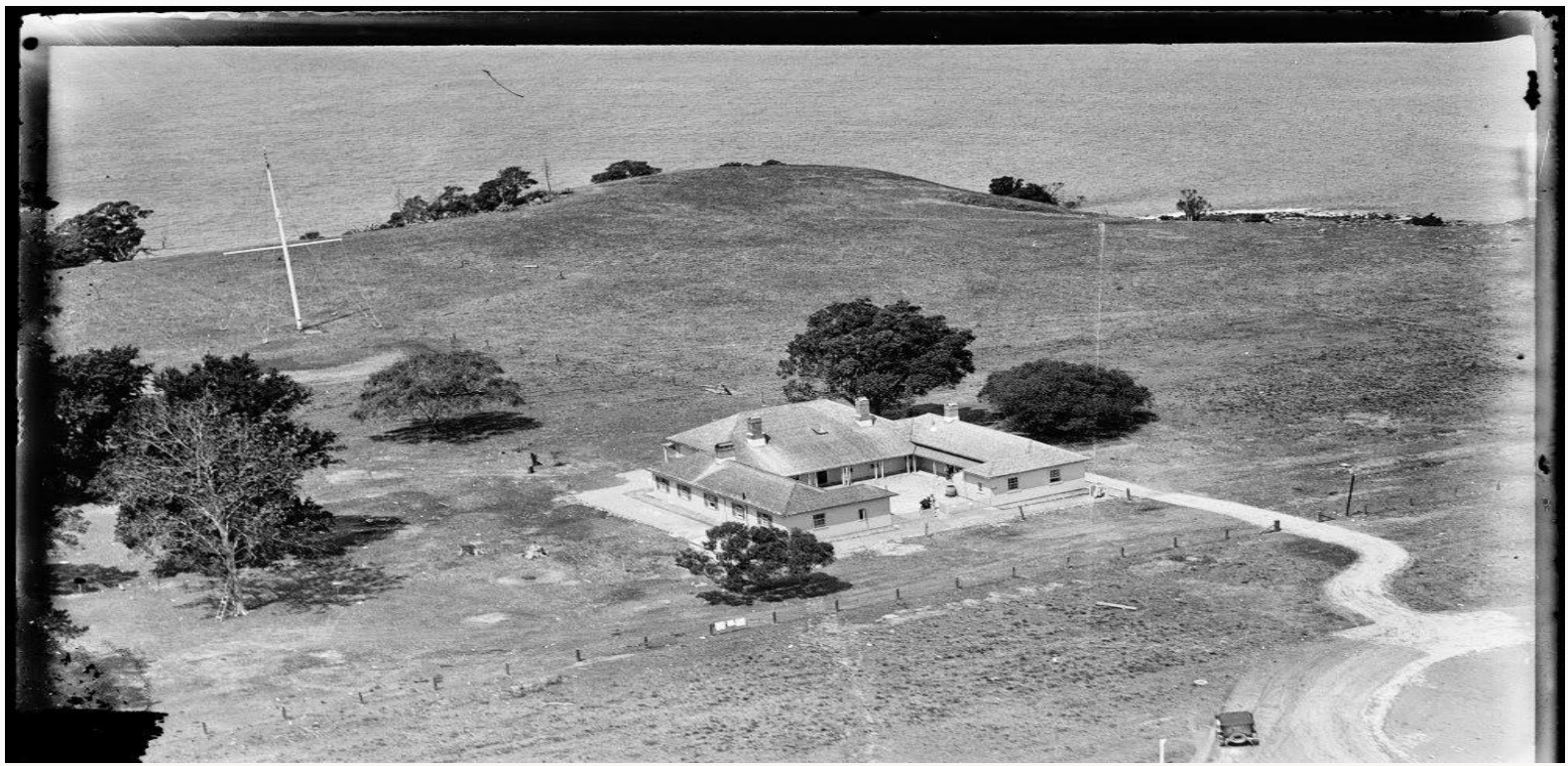
**As circumstances would have it, at the end of 1931 Lord Bledisloe and Lady Bledisloe arranged to spend a holiday at Paihia. It was at this time that Vernon Reed personally invited them to visit the sight of the Treaty signing at Waitangi, with the hope that Lord Bledisloe may have some influence with the government in regard to purchasing the land.**





**As the bridge did not exist at this time the trip to visit the site required transport via Mr Reed's small skiff boat.**

**It was noted during the passage that "the free-board showed only three inches clear!"**



**Lord and Lady Bledisloe were great walkers and spent the day exploring the Waitangi property. At the end of the day, they were so impressed with the historical importance of the property and its beautiful setting that they made the proposal to Vernon Reed to purchase the property and gift it to the nation. The block was 2300 acres in total.**



**May 1932 the Gift of Waitangi was formally offered to the Prime Minister George William Forbes, and immediate acceptance on behalf of the people of New Zealand was given.**





The Bledisloes' initiative marked the beginning of a process of rediscovery on the part of Pākehā and a broadening awareness among Māori. The couple regularly returned to Waitangi in the latter part of their term, and Lord Bledisloe took an active part in the work of the Waitangi National Trust Board. Lord Bledisloe was noted as a man with a strong social conscience and they retained their interest in Waitangi for the rest of their lives.





**Part of the expressed wishes of the Bledisloe's in gifting Waitangi to the nation was it should be used for outdoor sports.**

**As part of this vision a golf course, bowling greens, tennis courts and eventually our club were created.**

**When our Club was first established, there were no slipping facilities in the Bay of Islands. The Club's first lease with the Waitangi Trust Board was granted on the understanding that a Slipway was to be established.**

**Lord Bledisloe was the first Patron of the Paihia Yacht & Motor Boat Club in 1950 and accepted the position again in 1957.**





The site where the Yacht Club now sits was not part of the original Gift of Waitangi. The village of Raurimu, or Mr Fagan's township, occupied the northern bank of the river; the 53 acres of this township were "taken for historic purposes" and vested in the Waitangi Trust Board.

**Compensation claims were made and settled but many owners of the blocks of land were happy to surrender their sections free. Most notable of these was Mr Fagan, who had originally planned the township and owned many of the lots. He stoutly refused joining any suggestion of seeking compensation.**



**The Yorke family owned several blocks of land along the water and the area that the Club now sits on was part of their land. The original Yorke house is understood to have been located in the vicinity of the water tanks by our boat shed.**

There is a grave located on this land and it is understood to be the resting place of a local woman Ina from approximately 1928.

It is believed that she is buried here, on the Point, as she refused to convert to Christianity and therefore was refused to be put to rest in the consecrated ground of the cemetery.



**In no way can we hope to cover the breadth of the events that have taken place on this land and the establishment of this club, but the General Committee hope these talks will give some broader insight into the local history and the foundings of the Bay of Islands Yacht Club.**





**The significance of the gift that the Bledisloe's gave to the people of New Zealand cannot be understated.**

**Lady Bledisloe died in February 1956. Lord Bledisloe died, aged 90, in July 1958.**



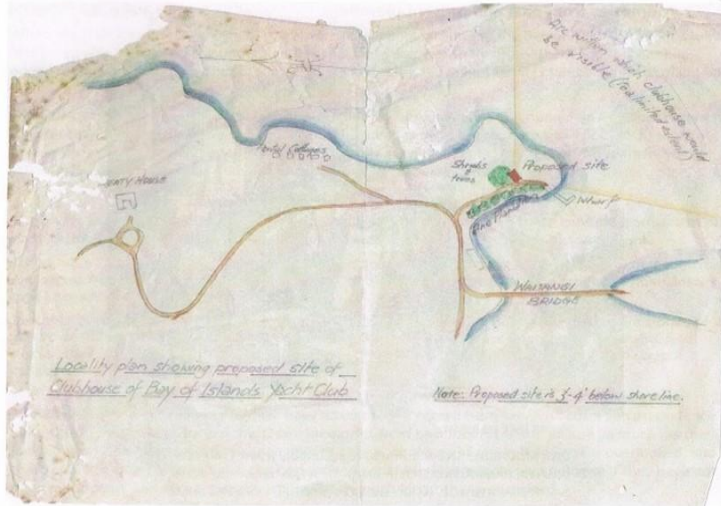
### The Evolution of the Bay of Islands Yacht Club

1949 Paihia Yacht Club

1950 Paihia Yacht & Motor Boat Club Inc.

1958 Bay of Islands Yacht Club Inc.

This publication is dedicated to all members, past and present, who have donated their voluntary time and materials to the ultimate success of the Bay of Islands Yacht Club.



Next week we will delve into the creation of the Slipway and the beginning of the Paihia Yacht & Motor Boat Club.

Thank you