



# Akaroa

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

20 APRIL 1940

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME



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## Foreword

THE first settlement of Akaroa by a little company of French colonists is one of the most picturesque incidents in the memorable pageant which the Centennial year is unfolding before us. These people came here in 1840 believing their settlement would be planted on French soil, but they voluntarily stayed to become British citizens. To-day the traditions of the French and British peoples are so closely identified as to be one. We are proud to find that the blood of our two peoples has mingled here at Akaroa with such happy consequences.

In view of the greater probability of good weather at this time of the year, it was decided to hold our National Centennial Celebrations at Akaroa in advance of the true anniversary of the historical events they commemorate. This will not in any way destroy our appreciation of those events. It was on 10th August 1840 that H.M.S. *Britomart* glided to its anchorage at Akaroa. Next day Captain Stanley hoisted the flag and British magistrates held sittings of British courts in most of the bays of Banks Peninsula. It was on 19th August that the ship *Comte de Paris* disembarked its French immigrants.

Akaroa has worn well in its first hundred years. It is probable that the first inhabitants would find it quite as charming to-day as when they first set foot on its still wooded shores. It is a place of marked individuality. May it long preserve its unique character and charm.

W. E. Barry

## Decendants of the Original French Settlers

AFTER THE LAPSE of so many years it has been found a difficult matter to trace the fortunes of the original colonists who arrived in the *Comte de Paris*. However, mainly as the result of the assistance given by Messrs L. Libeau, of Hamilton, and L. J. Vangioni, of Akaroa, tentative records have been established. Of necessity these are still incomplete and possibly to a minor degree inaccurate.

The following settlers had no families: Bouriaud, Benoit, Dulac, Gurtner, Guindon, Gendrot, Rousselot, and Walter.

Messieurs Cebert, Jouy, and Véron migrated to Tahiti. It has not been possible to trace the whereabouts of the families, if any, of Messieurs Bernard, Chardin, Dupas, Hettich, Han, Haulme, Jotereau, Le Duc, Masse, Pigoulet, Vidal, and Wooll.

Circumstances permitting, the remaining families will be represented at the National Centennial Celebration on 20th April by the following senior members:

- M. Eteveneaux: Mr J. W. Eteveneaux, Taihape, and Mrs E. J. McDonald, Wellington.
- M. Le Lievre: Mr E. X. Le Lievre, Akaroa.
- M. Waeckerle: Mrs E. E. Nutt, Christchurch.
- M. de Malmanche: Messrs C. H. and G. E. de Malmanche, Christchurch.
- M. Breitmeyer: Mr George Breitmeyer, Christchurch.
- M. Libeau: Mr L. Libeau, Hamilton.
- M. François: Mr J. A. François, Riwaka.
- M. Michel: Mr S. Michel, Auckland.
- M. Fleuret: Mr Neville Bell, Akaroa.
- M. David: Mr Alfred David, Stratford.

## The First Exercise of British Sovereignty at Akaroa

ON 28th May, 1840, Akaroa had its first direct contact with the new Government of New Zealand, when Major Bunbury disembarked there from H.M.S. *Herald*, to secure signatures for the Treaty of Waitangi. Then at Port Underwood on 17th June Bunbury proclaimed British sovereignty over the South Island. Sovereignty, by the way, was never proclaimed at Akaroa. When the French warship *Aube* arrived at the Bay of Islands in July, its commander, Captain Lavaud, was undoubtedly surprised to find that British rule over New Zealand was already an accomplished fact. In the circumstances he could only tell Hobson that it was impossible for him to take upon himself the responsibility of recognizing the British occupation of Akaroa or, for that matter, of New Zealand, without further reference to his own Government. Hobson, whose personal relations with Lavaud were extremely cordial, assured the Frenchman that the French company's land claims at Akaroa would receive special consideration. Lavaud was incidentally well enough informed of Hobson's intention to make British ownership doubly sure by sending magistrates to Akaroa before the arrival of the French colonists. There was, in fact, no "race" to Akaroa.

Captain Stanley was in due course despatched to Akaroa in the *Britomart* to take magistrates to hold courts in the bays of the Peninsula and to hoist the British flag. Stanley reached Akaroa on 10th August, and on the following day he and his magistrates landed and held a court. When the *Aube* arrived on the 15th it was to find British sovereignty being effectively exercised by resident British officials. The proclamation at Port Underwood had really been sufficient, and Hobson was only sending

a representative of his Government to prevent any encroachment on territory already acquired by Britain.

Courts were held at nearly every bay on Banks Peninsula where there was a whaling settlement. Whether or not any cases were brought at these sittings—and there are hints that cases were tried at Port Cooper (Lyttelton)—they constituted the exercise of the functions of sovereignty over this part of New Zealand and showed the whole world that the new British Government of New Zealand was in effective occupation of the territory included in its formally proclaimed boundaries. Mr Robinson remained as Resident Magistrate at Akaroa for some years. It is interesting to note that even in 1840 the French settlers were outnumbered in Banks Peninsula by the residents of British stock, although their distribution round the different bays, while the French were concentrated in one spot, tended to disguise this fact.

There can be no doubt that Hobson's firmness and promptitude in exercising British sovereignty saved Britain international embarrassment. It was not till 1846 that France formally recognized British sovereignty over the whole of New Zealand. But *de facto* recognition had been accorded in 1840.

## The French at Akaroa

THE ORIGIN of the French settlement at Akaroa was the enterprise of a French whaling captain, a certain Langlois. Langlois in 1838 bought 30,000 acres of Banks Peninsula from the Maoris by means of a small first instalment of trade goods, to be supplemented later by a larger payment. When he returned to France on board his whaling-ship he was lucky enough to interest merchants in Nantes and Bordeaux, and through their good offices to secure the support of the French Admiralty, which provided a ship for the transport of the emigrants and sent the warship *Aube* for their protection. The Nanto-Bordelaise Company, founded to develop Langlois' purchase, encouraged some market-gardeners and artisans to settle their New Zealand property.

The French settlement was intended primarily as a whaling settlement able to give refreshment to French ships on long voyages. A port for their shipping in the Pacific, and perhaps a convict settlement, was what the French designed, rather than a colony on the Wakefield model engaging in agriculture.

The *Comte de Paris* left Rochefort on 8th March with sixty emigrants, mostly small peasants and artisans and their children. After a stormy and unfortunate voyage the *Comte de Paris* reached New Zealand, only to be driven away from the entrance to Akaroa by heavy winds. The ship came to anchor in Pigeon Bay on 9th August, a day before the *Britomart* entered Akaroa Harbour. Langlois, the captain of the *Comte de Paris*, completed the sale by handing over to the Maoris the balance of the price.

The colonists were at first lodged in two tents, until on 23rd August the land was allotted. Among these colonists were six German settlers, who chose the bay

next to the main settlement. Whatever was the legal and international position, these good people of both nations simply got on with the job of settlement.

The political position was left vague, to be thrashed out later by the French and British Governments. Lavaud, contrary to the usual legend which credits him with racing for possession of Akaroa, was only too anxious to wait for new instructions from his own Government. There was, however, a race for Akaroa in a broader sense, for if France had moved a little faster and settled Akaroa before Hobson landed at the Bay of Islands in January, 1840, then could have been established a strong claim to French sovereignty.

Re-enactment of  
FIRST EXERCISE OF SOVEREIGNTY  
at Akaroa

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

CAPTAIN STANLEY	-	Ven. Archdeacon A. J. Petrie
Mr MURPHY	- - - -	F. C. Newton
Mr ROBINSON	- - - -	F. Brocherie
JIMMY ROBINSON CLOUGH	-	T. Robinson
GREEN	- - - -	- W. Davis
FIRST SETTLER	- - - -	- E. Galt
SECOND SETTLER	- - - -	- J. E. Armstrong
CAPTAIN OF MARINES	- - - -	- C. Sealey
BUGLER	- - - -	- C. H. Minifie
OFFICERS of the <i>Britomart</i> , Sailors, Marines, Maoris		
<i>Commentator</i>	- - - -	Te Ari Pitama
<i>Director of the Pageant</i>	-	W. S. Wauchop

Programme of  
THE NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS AT AKAROA

20 APRIL 1940

- 10.45 a.m. ... Official party arrives at Recreation Ground, where the Maori camp has been established.
- 10.55 a.m. ... Vice-regal party arrives at the jetty, where they will be met by his Worship the Mayor, the Prime Minister, and other representatives of the Government.
- 11 a.m. ... The Vice-regal party arrives at the Recreation Ground, and after proceeding some distance they receive a challenge (*wero*) from a warrior of the local Maoris (*tangata-whenua*). The *wero* ceremony commences by the warrior placing a challenge stick (*rakau-wero*) on the ground in front of His Excellency, at which point the party pauses while the warrior retires a few paces, gives a *taiaha* display, and then joins the welcoming party (*ope powhiri*). At this point His Excellency picks up the stick (*rakau wero*) as an indication that he and his party are on a peaceful mission, and then moves forward to take his place on the pavilion. The general reception, consisting of speeches, poi dances, and hakas will then take place.
- 11.35 a.m. ... Presentation of pageant re-enacting the first exercise of sovereignty in the South Island. A full account of this historic event, together with the Cast of Characters, is given elsewhere in this programme.
- 12.15 p.m. ... Speeches in reply to the welcome of the Maori party will now be delivered by the Prime Minister (the Hon. Peter Fraser), the Hon. H. T. Armstrong, and the Governor-General. His Excellency will take the opportunity of saying farewell to the Maori people of the South Island.

- 12.45 p.m. ... Reception by Their Excellencies of the descendants of the French immigrants and earlier settlers.
- 1 p.m. ... Luncheon for Vice-regal and official parties in marquee on the ground.
- 2 p.m. ... Official party proceeds on foot to a point on Beach Road, where a memorial to French settlers has been erected.
- 2.15 p.m. ... Vice-regal party arrives. Re-enactment of the landing of the French immigrants.  
*The Marseillaise* (words on page 15).  
Unveiling by His Excellency the Governor-General of the memorial to the French immigrants.
- Speeches by—  
Mr F. R. E. Davis, Mayor of Akaroa  
Monsieur A. Pouquet, French Consul.  
Monsieur Pouquet will make special reference to advice recently received from France that the President, M. Le Brun, has forwarded as a gift to the Municipality of Akaroa, and to mark the centennial of the landing of the first French settlers a suitably inscribed vase from the National Manufacture of Sevres.
- Mr E. X. Le Lievre  
Mr. T. H. McCombs, M.P.  
The Hon. D. G. Sullivan  
His Excellency the Governor-General  
*God Defend New Zealand* (words on page 16).  
*God Save the King*.
- 3.30 p.m. ... Vice-regal and official parties proceed to home of Mr E. X. Le Lievre, where afternoon tea will be served. Address by the Hon. W. E. Parry, Minister in Charge, Centennial Celebrations.
- 4.15 p.m. ... Departure of Vice-regal party.
- 4.30 p.m. ... Departure of official party for Christchurch.

## LOCAL CELEBRATIONS

*to be held under the auspices of the Akaroa Centennial Committee*

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## SUNDAY 21 APRIL 1940—

Special Thanksgiving Services in all Churches.  
A Public Thanksgiving Service will be held in the afternoon.  
The Maori Church at the Kaik to be reopened in the afternoon.

## MONDAY 22 APRIL 1940—

A Grand Maori Entertainment will be given.

## TUESDAY 23 APRIL 1940—

A procession consisting of floats representing the Banks Peninsula Industries and tableaux representing episodes of historical and social importance, also decorated cars, from Duvauchelle to Akaroa.

In the afternoon a Garden Party will be held.  
A Grand Centennial Ball will be held in the evening.

## WEDNESDAY 24 APRIL 1940—

Banks Peninsula School Children's Sports.  
The Oddfellows' Hall will be open all day for a *Conversazione*, where old residents may meet.

## THURSDAY 25 APRIL 1940—

Centennial Anzac Service.

## Earliest Akaroa

WHEN the earliest inhabitants came to Banks Peninsula is not definitely known, because the fratricidal wars which decimated the Native population from time to time have obliterated the greater part of historical traditions beyond several centuries ago. There is evidence, however, that for five hundred years at least the Peninsula has been occupied by human beings.

According to the late Teone Taare Tikao, the first people in the South Island were named Hawea. These were followed by the Waitaha. Akaroa was once a great Waitaha centre, and the hill Tuhiraki preserves the name of the *ko* (spade) of the leader, Rakaihautu. The Waitaha people formed a large element in the North Island population prior to the 1350 fleet. The next race was the Rapuwai, believed to be copper coloured and ginger haired. A Polynesian tribe, the Ngatimamoe, conquered the resident Natives in the sixteenth century. Several generations later the Ngaitahu invaded the South Island, and became the dominant tribe. Tahu was a younger brother of Porourangi, eponymous ancestor of the powerful Ngati Porou of the East Cape. The Ngaitahu spread southwards from Poverty Bay to Wairoa, Heretaunga, and the east coast of Hawke's Bay, whence migrations went to the South Island.

About the year 1700 a woman named Raureka crossed the Alps from Westland and meeting at Horowhenua, in the Geraldine district, some members of the Ngaitahu engaged in building a canoe, she showed them some greenstone tools. The superior qualities of the tough *pounamu* were immediately recognized. Presently a regular traffic in greenstone sprang up between Westland and Canterbury, followed by war in which the Ngaitahu were victorious. Soon Ngaitahu were noted for their wealth of *pounamu*. The solace of tobacco was unknown to the Maori, but the working of greenstone into beautiful meres, ornaments,

and delicate tools provided a better substitute. A superb collection gathered by Mr L. J. Vangioni, of Akaroa, from all parts of Banks Peninsula testifies to the skill and artistic taste of the ancient Ngaitahu workmen.

Banks Peninsula is a land of bays and inlets. All of these were occupied by *hapus* of Ngaitahu, who for 150 years lived here in comparative security and ease. Food was abundant. In the woods were wekas, pigeons, rats, tuis, and kakas. The sea, and Lakes Forsyth and Ellesmere, abounded in fish. The fern root was particularly good; mashed *arube* and *mata* (whitebait) made a splendid relish. So did *rehia*, a jelly compound of kelp and *tutu* juice. We may picture the happy and powerful tribe, whiling away the evenings in their runanga houses reciting their genealogical trees, dating back to the crew of Takitimu, and telling of the fairies which lived near Akaroa; the malignant taniwhas; the giants of olden times, whose footprints were occasionally seen; the enchanted clumps of trees; and the ghosts and demons who could be subdued by potent *karakias* only.

The peace which had prevailed so long was rudely shattered in the early years of last century, when a disastrous civil war broke out. This bitter struggle, which was termed the *Kai Huanga* ("eat relative") feud, is associated with the name of Temaiharanui. He was one of the three great Ngaitahu chiefs whose names were well known to the early settlers and whalers. (The others were Taiaroa and Tuhawaiki—or, as he was popularly called, Bloody Jack.) As the hereditary spiritual head of Ngaitahu, Temaiharanui was accorded particular reverence and awe, so much so that, according to Canon Stack, he was regarded as an object of dread even by his friends. His honour was insulted when a woman put on one of his mats; and in consequence there followed a war which was regarded even by the combatants with particular horror, since kin fought against kin. Many parts of the Peninsula were depopulated, and the feud was stamped out only by the coming of Rauparaha.

In revenge for a boastful curse by a chief of Ngaitahu, Te Rauparaha came down from Kapiti Island and sacked several pas in the vicinity of Kaikoura. Thence he proceeded to Kaiapohia (Kaiapoi), allegedly to bargain for greenstone. The Kaiapoi Natives, who had learned of the fate of their relatives at Kaikoura, were naturally suspicious of his intentions, and though they treated their dangerous guests hospitably they finally decided that treachery was afoot; consequently they struck the first blow, killing Te Pehi and several other chiefs.

Rauparaha, nursing revenge, returned to Kapiti, where in payment for a cargo of flax he induced a degenerate English captain named Stewart to convey him in the brig *Elizabeth* to Akaroa. Here they captured the paramount chief of Ngaitahu, Temaiharanui, who was carried off to Kapiti and suffered a cruel death. Before leaving Akaroa, Rauparaha sacked Tunapuneke, a pa across the harbour from Akaroa, and slew or took prisoner all the Native population.

This was in 1830. Stewart's conduct, which cannot be regarded as typical of that of the whalers and traders of the period, aroused the utmost horror and disgust when the facts became known in Australia and England. He had a narrow escape from the gallows, and was drowned shortly afterwards.

Onawe, the remarkable pear-shaped peninsula, which divides Barry Bay from Head of Bay, was the last Maori fortress to be occupied on Banks Peninsula. Traces of the very strong fortifications built by Ngaitahu may still be seen. The destruction of this stronghold by Rauparaha almost wiped out the Maori folk on the Peninsula. This did not terminate the struggle, for Tuhawaiki and Taiaroa led several expeditions against Rauparaha's warriors residing in the Marlborough Sounds region. But the old order was changing.

The first European to reside in Akaroa was James Robinson Clough, who arrived in 1837 and married a Native woman. Whalers had, however, called in at

various bays in the Peninsula earlier than this. One of them, George Hempleman, had set up a shore station at Peraki in 1837 and lived in the neighbourhood for many years. So far as the relations between Maori and pakeha are concerned, these were uniformly friendly. The Maoris treated the whalers and early settlers with the utmost kindness, and this engendered a feeling of mutual respect and admiration. It is pleasing to record also that a complete reconciliation was effected between Ngaitahu and their northern kin. Largely as the result of missionary activities, the Ngaitahu captives were released; some of the northern chiefs actually accompanied them back to their old homes. At Port Levy they met Taiaroa and other Ngaitahu chiefs and exchanged pledges of peace and goodwill.

The spirit of the old *rongo-pai* (peace) has never been abused; on the contrary it has been sturdily upheld. For instance, the Maoris of Murihuku asked the Committee who erected a monument at Tuturau to inscribe nothing that would hurt the feelings of the descendants of the fallen chief Te Puaho nor offend the northern Maoris generally: for now they were 'one people.'

*The Marseillaise*

Ye sons of France, awake to glory,  
Hark, hark, what myriads bid you rise:  
Your children, wives, and grandsires hoary,  
Behold their tears and hear their cries!  
Behold their tears and hear their cries!  
Shall hateful tyrants, mischief breeding,  
With hireling hosts, a ruffian band,  
Affright and desolate our land,  
While peace and liberty lie bleeding?

*Chorus*

To arms, to arms, ye brave!  
The avenging sword unsheathe!  
March on! March on!  
All hearts resolved  
On victory or death!

O Liberty! can man resign thee,  
Once having felt thy generous flame?  
Can dungeon, bolts, and bars confine thee,  
Or whip thy noble spirit tame?  
Or whip thy noble spirit tame?  
Too long the world has wept, bewailing  
That falsehood's dagger tyrants wield;  
But freedom is our sword and shield  
And all their arts are unavailing.

*Chorus*

To arms, to arms, ye brave!  
The avenging sword unsheathe!  
March on! March on!  
All hearts resolved  
On victory or death!

*God Defend New Zealand*

God of nations! at Thy feet  
In the bonds of love we meet,  
Hear our voices we entreat,  
    God defend our Free Land.  
Guard Pacific's triple star  
From the shafts of strife and war,  
Make her praises heard afar,  
    God defend New Zealand.

Men of every creed and race  
Gather here before Thy face,  
Asking Thee to bless this place,  
    God defend our Free Land.  
From dissension, envy, hate,  
And corruption guard our State,  
Make our country good and great,  
    God defend New Zealand.

May our mountains ever be  
Freedom's ramparts on the sea  
Make us faithful unto Thee,  
    God defend our Free Land.  
Guide her in the Nations' van,  
Preaching love and truth to man,  
Working out Thy glorious plan,  
    God defend New Zealand.

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