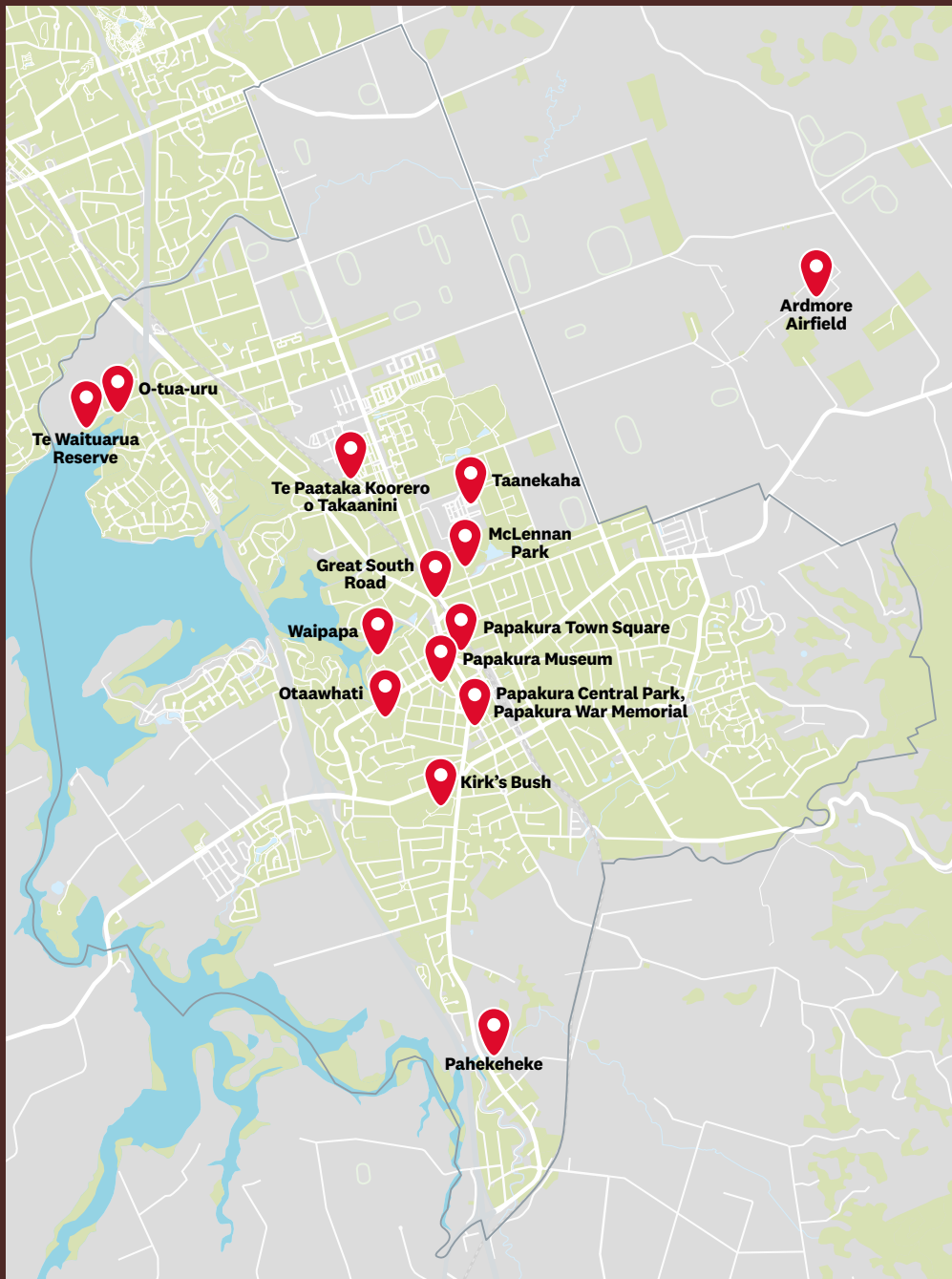


Te waahi o Papakura **Papakura Places**





Te Waituarua Reserve

Waiata Shores playground
170 Waituarua Drive, Conifer Grove

O-tua-uru

Brylee Drive Reserve
12R Brylee Drive, Conifer Grove

Te Paataka Koorero o Takaanini

Takaanini Library
and Community Hub
30 Walters Road, Takaanini

Ardmore Airfield

511 Harvard Lane,
Corner Harvard and McBride Lanes,
Ardmore

Taanekaha

Leadership Crescent Reserve
Leadership Crescent, Papakura

McLennan Park

98R Arimu Road, Papakura

Great South Road

Papakura Town Square

Papakura Museum

209 Great South Road, Papakura

Papakura Central Park, Papakura War Memorial

278 Great South Road, Papakura

Otaawhati

Ray Small Park
and the Esplanade Reserve
31 Ray Small Drive, Pahurehure

Waipapa

Katavic Reserve,
Prince Edward Park,
and the wharf landing
1R Wharf Street, Papakura

Kirk's Bush

377R Great South Road, Rosehill

Pahekeheke

Slippery Creek-Otūwairoa Reserve
135 Great South Road, Drury

Cover photo: Flax diggers at Ardmore, 1905.

Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections. AWNS-19050817-12-03 (Anne Campbell).

Te Waituarua Reserve

Waiata Shores playground

Waiata Shores was once the Manukau Golf Club. The Manukau Golf Club, which was established in 1932, expanded to the Pahurehure shoreline in the 1950s.

The street names of this development honour mana whenua Te Aakitai Waiohū, and local golfing and civic figures. Some of the trees planted on the golf course were kept in the development.

There are two papataakaro (playgrounds) – one by a café and Te Waituarua Reserve on the shore. The playground’s design commemorates Kaiwhare, the Manukau guardian, often portrayed as a whai (stingray).



Manukau golf club players Cathy Greenbank and Kay Maxwell, 1979. Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections Footprints 00224, Courtesy of Stuff Ltd.



Waiata Shores Playground, 2024. Fletcher Living.

O-tua-uru

Brylee Drive Reserve

In 1842, Ihaka Takaanini and other Te Aakitai Waiohū chiefs sold the 16,000-acre Papakura Block to the Crown. This land was part of a 1120-acre reserve, known from 1863 as Takaanini’s Grant, inherited by Te Wirihana, Takaanini’s surviving son. Te Wirihana sold most of the land in 1886, but he retained two small lots adjacent to a wetland at the head of the small inlet, Waimihia Kerehaia. The land, now largely drained, has become Brylee Drive Reserve.

Tai-tua-uru (western shore tide) refers to the location across the Pahurehure inlet. The name also references Waituarua Drive, named for a Te Aakitai Waiohū paa site in Puukaki.

Te Paataka Koorero o Takaanini

Takaanini Library and Community Hub

Takaanini Library and Community Hub is named in honour of Ihaka Takaanini, a 19th-century chief of Te Aakitai Waiohū. His legacy is also reflected in the name of the South Auckland suburb of Takaanini.

Known as Te Paataka Koorero o Takaanini, meaning the storehouse of knowledge; it is Auckland’s first bilingual library and community hub.

The space offers a community kitchen, a dedicated play area with a slide and a parent room. Opened on 27 March 2021, the library celebrates culture and connection, proudly serving as a vibrant hub for learning and storytelling.



Right: Te Paataka Koorero o Takaanini, 2022. Lara Simmons.

Ardmore Airfield

Aviation plays an important part in Papakura's history. The Walsh Brothers undertook New Zealand's first powered flight at Glenora Park, Takanini, in 1911.

Ardmore Airport was built at the request of the United States Army Air Force in 1943 and later used as a base by the Royal New Zealand Air Force during the Second World War.

Post war, Ardmore was home to the Teacher Training College and hosted the New Zealand International Grand Prix. Today, Ardmore is a busy airport and is a world-famous centre for historic aircraft enthusiasts, including the New Zealand Warbirds Association.



*Left: Control Tower,
Ardmore Airfield, 1990.
Auckland Libraries
Heritage Collections
Footprints 02821,
Courtesy of Stuff Ltd.*



*Right: Ardmore
Teachers College, 1950.
Auckland Libraries
Heritage Collections
Footprints 01601.*

Taanekaha Leadership Crescent Reserve

Taanekaha (celery pine) is a rongoaa (traditional medicine) used to dye harakeke (flax) fibres. Taanekaha is viewed as the tuakana (older brother) of Kauri because it is natural to see them growing near one another. Buried Kauri lie in the local rich peat soils of this reserve. Ngaati Te Ata Waiohū gifted this name as part of the Te Kete Rukuruku project.

McLennan Park

McLennan Park was part of the McLennan family's farm, Fernaig. The area was farmed from the 1840s until just before the Second World War when it was acquired by the government for the Papakura Military Camp. Street names in the area honour military leaders in the First and Second World Wars.



*Signallers at Papakura Military Camp, 1940s.
Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections 1714-R010-30 (W H Tinson).*

Great South Road

The original route south was down the Papakura Valley, using a Maaori walking track, and then down today's Coles Crescent to Waipapa on the Pahurehure inlet. By 1860, the present route of the Great South Road was in use.

Papakura village was along the road between today's Don Street and Queen Street. Here were the homes of the McLennans, Willis and Cole families, and later the Walters, Blacks and other families, the Presbyterian and Anglican churches, and the early hotel and police station (shown in the photo below).

The photos show the Great South Road at the same location in the 1860s and in 2024.



Great South Road, 1863-67. Alexander Turnbull Library, E-309-q-2-108-2.

Papakura Town Square

In the early 1900s, the town square at the intersection of Great South Road and the Wairoa Valley (Clevedon Road) was the southern limit of Papakura village.

The first church in Papakura was built by George Cole in 1855 on what was known as 'the mound'. It was also the first school. The church was badly damaged by British troops when it was part of the Papakura stockade here in 1863. The saleyards were here until 1918 with the Papakura Hotel conveniently opposite.

Broadway became busier when the Willis Store (later Farmers), the Methodist church and other new buildings were built. Most of the growth happened in the 1920s.



Looking up Broadway, 1920. Stanley Arthur Richardson.

*Right:
Great South Road, 2024.
Papakura Museum.*



Papakura Museum

Papakura Museum is a community-focused museum aimed at connecting visitors with Papakura's cultural and natural history. The museum features the story of Papakura, has a permanent military gallery, and runs four temporary exhibitions per year. You can visit Papakura Museum and experience the galleries or utilise the research room for personal or professional research purposes. The museum welcomes school and group visits and can offer curator tours and workshops.



Papakura Museum, 2022. Lara Simmons.

Papakura Central Park, Papakura War Memorial

The School, Justice, and Railway Reserves were located just south of Papakura village. The Reserves still hold the Old Central School (now cultural building), the former infant block (now Special School). On school fields and railway land is Central Park (with the Old Courthouse and Lockup being added). Over the railway tracks, Massey Park's playing fields, and the swimming pool were part of the railway reserve. The Peace Oak was planted in Central Park in 1919 after the First World War.

Anzac Day commemorations are held at the War Memorial. The War Memorial stands on the site of the original Town Board offices (1882) and Library (1871).



The unveiling of the memorial to fallen soldiers at Papakura, 1921. Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections, AWNS-19210616-40-05 (T H Ashe).

Otaawhati

Ray Small Park and the Esplanade Reserve

Otaawhati (ebb and flow of water) is a shortened version of the name Taawhati oo Ngaa Tai (the place of the ebbing tide). This was an arm of the Pahurehure inlet that bordered Papakura village. The inlet was reclaimed to create land in the 1970s.

The Papakura Saleyards were moved to the current site of Papakura Central School in 1918 and continued in this location until 1970. The public tip was on Elliott Street and the fill was used to reclaim the inlet. Ray Small Park was landscaped, trees were planted, and sports fields and facilities developed.

Ngaati Te Ata Waiohū, Te Aakitai Waiohū, Ngaati Tamaoho and Ngai Tai ki Tamaki have gifted the name Otaawhati to the reserves.

The Paahurehure Esplanade Path runs from Ray Small Park to Prince Edward Park.



The Esplanade Reserve path. Otaawhati - Ray Small Park, 2023. 23-PRO-1132. Auckland Council. Bryan Lowe.

Waipapa

Katavic Reserve, Prince Edward Park, and the wharf landing

Waipapa (flat land by the water) was the Pahurehure beach closest to Te Aakitai Waiohū's Kirikiri settlement. Kaimoana (seafood) was gathered here, and a footpath led to the traditional waka (canoe) landing place at Chalky Point, where the water was deeper.

Around 1852 George Coles built a watermill here, grinding wheat and corn brought by waka or boat by iwi and the few early settlers from around the Manukau.

After the Waikato War, waka did not return for many years, but between 1866 and the 1950s, there was a wharf at Chalky Point (at the end of Wharf Street).



Cole's Mill: Painting by Ernie Clark. Papakura and District Historical Society.

Kirk's Bush

Kirk's Bush is a remnant of the original lowland forest that once covered parts of Papakura. This ngahere (forest) was an important place for Waiohū, providing their people with rich food and material resources.

The Crown took the land as surplus land and the forest was cleared, except for an area called Chisholms Bush. The Kirk brothers, the Butterworths and others fought to preserve a remnant of this forest. It was finally purchased in 1921, with Southern Park added later.

Today Kirk's Bush is vested in Te Aakitai Waiohū and looked after by Friends of Kirk's Bush volunteers, with the Papakura Local Board.



Kirk's Bush, 2022. Lara Simmons.

Pahekeheke

Slippery Creek-Otuuwaioa Reserve

Pahekeheke is the name gifted to this reserve by Ngaati Tamaoho. The name refers to one of the traditional names for Slippery Creek - Te Awa Paheke. It is from this creek that the Oopaheke district (including Drury), got its name.

The creek has always been a busy waterway despite the strong tides and shoals of rock. Kaimoana (seafood) was collected here. In the 1850s, sailing cutters worked their way to the coal wharf at Drury. During the Waikato War, the British troops used the wharf and the first steamers arrived. With the arrival of the railway in 1874, the wharf declined. Today, houses are replacing farms, and walkways and recreation areas are being built along the creek.

This brochure was developed by Auckland Council and the Papakura Local Board with assistance from Trestle Creative. The content was developed by representatives from Ngaati Te Ata Waiohū, Ngaatai Tamaoho, Te Aakitai Waiohū, Papakura Museum, and Papakura and District Historical Society.

Some of the places on this map feature names gifted to reserves in the Papakura Local Board area as part of the Te Kete Rukuruku project. Te Kete Rukuruku was led by iwi in partnership with Auckland Council and its Local Boards. The project aims to showcase the Māori history and stories of Taamaki Makaurau. One element is to add names significant to Māori to local parks and community places, including libraries and community centres.

The spelling of Māori names in this map reflects the preferences of the Waiohū iwi. These spellings may not align with the official naming of the New Zealand Geographic Board.

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