

FREEDOM CAMPING

WAIROA

HAWKE'S BAY | NEW ZEALAND

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THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

The Wairoa District is a beautiful part of Hawke's Bay and the East Coast - the perfect place to visit for responsible campers. Enjoy our spectacular outdoor environments with Te Urewera, Lake Waikaremoana and Mahia Peninsula right on our doorstep. We have amazing beaches, rivers, hills, lakes, waterfalls and much more. Here's how you can help to maintain the districts natural environment during your stay.

- Use public toilets available in the area
- Use local laundry facilities to wash your clothes
- Enjoy local facilities for bathing
- Dump your rubbish only at designated areas (e.g. Wairoa landfill)
- Ensure your black water (sewage) and grey water (shower, sink and hand basin water) holding tanks are discharged at designated wastewater dump stations

We also encourage campers to make use of designated commercial camping grounds and DOC campsites.

FREEDOM CAMPING

Freedom camping is permitted in any local authority area within the District unless it is restricted or prohibited.

We care for our district, and appreciate your support in this by complying with the conditions set out in relation to each site.

Persons found camping on prohibited land will be issued with an infringement notice.

DUMP STATIONS

Please note some charges apply for dumping:

- Riverside Motorcamp, Wairoa: \$5 per casual dump or FREE (included in camping fee) if staying onsite
- War Memorial Park, Wairoa: FREE (no charge)
- Waikaremoana Holiday Park: FREE (no charge)
- Upoko Tataramoa Drive, Mahia: FREE (no charge)

Please refer to page 29 for the locations of the dump stations.

TYPES OF FREEDOM CAMPING



RESTRICTED - SELF-CONTAINED CAMPING

Motorhomes with built-in kitchen, bathroom, fresh water tank and holding tanks for black and grey water.

Permitted for up to three days in any area owned by the local authority within the district unless it is prohibited.



ALLOWED CAMPING - NON SELF CONTAINED

Modified car, van or vehicle without some or all of the facilities needed for day to day living or sleeping in a tent with no day to day amenities.

Non self-contained camping is only allowed in restricted areas. So if you are travelling in a vehicle that is not a certified fully self-contained vehicle or sleeping in a tent, you are only allowed to camp in restricted areas which are marked with green signs.



PROHIBITED

Neither self-contained nor non self-contained camping is allowed in this area.

LIQUOR BAN

Please note a liquor ban applies as follows:

Wairoa (24 hours per day 365 days of the year) bounded by:

- Marine Parade from Murrae Street to King Street
- Queen Street from Murrae Street to King Street
- Riverbank from Murrae Street to King Street and all associated alleyways and car parks

Mahia (24 hours a day from December 20th to January 20th every year):

- The whole of the Mahia Peninsula and surrounding area encompassed within the coastline from Nuhaka to Paritu.

DOGS

Dogs are permitted within the freedom camping areas as long as they are tied up or on a leash at all times.

OPEN FIRES

There are rules and restrictions for campfires. You must check the fire season and rules before you light a fire.

Fire Emergency New Zealand

🌐 www.checkitsalright.nz

☎ 0800 658 628

Before you light a fire

- Check weather and wind speed and direction. Only light your fire when there is little or no wind forecast.
- Avoid areas near your tent, structures, vehicles, shrubs and trees, clear combustible fuel including to at least three metres on all sides.
- Keep your campfire small.
- Have some way to put out any unplanned fires.

When your fire is lit

- Never leave a campfire unattended.
- If a change in the wind direction or speed makes your fire unsafe — put it out.
- Use plenty of water to extinguish all the embers of your campfire. If your camp is not near a water source, use dirt to extinguish the embers and mix until cool.
- Don't bury your fire as it could continue to smoulder and reignite.

Dial 111 immediately in an emergency. Anything that could cause loss of life, serious injury or loss of property.

TSUNAMI RISK

Often natural warnings, like any of the below, will be the only warning of a tsunami, so don't wait for an official warning, go immediately to high ground or, if the surrounding area is flat, go as far inland as possible. Signs could be:

- Strong earthquake shaking, making it hard to stand up or walk steadily
- Weak, rolling earthquake shaking which is unusually long - a minute or more
- Unusual sea behaviour, such a sudden sea level fall or rise, or the sea making loud and unusual noises, especially roaring like a jet engine.

FREEDOM CAMPING AMBASSADORS

The Wairoa District Council has partnered with local iwi organisations, Rongomaiwahine Iwi Trust and Te Wairoa Tapokorau Whanui Trust, to develop and implement a Freedom Camping Ambassador initiative. This initiative will be particularly focused on the Mahia Peninsula and Wairoa township, which are the most popular areas for freedom camping in the Wairoa district.

Ambassadors will monitor campsites, rubbish, recycling and toilet facilities. Primarily their role is to have an education and visitor experience focus and will positively engage with freedom campers and visitors to encourage them to camp in the right locations and to vacate areas which are restricted or prohibited.

This initiative will be delivered during the peak season of November to April.

It's the responsibility of freedom campers to be familiar with and to comply with all freedom camping areas and other guidelines described in this booklet. People found camping on prohibited land can be issued with an infringement notice.

MĀTAITAI RESERVES

Mātaimai reserves are developed and managed by tangata whenua. They recognise and provide for:

- the special relationship between tangata whenua and their traditional fishing grounds
- non-commercial customary fishing

Mātaimai reserves ALLOW:

- customary fishing
- recreational fishing without needing a permit.

Mātaimai reserves DON'T:

- allow commercial fishing (unless reinstated by a regulation)
- allow landing of commercial catch or holding pots
- affect commercial fishing vessel activities like transiting and mooring
- affect recreational fishing rules unless there are bylaws in place
- control whitebait fishing

- affect access to beaches and rivers
- change restrictions on access to private land.

Some mātaimai reserves have bylaws that tangata kaitiaki (guardians) use to manage non-commercial fishing. Bylaws apply to all people fishing in a mātaimai reserve.

ROLE OF TANGATA KAITIAKI

The tangata kaitiaki appointed to a reserve can:

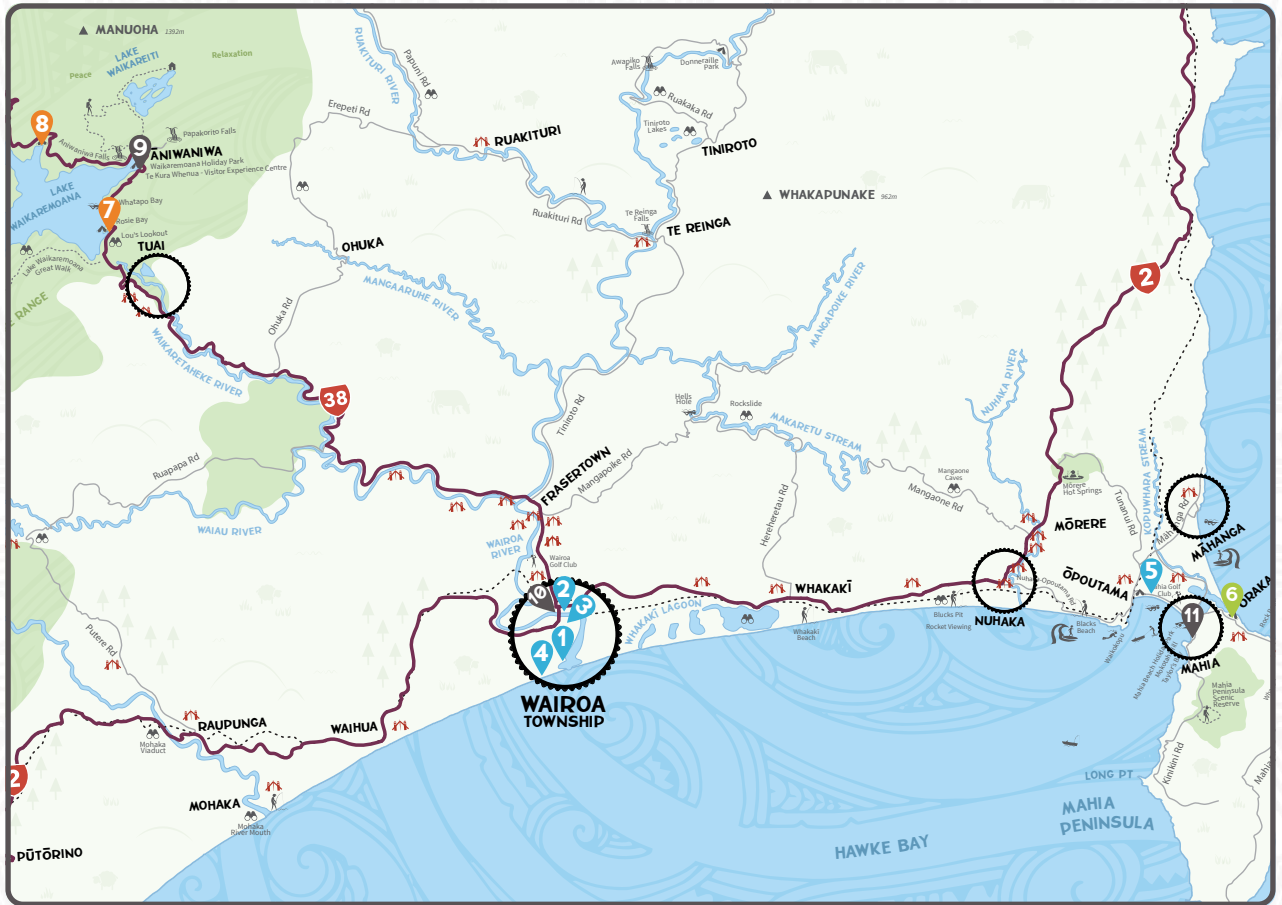
- issue customary fishing authorisations for customary food gathering – not just for hui and tangi
- recommend changes to the recreational and customary fishing rules in the reserve – these may become bylaws
- recommend reinstatement of limited commercial fishing.

Please scan the QR code below to see the current bylaws and up to date catch limits around the Mahia Peninsula



NOTES

CAMPING MAP



Some areas in the Wairoa District allow all types of camping (self-contained and non self-contained), other areas only allow self contained camping.

Please refer to the map above and the corresponding maps on the following pages for the exact location of the camping areas.

- 1 - 5** Self-contained camping only
- 6** All types of camping
- 7 - 8** DOC Campgrounds
- 9 - 11** Campgrounds & Holiday Parks

RESTRICTED AREAS

Self-contained camping only



WAIROA | RESTRICTED AREAS



1 | PILOT HILL

Only fully **SELF-CONTAINED** camping is **PERMITTED** in the area marked **BLUE**. Camping is prohibited outside the area marked blue.



2 | WAR MEMORIAL PARK

Only fully **SELF-CONTAINED** camping is **PERMITTED** in the area marked **BLUE**. Camping is prohibited outside the area marked blue.



3 | CLYDE COURT

SELF-CONTAINED and **NON SELF-CONTAINED** camping is **PERMITTED** in the area marked **BLUE** (Vehicles only, no tents allowed). Camping is prohibited outside the areas marked blue. The area marked **RED** is a **PROHIBITED** camping area.

If you're staying overnight it is advised to park on the right of the toilet facilities so your vehicles are away from the supermarket area.



4 | OLD WHAKAMAHI ROAD

Only fully **SELF-CONTAINED** is **PERMITTED** in the area marked **BLUE** (beachfront side of the road only). Camping is prohibited outside the areas marked blue. The areas marked **RED** are **PROHIBITED** camping areas.

MAHIA | RESTRICTED AREAS



5 | ORMOND DRIVE

Only fully **SELF-CONTAINED** camping is **PERMITTED** in the areas marked **BLUE**. Camping is prohibited outside the area marked blue.



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Only fully **SELF-CONTAINED** camping is **PERMITTED** in the area marked **BLUE**. Camping is prohibited outside the area marked blue. The area marked **RED** is a **PROHIBITED** camping area.

ALLOWED AREAS

All types of camping



MAHIA | RESTRICTED AREAS



6 | ORAKA RESERVE

SELF-CONTAINED and **NON SELF-CONTAINED** camping is **PERMITTED** in the area marked **GREEN**.

CAMPGROUNDS & HOLIDAY PARKS

All types of camping



WAIKAREMOANA



7 | ROSIE BAY

Basic Campsite offering 6 non-powered sites.
Booking's not required - first come, first served.

📍 SH38, 10kms south of Lake Waikaremoana Holiday park.



8 | MOKAU LANDING

Standard campsite offering 40 non-powered sites.
Booking's not required - first come, first served.

📍 Drive west around the lake approx. 10kms from SH38 at Aniwanuiwa.

For more information about campsites:

🌐 www.ngaituhoe.iwi.nz/alerts-and-important-information



9 | WAIKAREMOANA HOLIDAY PARK

📍 6249 Lake Road (SH38), Te Urewera 4195

☎ +64 6 837 3826

🌐 www.waikaremoana.info

WAIROA



10 | WAIROA RIVERSIDE MOTOR CAMP

📍 19 Marine Parade, Wairoa 4108

☎ +64 6 838 6301

🌐 www.riversidemotorcamp.co.nz

MAHIA



11 | MAHIA BEACH HOLIDAY PARK

📍 43 Moana Dr, Mahia

☎ +64 6 837 5830

🌐 www.mahiaholidaypark.nz

For more information about accommodation options in the Wairoa District, please visit the Wairoa i-SITE.



Wairoa i-SITE

📍 9 Paul Street, Wairoa 4108

🌐 www.visitwairoa.co.nz

✉ isitewairoa@wairoadc.govt.nz

☎ 0800 429 537 229

☎ +64 6 838 7440

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

The Wairoa District welcomes responsible campers and also encourages the use of designated commercial camping grounds and DoC campsites. Take care of the district's natural environment and always be prepared before your trip.



Alerts

Find out about changes that might affect your trip, such as road closures or extreme weather.



Be Prepared

Ensure you have everything you need depending on your trip and activities. Plan ahead so you don't get caught out in the outdoors.



Protect Nature

To protect the wildlife, follow all rules around dogs, fires and vehicles. Don't feed any wildlife and always keep your distance.

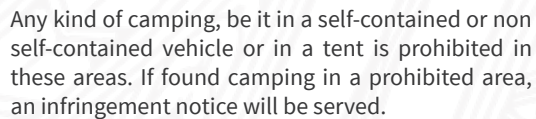


Keep Wairoa Clean

- Take all rubbish with you and dump it at the Wairoa Landfill and recycling centre.
- Use public toilets available in the area.
- Ensure your black (sewage) and grey (shower, sink) water holding tanks are discharged at the designated dump stations.
- Take advantage of local laundry facilities.

For more informations and updates regarding any of the above services and facilities, please visit the Wairoa District council website.

🌐 www.wairoadc.govt.nz



1	Tuāi
2 - 6	Wairoa
7 & 8	Nuhaka-Opoutama Road/Blacks Beach
9 - 11	Mahia
12	Māhanga
13 - 22	Mahia East Coast Road

PROHIBITED AREAS

NO CAMPING in the areas marked **RED**.



TUAI | PROHIBITED AREAS



1 | TUAI ESPLANADE RESERVE (WHAKAMARINO LODGE AREA)

This area is a safe play space for children and area or day trippers.

WAIROA | PROHIBITED AREAS



2 | OLD WHAKAMAUI ROAD

These areas must be kept clear to allow for the continued and extended recreational use of the reserve and day trippers, as well as for road safety reasons



3 | CLYDE COURT (TOILETS LAWN AREA)

This part of the site is a commercial area used for markets and is not appropriate for camping.



4 | ALEXANDRA PARK (SKI CLUB TO PLAYGROUND)

This area is used for community events and as a safe play space for children.



5 | LIGHTHOUSE RESERVE

This area is a safe play space for children. Access to this site from road reserve is topographically difficult and could result in damage to vehicles & the reserve.



6 | ESPLANADE RESERVE

Access to the identified areas of this reserve is blocked by other prohibited sites. The proximity of the reserve to the river makes the ground soft, camping on such ground may damage vehicles and the reserve.



9 | ORMOND DRIVE

These areas in red need to be kept clear for road safety reasons and from time to time for the landing of rescue helicopters, and as such must be kept clear at all times.

MAHIA | PROHIBITED AREAS



7 | BLACKS BEACH

The area in red needs to be kept clear for recreational users of the reserve, as well as for road safety reasons.



10 | MOKOTAHİ

This area is reserved for boat launching and retrieval, parking, turning of long vehicles, recreational use and as a safe play space for children.



8 | OPOUTAMA LOOKOUT

The area in red needs to be kept clear for recreational users of the reserve, as well as for road safety reasons.



11 | TAYLORS BAY

This area must be kept clear to allow for the continued and extended recreational use of the reserve and day trippers.



12 | MĀHANGA

The area in red, including the toilet area, should be kept clear to allow for parking of boat trailers and turning of long vehicles, and for recreational users of the reserve.



15 | KAIUKU ESPLANADE RESERVE

This area must be kept clear to allow for people to access waahi kai areas and for recreational users of the reserve and as a safe play space for children.



13 | ORAKA RESESRVE

The area in red must be kept clear to allow for people to access waahi kai areas and for recreational users of the reserve and as a safe play space for children.



16 | ESPLANADE RESERVE

This land contains Urupa (burials) and it is considered inappropriate to allow camping in such sensitive areas.



14 | ORAKA ROAD

This area must be kept clear to allow for people to access waahi kai areas and for recreational users of the reserve.



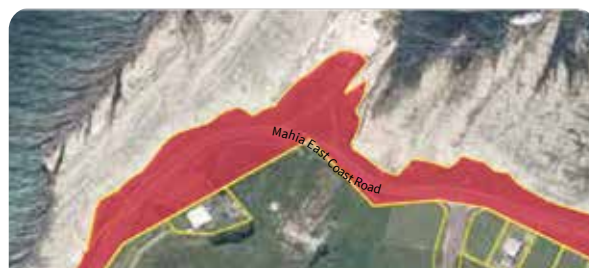
17 | WHANGAWEHI URUPA

This land contains Urupa (burials) and it is considered inappropriate to allow camping in such sensitive areas.



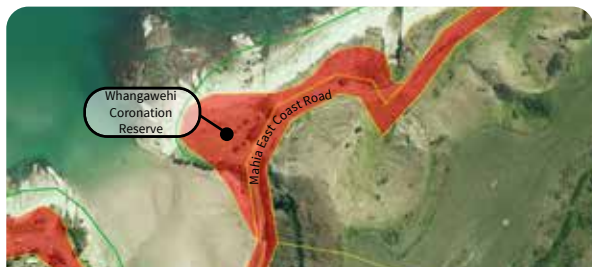
18 | WHANGAWEHI RESERVE

This area should be kept clear to allow boats to be launched and retrieved, for the parking of trailers and for turning of long vehicles.



21 | SNAPPER ROCK

This area in red must be kept clear to allow for people to access waahi kai areas and for recreational users of the reserve and as a safe play space for children.



19 | WHANGAWEHI CORONATION RESERVE

This area must be kept clear to allow for people to access waahi kai areas and for recreational users of the reserve and as a safe play space for children.



22 | NUKUTAUURUA ROAD

This area has been identified as historically sensitive being the location of previous battles, containing places for the preparation of the dead for burial, and must be kept clear..



20 | AUROA POINT/THE CRUSHER

This area must be kept clear to allow for people to access waahi kai areas and for recreational users of the reserve and as a safe play space for children.

For information about freedom camping you can also visit the Wairoa District Council and Wairoa i-SITE websites.



Wairoa District Council
 ● www.wairoadc.govt.nz,
 search for #freedomcamping



Wairoa i-SITE
 ● www.visitwairoa.co.nz

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

SUPERMARKET

WAIROA

New World

📍 51 Queen St, Wairoa 4108

☎ +64 6 838 8019

🕒 Mon - Sun 7am - 7pm

CAMPING EQUIPMENT

WAIROA

Angus Gemmell Ltd

📍 176 Marine Parade

☎ +64 6 838 7577

🕒 Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm

Farmlands

📍 53 Bridge St

☎ +64 6 838 7209

🕒 Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm, Sat 9am - 4pm

Johansen Hammer Hardware

📍 90 Marine Parade

☎ +64 6 838 7069

🕒 Mon - Fri 8.30am - 5pm, Sat 9am - 5pm,
Sun 10am - 3pm

RUBBISH & RECYCLING

WAIROA

Wairoa Landfill & Recycling Centre

📍 Fraser Street, Wairoa

☎ +64 6 838 8456,

☎ +64 27 7009 051

🕒 Tue, Thur, Sat, Sun 8am - 2pm
(closed some public holidays)

EFTPOS available

LAUNDRY FACILITIES

Wairoa Laundromat

📍 3 Paul Street, Wairoa 4108

🕒 Open 24 hours

Richie's Laundromat

📍 102 Marine Parade, Wairoa 4108

☎ +64 6 838 8550

🕒 Open 24 hours

DUMP STATIONS

1 - Riverside Motorcamp

📍 19 Marine Parade, Wairoa 4108

☎ +64 6 838 6301

2 - War Memorial Park

📍 Freyberg Street, Wairoa 4108

3 - Waikaremoana Holiday Park

📍 6249 Lake Road (SH38), Te Urewera 4195

☎ +64 6 837 3826

4 - Opoutama Beach

📍 Upoko Tataramoa Drive, Mahia 4198



Please refer to the map above for the locations of the dump stations.

HEALTH SERVICES

Wairoa Hospital

📍 36 Kitchener Street

☎ +64 6 838 7099

🕒 Open 24 hours

Wairoa Pharmacy

📍 Cnr Paul & Queen Street

☎ +64 6 838 7408

🕒 Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm, Sat 9am - 12pm

EMERGENCIES

★ **For any kind of emergency please dial 111**

Wairoa Police Station

📍 72 Queen Street, Wairoa 4108

☎ +64 6 838 8345

ANIMAL CONTROL

Have you come across roaming stock or dogs? You can contact Wairoa District Council's animal control team on:

☎ +64 6 838 7309 (available 24/7)

For information about clubs, activities & events in the Wairoa District please visit the Wairoa i-SITE.



Wairoa i-SITE

📍 9 Paul Street

🌐 www.visitwairoa.co.nz

✉ isitewairoa@wairoadc.govt.nz

☎ 0800 429 537 229

☎ +64 6 838 7440

HISTORY

WAIROA

Wairoa in Māori means 'Long Water'. Wairoa was originally a Māori settlement. The ancestral canoe Takitimu travelled up the river and landed near where the Takitimu meeting house now sits. The river was an important source of food for the community that grew on its banks.

The town site (then called Clyde) was purchased by the government in 1864 and sections were sold to settlers in 1866. Members of the Māori Pai Mārire (Hauhau) faith arrived in the district around the same time and Wairoa became a colonial military base. Battles were fought around Wairoa and Lake Waikaremoana. Māori land in the district and around the lake was later confiscated by the government despite many Wairoa Māori having fought for the Crown.

Development of the town was hindered by lack of roads and difficulty navigating the entrance to the Wairoa River. The land was converted into pastoral farms and later pine forestry, and dairy factories and freezing works were opened. However, Wairoa continued to be constrained by its isolation and reliance on rural industries vulnerable to economic downturns.

Today the Wairoa district has a population of 8,481. The main employer is the freezing works, owned by Talleys, with up to 700 employed at peak season, followed by agriculture, forestry and horticulture.

WAIROA LIGHTHOUSE

The lighthouse was originally on Portland Island, off the southern end of Mahia Peninsula. It gave good service there for many years until 1959 when lighthouses were progressively automated.



Wairoa Lighthouse

It was former Mayor Robert Shortt who recognised the value of the lighthouse and proposed to move it to its current location, where it continues to shine a welcoming beacon of light for travellers to safely navigate a path home to Wairoa.

HISTORY OF TAKITIMU

Te Waihirere is the name of the marae reservation where Takitimu, the carved meeting house now stands. The Kōhanga Reo and urupā are also called Te Waihirere, to acknowledge the area and whenua (land).

In the book of Takitimu, Author Tiaki (Jack) Mitchell wrote of a prophecy made by Te Kooti. Wairoa leader Hata Tipoki along with the people, whānau and hapū, realised this prophecy and so Takitimu was built. The whānau and hapū, gifted their lands for the marae to be built on. Those hapū are Ngāti Moewhare and Ngāi Tamao. Their descendants still reside at Waihirere today.

Takitimu was the first Marae built where every iwi in the country is represented in the carvings. Ngāti Porou leader Sir Apirana Ngata, brought to Wairoa the carvers and weavers for this build. Master carvers, brothers Pine Amine and Hone Taiapa of Ngāti Porou, as well as carvers from Raukawa and the Cook Islands all came to Wairoa.

Master weaver Huhana Tuhou, of Ngāti Porou, worked on the tukutuku panel along with whānau from Wairoa: Bella Kumeroa (nee Whaanga), Mae Tipoki (nee Cooper) and Bundy Rangiehu, alongside other wāhine. The marae was opened in 1938 by King Koroki, from Tainui.

A tōtara tree stands tall behind what is now the Kōhanga Reo. Beside that tree a small whare was built for the king to rest and sleep whilst in Wairoa for the opening. The whare is long gone but the tree remains, which is now referred to as King Koroki.



