



The Carnegie Library was beautifully restored inside and out in 2009 by the council. It's the most intact and original library in New Zealand.



Taranu Art Centre - originally Taranu School built in 1877. Building reflects the importance placed on education by society at the time.



Shortland Wharf is the only remaining functional wharf from those built in the gold era.



The Walkway near Kuranui Bay



Historic mining cottages have been lovingly maintained to this day.



William Hall Memorial Reserve is a fascinating arboretum with a network of steps and paths in the hills behind Thames.



Pillar Box V.R. Type on Queen St and one of 1869-cast pillar boxes are considered to be the oldest still in service in New Zealand.

On 27 July 1867, James Mackay, Civil Commissioner for the Hawraiki District, concluded an agreement with Te Hoterimi Taipari, Raiki Whakarongatari and Rapana Maunganoa securing mineral rights leading to the proclamation of Thames Goldfield. That same month close to Kuaeranga Pa at the mouth of the Waitahakauranga, Mackay selected the site to establish the British settlement of Shortland. Local Maori landowners leased land for businesses and residences – first raupo and tents were erected – and Shortland quickly became a compact town with government buildings, cottages, shops, six or seven pubs and a wharf. It soon emerged that the heart of the Thames goldfield was over a mile away to the north around Grahamstown. By 1874 Shortland had merged with the burgeoning Grahamstown and the Borough of Thames was formally constituted.

## Settlers Arrive

## Historic Notes

### Thames Water Race

A system of some 15km aqueducts built to bring water from the Kauaeranga River to Thames for use in the gold field.

### Caledonian Mine

The most spectacularly wealthy quartz reef in Thames which in 1870 produced 140,000 ounces (3,969 kilograms) of bullion (silver and gold) in just one year.

### Totara Pa

Tōtara pā cemetery, to the south of the town, is on the site of the former Te Tōtara pā.

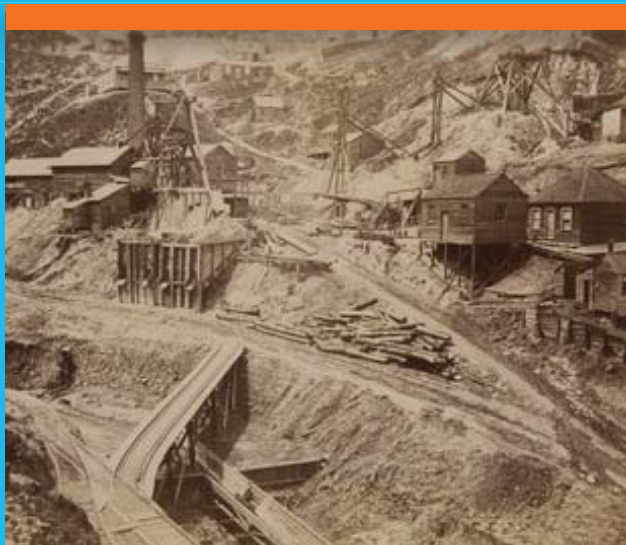
### Hotunui

A carved meeting house now housed in Auckland Museum was built to commemorate the marriage of Wiropo Hōtereni Taipari (son of Ngatiu Maru leader Hauāuru Taipari) to a Ngāti Awa chieftainess.

### The Booms

Named after a boom, a wire and timber obstacle, built across the Kauaeranga River that caught kauri logs driven down the river from the forest above.

Caledonian mine



## Further Information & Guides

Guide: Russell Skeets  
07 868 7955 or 0274 917 860

Guide: John Isdale  
07 868 9725 or 07 868 6227

Thames i-Site: 206 Pollen St, Thames  
07 868 7284

Jacob's Ladder is a popular stairway in Thames



The Pumphouse



# Historic Walks of Thames



These walks were devised to accompany the information contained in the pamphlets: *Historic Grahamstown*, *Historic Shortland and Tararu* and *A Walk Around Historic Thames* from the Thames Information Centre. Colour coded and given names by which the areas were known in the Goldfield Era from 1867, they take in historic buildings, reserves, natural beauty spots and cemeteries.



# Grahamstown and Moanatairi

**Features:** Thames Coastal Walkway as two circuits, Caledonian Mine site, first gold bonanza site, Thames Railway site, seashore life.

**Distance/Time:** 6.5 km/2hrs plus diversions.

**Start:** Danby Field Car park: or Brown St, near Pak n Save.

## **Circuit A: to Kuranui Bay 4.6 km return**

Turn left at Danby Field, walk past playground, turn left at roundabout, right into Brown St to Thames Coastal Walkway sign, at alternative parking place. Follow path to Karaka Bird Hide, small gauge rail track and pohutukawa to site of original Grahamstown Station. At Victoria Park investigate 1902 Boer War Memorial, follow shell path beside Croquet Club (1906) and Band Rotunda (1900). Veer left at T-section ahead, cross footbridge at Moanatairi sign. Pass remains of Burke St Wharf. Follow path to Kuranui Bay Reserve. Walk to BBQ area. Cross Tararu Rd to footpath, turn right and head to Kuranui Creek, first gold bonanza (Shotover). On to Moanatairi Tunnel then old big pump, Caledonian Gold Mine (richest mine on the Thames) and finally, Stamper Battery. Turn right into Burke St and left into Beach Rd, walk beside A&G Price Foundry (1871), left into Williamson St, Right into Brown St passing Sunkist Lodge, originally 1869 Lady Bowen Hotel and the Wharf Hotel/Lady Bowen (rafted here in 1868). Pass Scrip Corner on left. Admire old dwellings, reach Mineralogical Museum (Te Aparanginui Urupa). Return along Brown St.

## **Circuit B: to Shortland Wharf 2.4 km return**

From Brown St car park, cross bridge, follow path behind Pak n Save. Cross footbridge, walk beside Danby Field and mangroves to the Richmond sign. Path leads over a footbridge to Shortland Wharf sign. Pass fisheries on the wharf, exit onto Queen St, opposite Grey St, turn left, head towards shopping mall, passing Thames Railway Station originally built in 1898 on the site of the Grahamstown Station (now Ngati Maru runanga office). Return to Danby Field parking area, or pass the playground and replica Wakatere paddle steamer, noting site of 1872 gasworks opposite, turn left at roundabout into Mary St, right into Brown St, and back to alternative car park.

# Tararu

**Features:** Coastal Walk to Tararu, Bird-watching, Historic buildings, Art Gallery, Butterfly House. There are Low Tide and High Tide options for this walk.

**Distance/Time:** 6km return/approx 1hr.

**Start:** Kuranui Bay, Thames.

## **Low Tide Option:**

Follow curve of bay to Thames Sailing Club. Continue past reserve to end of Wilson St, along foreshore to Rennie St. Exit at Rennie St, or wander round the point to Tararu Stream then retrace steps.

## **High Tide Option:**

Cross SH 25 to footpath. Walk left, cross to Sailing Club, follow reserve to Prices Ave, where settlement built after WWII for immigrant workers from Britian, right into Robert St, left along Tararu Rd (SH25) and left into Wilson St. At end of Wilson St, take concrete path by retirement village to meet end of Rennie St. Right onto Tararu Rd, follow to Thames enjoying notable historic homes under Historic Places Trust. Explore Tararu Arts Centre, open daily 10am-4pm within the original Tararu School building, built in 1879. There is a butterfly house in this area, at Victoria Rd. Return to Kuranui Bay along the footpath or beach.

# Totara Pa

**Features:** Historic cemeteries, old pa site, Kauaeranga Riverside walk and views.

**Distance/Time:** 6 km/2 hours for return walk.

**Start:** Brown St. by Pak n Save, take Coastal Walkway section to Shortland Wharf or park at the wharf or Danby Field car park.

## **Stage 1:**

From the Wharf turn right into Queen St. Head south to fitness centre car park. Keep left of the building, walk onto grass to your left to see headstones from old Shortland cemetery. Or, cross Kauaeranga River bridge and follow path beside Ngati Maru Highway to Tony Ave where concrete path becomes gravel. Continue to its end opposite Te Arapipi Rd. Cross highway and head up Te Arapipi Rd, to Historic Places Information sign halfway. Continue to explore cemetery grounds and pa site before returning down Arapipi Rd to Ngati Maru Highway.

## **Stage 2:**

Head up Tony Ave to the Totara Close intersection. Walk down Totara Close to the TCDC walkway sign. Cross grass to footbridge, down steps towards the Kauaeranga River and Maramarahi Rd. Turn left at the road and walk beside river back to the Ngati Maru Highway.



## Legend

- Blue Walk
  - Orange Walk
  - Yellow Walk
  - Green Walk
  - Pink Walk
  - Red Walk
- Pools
  - Community Halls
  - Library
  - Sailing Club
- School
  - Park

# Grahamstown and Irishtown

**Features:** Expansive Views and Historic Places.

**Distance/Time:** 6km/1hr approx.

**Start:** Danby Field, beside Goldfields Shopping Mall.

## **Stage 1:**

Left along Queen St, right onto Mary St, cross Pollen St, on to St George's Anglican Church, built in 1872. Visitors welcome. Continue beside the hospital to Karaka Rd.

## **Stage 2:**

Head up Karaka Rd, cross bridge into Irishtown where early Irish goldminers set up camp. Follow TCDC walkway sign down gravel path, to Bella St past old mining cottages to Thames/Hauraki Mine Pumphouse on cnr Waiokaraka Rd. The Brightsmile Community Gardens on left occupies land above buried mine shafts. Walk beside the Pumphouse up Waiokaraka Rd to view historic, fenced mine shafts.

Return to Bella St/Campbell St intersection. Follow Campbell St, right into Broad St. At its end, climb 90 steps to Princes St. Merge into Albert St. Continue down Albert St to Pollen St.

To explore WW1 Monument head right along Pollen St to Waiotahi RD. Follow this up to monument, returning the same way. Back on Pollen St turn left, walk back to Albert st to 1889 Saxon Shaft and Pumping Station. Follow Albert St to Queen St at Pearl Fisheries Gallery. Head left to enjoy historic architecture along Queen St: Former Mine Union Office at No 727; Former Court house at 726; Historic Pillar Box VR type, cast 1869; Carnegie Library at 705-709. At Cochrane St, turn right for Thames School of Mines and Mineral Museum, open from 11am to 3pm Wed to Sun, or left for Thames Historic Museum on corner of Pollen and Cochrane St. Open 1-4pm daily. Or continue along Queen St to car park past shopping mall.

# Block 27 & Shortland

**Features:** Historic mining cottages, old oak trees, grand views, and Shortland Cemetery option.

**Distance/Time:** 1 hr/5 km return approx.

**Start:** Car Park at Danby Field, Queen St beside Goldfields Shopping Mall.

## **Stage 1:**

Refer to Blue walk for first stage and link in at Karaka Rd.

## **Stage 2:**

50 metres up Karaka Rd is a TCDC walkway sign, head right, up narrow path and concrete steps to Edward St. Admire views of Thames. Cross road and follow walkway sign up more stairs, emerge on Sandes St. Cross here, go up St Patrick's Row. At walkway sign follow path to Augustus St across Sealey St to Franklyn St. Sight original miner's cottages. Left up Franklyn St to meet The Terrace. Turn left, walk past Graham St, turn right into Sealey St. At the top turn left for a 10min detour to old Thames Water Reservoir at end of Hill St, or turn right to continue along Hill St to Richmond Rd, then left into Mill St, pass the Consols Mine Shaft, then head down Cook St, right into Hill St, left into Hape Rd.

## **Stage 3:**

Down Hape Rd, left at The Terrace and left into Vernon St, to explore the Shortland Cemetery on Danby St. Turn right then left down Mt Pleasant Rd. Follow to the oak trees at the top of 'Jacob's Ladder'.

## **Stage 3: Shortland Cemetery Detour**

Down Hape Rd, left at The Terrace and left into Vernon St, to explore the Shortland Cemetery on Danby St. Turn right then left down Mt Pleasant Rd. Follow to oak trees at top of 'Jacob's Ladder'.

- Tararu
- Caledonian Mine
- Kuranui Bay
- Goldfields Shopping Centre
- Danby Field Carpark
- Grahamstown
- Irishtown
- Toilet
- Block 27
- Toilet
- Information Centre
- Hotunui
- Parawai
- The Booms
- Shortland
- Totara Pa

# Parawai and William Hall Memorial Reserve

**Features:** Grand views, historic places, William Hall Memorial Reserve, site of Hotunui, the meeting house now housed in Auckland Museum and frequented by thousands of visitors annually.

**Distance/Time:** 6 km/1 hr approx.

**Start:** Danby Field or Grey St, at base of Jacob's Ladder site.

## **Stage 1:**

Park at Danby St, walk towards wharves, left into Grey St. Follow Grey St across Pollen, MacKay and Rolleston Streets to TCDC walkway sign at base of stairs at end.

## **Stage 2:**

Up stairway of 'Jacob's Ladder'. Walk up Mt Pleasant Rd, right into Harvey Cres, a 1950s state housing subdivision, to Hauraki Tce. Cross this road into Korokoro Crescent. Walk past playground to reserve. Follow path between fences into William Hall Memorial Reserve. Take right fork of path, enjoying exotic and native trees to the stream and bridge (you can exit here onto Brunton St). Continue on gravel path, back through reserve and exit onto Currie St at top. Down Currie St, right into Mount Sea, left into Mount View Rd, walk to meet Grafton Rd. Opposite this intersection, at walkway sign follow track along former Thames Water Race to the top of Reservoir Rd. Down Reservoir Rd, turn left into Marshall Cres. Follow walkway sign down steps to Waikiekie Rd. Turn right, then left into Bowen Place. At its end a walkway sign leads over a bridge into the reserve, zigzagging out at Booms Ave. Turn right onto Booms Ave. Enjoy magnificent views and head down to Parawai Rd. Head right along Parawai Rd, past the 1886 Holy Trinity Church (sometimes locally known as the Maori church), at mouth of Herewaka Stream and 1877 Brunton house to Fenton St, in vicinity of original site of Hotunui. Turn left here, then right into Heale St. At the end is the base of Jacob's ladder in Grey St.