

List Entry Record

List Number: 9900

Site Reference: P178475



HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND
POUHERE TAONGA

Name: Meretoto/Ship Cove

Other Names:	Name	Year From	Year To
	Meretoto		
	Ship Cove		
	Ship's Cove		
	Motuara		
	Motuara Island		
	Motuanauru Island		
	Hippah Island		

Location: Tōtaranui/Queen Charlotte Sound

List Entry Legal Description: Sec 4 Blk XV Gore SD (NZ Gazette 1976 p 1932), Secs 36, 53 Blk XI Gore SD (NZ Gazette 1986 p 3943), Sec 31, Blk XII Gore SD (NZ Gazette 1986 p 3943), Secs 1,9-10,12-13, Blk XV Gore SD (NZ Gazette 1986 p 3943), Secs 2,7, Blk XVI Gore SD (NZ Gazette 1986 p 3943), Sec 141 Queen Charlotte Sound District, (NZ Gazette 1986 p 3943), Sec 3, Blk XV Gore SD (NZ Gazette 1926 p 57), Seabed. All of this land is in the Marlborough Land District.

Local Authority: Marlborough District

Summary: Meretoto/Ship Cove (including the island of Motuara) is a key early site of sustained contact between Māori and Europeans. As Captain James Cook's Aotearoa/New Zealand expedition base over three South Pacific voyages in the late 18th century, it was the place where the Europeans spent the most time in the country, both compared to other individual anchorage sites and overall. 170 of the 328 days spent there between 1769 and 1777 – just over half – were at and around Meretoto/Ship Cove. It was the only Aotearoa/New Zealand place visited on all three voyages; one of only two places visited in Te Waipounamu/the South Island and the only local anchorage during the third and final voyage. In an area replete with Kupe place names which acted as the gateway between Te Ika-a-Māui/the North Island and Te Waipounamu/the South Island, Meretoto/Ship Cove was already part of a well-trodden cultural landscape.

The duration of the Cook visits allowed for extensive and repeated interactions between Māori and Europeans, forging relationships that were by turns amicable, challenging and violent; mutually-beneficial trading and intellectual curiosity bringing the two peoples together, and misunderstandings and blunders at times driving them apart. Cultural facilitation by Tupaia of Ra'iātea, who joined the first voyage in Tahiti and spent three weeks at Meretoto/Ship Cove in 1770, smoothed relations. For Tōtaranui Māori, he represented the re-joining of Polynesian connections and became a figure of veneration.

From Motuara in 1770, Cook proclaimed British sovereignty over the Te Waipounamu/the South Island. Lengthy stays by the Europeans allowed for important scientific work in the fields of botany, zoology and astronomy. Over the course of the second and third voyage visits, Meretoto/Ship Cove became one of the most precisely measured places in the world, as latitude and longitude calculations were refined. European plants and animals were introduced, some more successfully than others. Extensive written and artistic records made by the Europeans during and after their Meretoto/Ship Cove visit chronicled activities and relationships in rich detail.

The Cook voyages put Meretoto/Ship Cove on the world map and other early European visitors were drawn there by this association. The site was set aside by the government for its historic significance in 1896, making it Aotearoa/New Zealand's first historic reserve. Monuments erected in 1913 and 1920

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commemorated the Cook connection with little reference to tangata whenua. This was redressed in 2006 with the addition of pouwhenua and interpretation panels that outlined Meretoto/Ship Cove's bicultural values.

List Entry Status: Listed

List Entry Type: Historic Place Category 1

List Number: 9900

Date Entered: 21 February 2019

Extent of List Entry: Extent includes the land described as Sec 4 Blk XV Gore SD (NZ Gazette 1976 p 1932), Secs 36, 53 Blk XI Gore SD (NZ Gazette 1986 p 3943), Sec 31, Blk XII Gore SD (NZ Gazette 1986 p 3943), Secs 1,9 -10,12-13, Blk XV Gore SD (NZ Gazette 1986 p 3943), Secs 2, 7, Blk XVI Gore SD (NZ Gazette 1986 p 3943), Sec 141 Queen Charlotte Sound District, (NZ Gazette 1986 p 3943), Sec 3, Blk XV Gore SD (NZ Gazette 1926 p 57) Marlborough Land District, and part of the land described as Seabed, Marlborough Land District, and the structures known as the 1913 monument, the 1920 monument and the 2006 pouwhenua. (Refer to map in Appendix 1 of the List entry report for further information).

Chattels

District Plan Listing: District Plan Marlborough Sounds Resource Management Plan, Operative 25 August 2011, Volume Two, Appendix B: Schedule of Areas of Ecological Value, Refs. 3/31 and 4/08.

NZAA Site Number: Q26/5
Q26/8
Q26/9
Q26/10
Q26/15
Q26/16
Q26/17
Q26/18
Q26/19
Q26/20
Q26/21

Maori Interest: Primary Significance

Heritage NZ Office: Central Regional Office

Protection Mechanism:	Protection Mechanism	Reference	Effective Date
	Historic Reserve	NZ Gazette 1986 p.3943	18/09/1986
	Historic Reserve	NZ Gazette 1926 p.57; NZ Gazette 1976 p.1932	14/01/1926

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Iwi Management Plan	Te Ātiawa Ki Te Tau Ihu Iwi Environmental Management Plan, 2014	01/01/0001
Statutory Acknowledgement Area	Tōtaranui/Queen Charlotte Sound and Islands is within the Coastal Marine Area	01/01/0001

Other Information:

Disclaimer Please note that entry on the New Zealand Heritage List/Rārangi Kōrero identifies only the heritage values of the property concerned, and should not be construed as advice on the state of the property, or as a comment of its soundness or safety, including in regard to earthquake risk, safety in the event of fire, or insanitary conditions. Archaeological sites are protected by the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014, regardless of whether they are entered on the New Zealand Heritage List/Rārangi Kōrero or not. Archaeological sites include 'places associated with pre-1900 human activity, where there may be evidence relating to the history of New Zealand'. This List entry report should not be read as a statement on whether or not the archaeological provisions of the Act apply to the property (s) concerned. Please contact your local Heritage New Zealand office for archaeological advice. Department of Conservation ICON Site

General Nature of Wahi Tapu:

Section 66(1) & 66(3) Assessment:

Section 23(1)	Aesthetic
Section 23(1)	Archaeological
Section 23(1)	Cultural
Section 23(1)	Historical
Section 23(1)	Social
Section 23(2)	a
Section 23(2)	b
Section 23(2)	c
Section 23(2)	d
Section 23(2)	e
Section 23(2)	f
Section 23(2)	h
Section 23(2)	i
Section 23(2)	j
Section 23(2)	k

Section 66(1) Detail:



Historical Significance or Value

As a place of early, sustained and repeated contact between Māori and Europeans, Meretoto/Ship Cove is pivotal to Aotearoa/New Zealand's emergence as a bicultural nation. The relationship forged there was complex, moving back and forth along a continuum, from amicable to tense to violent and thus foreshadowed the challenges that followed organised European settlement in the 19th century.

The place is strongly connected with James Cook, a central figure in Aotearoa/New Zealand and international history. Its status as his favourite Aotearoa/New Zealand anchorage, the place he and his fellow voyagers spent the most time at over the three voyages, gives it special historic significance. His declaration of British sovereignty over Te Waipounamu/the South Island from Motuara associates Meretoto/Ship Cove with Aotearoa/New Zealand's rise as a nation state following the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi in 1840.

Meretoto/Ship Cove is allied to one of the great European scientific questions of the age and an impetus for the Cook voyages: the whereabouts of Terra Australis Incognita, the fabled great southern continent. The research carried out at the place by Cook and the voyage scientists is of foundational significance to the history of science in Aotearoa/New Zealand, including the field of astronomy. The introduction of European plants and animals to the place presaged a deliberate policy of acclimatisation following organised settlement in the 19th century.

The reservation of Meretoto/Ship Cove for its association with Cook in 1896 make it the country's earliest historic reserve. It is a foundational site in the history of heritage conservation in Aotearoa/New Zealand. Its early recognition is symbolic of burgeoning interest in local history, as is the unveiling of the Cook memorial in 1913 after some years of planning. Recognition of the site's importance to iwi through the redevelopment of the site in 2006 represents the public flourishing of indigenous historical narratives in the 21st century.



Aesthetic Significance or Value

The bush-clad, sheltered coastal environment of Meretoto/Ship Cove, which provided tangata whenua with fish, birds and other necessary resources, has not changed markedly since the late 18th century. Early reservation of the site and a consequent lack of development preserved the scenic qualities warmly appreciated by James Cook and his fellow voyagers. Thickly clustered trees surrounding the cove that spill down to the water's edge and the regenerated forest on the now predator-free island of Motuara provide a safe home for the numerous bird species whose music enchanted Joseph Banks in 1770. The positive sensory experience created by the trees, birds, water and topography in concert are reminders of why Meretoto/Ship Cove became Cook's favourite Aotearoa/New Zealand anchorage.

Archaeological Significance or Value

Meretoto/Ship Cove is an important archaeological landscape that contains evidence of Māori occupation prior to and during the arrival of Europeans. Further archaeological investigation of the site could yield evidence relating to seasonal occupation by Māori, its contribution to Tōtaranui's status as a gateway between the Te Ika-a-Māui/the North Island and Te Waipounamu/the South Island, interactions between Māori and Europeans during the Cook voyage period (1770-1777) and any remnants of the European campsites. There is potential for investigation of the sea bed to produce items relating to the European ships, their fabric and contents, as well as objects relating to Māori sea-faring activity.

Cultural Significance or Value

The plethora of places in the wider area associated with the ancestor Kupe put Meretoto/Ship Cove within a well-traversed cultural landscape. Meretoto/Ship Cove has strong cultural significance for Māori as the first place of exchange with European people in Te Waipounamu/the South Island since Abel Tasman's short visit to Mohua/Golden Bay in 1642. Moreover, the exchange at Meretoto/Ship Cove was of much longer duration and moved the relationship well beyond the bloody altercation that formed the sum total of the encounter in 1642. The European written and artistic records possess cultural value for the insights they provide into late 18th century Māori life in this locale and are one pathway that connects contemporary iwi with their tūpuna. Meretoto/Ship Cove is also a place where long-separated Polynesian connections were re-joined through the sustained interactions between Tōtaranui Māori and Tupaia of Ra'iātea in 1770.

Social Significance or Value

Meretoto/Ship Cove has social significance as a site for the ongoing public commemoration of the Cook voyages and the meeting of peoples they represent. Community involvement in memorial planning and fundraising and events highlights the social value assigned to the place. This is complemented by its long-held status as a visitor destination based on its dual scenic and historic attractions.

Section 66(3) Detail:

(a) The extent to which the place reflects important or representative aspects of New Zealand history

Meretoto/Ship Cove has outstanding significance for the extent to which it reflects and represents the origins of Aotearoa/New Zealand's bicultural identity in all its complexity. The duration of the European visits to this place and the density of interactions between Māori and Europeans compared to those at other Cook anchorages elevate it to the highest level of importance. The wealth of surviving journals, artworks, maps, artefacts and other material records richly document the bicultural interactions that occurred there. Through the declaration of British sovereignty over Te Waipounamu/the South Island, the place functions as the preface to Aotearoa/New Zealand's emergence as a



colony, one of the most significant nineteenth century developments in the country's history.

As Aotearoa/New Zealand's first historic reserve and one which retains a high public profile for its historic associations, it illuminates shifting narratives around commemorating and interpreting the past, as an exclusive focus on Cook the great navigator has loosened to accommodate other historical players, most significantly Māori.

(b) The association of the place with events, persons, or ideas of importance in New Zealand history

Meretoto/Ship Cove has outstanding significance for its close association with James Cook. Though his legacy is complex and contested, he is nevertheless acknowledged as one of the most influential figures in Aotearoa/New Zealand and international history, both for his individual qualities and achievements and as a representative of ideas and themes around exploration and discovery, Enlightenment-era scientific endeavour and colonisation.

The Ra'īātean high priest Tupaia's three-week stay at Meretoto/Ship Cove in 1770 affords the place an outstanding connection to a person who possesses great importance in Aotearoa/New Zealand history through his role as an early cultural mediator, and who is revered within te ao Māori.

Meretoto/Ship Cove witnessed some important events in Aotearoa/New Zealand history. It was the base from which Cook became aware that Aotearoa/New Zealand was comprised of two main islands and thus not part of Terra Australis Incognita, the great southern continent the expedition was searching for. Over the course of the second and third voyage visits, it became one of the most astronomically-measured places in the world. The country's first sheep were released there, albeit unsuccessfully, in an embryonic attempt at acclimatisation. It was the departure point for the first Māori voyage to other South Pacific islands in centuries and possibly ever, a major event in the timeline of a people for whom migration was of foundational importance.

The incorporation of the Europeans into Māori lifeways and practices at Meretoto/Ship Cove associate the place with ideas of historical Māori agency. While the Europeans undoubtedly had an impact on their hosts, they were very much visitors to a Māori world, a fact starkly illustrated by the 1773 killings at Wharehunga Bay on Arapāoa, an act of utu carried out for reasons of mana.

(c) The potential of the place to provide knowledge of New Zealand history

Meretoto/Ship Cove has significance for its capacity to provide knowledge of Aotearoa/New Zealand history through further archaeological investigation. In addition to evidence relating to the centuries of Māori occupation, the place has the potential to shed additional light on early European exploration campsites and Māori-European trading activities through the recovery of items traded and gifted. A number of items acquired by the Europeans at Meretoto/Ship Cove, most notably pounamu, now reside in museums and are potentially available for study, and archaeological investigation may yield evidence of those secured by Māori. Exploration of the seabed could turn up items related to the cleaning and repair of the European ships, rubbish discarded and items lost from those ships, as well as evidence that illuminates Māori use of the sea. The wealth of European documentary material has the potential to produce new insights as research questions and topics evolve.

(d) The importance of the place to tangata whenua

Meretoto/Ship Cove has outstanding significance for Te Tau Ihu iwi as a site of early sustained encounter with Europeans. It has special meaning for Ngāti Apa, Ngāti Kuia and Rangitāne, all of whom held mana whenua over the wider area during the Cook visits, and it is a site of significance for later arrivals Ngāti Toa and present-day kaitiaki Te Ātiawa. It is also significant as a meeting place



between tangata whenua and Tupaia of Ra'iātea, who has been remembered by Ngāti Kuia in a lament.

(e) The community association with, or public esteem for the place

Meretoto/Ship Cove has significance for its general public esteem. It has attracted visitors due to its Cook associations and remarkable scenic qualities since the early nineteenth century and its status as a Department of Conservation ICON site in the twenty-first century demonstrates an enduring high level of public interest in the site.

(f) The potential of the place for public education

Meretoto/Ship Cove has outstanding significance for its public education potential. The intactness of the site allows visitors to understand and experience at first hand the qualities that made it Cook's favourite anchorage, a quality which elevates its historic significance. The ability to sail safely throughout the calm waters of the wider Sound to and from Raukawa Moana/Cook Strait shows why Tōtaranui was the gateway between Te Ika-a-Māui/the North Island and Te Waipounamu/the South island in earlier times. The place is on a major Department of Conservation track and accessible by water, allowing year-round access.

(h) The symbolic or commemorative value of the place

Memorials at Meretoto/Ship Cove and Motuara commemorate Cook, a figure of outstanding national and international historic significance. The reservation of Meretoto/Ship Cove for its historic associations in 1896 and unveiling of the first memorial in 1913 demonstrates a particularly long-standing appreciation of the place's commemorative qualities, as does ongoing public events there on key dates. The 2006 pouwhenua and related features highlight the place's strong commemorative values for Māori. The place as a whole symbolises the origins of bicultural Aotearoa/New Zealand, one of the country's defining features.

(i) The importance of identifying historic places known to date from an early period of New Zealand settlement

Meretoto/Ship Cove has outstanding significance as the site of the most sustained contact between Māori and Europeans over the Cook voyages period (1769-1777), a critically important time in Aotearoa/New Zealand history that predates organised European settlement by over 60 years. Aside from the inevitable disappearance of above-ground structures associated with pā and kāinga and the addition of monuments and visitor amenities, the place closely resembles its late 18th century self.

(j) The importance of identifying rare types of historic places

Meretoto/Ship Cove is rare because it is one of only two places the Cook expeditions visited in Te Waipounamu/the South Island. It has overall rarity value because the expedition parties were based there for just over half the time spent in Aotearoa/New Zealand between 1769 and 1777. Meaningful interactions occurred at other sites in Te Ika-a-Māui/the North Island (mainly during the first voyage) and Tamatea/Dusky Sound in Te Waipounamu/the South Island (second voyage), but the length of time spent at Meretoto/Ship Cove over six visits meant the two peoples came to know something about one another in a way not possible at other contact sites. It was the only Aotearoa/New Zealand site visited during the third and final voyage.

(k) The extent to which the place forms part of a wider historical and cultural area

Due to its location in Tōtaranui/Queen Charlotte Sound, Meretoto/Ship Cove is part of a wider landscape of historical, cultural and archaeological significance. It sits among many places named by Kupe and preserved by generations of



occupants, and is therefore associated with the imprint of an important ancestor. The recorded archaeological sites in the Sound's numerous bays and islands signify extensive Māori occupation of the area, which was a gateway between Te Ika-a-Māui/the North Island and Te Waipounamu/the South island. New place names given by Cook, most obviously 'Ship Cove', added another layer to the cultural map. Places in the wider area were visited from the Meretoto/Ship Cove base, such as Arapāoa (a Kupe site), the location of two key events: Cook's 'discovery' of Raukawa Moana/Cook Strait and the 1773 killing of 10 Adventure crewmen. Meretoto/Ship Cove can also be seen as an eminent feature of a cultural landscape comprised of Cook visit sites that extends over both islands. It is one of many public conservation areas in the Marlborough Sounds.

Summary of Significance or Values

Meretoto/Ship Cove has outstanding significance as a key foundational site in the story of bicultural Aotearoa/New Zealand. Its selection by James Cook as the expedition base meant that extensive and sustained interactions between Māori and Europeans resulted in a degree of familiarity not possible at other anchorage sites. It is deeply significant for tangata whenua as a site of first encounter with Europeans and Tupaia of Ra'iātea. It has special significance as a very early bicultural contact-era place and has rarity value as only one of two Te Waipounamu/South Island sites visited by Cook, and the only Aotearoa/New Zealand place visited on the third voyage.

As Cook's self-described 'old station', it is closely associated with this critical figure in Aotearoa/New Zealand and international history. As the site from which Cook declared British sovereignty over Te Waipounamu/the South Island, it has outstanding significance for its association with Aotearoa/New Zealand's rise as a nation state and colony on the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi in 1840. As the first place in Aotearoa/New Zealand reserved by the government for its historic associations, Meretoto/Ship Cove is a vitally important site in the history of heritage conservation. Its outstanding commemorative value is demonstrated by the installation, over nearly 100 years, of two single and one group of monuments that together symbolise the place's bicultural significance. As a place that resembles its late 18th century self, Meretoto/Ship Cove retains many of the attributes appreciated by Māori and Europeans alike. To stand on its shores is to understand why it became Cook's favourite anchorage.

Statement of Wahi Tapu: