

Cyril Whiteoak

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## A Timeline of The PumpHouse

Pump house at Lake Pupuke, Takapuna.

## About The PumpHouse

The PumpHouse Theatre is located in Killarney Park on the shore of Lake Pupuke in Takapuna, Auckland.

Formerly a water pumping station that supplied Lake Pupuke water to North Shore's early settlers, in 1983 it was listed as a Category II Historic Building under the protection of The New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

In the 1970s the buildings were saved from demolition by local residents then converted into a community theatre and arts centre for the North Shore.

In the early 1990s, an Amphitheatre was added to the complex behind the cafe enabling outdoor productions to be performed in summer.

The PumpHouse is administered by The North Shore Theatre Arts Trust and operates as a programmed venue for hire for the performing arts and other types of staged events.

The theatre calendar offers diverse fare, ranging from plays, musicals, dance, traditional outdoor Summer Shakespeare, stand-up comedy and concerts to psychic mediums, book launches, poetry and play readings.



The PumpHouse Theatre and French Rendez-vous Cafe - 2011

The Maori name for the lake is Pupukemoana overflowing water/sea . According to Maori legend, Rangitoto once occupied the lake spot then sank and reappeared in the gulf leaving the hole behind.

A volcanic explosion forms the crater that is Lake Pupuke



Legendary Polynesian explorer Kupe is said to have landed his canoe at Torpedo Bay in Devonport

Tainui waka descendant tribes spread out across the Tamaki (Auckland region) farming kumara, terracing volcanoes and building Pa.  
Te Kawerau-a-Maki and Ngati Paoa create settlements on the North Shore.  
Te Kawerau-a-Maki having control of Takapuna.

1200s

140 - 150 thousand years ago

Sometime during 900 AD

1400s - 1700s

Tainui waka captained by Hoturoa makes a stop on the North Shore near Narrow Neck. According to Maori tradition they give thanks for the fresh water spring they name 'Takapuna' before continuing their exploration of the Waitemata.

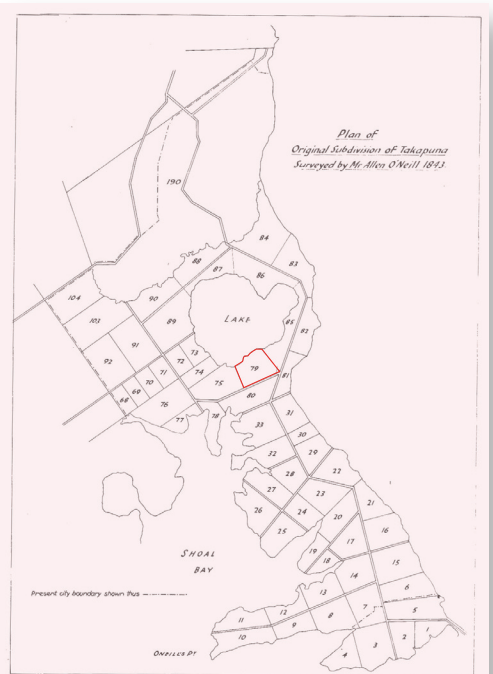




Hongi Hika

Ngapuhi chief Hongi Hika invades Tamaki region. He is aided by fellow Ngapuhi Warrior Chief Eruera Patuone of Hokianga. Using newly acquired muskets, they destroy Ngati Paoa settlements and eventually those of Te Kawerau-a Maki who traditionally settled Takapuna.

Eruera Patuone



Map of the original allotment subdivision by Mr. Allan O'Neill and Sir John Logan Campbell. Names of the buyers are printed on opposite page.

Land around the lake surveyed after Ngati Paoa Maori sell the land to the Crown as part of the Mahurangi purchase further protecting the area from disaffected Ngapuhi war parties.

Late 1700s

1821

1828 (circa)

1840

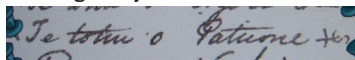
1843

1844

Ngati Paoa comes into conflict with Ngapuhi from the North

Chief Patuone marries Takarangi of Ngati Paoa effecting peace between Ngapuhi and Ngati Paoa

Chief Patuone is instrumental in getting other Chiefs to sign the Treaty of Waitangi. He is the 22nd signatory.



Auckland businessman William S Grahame buys lot 79, where the PumpHouse now stands, for 312 pounds

FIRST BUYERS OF TAKAPUNA ORIGINAL FARM LOTS

LOT No.	ACREAGE	BUYER	PRICE	YEAR
6	39 0 32	J. O'Neill	£146 15 4	1845
7	43 3 34	H. Atkins	£87 18 6	1845
8	43 1 17	J. O'Neill	£105 17 10	1845
9	24 0 36	J. O'Neill	£96 17 0	1845
10	36 2 38	Holmes & Pettit	£235 2 5	1845
11	34 1 13	Holmes & Pettit	£156 4 2	1845
12	23 2 1	J. O'Neill	£118 14 2	1845
13	33 3 4	R. Hunt	£109 15 0	1845
14	41 0 9	R. Hunt	£104 13 10	1845
15	54 1 2	H. Walton	£108 10 6	1845
16	41 0 21	H. Walton	£82 5 3	1845
17	33 3 4	R. Hunt	£67 11 0	1845
18	14 0 10	H. M. Jarvis	—	1861
19	20 3 3	E. N. Fishwick	£43 12 4	1845
20	35 1 18	W. Murphy	£70 14 6	1845
21	27 2 28	Wm. S. Grahame	£83 4 3	1845
22	37 1 11	E. Allarton	£130 12 4	1845
23	40 0 36	Wm. S. Grahame	£80 9 0	1845
24	26 3 4	Wm. S. Grahame	£116 9 5	1845
25	41 0 0	Wm. S. Grahame	£155 16 0	1845
26	47 2 2	Holmes & Pettit	£95 0 6	1845
27	31 0 13	W. R. Clendy	£124 6 6	1845
28	31 0 6	W. R. Clendy	£124 3 0	1845
29-32	110 1 20	Patuone (Govt. Grant)	(Free)	1852-66
33	19 0 8	H. Netter	£119 6 0	1845
68	16 3 30	Alex. Mackay	£35 11 5	1849
69	16 3 20	Alex. Mackay	£35 8 9	1849
70	16 0 10	Patrick Dignan	£80 0 0	1850
71	16 3 10	Robt. Hunt	£34 9 4	1844
72	16 3 10	Robt. Hunt	£40 4 0	1844
73	17 2 0	Robt. Hunt	£45 2 0	1844
74	19 2 25	James Dilworth	£236 12 6	1844
75	46 0 9	H. Pearson	£552 13 6	1844
76	58 3 22	Donald Walsh	£780 5 3	1844
77	19 3 19	William Billingham	£248 7 3	1844
78	27 1 31	Patrick Walde	£548 17 6	1844
79	56 3 11	Wm. S. Grahame	£395 16 1	1844
80	39 3 18	Andrew Rooney	£408 11 10	1844
81	34 3 21	Wm. S. Grahame	£304 15 11	1844
82	33 1 11	Wm. S. Grahame	£385 13 2	1844
83	44 1 5	Hastings Atkins	£487 1 11	1844
84	58 3 28	Martiner & Boyer	£558 18 9	1844
85	36 3 1	Wm. S. Grahame	£312 8 7	1844
86	55 0 15	Wm. S. Grahame	£290 1 2	1844
87	26 1 19	Joseph Wright	£290 1 2	1844
88	36 2 4	Hastings Atkins	£109 11 6	1844
89	67 0 22	Thos. Poynton	£604 4 9	1844
90	39 2 2	N.Z. Bank Co.	£237 15 9	1844
91	60 1 14	James Kelly	£181 0 3	1844
92	60 1 18	James Dilworth	£126 15 3	1844
103	75 1 30	John Mearns	£207 5 8	1844
104	66 0 32	Thomas Poynton	£132 8 0	1844
190	1069 0 0	John Logan Campbell (Later Brown and Campbell)	—	1864

Waiwharariki  
(Takapuna) estate is given to Ngapuhi warrior Chief Patuone by the crown for his skill at diplomacy between Pakeha and Maori, protection of European settlers and support given to the colony administrators



The first Takapuna settlers arrive. Many have relocated from the Bay of Islands where Hone Heke was on the rampage.

A visit to Lake Pupuke by Dr. Ferdinand Von Hochstetter, known as the Father of New Zealand Geology. He describes “remarkable Lake Pupuke of apparently unfathomable depth and lava caves that contain the human skeletons; memorials of the former outrages in the wars of the natives”

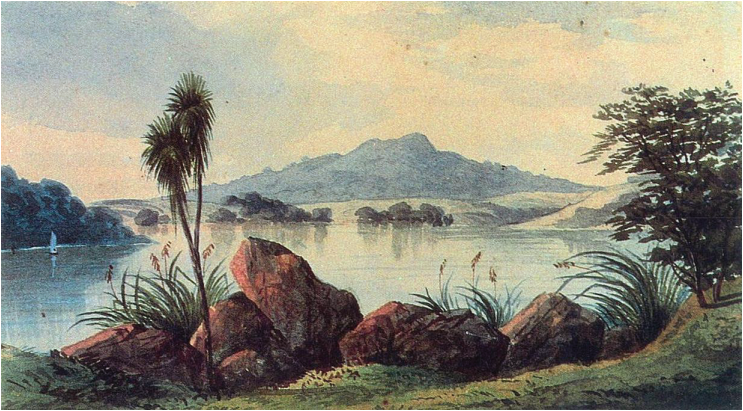
1860s

1845

1852

1857

JBC Hoyte watercolour of Lake Takapuna circa 1860s



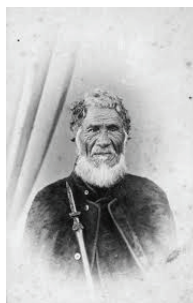
New Zealand's first strawberries are grown on farmland at Lake Takapuna as it was then known.



Eventual site of  
The PumpHouse

Hurstmere Rd and Lake Pupuke to the right looking from Black Rock (Thornes Bay) as it was in 1862.

The first farmer in the vicinity of The PumpHouse was a Mr. O'Connor whose homestead sat on the slope behind The PumpHouse site and may still be marked by a Moreton Bay Fig Tree.



Death of Ngapuhi Chief Eruera Patuone – dubbed The Peacemaker and Father of the Pakeha, who lived his later years, managing his business interests from his Takapuna estate. His presence allowed for the peaceful settlement of Takapuna. He is buried at Mt Victoria in Devonport

1863

Mid to Late  
1860s

1840s-60s

1872

☞ The proceedings at the lake give promise of great amusement to visitors.

There are to be boat races by whaleboats, watermen's boats and the Waitemata Boat Club; a swimming match, a duel, hunt and horse, footraces, quoits, cricket, football and other games.

Bands are to be in attendance. ☛

From an advertisement for Lake Takapuna Regatta Picnic on January 30th 1863

Black swans  
introduced.



Sacred to the memory of Eru Patuone, elder brother of Tamati Waka Nene; sons of Tapua; a noted chieftain of the Ngāpuhi nation; a close friend of the Europeans; supporter of the Queen's laws and Peacemaker amongst his own countrymen. Died at Auckland, 19th September 1872. This memorial stone is erected by the government of New Zealand as a fitting memorial for him.



Owner of the Auckland Star, Sir Henry Brett built his magnificent mansion 'Te Kiteroa' overlooking Lake Takapuna near where the pump house would soon be built. Here he maintained one of the finest flower gardens in New Zealand and hosted a picnic for the visiting Australian cricket team.



'New Zealand Graphic' describes Lake Takapuna as "pretty and surrounded by gentlemen's residences. The Lake Hotel is one of the most comfortable hostelrys in the colony"

1870s-90s

Between 1884 - 1900

1886

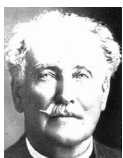
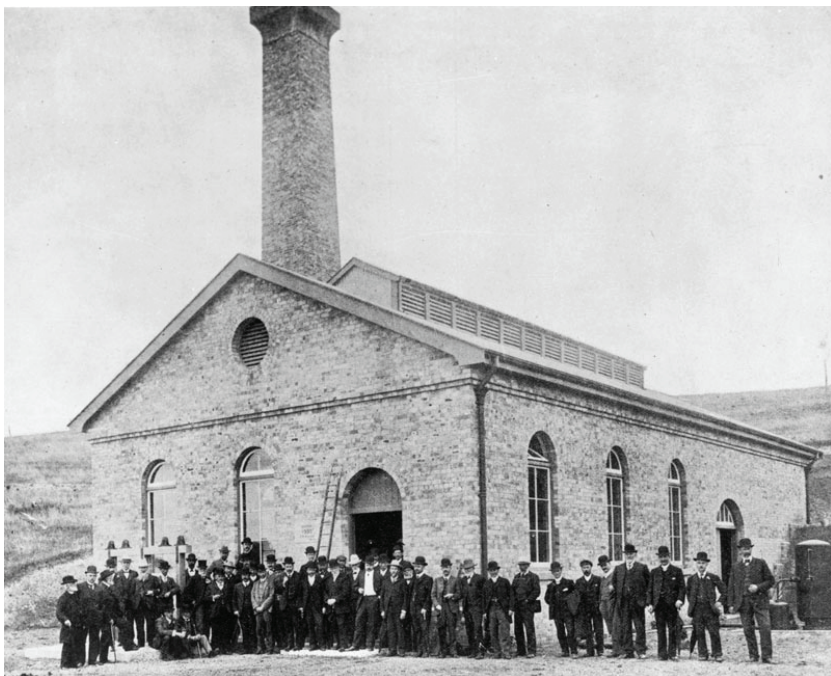
1892

Lake Takapuna is a popular picnic destination for people from all over Auckland



Photo taken 1890s

Devonport borough purchases 4 acres 28 perches of land from Mr. Shakespeare for £525 for the purpose of building a water pumping station to service the needs of the growing North Shore population. The pumping plant was to consist of 2 boilers and main pump capable of supplying 100,000 gallons in 8hrs through 4 metres of pipe to reservoirs. Auxiliary pump 7000 gallons per hr.



Ewen Allison

A second pump house building is constructed by Mays & Gordon using bricks from Duder's Brickworks and timber from the Bond Sawmill in Devonport. The Tangye engine is installed and pumping commences in 1905. The new pump house is opened in grand fashion in 1906 by Ewen Allison, then the Mayor of Devonport (not, as incorrectly states on the exterior plaque, Mayor of Takapuna)

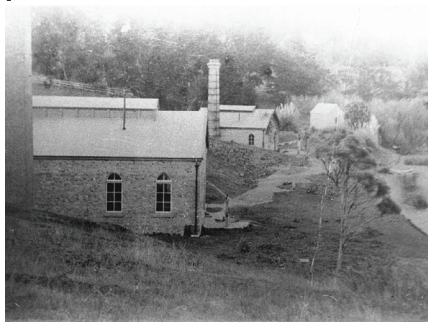
£15k is raised to build the first pump house

1894

1893

1900s - 1906

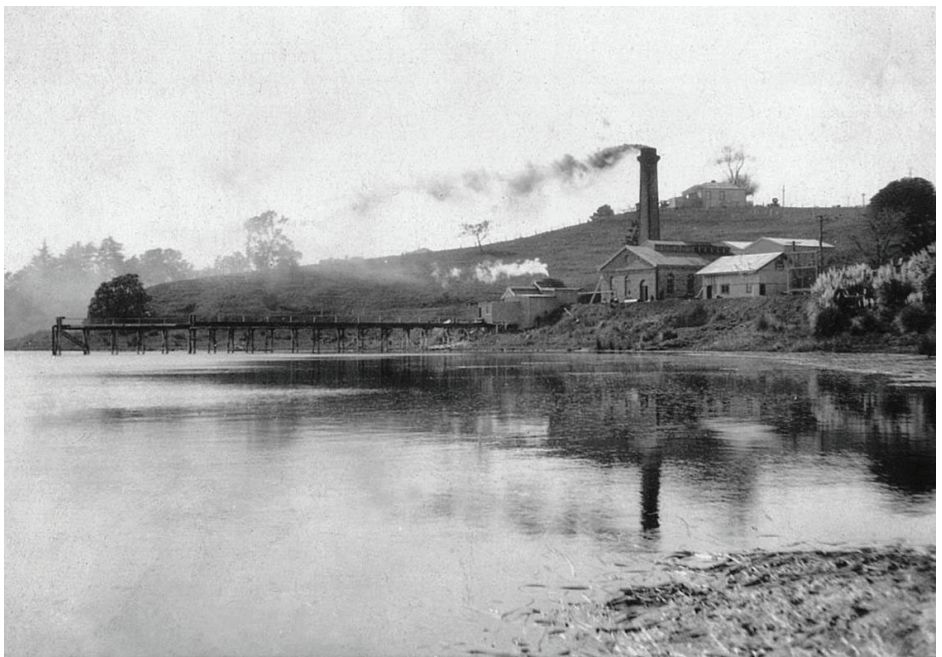
The first PumpHouse is built and lake water supply is 'turned on' which quickly proved to be inadequate to supply enough water.



"I recall the pumping station being built and the steam boilers being transported from the beach to the site, and the brick chimney, which stands to this day, being built by Mays and Gordon. I also remember coal for the boilers being carted in horse-drawn drays, having come from Ngunguru by scows and being landed on Takapuna Beach below The Promenade."

The reminiscences of George Collins recorded circa 1989 (TAKAPUNA People and Places - edited by Jean Bartlett)

In this image from the first decade of the 20th century, the original 19th century pump house can be seen in the mid-ground



The Pumphouse - early 20th century

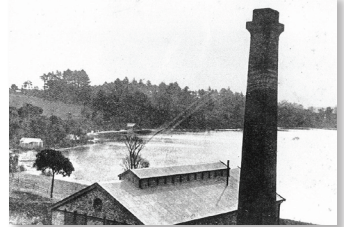


For the first time trout are released into the lake for the enjoyment of recreational fishers

1912

Lake levels begin falling drastically due to huge demand from the burgeoning North Shore population

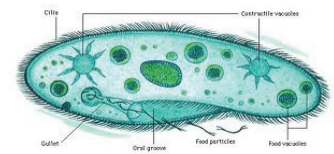
1914



The pump house is electrified and old coal boilers discarded. Electric pumps are installed in the 'green shed' adjacent (now Cafe).

1921 - 1923

1927



Department of Health warns that Lake Pupuke water quality is deteriorating. Protozoa in the declining water made it taste fishy. The lake is treated with copper sulphate to kill the Protozoa but is observed by Edward John Wakefield to "kill all other fish as well".

In 1923 chlorinating is equipment installed to purify the lake water.

'I remember, I remember  
My marbles and my hoop  
And when the water didn't taste  
Like Toheroa soup"  
[excerpt from poem by  
Takapuna Resident Bryce Hart 1912]



The pump house circa 1971

The original pump house, built in 1894, is demolished

1934

1941

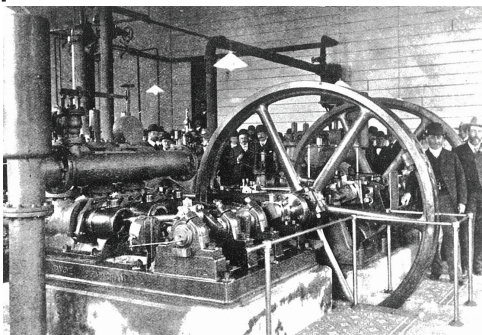
1931

Lake Pupuke is again treated with Copper Sulphate as water quality continues to decline, attracting increasing complaints from residents



$\text{CuSO}_4$

A new water supply is found in the Waitakeres. The pump house is decommissioned. The removal of the pump and machinery begins (the old Tangye pump was eventually installed at the Museum of Transport and Technology - it has been restored)



Tangye pump at the pump house in 1905



The pump house is derelict, ignored and out of sight, people forgot it was there but in a way, public apathy was, and, some say still is, a major factor in the preservation of the building.

1950s - 60s

Mid 40s - 1960s

The pump house serves as a storage facility for the shells of the North Shore Rowing Club but in general the pump house and its surrounds become overgrown, neglected and forgotten; the haunt of teenage lovers, artists and rough sleepers.

Charles Blondin



"Early residents had their own boathouses and bathing sheds. Up until the 1930s people believed the lake had no bottom".

Milford landowner Edwin Harrow built the Lake Hotel in 1909 - Molly watched the hotel burn down in 1925 across the lake from her veranda one mile away. Molly also recollects a visit by Blondin, the famous 19th century French tightrope walker who "not long after he had crossed Niagara Falls by this method tried to walk on the [lake] water using specially made tin feet. He made his first attempt on the lake with a marked lack of success. In disgust he left his tin feet behind and a local resident who tried to emulate him drowned when he could not free his feet from these modern flippers."

In 1961 'New Zealand Holiday' publication - Records the reminiscences of North Shore resident Molly Elliot



In the North Shore Times W.E. Cozens reminisces about her Grandfather who, 70 years prior, explored the lake in which he claimed to have found diamonds, and old Maori war canoe. He claimed his own steamboat sank in the lake after its boiler blew up. Apparently local Maori told this 'raconteur' that the lake was Tapu. Reportedly giant eels 5 feet long and 4 inches thick weighing 25lbs were commonplace.



[Image may or may not be of the 200 people public meeting held in 1968 to save the pump house Image is circa late 1960s early 1970s]

Two hundred people attend a public meeting in support of preserving the pump house and converting it into a theatre.

Descendants of Hannibal



Hannibal The Gander and his goose girlfriends Lucy, Christina and Curly are released onto the Lake

1969

1962

1968

1970

Fred Thomas

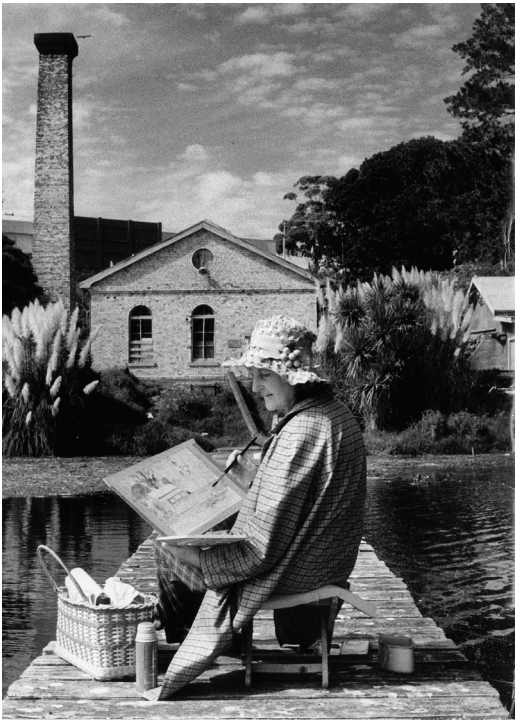


The North Shore Horticultural Society led by S.I Corbett (City Councillor, Horticultural Society and Parks & Reserves Committee Chairman, possibly related to Ronnie) resists North Shore Arts Group's efforts to preserve the pump house building for use as a theatre but Mayor Fred Thomas is resolute that the pump house must be saved for future use as an arts centre. Corbett suggests that the arts group share the new building planned for Horticultural Society. Corbett believes pump house lacks merit to make it worth saving that it is unsafe and crumbling - the roof is about to collapse (all true). Fred Thomas sticks up for NSAG. "The group has already been offered a roof for free. They either get this building or nothing!"

# “Right ”! said Fred

Against considerable opposition from some councillors and residents Mayor Fred still hopes to retain the old chimney, - “After all it has been there for half a century now and the act of demolition is very final” said Fred. But Deputy city engineer G.P. Sanders decides the chimney has deteriorated to a dangerous state - “it is possible that an earthquake of only moderate intensity could bring the chimney down and it would be a major catastrophe if this occurred when an audience was occupying The Pumphouse Theatre” The city engineers recommend demolition.

However it is eventually decided that the pump house is to be restored and converted to a theatre as soon as North Shore Rowing Club finds alternative premises. Floor plans are made public in North Shore Times Advertiser, the North Shore Theatre Arts Trust is incorporated and Don McFae, architect of the Mercury Theatre is engaged to advise on the pump house’s potential as theatre. Council decides to strap the chimney and have all brick work removed above coping level. But S.I. Corbett disagrees “ I don’t think every old thing should be preserved. Wasting public money on buttressing this thing up doesn’t interest me one iota”



A hobby painter captures the pump house prior to its restoration - circa 1960s

“A pump house is not a pump house without its chimney”  
G.W. Baker - 1971

In a public meeting held at St. Peter’s Hall, the Council formally announces that ‘The Pumphouse will be preserved as a public amenity’.

PumpHouse working bees keep the North Shore Theatre Arts Trust members busy every weekend as Stage One building work begins.

1975

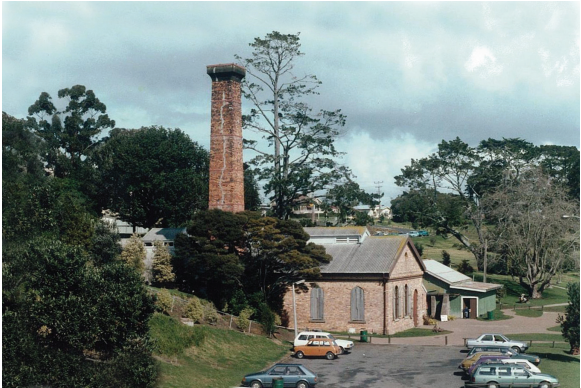
1971

1973

1976



The princely sum of \$1500 is raised at The PumpHouse Gala Day, a fundraising picnic that included donkey rides and a Punch & Judy show just like similar Lakeside picnic days held 100 years before. A performance by Mairangi Players also featured on the bill.



Circa 1980s, before the green shed transformation



An outbreak of botulism kills ducks on Lake Pupuke

Years of fundraising, dedication, passion and hard work pay off. The PumpHouse Theatre is opened by its most high profile champion, Mayor Fred Thomas.



Tenders are called for Stage Two of The PumpHouse renovations – converting the former coal bunkers behind the main building into dressing rooms, ablution area and backstage props storage, new entrance foyer and office.

Locals attend an event prior to Stage Two commencement mid 1970s

1978

1980

1977

1979

1982

It is announced that an “offstage green room” will be built with funds from the Peg Escott Memorial fund. Green room to be located behind the chimney and named the ‘Peg Escott Green Room’. Peg was a founding member of the trust board and active in saving The PumpHouse.



Fundraising art sale and picnic near the entrance of the Peg Escott Green Room

Trust members are asked to donate \$10 each to allow building work to continue. Builders are having trouble getting bricks of the correct era and dimension to match the original bricks of the building.





The building of Stage 2 is complete. The PumpHouse now has dressing rooms, backstage space, a dedicated art gallery, offices and a new box office

View looking down from the gallery to the stage door

The long awaited Bluthner Grand is lowered carefully into its new home



3 years of fundraising and donations sees the arrival of the Bluthner Grand Piano.

1986

1987

1984



The PumpHouse celebrates 10 years as an Arts Centre



The PumpHouse receives the first ever bronze plaque issued from the North Shore Historic Society prompting local historian Paul Titchener to write to the North Shore Advertiser saying that the plaque is historically inaccurate. Ewen Allison was never Mayor of Takapuna, rather he was Mayor of Devonport.



Rear of the Green Shed prior to renovation - early 80s



The Green Shed after renovation late 1980s.

After years of lobbying, North Shore Theatre Arts Trust finally convinces North Shore City Council to contribute funds to employ paid staff by way of a part time caretaker and an administration assistant.

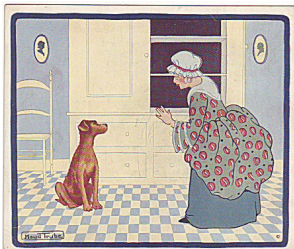


1988

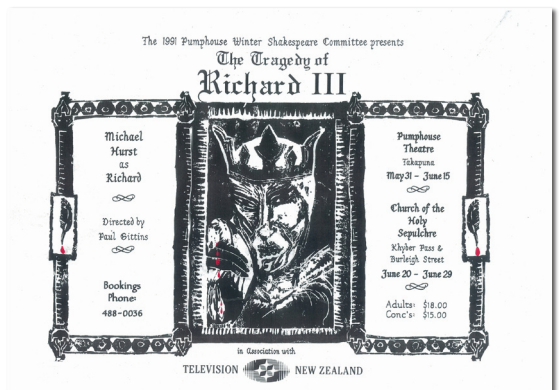
1989

Circa mid- late 1980s

1991



The cupboard is bare - the constant struggle to find money to continue expensive restoration and renovation works sees North Shore City Council purchase The PumpHouse Theatre assets to inject more money into the trust



# The PumpHouse Amphitheatre



Work begins on building the Amphitheatre 1994



Nearing completion late 1994



Audience at the inaugural performance of Summer Shakespeare

1994 - 1995



Cast of Richard the Third on Amphitheatre Stage. NB: despite evidence to the contrary Richard the Third is not the only Shakespeare play to have been performed at The PumpHouse



The PumpHouse and Cafe to its left

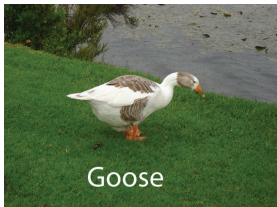
The Green Shed is no longer green - once again dedicated volunteers perform miracles in completing its 21st century transformation into a cafe and lakeside retreat from the hurly burly of Takapuna central

Successful sourcing of substantial funds sees major investment in auditorium plant and fixtures - a catwalk and lighting rig is installed, along with curtains, wings and an extensive electrical upgrade

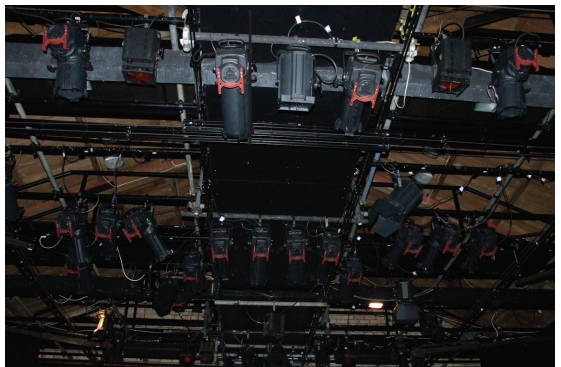
1999

2001-2003

Public outcry ensues at the suggestion to cull the lunch-stealing Lake Pupuke geese. Opinion is evenly divided on whether the geese should be 'sent to a farm'



Goose



The PumpHouse Theatre catwalk and lighting rig

The Theatre foyer gets the red carpet treatment. Foyer is upgraded - old kitchen removed, new red carpet laid, a lick of paint and bench seating installed



2005		2007	2008		2010
<p>Tim Bray Productions stages the enchanting Wind in the Willows for the first time, using the lake and boat ramp as part of the outdoor performance. Lake Pupuke birds are confused while audiences are amused</p>			<p>With sadness The PumpHouse Gallery is dis-established. Modern fire egress regulations and access laws make it impossible to continue without huge cost and reconfiguration of the listed building. The gallery becomes a much needed spill-over dressing room and props storage area.</p>		<p>The PumpHouse chimney undergoes rigorous seismic strengthening to bring it up to 21st century standards - the chief engineer believes it will stand for another 100 years. Not bad for a structure that was originally built to be temporary.</p>





The PumpHouse Theatre in 2012.

2011



A new addition to The small PumpHouse team appears in the Amphitheatre one day. He is promptly dubbed Tiger on account of his beautiful coat. Semi-feral and shy of people at first he has gradually wormed his way into the hearts of everyone who works at and performs at The PumpHouse. He sometimes sings along with shows and if you're lucky he will let you pat him when he's eating. Tiger earns his dinner by being a most excellent ratter.

2012



Claire and Philippe Raoult along with Damien Gauthier bring Gallic flair and a French bistro style menu to The PumpHouse. Now a firm favourite destination for locals and ladies who lunch.

# **Euripides 'Electra'**

**Mairangi Players Inc  
Silver Jubilee Production**

**Director Lois Paynter  
The Pumphouse Killarney St Takapuna  
July 16 - 30 8.15pm**



DON HATCHER

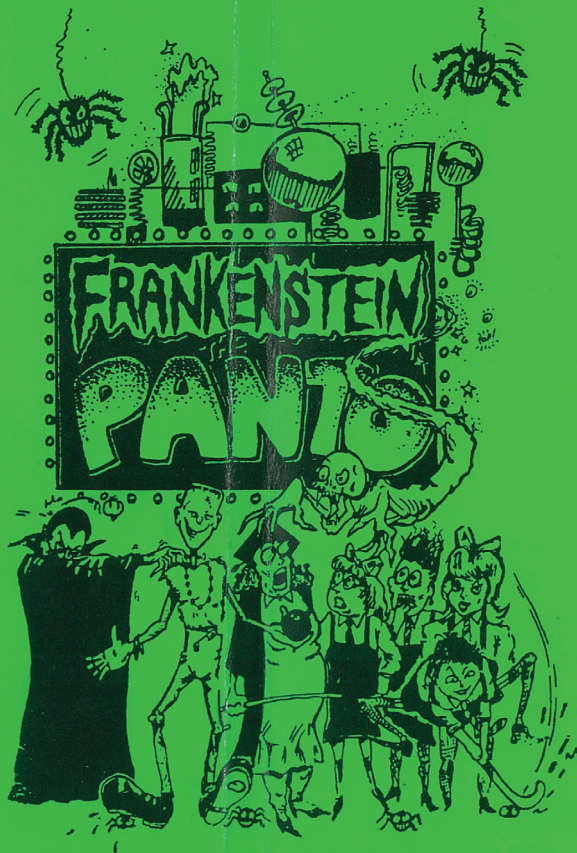
The very first stage production held at The PumpHouse in 1977. According to a local theatre stalwart the show was long and patrons had difficulty holding onto their bladders between intervals.



# NORTH SHORE OPERATIC SOCIETY (INC.)

ENTERTAINERS TO THE SHORE

presents



**Pumphouse, Takapuna**  
**06 - 20 NOVEMBER 1993**

Saving this wonderful old building was truly a labour of love by a few determined people who toiled and battled for one of the few old brick buildings that remain on the North Shore.

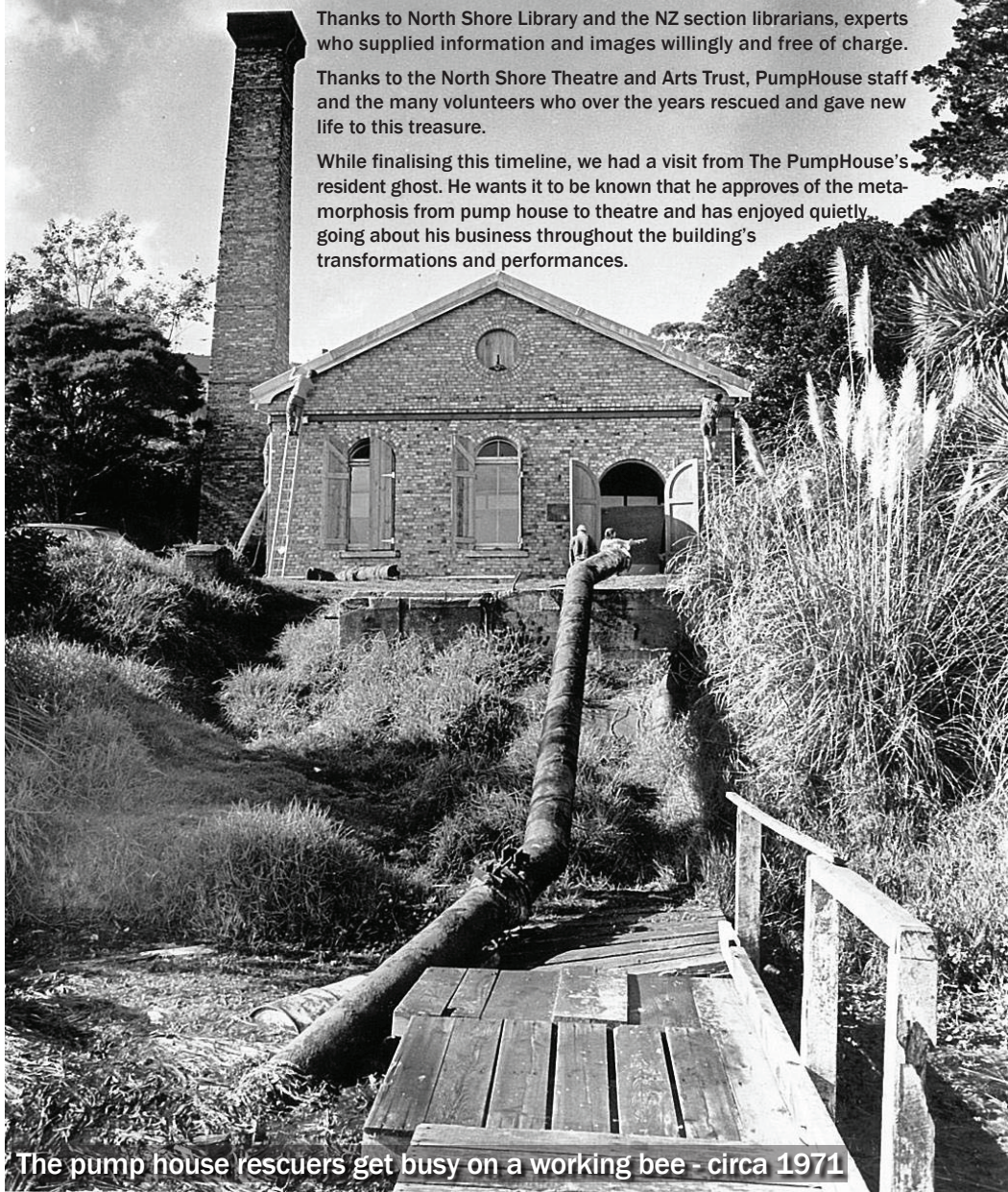
We have a history that's worth preserving. This building is a precious part of that history.

This timeline, which is by no means exhaustive and possibly may be inaccurate in places due to a lack of dates allocated to some of the old images and anecdotes, is open to contributions from anyone with stories to tell about The PumpHouse and its lakeside location.

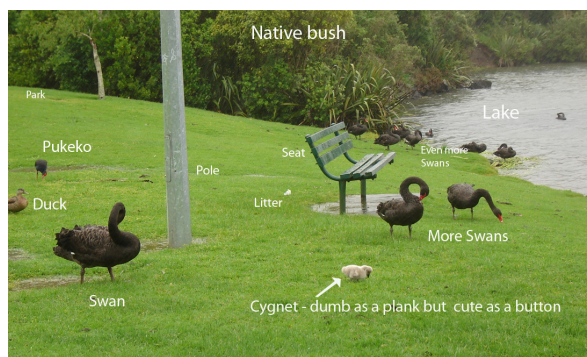
Thanks to North Shore Library and the NZ section librarians, experts who supplied information and images willingly and free of charge.

Thanks to the North Shore Theatre and Arts Trust, PumpHouse staff and the many volunteers who over the years rescued and gave new life to this treasure.

While finalising this timeline, we had a visit from The PumpHouse's resident ghost. He wants it to be known that he approves of the metamorphosis from pump house to theatre and has enjoyed quietly going about his business throughout the building's transformations and performances.



The pump house rescuers get busy on a working bee - circa 1971



Bucolic scene outside The PumpHouse at Lake Pupuke, the heart-shaped jewel of the the North Shore

Designed and written by Gill Saker  
Produced by The PumpHouse Theatre

**The  
PumpHouse  
Theatre.**

KILLARNEY PARK MANURERE AVE TAKAPUNA

