

# True **UNTOLD** backstory of **EASTER**

# 2026

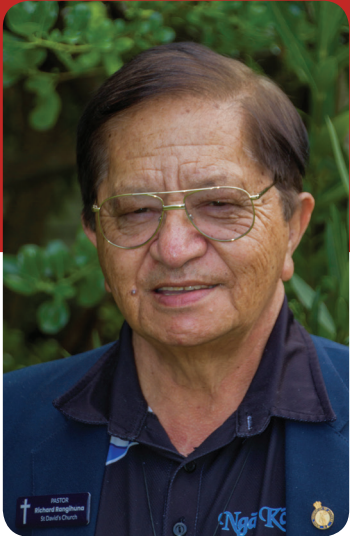
3rd Edition including *Christchurch NZ*  
**Easter >>> [JC2033.nz](http://JC2033.nz)**

**663AD** a story of **Reconciliation** to “Preserve the peace of the Gospel among yourselves and also with ALL others.”

..... from **Whitby, UK** to **Turanga-Gisborne, NZ**



# Kia Ora, Greetings from Turanga-Gisborne



Pastor Richard Rangihuna

**Editor:** As we create this 3rd Edition - we wish to firstly record and honour the help and encouragement given by Pastor Richard Rangihuna who was called to his heavenly home in 2024.

The narrative and articles expressed herein were written with his help and endorsement, therefore we have simply updated some of the text where possible to retain relevance.

**In 2019 we invited Pastor Richard Rangihuna as a son of Ngati Porou descent, to write our opening Welcome/Greeting.... page 2.**

Richard was for many years active in our city and region across a wide cross section of the community - meeting with young and not so young via school / marae / radio / church and community gatherings.

Richard was a fluent speaker of te reo Maori, the Maori language, he was also a leading kaumatua, Maori elder, of Turanga - Gisborne, and a Maori advisor on Maori tikanga, protocol.

Richard also was a Justice of the Peace and an orator on the Marae, the meeting place of Maori iwi, people, here in the Tairawhiti. For many years he was active in prison ministry, preaching on Maori radio, open air preaching, Community support, as well as teaching and preaching in his home church of St. Davids.

Richard was School Chaplain to Awapuni Primary School, here in Turanga - Gisborne. And was commissioned into the school on 19th July 1995. From then until his passing in 2024 marked 24 years in that role.

Richard Rangihuna of Turanga-Gisborne, was the Pastor of St David's Church, based in the suburb of Kaiti here in Gisborne, of Maori descent, a native of New Zealand, from the Ngati Porou tribe of the Tairawhiti. [East Coast, NZ]

A born again believer, serving God in this predominantly Maori population, in the suburb of Kaiti, Turanga - Gisborne, this corner of God's vineyard. Having served God for over forty years in the Tairawhiti.

**Richard wrote** >> *I wish you all the very best for your future endeavours as you continue to serve God, wherever you are in our world today, and may all seek to do God's will, in serving Him, until He comes, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

*Ma Te Atua koutou katoa, e manaaki, e tiaki, i nga wa katoa.*

*May God bless you all and watch over you always.*

*Many blessings from the Tairawhiti, Turanga - Gisborne, Aotearoa New Zealand.*

Former **Pastor Richard Rangihuna**  
of St David's Church  
Kaiti, Turanga - Gisborne -  
Tairawhiti.

# From the land of the 'first light' KiaOra - Welcome



Ps Richard Rangihuna

Naumai haeremai ki te Tairawhiti te whenua tuatahi ki te kite i a Tamanui te ra.

Te waahi i whanau mai te taone o Turanga – Gisborne, te taone tuatahi o te ao, ki te kite i te ra.

**Kia ora tatou e panui ana nga korero ataahua nei i runga i te ipurangi.**

Naumai haeremai, i runga i te whakaaro pai tatou tetahi ki tetahi, me nga manaakitanga o Te Atua ki a tatou katoa, mo nga korero nei i puta mai mo te Tairawhiti, te rohe o tenei taone o Turanga – Gisborne.

**Greetings to you all who are reading this information on the internet**, pertaining to the Tairawhiti of which Turanga – Gisborne is part of.

**A warm welcome to you all** with love and kind thoughts and the blessings of Almighty God upon us all, in respect of this region of the Tairawhiti, where sits Turanga – Gisborne, the first city to see the sun.

# 2019



**Turanga–Gisborne** comes under the umbrella of the Tairawhiti region, and is rich in resources, from the land, forest and the sea and often referred to as Turanganui-a-kiwa, the land of plenty, it may at times have a high rate of unemployment, but is rich in resources and graced by fertile flats of crops and grapes, and rich in the aroha, love that emanates from the hearts of the loving people who live here.

We invite you to discover our unique corner of Aotearoa-NZ.

### **Tairāwhiti means:**

“the coast upon which the sun shines across the water”.

**Which is apt since, in summer months, we are the first in the world to see the sun.**

### **Tairāwhiti is a region of many firsts.**

In addition to welcoming the sun, Gisborne saw some of the first Māori to land after their epic Pacific navigations in the fourteenth century.

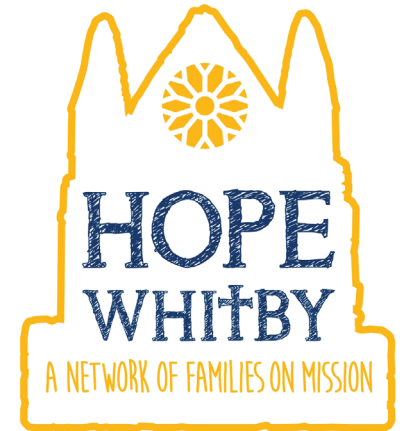
**Their many descendants** now make up almost half of the region – an authentic expression of what it means to be a bicultural nation. It's also where, in 1769, Captain James Cook anchored his ship Endeavour and came ashore for the first meeting on land between Māori and Pakeha.

**That encounter was commemorated in October 2019, commencing here in Turanga-Gisborne** - then further major events marked the 250th year of this historic coming together of our peoples around the nation.

***As the beginnings of our modern nation truly started here.***

# Greetings from HOPE Whitby UK

“We are a  
family on  
mission.”



## **Bec Weightman - Director / Senior Leader**

Hi and welcome to Hope Whitby. I am Bec the Senior Leader! Aside from my Hope role I am passionate about swimming, keeping fit and I am often found chatting over a cuppa! We are so excited to see God at work in our town and want you to know that you are more than welcome at any of our monthly activities!

**I also lead 'One Whitby & Beyond'** - a group of around eighteen church leaders in Whitby and the surrounding villages.



## **Ceri Holloway - Chair of Directors**

Hi, I'm Ceri and I'm an Apprentice Leader at Hope Whitby. I manage Malachi Storehouse, which is our food bank and my heart is to help wherever I'm needed so I can turn my hand to anything!

**I love being a part of the Hope Whitby family**, and showing the love of God through all our outreach is what gets me out of bed in the morning. That, and a good coffee!

*Welcome to Hope Whitby, UK.  
We are a “family on mission”.*

We Love. We Share. We Meet. We Eat.  
We Grow. We Go. We Rest.

We love our town, and we love a  
one-on-one relationship with God.

On our journey with Him we seek to live  
a life like Jesus.

**We love being a family and telling others about God**, while we lovingly serve our town through 'Malachi Storehouse', our free at the point of need foodbank, 'Wings' – our project aimed at alleviating period poverty, and our 'Hope gives Hope' warm space and free breakfast once a week.

**We are a completely decentralised model of church.** This means that we have no church building at all. Instead, we feel called to take the good news into any place in the community that we can. Currently we meet in homes, community centres, schools, pubs and restaurants.

**CLICK  
for their  
Website**

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<https://hopewhitby.co.uk/>

# Welcome to One Whitby & Beyond

## List of churches for 'One Whitby & Beyond'

- \* Hope Whitby
- \* Christian Motorcycle Association Whitby branch
- \* Emmanuel Church Saltburn
- \* St.Hilda Roman Catholic Church
- \* St.Hilda & St.Marys C of E.
- \* Maranatha Church Scarborough
- \* St.Marys Sandsend

*Two of the vicars also have several churches  
One has;*

- \* St.Stephens, Fylingthorpe
- \* St.Margarets, Aisalby
- \* All Saints, Ugglebarnby
- \* All Saints, Hawsker
- \* St.Johns, Sleights

*One has:*

- \* St.Matthew's, Grosmont
- \* St.James, Lealholm.
- \* St.Thomas' Glaisdale
- \* St.Hilda's, Danby.



## Welcome to 'One Whitby & Beyond'

Based on the words of **Ephesians 4**, we are a group of local church leaders who believe in one faith, one baptism and one God.

**Since February 2023**, we have been meeting together once a month to pray regularly for each other, to support and encourage each other, and to ask God to show us the next steps for His Kingdom in Whitby – and beyond!

**We are committed to praying for**, and actively pursue developing a next generation of leaders and we have a commitment to serve others, in both our individual settings and in One Whitby & Beyond.

**Please pray for us**, and if you would like to get in touch to find out more please contact **Bec on 07 736 958 758** or email: [bec@hopewhitby.co.uk](mailto:bec@hopewhitby.co.uk)

*Capt. Cook Monument & Endeavour Replica in Whitby UK*



# True **UNTOLD** backstory of **EASTER**

[www.KCN.co.nz](http://www.KCN.co.nz) + [www.DestinationTuranga.co.nz](http://www.DestinationTuranga.co.nz)  
with thanks to  
[www.bitaboutbritain.com](http://www.bitaboutbritain.com) and 'The Well' in North Yorkshire, UK

from **Whitby, UK** to  
**Turanga-Gisborne, NZ**

Knowing little of the town of Whitby, from where Captain James Cook set sail on the Endeavour  
I was amazed to learn of the juxtaposition presented when comparing  
Whitby with Turanga-Gisborne.

Firstly both reference 'LIGHT' as a unique qualifying statement - Secondly the  
'EASTER' decision of King Oswy, in 663AD, that we adhere to, even in New Zealand today . . . plus >

*© Photo by Ali Gooya on Unsplash*



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# True **UNTOLD** backstory of **EASTER**

## **Juxtaposition**

noun

*the fact of two things  
being seen or placed  
close together with  
contrasting effect.*

# Juxtaposition

## Whitby -- Turanga-Gisborne

### **Our Juxtaposition commences**

before the United Kingdom was formed - before Colonial power existed . . .  
well before the 14th Century - when the first recorded arrival of Maori in Aotearoa was to take place.  
Neither had a young James Cook even learnt to sail - let alone Captain the Endeavour from Whitby to Turanga in 1769.

**. . . we step back to 663AD . . . 1,363 years ago . . .**

*. . . in an endeavour to share reconciliation and peace . . .*

\* Light \* **The Cross** \* Passover \* **Te Kurī-a-Pāoa** \* Young Nicks Head \* **Dracula** \* Black Dog  
\* Mother Hild \* **King Oswy** \* Whitby Abbey \* **Caedmon** \* Steam Trains \* **Queen Victoria** \* Jet \* **Endeavour** \* Rig Mill

In the days of Hild & Caedmon, **'Whitby'** was known as **'The Bay of Light'**



# Whitby

'the Bay of Light'

**663<sub>AD</sub>**

**1769<sub>AD</sub>**

**Turanga-Gisborne**  
**'First to see the Light'**

**'Tairāwhiti'**  
"the coast upon which the sun shines across the water".

In the summer months, Gisborne is the first city in the world to see the sun.

# Whitby's father of English Song: **Caedmon**



Caedmon story © courtesy Mike:  
<http://bitaboutbritain.com/give-us-song-caedmon/>

Once upon a time, many many years ago, there was a good herdsman who lived on a cliff top called Streaneshalch [Streonshalh].

The herdsman's name was Caedmon; he was no spring chicken & was actually quite shy.

**Nearby on the cliff top was a great Abbey, ruled by a kind and gentle Abbess called Hild**, where they sometimes held sumptuous feasts. Now in those days it was customary at feasts, as the wine flowed and everyone ate jelly and ice cream, for each guest to entertain the happy throng with a song. Yes.

**But Caedmon had a terrible voice** and couldn't play the harp for toffee. So when he could see his turn approaching he would slink outside and go home, or hide in a barn.



**663 AD**  
**Caedmon**

**One evening, after just such an occasion**, he was lying on some straw feeling pretty sorry for himself. He very much wanted to join in with everyone else. Then he had a dream. A man bathed in a heavenly light stood beside him and said, "Caedmon, sing me a song." "I don't know how to sing," replied Caedmon miserably.

"That's why I'm here while everyone else is having fun and eating jelly." "You shall sing to me", commanded the man, firmly but gently. "Sing about the creation of all things."

And Caedmon, who in addition to having a rotten voice had previously shown about as much imagination as a sledgehammer, found himself making up words and singing like a nightingale.

Caedmon woke up and dashed off to tell the kindly Abbess Hild what had happened.

Hild summoned some other wise people so that Caedmon could sing to them.



# 1898

## Whitby honours Caedmon

**Caedmon** repeated the song from his dream and they all agreed this was a Gift From God.

Indeed, they asked him to put a particular piece of writing to verse, if he could, and were delighted with the result when he returned with it the following morning.

**Hild had him inducted into the monastic life**, so that he could learn all the stories of the scriptures. And Caedmon spent the remainder of his days turning dry text into melodious verse, and singing of the works of God and stories from the scriptures.

**And that, more or less, is Caedmon's story.** I lied about the jelly and ice cream and the tale itself of course might be complete fiction. But Caedmon is famous for being the first known English poet and is sometimes called 'the Father of English song'; and you thought it would be someone like George Harrison or David Bowie, didn't you?

**On 21st September 1898 a huge crowd gathered** in St Mary's churchyard on Streaneshalch in Whitby to see a cross in honour of Caedmon unveiled by the then Poet Laureate, Alfred Austin. The cross was the brainchild of Canon H D Rawnsley, one of the founders of the National Trust.

**It cost £350** – an enormous sum of money in those days – and is an echo of an Anglo-Saxon cross, made from Northumbrian sandstone. It stands 20 feet high and is richly carved with Christian iconography, including rather fetching representations of Hild and Caedmon.

**The cross stands at the top of the 199 steps** overlooking Whitby, and in the shadow of the ruined medieval Abbey Church.

# Hild the Abbess and King Oswy's problem..

...by Jo Bowden (The WELL) North Yorkshire UK



## The Story of 'Hild the Abbess'

Her role as the Abbess was to look after the day to day running of the whole community of God's people in the abbey's community as well as teaching them about God, prayer and worship.

**She was known for working very hard**, being good at teaching others, and helping them to grow into people who could love God and love one another. Those who worked with her always felt encouraged, whoever they were.

**But she was also famous** for miles around for something else.

**It was because she was so trusted** and so able to pay attention to everyone she met, listening to them carefully even if they did not always agree, that other leaders, even kings, would come to her for advice.

**Some kings even chose** to be buried on land belonging to the Abbey seeing it as a very special and holy place.

## Hild

Hild's last words always mean so much to me, as she seems to deeply understand the power of holding things together:

**"Preserve the peace of the Gospel among yourselves and also with ALL others."**



One king in particular, King Oswy, came to her with a bit of a problem...

**King Oswy, like most kings, had married the daughter of another king from far away.** By this time, Christianity was spreading all across Britain.

**In the south Christianity was mainly spread by priests** who had come from Rome or who had been taught by them, like Paulinus who originally came from Kent with Queen Ethelburga when she married High King Edwin when Hild was just a girl. In the north, Christianity was brought mainly by Celtic priests who came particularly from Ireland and Scotland.

**Each group had different ways** of doing things when it came to how they worshipped together and also when they had special celebrations. In her lifetime Hild had experienced both ways although she usually followed the Celtic way.

King Oswy, a northerner, followed Celtic ways, his wife, from the south, followed the Roman way.

**They managed to just about get along with their different ways until it came to Easter.**

# Whitby Synod: the King's **Easter** decision...

... continued by Jo Bowden

**Easter, as it still is today**, was a big deal in the Christian year. Even back then, they used to have the six weeks of Lent before the feasting and celebrations of Easter.

**The trouble was**, the Roman-style Christians and the Celtic-style Christians were having **Lent & Easter at different times** *[it is all to do with the moon!]*

*Not the best arrangement for a King to be dealing with.*

**So whilst the queen and her court** were feasting and celebrating, the rest of the court were still fasting, that is NOT eating, and wearing their special Lent clothes.

**And so, Oswy came to just the person he thought could help him – Hild.**

They both talked for a long time and in the end, a special meeting, called a Synod, was held at Whitby at the request of the king to settle once and for all which pattern of worship would be followed from then on – Roman or Celtic.



**In 2017: Jo & Rev. Andy Bowden** as here on the North York Moors Railway for Whitby where they had the privilege of leading the first **Pilgrimage in honour of Abbess or Mother Hild**. To share and celebrate her life, and all that she had done - such as hosting the Whitby Synod Easter problem for King Oswy.

**Mother Hild and the community of Whitby Abbey hosted this meeting and leaders came from all around, religious and political.**

There were some strong characters and some strong arguments around the table until eventually **a VOTE was taken** and those who argued for **Roman ways were the winners.**

**We are not sure which side Hild favoured** or agreed with most but we do know what she wanted most was to serve God and the community God had called her to.

**If that meant following what had been decided in order to live in love and peace with all**, then that is what she would do.

God had called her to be a leader, everyone around her could see that. Being a leader can be very rewarding but also very hard...

**The Easter message offered to us** - is when we experience negative things and times in our lives - the example of Jesus would encourage us to give them to God and ask for them to be turned into wisdom, courage and strength, especially when helping others.

# Whitby and that Easter controversy...

...by Pastor Jennifer Boyd



**Easter is the most significant event** on the Christian calendar, but its roots go back many thousands of years to the Jewish festival of Passover.

**Passover has been celebrated by the Jewish people for over 3,400 years** and commemorates the time that God delivered them from slavery in Egypt and it was then that their God commanded them to observe this time every year as a “Feast unto the Lord”.

**About 2,000 years ago during the time of Passover**, Jesus who was born of a Jewish mother and raised in the Jewish culture, was crucified, buried in a tomb and rose again three days later.

And so from that time forth those who believed in and followed Him as their Saviour remember not only the deliverance from slavery and bondage in Egypt but Jesus’ sacrificial death that brings forgiveness of sins and eternal life to all who adhere to His teachings.



© Photo by Michael D Beckwith on Unsplash

**After Jesus rose from the dead** He commissioned His followers to take His teachings out into all the world. This they did and multitudes of Gentiles [non-Jewish people] took a hold of these teachings and began to incorporate them into their lives and customs and the church in the nations began to grow.

In the meantime Rome ransacked Jerusalem, changed its name to Aelia Capitolina and drove all the Jewish inhabitants out of the ruined city.

**As a result the Church began to shift** from having Jewish leadership to Gentile leaders and the control base moved towards Europe.

**The problem then arose about when to celebrate this most significant event.**

**The Jewish festival of Passover was determined by their Lunar Calendar** and was held, in the Spring, on the 14th day of Nisan, but the **Romans were using a solar calendar**, which was instituted by Julius Caesar in 45 BC so therefore it was difficult for the Gentiles to determine on which day Passover should be commemorated.

# Whitby and the Easter outcome...

...continued by Pastor Jennifer Boyd



The same problem was brought before the Council of Nicea (in modern Turkey) in 325 AD.

It was there that the Christian Bishops decreed that Easter (the name they gave to the time of Christ's death and resurrection) should be on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the spring equinox, therefore separating it from the Jewish Passover Festival.

The name of Easter is associated with Eostre (or Ostara), a Germanic goddess of fertility and new life, hence its adoption as the name for this Spring-time Festival.

## This brings us to Whitby, where the Principle Church of Northumbria was located.

**The ruins of this Church**, which was founded in 657 AD by a remarkable lady, Hild of the Celt tradition, are situated on a prominent site in Whitby today.

**The King of Northumbria, Osuiu (or Oswy)** was a committed Christian of the Celtic tradition but his wife Eanfled, had been brought up in Kent and followed the Roman Church's teachings.

This meant that **they sometimes celebrated Easter twice** because the **Celtic Church had retained the Feast of Passover** and still celebrated it on the day according to the Jewish lunar calendar, but the **Roman Church used the Spring Equinox date.**

**So the two sides, the Celtic and Roman,** convened a synod at Whitby in 663 (664 in some accounts) to debate this issue.

*It appears that the 'Roman Catholic Church' put forward the stronger argument and their Easter date was adopted.*

The abbey ruins that Whitby is so famous for as shown in the photo above and throughout this book-let - was built approx. in the 1100's therefore well after the time of Hild.

Her version of the 'abbey' - 'the community of God' was much more likely to have been a collection of low-level buildings gathered together with pastoral land around them.

Nevertheless the Abbey ruins and history of the Whitby Synod draws many thousands annually.

# What else changed along with the date...

... continued by Pastor Jennifer Boyd

**The Easter traditions began to move further** and further away from the Biblical and Jewish ways of keeping this most important celebration and thereby any connection with the original Jewish Feast of Passover has been wiped away by the Christian Church and replaced with traditions based on pagan celebrations.

**We are now living in the days** when these two most significant festivals are converging to bring a message of faith and hope as Christians connect with and learn from Jewish followers of Jesus.

**The First Passover was** instituted in Egypt but resulted in the Israelites entering into their Promised Land. Jesus Christ's Last Supper [Passover] was held, in Jerusalem, at the time of the Feast of Passover. It was followed by his death, burial and glorious resurrection and it is this reality that is remembered by all who celebrate Easter.

**This is the message of eternal hope** that all who believe in Jesus Christ [*Yeshua Hamashiach - His Jewish name*] have to share at this time each year.

**Easter bunnies** have chased away the Biblical Passover Lamb.

**Chocolate Easter Eggs** have removed any hint of the taste of bitter herbs that are eaten during the Jewish Passover meal.

**Hot cross buns** have replaced the plain unleavened Bread of Passover.



# Whitby and Gisborne Vintage Steam Trains



**1800's**  
NEW Rail links to Whitby

'You are  
welcome  
aboard'

VIDEO

The North York Moors Railway (NYMR), is a heritage railway, saved, nay, resurrected, by a bunch of enthusiastic volunteers in the late 1960s. From insignificant but determined beginnings, it now runs wonderful steam trains most of the year between Whitby and Pickering, 18 miles each way, through the heather, fields and woodland of the moors.

In fact, the NYMR owns about a dozen steam and half a dozen diesel locomotives with a full-time staff of about 100, supported by around 550 volunteers.

## Gisborne's Wa165 Steam Locomotive.

Its home is in Gisborne the sunny corner of the North Island where we are first to see the sun of the new day in New Zealand.

**Wa165 is the only remaining Wa class train** which was built in Hillside workshops in 1897 in Dunedin, New Zealand. Our Wa165 was the ideal locomotive for the heavily graded railway line between Gisborne and Motuhora where it spent most of its working life.

**In 1985 restoration of Wa165 began** - and now today steam trips and excursions for you, your family and tourists alike are available. What makes our steam trips so special is the rail way crosses over the airport [the only one in the Southern hemisphere].



VIDEO

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# 1861



## Queen Victoria & Whitby Jet

‘A Gemstone famed by Royalty’

**During the 1800’s and with NEW Rail links to Whitby,** the town became a popular seaside holiday destination for early Victorians.

As part of their visit, a souvenir piece of Whitby Jet was a must, particularly Whitby Jet jewellery.

**In 1851, Whitby Jet was exhibited for the first time at the Great Exhibition in London.**

Soon after, it became coveted by a number of high profile royals including the Queen of Bavaria and the Empress of France.

**However, Whitby Jet’s most prolific patron was to be Queen Victoria.**

**When Prince Albert died in 1861,** Queen Victoria took to wearing Whitby Jet jewellery in remembrance of him, quickly making it the etiquette to accessorise the period’s mourning dress with jewellery made from the gemstone.

**Queen Victoria valued the gemstone** so that the only jewellery allowed to be worn in court during this period was Whitby Jet.

# Whitby Cliffs

## Jet - Gemstone

After a tree fell, it would sink to the bottom of the sea, get covered with sediment, and the pressure and lack of oxygen--coupled with 180 million years--would fossilize the wood into jet.

### What is Whitby Jet?

Whitby jet is considered a gemstone, and is made from the fossilized wood of the ancient Araucaria tree.

**Jet** can be found within a 10-mile radius of the small seaside town of Whitby on the Northeast coast of England.

# Young Nicks Head Te Kuri-a-Pāoa Papa Rock



The coastal cliffs are made of mudstone and muddy sandstone, typical of the region, which subsequently became known as 'papā' (a Māori word), or 'papa rock'.

# Te Kuri-a-Pāoa

## the Dog of Pāoa

This prominent headland, 27 km south of Gisborne, is a significant place for Tūrangānui-a-Kiwa tribes.

Its name, Te Kuri-a-Pāoa, means 'the dog of Pāoa': Pāoa was the captain of the Horouta canoe.

**Māori legends recount that Pāoa lost his dog** in the Tūrangānui-a-Kiwa / Poverty Bay area and the dog is still there waiting for his master to return. It is said if you look towards the white cliffs at dawn they resemble the outline of a dog in a crouching position.

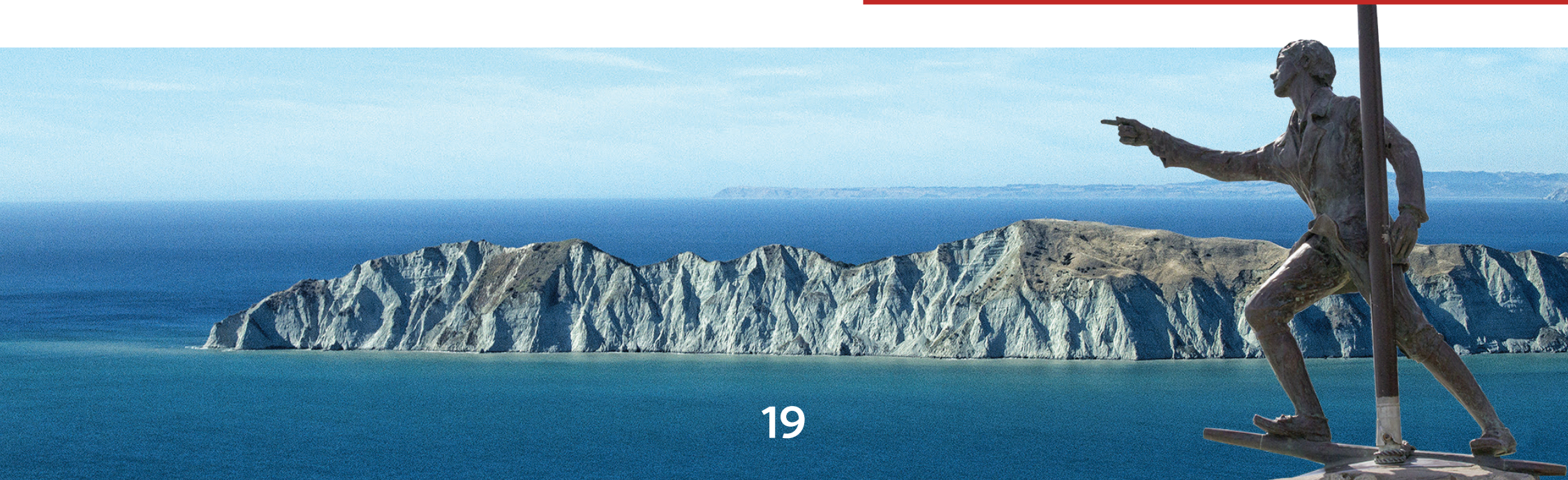
## Kuri

Kurī were small, long-haired dogs about the size of a border collie. They had a small head, pricked ears, a terrier-like snout and a powerful jaw. The shoulders and neck were heavy, the legs were short, and the tail was bushy.

Some were black, some white, and others a combination with patches or spots. Some had yellow coats.

© Cite: Basil Keane, 'Kurī - Polynesian dogs', *Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand*, <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/kuri-polynesian-dogs/print> (accessed 17 April 2019)

**Later, when Captain James Cook arrived in Tūranga-Gisborne** he called Te Kuri-a-Pāoa > Young Nick's Head < in honour of the cabin boy who first sighted land from the Endeavour.



# Dracula or Black Dog

**Vampires can take the form of a black dog.** Black dogs make frequent appearances in myth and legend.

**A mythical monstrous black dog** with large teeth and claws occurs in Northern English folklore; it is called a Barghest or Barguest and seeing one is often an omen of death.



## Dracula

**Bram Stoker**

the author was inspired by the **Abbey Ruins of Whitby** while there visiting. His creative writing has become one of the main tourist attractions of this seaside town, complete with its own museum plus annual festivals that draw thousands.

**The great tempest broke rapidly and without warning in the darkness.** The sea around Whitby convulsed, waves rising in growing fury, over-topping one another, beating white-topped on the sands, rushing up the cliffs and breaking with great spumes over the piers of the harbour.

**Adding to the difficulties and dangers of the night,** a huge sea-fog drifted inland, ghost-like, its wet clouds so dank and cold it was as though the spirits of those lost at sea touched the living with the clammy hand of death.

**One by one, fishing-boats running madly** for safety made the harbour, guided by a great searchlight mounted on the top of East Cliff. Finally, the searchlight picked out one last remaining vessel, a foreign schooner spotted earlier, all sails set, drifting, out of control.

**Somehow, miraculously, the strange vessel** made its way between the piers, seeming to leap from wave to wave, apparently steered by a corpse, with drooping head, lashed to the helm.

**The schooner pitched up** with considerable concussion on the beach below East Cliff, next to ancient Tate Hill Pier.

**But, strangest of all,** the very instant the shore was touched an **immense dog sprang up on deck** from below and leapt from the bows onto the sand.

It made straight for the steep cliff, where the churchyard hangs over the lane below such that some tombstones actually project over where the cliff has fallen away.

**And there the dog disappeared,** into the darkness. So Dracula arrived in the Yorkshire seaside town of Whitby; and the fact is, he's never left.

1897

# Dracula & Rigg Mill



Rev. Stephen Donald (*now retired*) of Gisborne's Holy Trinity Anglican Parish has a unique back-story to share...

In that his great grandfather (Robert McNeil) came from Whitby as a 16-year old and married in New Zealand. The family in the 1850's operated the water mill - which was owned by the local Lord of the Manor.

Rigg Mill is one of the places that the narrator of the book Dracula initially mentions in his description of Whitby and the surrounding countryside, as he outlines the scene - and introduces the reader to Whitby and the infamous tale of Dracula.

**Truth being stranger than fiction** - it is hard to imagine that juxtaposed with the dark tale of Count Dracula and Whitby would come one with a message of light - the very opposite of such darkness - some two hundred years later - a great grandson would be born on the other side of the globe - in Tolaga Bay, North of Gisborne, New Zealand - one who would become a Minister of the Gospel of Light.

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Whitby,\\_Rigg\\_Mill,\\_near\\_Whitby,\\_Yorkshire,\\_England-LCCN2002708336.tif](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Whitby,_Rigg_Mill,_near_Whitby,_Yorkshire,_England-LCCN2002708336.tif)

# Endeavour Replica arrives in Whitby to celebrate 1768...

In June 2018 the town of Whitby celebrated the departure of Lt. James Cook and crew on the Endeavour in 1768 as they left on what would prove to be their history making voyage of discovery... charting Australia and New Zealand.

An Endeavour replica ship - that Captain James Cook used to sail to Australia and New Zealand arrived in Whitby - to become part of a new tourist attraction.

This full-scale copy of the Endeavour was towed 40 miles by sea from Middlesbrough. [CLICK photo below to watch VIDEO](#)

**It is to be transformed into a floating museum** - to mark the 250th anniversary of Cook's first expedition to the Pacific. Yorkshire-born Cook began his maritime career in Whitby.

**Crowds of people lined the harbour walls and watched** from the surrounding cliffs as the Endeavour arrived to a cannon salute and the sound of ringing bells.

**The replica, which was built in 1993** and had been based in Stockton-on-Tees, has now been purchased by businessman and ex-Naval officer Andrew Fiddler at auction in 2017.

**Mr Fiddler said:** "It was fantastic to see the Endeavour coming through the harbour entrance in full glory and receiving a great Whitby welcome, knowing she will be staying put in her rightful home.

"We can now look forward to the final stage in her transformation, from being a rundown function venue to becoming an engaging and entertaining attraction."

**Unlike its Australian counterpart,** the UK replica was never built to be sailed - which is why it had to be towed down the coastline to Whitby.

*Photo © Charlotte Graham*



22



# 1764/68

Fishburn Shipbuilders

... from "The Bay of Light"  
the Endeavour came to  
"The First Light" ...

## Endeavour arrives at Turanga- Gisborne 7th October 1769

**Fishburn Shipbuilders** were tasked with taking the Whitby Cat that was originally designed to haul coal - re-fit and make seaworthy for the British Navy to commission and re-register as HM Bark Endeavour for the intrepid explorer Lieutenant James Cook.

**In fact, Fishburn Shipbuilders** had created such a good ship in the Endeavour that upon his return to Britain - Captain James Cook sought out Thomas Fishburn to build two more vessels for him, the Resolution and Adventure for further explorations.

*Endeavour replica at anchor in  
Turanganui-a-Kiwa/Poverty Bay  
Photo © courtesy Photofox Photography*

# Guess who built the **Endeavour**?



*Left to Right:  
Pastor Bruce Whitley &  
his father Peter Whitley*

When the writer of this booklet set out to share the juxtaposition between Whitby and Gisborne, he never imagined that living right here in Gisborne city were descendants of the Fishburn ship building family of Whitby.

**One little known fact, is that local Pastor Bruce Whitley** is a direct descendant of that family owned business in Whitby - Fishburn Shipbuilders, on the maternal side of his family-tree as shared with us by his father **Peter Whitley**.

*Endeavour painting  
© courtesy Whitley family*

# First Encounters 250 Turanga-Gisborne October 2019

*Sepia photo  
of the historic  
Cook Monument  
landing site,  
at the base of  
Titirangi (Kaiti) Hill,  
Turanga-Gisborne.*



In October 2019, Gisborne District hosted the launch of **First Encounters 250**, the national commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the arrival of the Endeavour and the first meetings between tangata whenua and those on board, on the **7th October 1769**.

<<< [CLICK for Website](#)

**The Endeavour was part of a flotilla**, known as the Tuia 250 Voyage, that honoured Polynesian sailing traditions alongside European ones.

**“The flotilla was a celebration of two epic** voyaging traditions – Polynesian and European – and the historic foundations of our nation.”

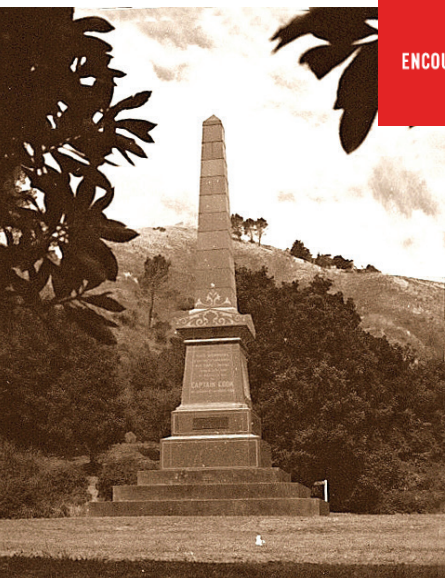
**First Encounters 250** was designed to link together commemorative events, including a National Opening Ceremony to be staged in Gisborne in October 2019, scientific conferences, cultural performances and exhibitions.

*“This anniversary was a spectacular three-month long event.”*

**Dual naming** has become popular in NZ.

**Poverty Bay**, *(a reductive name)* given by Lt J. Cook, was officially re-named:

**Tūranganui-a-Kiwa/Poverty Bay**, in February 2019.



# True **UNTOLD** backstory of **EASTER**

For further Gisborne Church information  
CLICK on the KCN website link below:

# 2026

[www.KCN.co.nz](http://www.KCN.co.nz) + [www.DestinationTuranga.co.nz](http://www.DestinationTuranga.co.nz)

This publication has been compiled & updated for 'KCN' the 'King's Christian Network' Gisborne, New Zealand, by DestinationTuranga.co.nz

We acknowledge and thank Mike of BitAboutBritain.com for story and photos - also Jo & Andy Bowden of 'The Well' ministry in North Yorkshire, UK; Pastor Leigh Coates Hope/Whitby UK, plus Pastor Jennifer Boyd of the Gisborne Assembly of God Church; Rev. Stephen Donald of Holy Trinity Parish, Gisborne; and Pastor Bruce & Peter Whitley of Alive Church, Gisborne and Pastor Richard Rangihuna without whose help this publication would not have been possible.

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© Created & published: 07-08-2019 / 3rd Edition: 12-03-2026  
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**KCN:** the 'King's Christian Network' was formed back in September 1986 as a network to encourage and facilitate Christian understanding & co-operation between the local Gisborne Christian community.

Today in 2026 KCN has become a nationwide WEBSITE based in Christchurch that connects internationally with Christian Churches & organisations.

Alive Church  
Arise Shine  
Community Church  
Assembly of God Church  
Christ New Creation  
International  
Equippers Church  
Gisborne Anglican Parish  
Gisborne Church in Christ  
Gisborne Christian Fellowship  
Grace Church Presbyterian  
Gisborne Central Baptist  
House of Breakthrough  
Mangapapa Church  
Matawhero Presbyterian  
Meeting Place Tairawhiti  
Te Karaka  
Oasis Community Church

Salvation Army Gisborne  
Samoan Fellowship  
Methodist  
Seventh Day Adventist  
St. Andrews Presbyterian  
St Andrews Tolaga Bay  
St. David's Presbyterian  
St Johns Te Karaka  
St Lukes Waerengahika  
St Margarets Te Puia  
St. Mary's Catholic Parish  
St Pauls Motu  
Tamarau Community  
Tongan Fellowship  
Methodist  
Turanga-Whangara-Rohe  
Wainui Beach Vineyard  
Church

Thank you  
for reading  
through this  
presentation.

Please feel free  
to make contact  
with any of the  
Churches listed.

Their contact  
details are easily  
accessible  
from our  
[www.kcn.co.nz](http://www.kcn.co.nz)  
website

<<<<<<

# Turanga Christchurch



This name also has significance for the NEW 'TURANGA Library' building's location at the north-east corner of Cathedral Square in Christchurch.

**Tūranga** is the name of a settlement located on the East Coast of the North Island. It is the homeland of the Ngāi Tahu ancestor, Paikea, who made his way there on the back of a whale from the ancient homeland of Hawaiki.

The whale became the rock, Whāngārā Island, with its distinctive 'whale' shape. A whale also features on the gable of the furthestmost red-roofed building, the whareniui (meeting house) Whitirēia.

**Paikea** had two sons, **Whatiua Te Ramarama** and **Tahu Pōtiki**. Whatiua Te Ramarama and his wife Hemo had three children. The eldest child Porouraki, is the founding ancestor of East Coast iwi Ngāti Porou.

Whatiua Te Ramarama died and so Tahu Pōtiki, the brother took Hemo as his wife. They also had three children. Ngāi Tahu descend from the union of Tahu Pōtiki and Hemo.

Ngāi Tahu - Christchurch - Ngāi Tahu's relationship to the people of Ngāti Porou and Tūranga is found in the saying, 'Tokotoru a te tuakana, tokotoru a te taina, ko ngā tokoono ēnei a Hemo i noho ai i Tūranga', meaning 'Hemo the mother of Ngāti Porou and Ngāi Tahu - all who came from Tūranga'.

*In many ways the whale of Paikea and Whangara in the North Island repeats near Christchurch with Whale tourism today being enjoyed just off the South Island's East Coast at Kaikoura - which is just North of Christchurch city.  
Drawing the Ngai Tahu & Ngati Porou history into 2026 for all to learn and remember.*



# Turanga Christchurch



The Cook Statue in Victoria Square, Christchurch, commemorates the three journeys of James Cook to New Zealand.

It was donated by bookmaker and philanthropist **Matthew Barnett** [1861-1935] and was sculpted by **William Trethewey**.

**Dan Sullivan**, the Mayor of Christchurch and Member of Parliament had invited the **governor-general, Lord Bledisloe** to unveil the Cook Statue on 10 Aug. 1932

In his speech, the Governor-General, Lord Bledisloe, referred to the early history of New Zealand, saying that . . .

*“There are three outstanding landmarks – its effective discovery by James Cook, then a lieutenant in the Royal Navy, in 1769; its Christianisation, commencing with the arrival of Rev. Samuel Marsden in 1814; and its inclusion in the British Empire under the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840.”*

*“Without the first, the second would have been improbable and the third impossible.”*

**In 1769 from Whitby UK to  
Turanga-Gisborne-Christchurch-NZ**

**Captain James Cook came to New Zealand three times** during his voyages of exploration between 1769 and 1777.

He mapped the entire coastline during these visits, significantly advancing European knowledge of the country.



**CLICK  
for the  
Website**

**JC2033.nz on 17th April 2033 Easter**  
Celebrating 2000 Years of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ Commencing in Christchurch, New Zealand