

# eColenso

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## Contents

- 2 Call for papers
- 3 The Presidential Address, 1888.
- 6 Clem Earp: Passing through Whangaruru
- 11 Sebley & Thomas
- 13 Colenso's shell collection
- 14 The cruise of the s.s. *Waikare*, 1900
- 19 Hawkestone St. *Mr Colenso's Wairarapa*
- 20 Further wanderings...

**Supplement:** Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute Anniversary Address by the President, William Colenso, 1888.

*eColenso* is the free email publication of the Colenso Society,  
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Past issues are at  
[www.colensostudy.id.au/Newletter%20Masthead.htm](http://www.colensostudy.id.au/Newletter%20Masthead.htm).



# Further wanderings with William Colenso

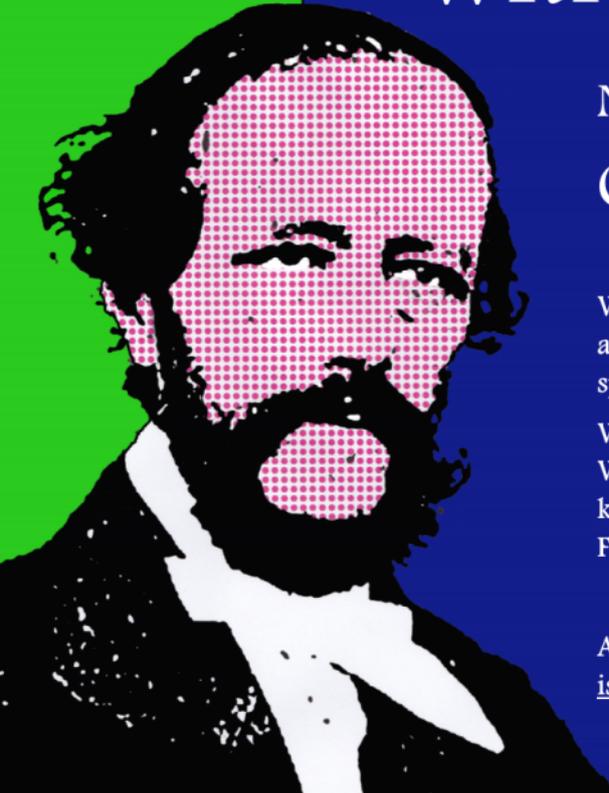
Napier 22–24 February 2019

## Call for papers

William Colenso was a nineteenth century printer, preacher, explorer, linguist, avid reader, churchman, writer, politician and more, at a time when multi-specialists were fervidly examining this new and fascinating country.

We invite papers on any subject related to the life, times or interests of William Colenso – in other words, on any topic related to nineteenth century knowledge – for a conference to be held at MTG Hawke's Bay from 22 to 24 February 2019.

An abstract of fewer than 200 words should be sent to Ian St George at [istge@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:istge@yahoo.co.nz) before 30 July 2018.



# The Presidential Address

Robert Price, the editor of Napier's *Daily Telegraph*, was probably sick and tired of Colenso's letters correcting errors in various articles and he took his opportunity to restore some balance in reporting Colenso's Presidential address to the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Society on 12 June 1888,

In opening the present season of the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Society, the Rev. W. Colenso, F.R.S., the President, took occasion last night to deplore the lack of interest in scientific matters shown by the people of this colony. In making this charge the worthy president did the colonists a great injustice. In no part of the world, perhaps, is so much interest taken in science of all kinds, and so much money spent in its promotion. If this colony possessed hut the one Museum at Christchurch it would be quite sufficient to dispose of any such charge as that made by Mr Colenso. We would ask, has Mr Colenso ever seen that splendid result of the labors of the late Sir Julius Von Haast, and of the enthusiasts who assisted him in building up a museum second to none in the Southern Hemisphere? But it is not only at Christchurch where this colony can show the fruits of the interest taken in science by the New Zealand colonists, At each of the large cities there is a museum of which each may well be proud; and in the smaller towns there are to be found the beginnings of similar institutions that are far from despicable. The British colonist is eminently practical; and the leisure is not given to many of them to devote much time to the discovery of such things as cannot be turned to immediate account. Now, if Mr Colenso had recognised this feature of colonial life, and had given credit to the colonist for discovering and developing the mineral resources of the country without the aid, and in spite of the opposition, of scientific men, his opening address would have been more true, and more just.

According to rule three of the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Society members are not expected to debate matters which may arise, and the President last night referred to the danger of the Society's meetings degenerating into a low debating club. This was as much as to say that the statements—mis-statements very often—of the members once uttered must be swallowed whole, and that young members must maintain silence although the questions brought forward might require elucidation to bring them down to the level of ordinary minds. There is, however, a remedy, our correspondence columns are always open, and we are only sorry that the Philosophers' session runs concurrently with that of Parliament. Could not the Philosophers have their meetings during the "big gooseberry" season?

Colenso responded, his letter appearing in the *Telegraph* the next day under the head, "Mr. Colenso explains",

SIR,—In your issue of this evening you have made two (at least) prominent misstatements respecting what I said last night in my address to the members of the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute. As, I believe, you had no reporter present, I would hope you have done so unwittingly. Nevertheless, I am (as the saying goes,) "in two minds," whether to correct them or not; perhaps I had better do so at once, especially as one of them affects the well-doing of our Society; although your *canards* will have had twenty-four hours' start ahead of veracity, making it a rather desperate stern-chase.

1. You say:— "According to rule 3 of the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Society members are not expected to debate matters which may arise, and the President last night, referred to the danger of the Society's meetings degenerating into a low debating club. This was as much as to say that the statements—misstatements very often—of the members once uttered must be swallowed whole, and that young members must maintain silence although the questions brought forward might require elucidation to bring them down to the level of ordinary minds." Allow me to give you rule 3:— "If any discussion should occur after the read-

ing of a paper, no person shall be at liberty to address the meeting more than once, except when called upon, through the chairman, for explanation. The member contributing a paper shall have the right to reply to observations made upon it."

Is not that rule very different to what you have represented it to be? Does it not provide for ample reasonable discussion?—and please note, "observations" from *any "person" present*. Does it not run in almost the same groove as the debates in our Houses of General Assembly? I refrain from remark on your straining and high-coloring. I certainly did call on my fellow-members to keep up the status of our Society (as a branch of the Colonial N.Z. Institute, and so to observe her rules), and not to allow themselves to degenerate in the way you have stated.

2. You, also, say:— "In opening the present session of the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Society, the Rev. W. Colenso, F.R.S., the President, took occasion last night to deplore the lack of interest in scientific matters shown by the people of this colony. In making this charge the worthy president did the colonists a great injustice," &c., &c.

To this I reply I never said any such thing; rather the very contrary. What I said had reference to our own Hawke's Bay district, and to our own local Society; and that in a very different manner to this statement of yours. I will just copy for you the words I used.

"In this ship, or hive, there should be no drones. Our society is both smaller and poorer than other kindred ones in this N. Island—Auckland and Wellington; happily there is no distinction made on this account; nevertheless we here in Hawke's Bay must feel it, and therefore it is the more imperative upon us, as a determined and devoted though small band, devoid of those large blessings which our older sisters enjoy,—in rich endowments, princely gifts, resident learned scientific men, extensive libraries and museums—to be active, to be penetrated with that genuine *esprit-de-corps*, which not unfrequently more than makes up for the want of everything else."

—I am, &c., WILLIAM COLENZO.

P.S.—As I have good reasons for believing that my address will be shortly published. I will take good care that a copy shall early be sent to you.—W.C.

Napier, June 12th, 1888.

In July Colenso was again critical of the *Telegraph's* errors,

SIR,—In your issue of this evening you have the following item of news (mentioning the residence of the late Mr Alexander Kennedy). You say:—

"The house at the foot of the Shakespeare-road was built by the late Mr Kennedy thirty years ago, on land that he bought from Renata. It was on the site of an old pah."

In this short sentence, as I view it, there are several errors.

1. Mr Kennedy could not have bought the said piece of land from Renata, as Renata never possessed a foot of land in Scinde Island (now Napier.)

2. The chiefs (owners) sold it in its entirety to the then Land Purchase Commissioner, Sir Donald McLean. There was no reserve.

3. The said land was early laid off in town sections, as may be seen in the (old) Government map of the town.

4. There was no "old pah" on that spot, but below—seaward from the hotel adjoining—there was a very small fishing village, only occasionally inhabited.

Moreover, the law was such at that period (and for long after), that no European could possibly purchase land from a native chief.

Alas! poor Renata! both living and dead, errors are foisted upon thee!—I am, &c, WILLIAM COLENZO. Napier, July 24, 1888.

Colenso did indeed "have good reasons for believing" that his address would shortly be published, since he had contracted with Coupland Harding to publish it (it is reproduced as a supplement to this issue of *eColenso*). He duly sent the promised copy to the *Telegraph* which responded on 1 August,

We have to acknowledge the receipt of a printed report of the Rev. W. Colenso's anniversary presidential address delivered before the members of the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute, on the opening of the 1888-89 session. There are many passages in this address that are calculated to provoke hostile criticism, but at present we have only time to note that the pamphlet has left the printer's with blunders in spelling and punctuation that we hardly expected to see in a work of this kind.

Somebody (probably Coupland Harding) wrote questioning these assertions and though that letter was not published, the *Telegraph* responded on 6 August,

A CORRESPONDENT challenges us to point out orthographical or any other errors in the printed report of the Rev. W. Colenso's presidential address to the members of the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute. Our correspondent could not have read the address, or he would have seen what a hideous production it appears in print. Here are a few of the errors:—Control is spelled "controul" on pages 8, 19, and 28; Mr Justice Johnston is printed Judge Johnstone (page 29). "For Beauty's best in unregarded things" (page 11) should have been for Beauty is best, &c. "Now science teaches the difficulty of attaining truth, and shows how to arrive at it" (page 12) does not mean what Mr Colenso wished to convey, for science, we imagine, does not show how to arrive at the *difficulty* of attaining truth, but shows the difficulty of *reaching* truth. "The strength of the strongest is that of its weakest part" (page 13) is sheer nonsense, and evolved from muddledom (the strength of a chain is that of its weakest link). On page 19 "the large number," &c, "have been," instead of has been. Page 33, "Father of light and life! Thou Good supreme"! instead of God Supreme. The Rev. Mr Colenso should not forget that he who would teach should himself be taught.

Harding was by now publishing his own paper, *Typo* and on 25 August wrote (with a snake, lest anyone should doubt his message),



The Napier *Telegraph* thus acknowledged the printed copy of Mr Colenso's presidential address:—«At present we have only time to note that the pamphlet has left the printer's with blunders in spelling and punctuation that we hardly expected to see in a work of this kind.» Readers of the pamphlet having searched diligently and unsuccessfully for the alleged «blunders,» asked the editor to point them out. In about a week he took up the challenge in a long paragraph, in which he characterized the pamphlet as a «hideous» specimen of bad spelling, bad grammar, and misquotation. In support of the first charge, *one* error only was discovered—the addition of a final «e» to the name of the late Mr Justice Johnston; but objection was also taken to the «u» being retained in words where Webster rejects it. The two sentences quoted as bad grammar were quite correct—apparently the critic could not understand them. Two instances of misquotation were alleged. The line «For beauty's best in unregarded things» should have been «Beauty is best.» The critic did not say where the emended line might be found, nor how he proposed to make it scan. The other «blunder» was in a well-known line from Thomson's *Winter*: «Father of Light and Life, thou Good supreme»—«for 'God supreme'»! Mr Colenso quoted the line as Thomson wrote it. As altered by the *Telegraph*, the passage loses its meaning.

That cheered Colenso up: he wrote (August 1888) to Harding,

*I am particularly pleased at your bringing forward Bob Price's hyper-criticisms: I had intended to have remarked thereon at our last meeting.... I should like to have 3 copies extra of this no. of Typo....*

Bickering aside, Colenso's *Presidential address* is an important and insightful document and is reproduced as a supplement to this issue of *eColenso*.



Another toponym noted by Colenso, on 16 April 1835, was Paremata, ‘a very high and conical hill to the left’ as he returned to the Bay of Islands. At 405m altitude, this hill would certainly stand out; it is approximately 11 km south of Te Ranga, and is marked on modern maps.

There are some toponyms and personal names which cannot, for the moment, be resolved. A small stream called by Colenso ‘Tiuvatapipi’ and a kāinga called Tuarau have not been traced so far, nor has a chief called ‘Houkio’. However, the chief at Tuarau, ‘Kauwata’ (Heta Te Kauwhata) is an ancestor of many local people in the area, and was a signatory to the Treaty of Waitangi.

Ian St George’s map comparing Colenso’s journey with that of Marsden stops the latter’s track at Whangaruru.<sup>4</sup> There is no evidence that Marsden headed towards Waikare, although he did know of the name as one possible way into the Bay of Islands;<sup>5</sup> instead, Marsden speaks of arriving at ‘Parroa’ (Paroa, see Fig. 1) less than a day after leaving the head of Whangaruru Harbour.<sup>6</sup>

## Whangaroa

The name seems to have been supplanted by Ngaiotonga which now appears on modern topographic maps, probably to prevent confusion with the better known Whangaroa of the Far North. Whangaroa is now the name of the urupā (cemetery) of Ngaiotonga marae, just over 1 km south of the marae on the left bank of the stream near its mouth. This may be the actual site of the old kāinga, or it may simply derive its name from the stream, which appears on old official documents as Whangaroa Stream<sup>7</sup> instead of the Ngaiotonga Stream of modern maps. Alternatively, Whangaroa may have been at the current site of the marae or village of Ngaiotonga, with the name changed for the reason given above.

## Whangaruru

There is no mystery about the location of this village, which still exists on the west side of Whangaruru Harbour, near the end of its own peninsula, and usually reached by canoe.

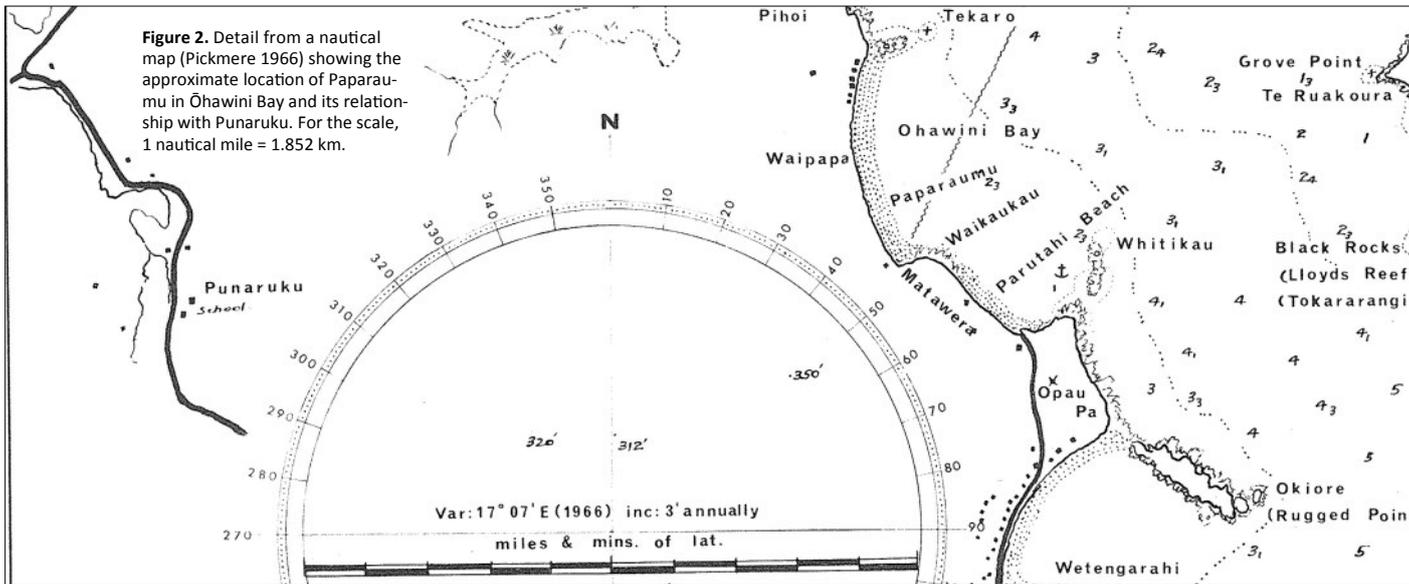
## Punaruku

Colenso’s journal states this was inland from Paparaumu, over ‘very high hills’, while the Rev. Charles Baker spoke of going ‘up the valley to Punaruku’.<sup>8</sup> This would roughly fit the scattered habitations in the valley of the Punaruku Stream, although I note it is separated from Paparaumu by hills which barely exceed 100m. The present-day school, Russell Forest HQ and other community buildings are strung out along 2 km of road. In December 1839, Colenso, returning from Whangārei, chose to head for Waikare from Punaruku ‘by an old and almost unfrequented road, which, from the steepness of the hills, long sedgy grass, fallen timber, etc, was a very fatiguing one’. Over the ridge west of Punaruku is the Waikare Stream, which ‘we waded, and re-waded ... more than 20 times, and, finally, by a forced march, reached Waikare by 8. p.m’, having left Punaruku at about 2 pm.

## Paparaumu

The *Missionary Register* for 1844 lists it among the principal outliers of the Paihia mission.<sup>9</sup> In addition to Colenso, the Rev. Charles Baker made a number of visits there in the period 1840–1842.<sup>10</sup> Yet this name seems to have well and truly disappeared from modern maps.

It was located somewhere in Ōhawini Bay,<sup>11</sup> a relatively small area. The only clue I can find as to a more precise location is an unofficial nautical map, part of which is reproduced here (**Fig. 2**). Most sources use the spelling *Paparaumu* rather than the *Paparaumu* of missionaries like Baker and Colenso, but local historian, the late Madge Malcolm, while noting both, made no definitive judgement as to which was correct.



## Ōwai

Colenso invariably spelt this Ouae, but the name refers to wai – water – as does the current name of its former location, the small bay (Ngāwai) within the larger Helena Bay. Ngāwai Bay appears on older maps as Teal Bay,<sup>12</sup> which in fact is the name exclusively used on local council and commercial signage to refer to the village now occupying the site of Ōwai.

The local iwi is Ngāti Wai, the name referring to *the mana of the sea or the surrounding waters of the rohe (territory)* ... 'Ko nga mana katoa o Ngati Wai kei te wai, i nga taniwha me o ratou mana-

wa .' ('All the mana of Ngati Wai comes from the sea, from its guardian taniwha and their spiritual force.')

<sup>13</sup> A stream, the name of which is correctly spelt Ōwae, is a tributary of the Kawakawa River which runs into the Bay of Islands, and this may have influenced Colenso's spelling.

Colenso made a sketch of the village and bay on 28 September 1837.<sup>14</sup> This appears to have been drawn from a vantage point above present-day Webb Road as it comes down the spur to the north of the village. It is impossible to get a similar vantage point today from any public area, as almost the whole bay is taken up with lifestyle blocks and holiday homes, and public access is confined to the beach. The

sketch shows the village was on the southern side of the bay near the mouth of the Ōwai Stream, an area which is now entirely built over.

### The road inland

From Ōwai, Colenso proceeded south either by a coastal route (which is outside the scope of this article), or by an inland route towards the southwest.

The inland route probably followed Ōwai Stream up to the ridge which runs north-south, i.e. very roughly (give or take a kilometre) the same route as the present-day Webb and Kaiikanui Roads. An old bridle path, now reduced to stubs either side of the ridgeline, crosses Kaiikanui Road above the headwaters of Ōwai Stream and may represent the old trail. Colenso certainly came to this point on the ridge. On 13 February 1836 he wrote: 'Left Owaie this morning... in our route, this morning, passed several grotesquely-shaped isolated rocks, evidently of volcanic origin – magnificent Kauri woods around about us – Saw Wananake in the distance'.<sup>15</sup>

It is where the old bridle path crosses the ridge that there are, sure enough, some outcrops of basalt, and from approximately the same location one can look east down a valley and see the Whananāki estuary (**Fig 3**). Unfortunately the magnificent kauri forests have long gone. The basalt outcrops, too, are perhaps not what they were. A geological report, noting the outcrops as significant examples of proto-karst,<sup>16</sup> stated 'One area included has had some damage by recent earth moving machinery selectively harvesting the best boulders for sale.' The retail price for these 'paddock rocks' at Whangārei is currently \$150 per (very roughly estimated) cubic metre.

Proceeding further along the ridge then descending to the flood plain of the Wairua River, Colenso's party saw 'Hikurangi & Mangakahia in the distance'. This Hikurangi was, presumably, the 365m isolated scoria cone near the present-day town of the same name, since Colenso was heading southwards in the direction of present-day Whangārei.

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### Endnotes

1. I. St George (2017).
2. 4.66 miles, on flat ground this would be 2½ hours walk, but this was not flat ground.
3. The sketch is reproduced in St George (2016), p. 61.
4. I. St George (2017), p. 9.
5. J.R. Elder (1932), p. 303.
6. J.R. Elder (1932), p. 307, misspelt Pairoa in the text, cf. p. 573.
7. Tutukaka, Whangaruru, and Whananaki Harbours Control Act, 1926, p. 2.
8. M. Malcolm (1982), p. 153.
9. Henry Williams in Missionary Register 1844, p. 56.
10. M. Malcolm (1982), pp. 112–113.
11. M. Malcolm loc. cit.
12. Named after H.A. Teal who farmed there during WWII: M. Malcolm (1982), p. 43.
13. Waitangi Tribunal (2017), p. 2.
14. Reproduced in St George (2016), p. 14.
15. St George (2009), p. 66. In his journals, Colenso states they arrived at this point at 10 am.
16. Hayward (2016), p. xi. Karst, or fluting of outcrops by rainwater, is usually associated with limestone. In Northland, however, it is more commonly associated with basalt outcrops (the best known example being the Wairere Boulders near Horeke), much of the Northland limestone being too muddy for karst formation.



**Figure 3.** *Above:* basalt boulders outcropping along Kaiikanui Road (note that those at left appear from staining to have been dug out).  
*Below:* view of Whananāki estuary from the old bridle path just off Kaiikanui Road, a few hundred metres from the boulders.

# “I have contracted w. Sebley & Thomas to build me a Ho. at Napier”

On 15 April 1858 Colenso, still at the old Waitangi mission station, wrote to Donald McLean,

*Perhaps you will hear from Mr. Curling that I have contracted w. Sebley & Thomas to build me a Ho. at Napier; for which Kauri, &c., has been ordered.*

**John Henry Sebley 1820–1891** was born in Frome, Somerset. He was granted a liquor licence in 1858 for the new house, Chaucer Tavern in Carlisle St, Napier, was a leader in the separation of Hawke’s Bay from Wellington province that year and was listed as a “publican” among those qualified to act as jurors in 1859. “Henry Sebley” was listed as a carpenter in the 1858 electoral roll and in September “A meeting of carpenters resident in Napier, was held at Mr. Sebley’s, Chaucer Tavern”; it was chaired by JH Sebley. He was an Oddfellow.

On 3 September 1859 the Superintendent’s office announced it had accepted the tender of £115 from Messrs John H. Sebley and William Thomas for an addition to the Lock-up. In 1861 his wife died and the next year he sold the Chaucer Tavern and in 1863 advertised for sale his Exchange Hotel. He married Jane McEvoy that year and became a farmer and drayman at Kaikora (Otane) in partnership with one Stephen McGreevy. The Sebleys would have eleven children. In 1864 he bought an unfinished building with the aim of making it into a new hotel. His name was also associated with the Albion hotel. In 1865 he was advertising as “Builder & cabinetmaker, Waipawa”.

In 1868 he retired from his partnership with McGreevy and in 1869 his creditors met: he filed for bankruptcy in May.

Colenso wrote to Andrew Luff on 21 March 1878,

*More than 2 years back I had let a section at Waipawa to Sebley (it was next to his own house), & on Saturday last he called to ask me to take it back!—which I agreed to do, & to give up the rent. Poor fellow! all those years struggling & done nothing! now thinking of working as a journeyman,—or try his luck at Pov. Bay.... I feel sorry for Sebley w. his large family.*

Little more is recorded until 18 March 1891, when the *Herald* reported,

**An inquest was held yesterday at Oakburne on the body of John Henry Sebley, who was found dead in a creek on Saturday. It appeared that deceased when last seen alive was in good spirits, and walking towards the place where he was subsequently found. The jury returned a verdict of found drowned.**

**William Thomas c.1808–1887** was in Hawke’s Bay 1856–1883. He rated an obituary in the *Evening Post*, reprinted in the *Herald* of 14 September 1887,

## **THE LATE MR WILLIAM THOMAS.**

**Mr William Thomas, who died on Saturday last at the age of 79, was one of Wellington’s earliest settlers. He arrived at Wellington in the year 1842, and has therefore been a settler of 45 years’ standing. During this long term of colonial life, dating as it does from the cradle days of this**

colony, Mr Thomas has passed through many vicissitudes. After remaining in Wellington about three years he, with his wife and three young children, undertook the arduous task of walking from Wellington to Wanganui, and many were the difficulties encountered during that eventful journey. The country they had to pass through was for the most part inhabited by Maoris hostile to the whites. Rivers had to be forded, and the sandhills formed their resting-place at night. Soon after their arrival at Wanganui there was trouble with the natives there. It was a most trying time for the handful of settlers located there, for it is stated that there were 1300 Maori warriors and only 50 white men in the place. Many indignities had to be submitted to by the devoted band of whites, who were anxiously looking for the arrival of British troops from Wellington. "Ah," Mr Thomas would say, "that was indeed a happy day when the troops came to our relief. For up to that time none of us, who lay down to rest at night felt any great assurance that we should see the morning." Mr Thomas's whare was quite near to that of the Gillfillan family, who were cruelly murdered by the natives one night, and the consternation that act caused may be well imagined. The Maoris were very arrogant at that time, and robbed the settlers at their own sweet will. Mr Thomas was robbed of almost everything he possessed—in fact he had only one blanket left to cover the family, and for food they, with many others, had little but fern root to eat. Mr Thomas returned to Wellington and was shortly afterwards employed as foreman in the erection of Mount Cook Barracks, and many other works undertaken about that time by the Imperial Government. In 1856 he removed with his family to the Ahuriri district

(Hawke's Bay), where he remained up till 1883, when he returned to Wellington to end his days. Mr Thomas, like many others who have resided for any great length of time in Wellington, cherished a great affection for the place. He leaves a widow and two sons, George and Charles, and one daughter, Mrs W. H. Fordham, to mourn their loss. Mr Thomas was an enthusiastic lover of music, and he took a prominent part in the earliest musical societies of this city. This great love of music has been inherited by his son Charles, the composer and author of the Industrial Cantata, which work was so successfully produced at the New Zealand Exhibition recently held in this city.—*Post*.

Colenso's letters do not mention Thomas again till 9 January 1876 when he wrote to Andrew Luff,

*W. Thomas never calls now: why, I do not know.*

... but they did still meet, for he gossiped to Luff on 24 August,

*W. Thomas' daughter Mrs Rice & her husband had a fair passage home (90 days) in "Iverness" hence,—they are in London, she under "the best Doctor in England" (so says W.T.)*

... and on 4 February 1877,

*Wm. Thomas' son, George, who was in the Customs,—and who has been doing the Gentleman (or better,—being more truthful,—the idle life) for 2 years, & who is now at Fiji—writes to his father, that they will get all that prosperity there! I have seen the letters; it seems strange, of course, the old man, wife, & son-in-law "Alf. Price Esquire", are in excelsis. Charley, too, the other brother, has another boy born—and "there never were such infants"!! (as the grandmother says, who has sweet photos. of them all.—*



Shells...



Part of William Colenso's shell collection at the National Aquarium, Napier Marine Parade

# The cruise of the s.s. *Waikare*

Flush with funds after the realisation of a considerable inheritance following his father's death in February 1899, Latimer Colenso decided to take his wife Maud on a luxury cruise.

They had arrived in Auckland from Sydney on the *Elingamite* on 25 July and in Napier shortly afterwards. The disposal of his father's estate had been public and controversial, with arguments about the sale of books, dumping of papers and the local body requirements for roading and subdividing the land preoccupying the Napier press. The land would be auctioned in December, however (*Hawke's Bay Herald* 9 December),

The Colenso hill property, which will be sold next Wednesday, has been subdivided into 65 allotments instead of 76 as originally intended, the object in the alteration being to give a better site for building. Each section is being pegged off, and the property (including Mr Colenso's house) is now open for inspection to day of sale. The roads, owing to the scarcity of labor, will not be completed for a week or so, but when they are finished they will be some of the best-formed in Napier. Plans can be obtained from the auctioneers, Messrs C. B. Hoadley and Co., up to 2 o'clock this afternoon and each day next week.

After that Latty needed a break and a cruise to the fiords in lavish opulence would have seemed an ideal tonic. The Union Steamship Company's vessel *Waikare* was making an "excursion to the sounds and round the Middle Island of the colony", laden with glittering people from around the world (*Otago Daily Times* 23 December 1899). The *Evening Post* of 5 January 1900 reported,

The Union Steam Ship Company's steamer *Waikare* left the Queen's Wharf yesterday afternoon laden with pleasure-seekers bound for the Sounds of the West Coast. Although the excursion began yesterday, some-

thing like one hundred excursionists joined the vessel at Melbourne and Sydney. Not only all the colonies, but distant parts of the earth contributed tourists. There were on board Professor Boehm, of Trieburg (Germany); our one-time Commandant, Colonel Cautley (after whom Fort Cautley is named), from London; Mr. and Mrs. Colenso, of Hythe (Southampton); Mr. C. W. Dilke, son of Sir Charles Dilke, the well-known British statesman; Mr. John Hayes, from Lancashire; Herr H. Herzfelder, of Germany; the Misses Peel, a trio, from Torquay; Mrs. Foreman and Canon Franklyn, from Guernsey; and many others. The wealth of Australia is represented by Mr. Westley-Hall, of Melbourne, who is known as the Mount Morgan millionaire; Mr. Thomas Skene, of Armidale, a wealthy Victorian squatter; and Messrs. Felton and Grimwade, well-known Melbourne merchants. Australian beauties and society leaders find distinguished representatives in Mrs. Clenhall, of Sydney, who is accompanied by her husband, Mr. David Clenhall, a leader at the Victorian Bar; Miss Akroyd-Stuart, also of Sydney; Mrs. Balls-Headley, Mrs. Grice, and Miss J. Lempriere, of Melbourne. Other distinguished visitors include Mrs. Hickman Molesworth, wife of a Victorian legislator; Mr. Justice Holroyd, of Melbourne; Mr. Arch. Currie, jun., and Miss L. Currie, members of the well-known shipping family of Melbourne, and Mr. Currie, a Camberdown (Victoria) squatter, who is accompanied by Mrs. Currie. Mr. Peel, the artist, whose New Zealand landscapes have won fame, is also a passenger and holds special commissions for sketches of the beauty spots to be visited. Journalism has its representative in Mr. J. P. Dowling, editor of the Sydney Mail.

About thirty passengers joined the *Waikare* at Wellington, and just before the hour of departure many interested groups gathered round the plan of the table, the queries going round with merry laughter— "Are you a pink?" or "Are you a green?" (these being the distinguishing colours by which excursionists were to find their place at table). Tourists who are at present "doing" the South Island are to join the ship at Lyttelton, Port Chalmers, or the Bluff, and on Tuesday next the sight-seeing proper will begin with a visit to Stewart's Island; thence round the West Coast. Pelorus Sound is expected to be reached on the 24th inst., and the return to Wellington made on the following day. Yesterday the crowd of people on the wharf looked with longing eyes upon their more favoured fellows as the *Waikare* began her trip, but the heartiest greetings were exchanged,

at 2 p.m.

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The auctioneer Hoadley's plan of the property auctioned for Latimer Colenso in December 1899.  
(Hawke's Bay Museums Trust collection).

and amid waving kerchiefs and "Hope you'll enjoy yourself!" and "Bon voyage!" the good ship, commanded by Captain Richardson, sailed away with her merry pleasure-seekers.

Since her last excursion the Waikare has been painted and decorated anew, and every improvement, both on deck and below, has been effected that will tend to the comfort and enjoyment of excursionists, for whom the whole of the ship's space has been specially arranged. Shady awnings have been fitted to keep out the rays of the sun when they shine too strongly, and extra strong canvases have been prepared as guards against storms. As a handbook of preparation for the beauty spots to be seen, the company has issued to each passenger a copy of a beautifully illustrated brochure, the descriptive text being from the pen of Mr. Malcolm Ross, and the pictures from the pencil of Mr. R. Haweridge. Another booklet distributed on board contains directions for the voyage, an itinerary of the trip, and names of passengers.

She left Port Chalmers on 11 January with 170 passengers (*Otago Witness*) and a perfectly splendid time was had by all. The *NZ Times* (25 January) reported from Picton,

The passengers by the Waikare, which arrived here this morning on her way back from the Sounds excursion, concur in describing the trip as most enjoyable. The scenery of that portion of New Zealand's Wonderland more than surpassed their expectations.

"I have seen," said a gentleman from Scotland, "the lochs of my native land, the fiords of Norway, and the boasted scenery of the American continent, but they are all surpassed by the grandeur of your West Coast Sounds. When in Scotland I read a description of a former trip, and decided to see for myself what New Zealand had to offer in the way of natural beauties. What I have seen has proved to be beyond my anticipations, and I really think your Government should do far more than has yet been done in advertising the beauties of your country from every point of view."

I gather that the excursion must be regarded as the most successful which has yet taken place. Besides having the enjoyments usually attendant on such a trip, the passengers by the Waikare may regard themselves as being in some degree explorers, for the steamer was the first of the Union Company's fleet to visit Hall's Arm and Crooked Arm, besides

going into Cascade Cove, which, was visited for the first time during the previous excursion. At both Hall's Arm and Crooked Arm the black swan was seen in abundance, and the scenery is described as being simply magnificent. "No words can describe it," remarked a passenger. "It must be seen to be appreciated, or even comprehended."

If there was a complaint to be made at all it was with regard to the weather. There was too much rain, say some of the passengers, which greatly marred the enjoyment of the visit to Milford in particular. But even this had its compensations, for the downpour had the effect of bringing into existence a number of supplementary waterfalls, which, as they tumbled headlong down the steep face of the cliffs, made a picture of great beauty.

Throughout the trip every facility was afforded the passengers for going ashore and visiting the places of interest which abound in that region. Fishing excursions, concerts, euchre parties, dances, sketching parties and such-like whiled away the days in a most enjoyable manner. In George's Sound a regatta was held, and proved most successful. All the events were keenly contested, while those who did not actively participate watched the proceedings with the greatest interest. The excursionists constituted a very happy and united party, and all did their best to minister to the enjoyment of those on board.

Of the officers and staff of the ship, and of the vessel herself, they all speak in terms of the highest praise. Everything possible was done to ensure the pleasure and comfort of the passengers, and from Captain Richardson downwards everyone exerted himself to the utmost to make the excursion a complete success. To-night a fancy dress ball, to which Captain Stuart and the officers of H.M.S. Tauranga have been invited, is to be held on board. The vessel is being prettily decorated for the occasion, and the function is being looked forward to with the most pleasant anticipations.

The Waikare will leave for Wellington at daylight in the morning.

Latty rowed in the George Sound regatta; he wrote from Otaki to the Dunedin Photographers Muir & Moodie on 27 February seeking photographs of his rowing crew and of a picnic by the shelter at Sandfly Point in Milford Sound (where the Track now ends).

Otakei. 27:2:00.

Dear Sirs.

Thanks for the photographs  
 You however have sent me  
 some I have no interest in  
 whatever. these I return as  
 being no doubt sent <sup>in</sup> error  
 for the following which I  
 will get you to send me,  
 viz:-

Boat's crew of passengers  
 who rowed against Officers,  
 Dr Smith, Colenso, Barker, M<sup>r</sup>Lean  
 and, I think, Evans, Cor:

Sandfly point picnic No 1  
 up by the shed -

Yrs faithfully, R. Colenso

Muir & Moodie replied,

T. M. B. MUIR  
 PRINCES STREET  
 R. Colenso Esq.  
 Dunedin, March 12<sup>th</sup> 1900

GEO. MOODIE

To Muir & Moodie,  
 (Late BURTON BROS.)  
 ART PHOTOGRAPHERS.

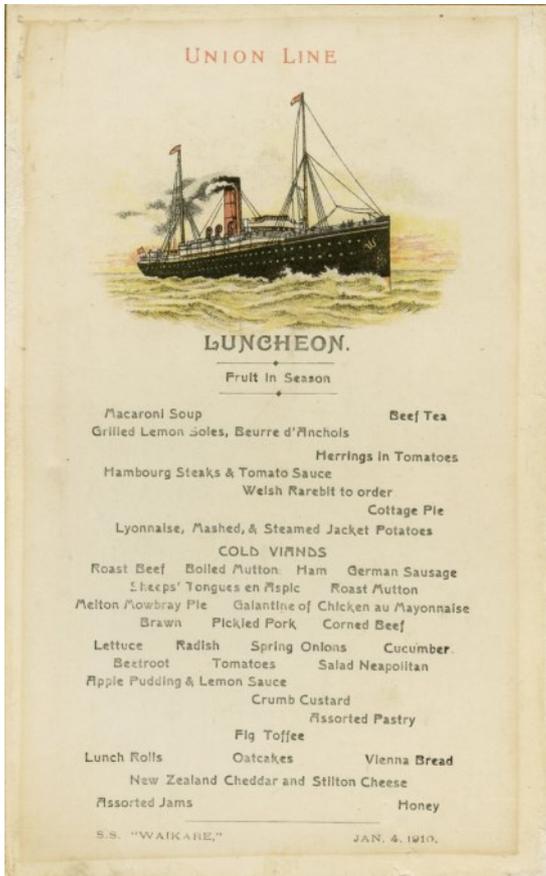
Dear Sirs.

We are sorry to say we have not  
 the group you wish that was taken  
 at Sandfly Point, the negative being  
 spoilt, so we are sending you the three  
 of No 14. You returned us yours, we are  
 only sending you three, I will send you  
 a corrected invoice.

We remain  
 Yours sincerely,  
 Geo. Muir & Geo. Moodie

These letters are in the Hawke's Bay Museums Trust collections at MTG Hawke's Bay.

The *Waikare* cruises became regular events and the much sought publicity for New Zealand's scenic beauty seemed to be forthcoming, as, on her 14th cruise, Mr Franklyn Barrett, representing Pathe Freres, has just returned from the Sounds trip in the *Waikare*, during which he secured some 2000ft of scenic films for reproduction by the firm. He got some splendid pictures of the Sounds, which will give European people a magnificent idea of the beauty of the scenery. He climbed up to the top of the Bowen Falls and took cinemato-

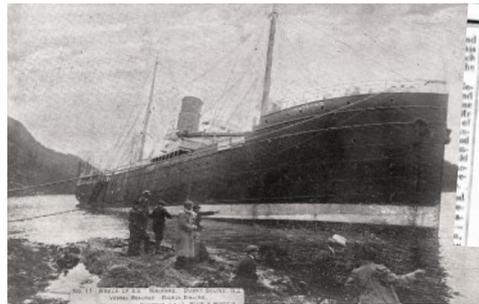


The 4 January 1910 lunch menu—she struck at noon that day.

graph pictures from there, and also pictures in Doubtful Sound, Hall's Arm, etc. One of the most effective as showing the height of the surrounding mountains is one of the launch touring boats in Milford Sound, with the Waikare in the distance.

(*Timaru Herald* 4 January 1910).

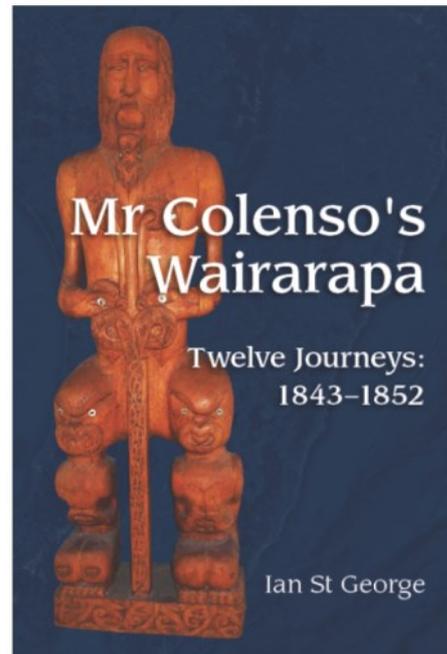
Alas. That very day, as luncheon was being prepared in Dusky sound, she struck a rock and was driven ashore to avoid sinking. All passengers and their belongings were saved. The *Star* of 5 January 1910 covered the events as they unfolded. Muir & Moodie took their most exciting photographs yet. Now the wreck is a dive site.





M. BREE'S COTTAGE, KA-ROHI-ROAD, WELLINGTON.

Brees's cottage was in what would become Hawkestone St.  
St Hill's house (where Colenso visited Octavius Hadfield) was to the right of the rise in the road.



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# Further wanderings with William Colenso



After Noire & Blanche,  
Man Ray, 1926, Paris.



The third  
Colenso  
conference  
will be held at  
MTG Hawke's  
Bay in Napier  
on 22 and 23  
February 2019.