

**DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 1174
*KARAWEKO AND SETTING - 389 ONUKU ROAD, AKAROA***



PHOTOGRAPH : B. SMYTH, 19 JULY 2009

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

Historical and social values that demonstrate or are associated with: a particular person, group, organisation, institution, event, phase or activity; the continuity and/or change of a phase or activity; social, historical, traditional, economic, political or other patterns.

Karaweko and its setting has high historical and social significance for its association with Ngāti Tarewa ariki Wiremu Harihona Karaweko, after whom it is named, and as the whare nui for the Ngāti Tarewa and Ngāti Irakehu hapu of Ngāi Tahu.

In the early nineteenth century, Ōnuku was an outpost of Takapūneke, the base of Ngāi Tahu upoko ariki Te Maiharanui. However, after Takapūneke and Ōnawe were sacked by Ngāti Toa ariki Te Rauparaha in 1830 and 1832 respectively, Ōnuku became the main settlement in Akaroa Harbour. During the 1840s and 1850s there were about 40 Māori living there, growing crops, raising pigs and selling food supplies to European ships.

The chief at Ōnuku from the 1850s until his death in 1884 was Wiremu Harihona Karaweko – commonly known as ‘Big William’. As a youth he had been captured in the sack of Ōnawe, but was eventually released and returned to Akaroa. One of his daughters, Amiria Puhirere (1843-1944) was the acknowledged matriarch of Ōnuku in the later part of her long life. Another important figure in mid-nineteenth century Ōnuku was former whaler James (Jimmy)

Robinson Clough, who settled there with his Maori wife Puai in 1837. Clough's great-grandson Henry Robinson was one of the leading figures at Ōnuku in the second half of the twentieth century.

Ōnuku (popularly known as The Kaik) was a centre of Māori life on Banks Peninsula in the later nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and possessed a native school (1880) and a whare karakia (1878). It did not however possess a marae. In the late twentieth century, Henry Robinson and others conceived of developing a marae complex which could act as a focus for the many, but widely dispersed, families with connections to Ōnuku. Work began in 1986, with the whare kai (named for Amiria Puhirere) opening in 1990 and the whare nui *Karaweko* in 1997. On 29 November 1998 the new whare nui was the venue for one of the key moments in modern Ngāi Tahu history when Prime Minister Jenny Shipley delivered the Crown's apology to the iwi there. The building has recently undergone significant rebuilding.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Cultural and spiritual values that demonstrate or are associated with the distinctive characteristics of a way of life, philosophy, tradition, religion, or other belief, including: the symbolic or commemorative value of the place; significance to Tangata Whenua; and/or associations with an identifiable group and esteemed by this group for its cultural values.

Karaweko has high cultural and spiritual significance as a focus for the families of Ngāti Irakēhu (a Banks Peninsula hapu of Ngāi Tahu) who whanaungatanga to Ōnuku. The whare nui is named for ariki Karaweko, and many of the carvings on and in the whare nui are of people important in the whakapapa of Ōnuku - particularly Te Maiharanui and his family, who are represented in the tekoteko, koruru and pare. The tukutuku are all variations on the patiki (flounder) pattern, an acknowledgement of the importance of kai moana.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

Architectural and aesthetic values that demonstrate or are associated with: a particular style, period or designer, design values, form, scale, colour, texture and material of the place.

Karaweko has architectural and aesthetic significance as a modern whare nui, built in a traditional manner. The building has a gabled form, with a long ridge pole and an open porch at the north end. The building is carved inside and out with representations of ancestors, and the interior is ornamented with tukutuku.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

Technological and craftsmanship values that demonstrate or are associated with: the nature and use of materials, finishes and/or technological or constructional methods which were innovative, or of notable quality for the period.

Karaweko has high craftsmanship significance for its decoration. The whare nui is carved inside and out with representations of ancestors. The master carver was Eric Korewha of Ngā Puhi, with a team of four. The tekoteko panels were largely executed by volunteers working under the supervision of Cath Brown.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Contextual values that demonstrate or are associated with: a relationship to the environment (constructed and natural), a landscape, setting, group, precinct or streetscape; a degree of consistency in terms of type, scale, form, materials, texture, colour, style and/or detail;

recognised landmarks and landscape which are recognised and contribute to the unique identity of the environment.

Karaweko has high contextual significance in its rural, seaside setting. The whare nui Karaweko and other buildings of the Ōnuku Marae complex occupy the western end of a large triangular parcel which is otherwise clad in bush and scrub. The whare kai sits close by Karaweko on its western side. The Ōnuku Road sweeps past the marae on two sides: across the road to the west is the sea; across the road to the east is the Ōnuku whare karakia (a Protected heritage building), and the former native school and school master's house. The significant site Takapūnake, which has an intimate connection with Ōnuku, is passed on the road from Akaroa to Ōnuku. Karaweko has landmark significance on its prominent corner.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

Archaeological or scientific values that demonstrate or are associated with: the potential to provide information through physical or scientific evidence an understanding about social historical, cultural, spiritual, technological or other values of past events, activities, structures or people.

Karaweko is of archaeological significance because it has the potential to provide archaeological evidence relating to past building construction methods and materials, and human activity on the site, including that which occurred prior to 1900. The wider Ōnuku site has been a site of Māori habitation for many hundreds of years.

ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

Karaweko and its setting has high overall heritage significance to Christchurch including Banks Peninsula. The whare nui has high historical and social significance for its association with Ngāti Tarewa ariki Wiremu Harihona Karaweko, after whom it is named, and as the Whare nui for the Ngāti Tarewa and Ngāti Irakēhu hapu. The whare nui has high cultural and spiritual significance as a focus for the families of Ngāti Irakēhu, representing their ariki and tīpuna. The building has architectural and aesthetic significance as a modern whare nui, built in a traditional manner. The whare nui has high craftsmanship significance for its decoration. It is carved inside and out with representations of ancestors. The whare nui has high contextual significance on its sea-side site in the historic settlement of Ōnuku/The Kaik, and in relation to the historic whare karakia nearby. Karaweko is of archaeological significance because it has the potential to provide archaeological evidence relating to past building construction methods and materials, and human activity on the site, including that which occurred prior to 1900. The wider Ōnuku site has been a site of Māori habitation for many hundreds of years.

REFERENCES:

CCC Heritage File: Banks Peninsula – Onuku – Onuku Rd 389 *Karaweko*

Ngai Tahu website

REPORT DATED: 19/08/14

PLEASE NOTE THIS ASSESSMENT IS BASED ON INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THE TIME OF WRITING. DUE TO THE ONGOING NATURE OF HERITAGE RESEARCH, FUTURE REASSESSMENT OF THIS HERITAGE ITEM MAY BE NECESSARY TO REFLECT ANY CHANGES IN KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF ITS HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE.

PLEASE USE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CCC HERITAGE FILES.

