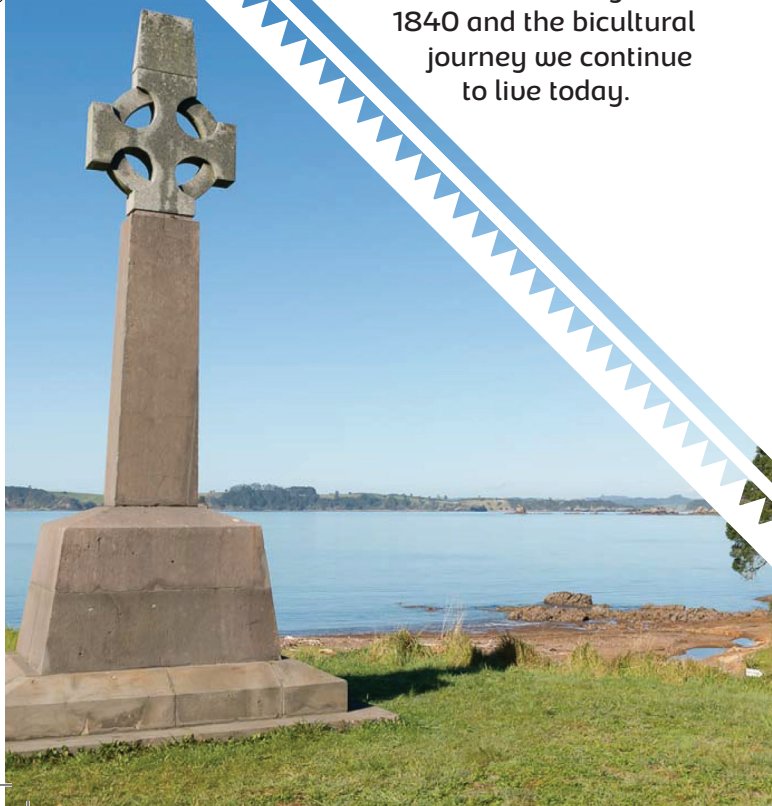


Rangihoua in the Bay of Islands is a place of beginnings for all New Zealand. It was here in December 1814 that The Rev'd Samuel Marsden and his missionaries established the first permanent European settlement in Aotearoa New Zealand. On Christmas Day 1814 a service and a sermon preached by Marsden to a Māori and Pakeha congregation inaugurated Christian mission in this land. It was the partnership of Marsden and Ruatara which led to a pivotal moment in our history and the development of the special relationship between the two peoples, Māori and Pakeha, a foundation for our nationhood. It began the journey that led to Te Tiriti o Waitangi in 1840 and the bicultural journey we continue to live today.



CELEBRATING THE BICENTENNIAL OF BEGINNINGS

— DECEMBER 2014 —

In 2005 the Marsden Cross Trust Board Te Ripeka o Te Matenga purchased the land that lies between Rangihoua Bay and Oihi Road. With this accomplished it formed a partnership with Ngāti Torehina, the Rangihoua Native Reserve Board and the Department of Conservation and together the partners have developed Rangihoua Heritage Park featuring Rore Kāhu and including the interpretation panels which tell the Rangihoua story.

The opening of Rangihoua Heritage Park, is being jointly organised by the Marsden Cross Trust Board, the Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, Ngāti Torehina, and the Department of Conservation. The Christmas Day Service is being organised by the 2014 Ecumenical Planning Group, led by the Anglican Church.



The bicentennial of these significant beginnings in our history will be the subject of two events at Rangihoua Heritage Park. The first on 21st December will be the formal commemoration attended by the Governor - General who will also officially open the park. The second on 25th December will be a Christmas Day service marking the 200 years since Marsden preached his sermon on the site where the Marsden Cross now stands.

BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION

SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER 10AM

The Pōwhiri for the commemoration begins at 10.00am. The Governor General will open Rangihoua Heritage Park, including the new building, Rore Kāhu, at the entrance to the valley and the new pilgrimage pathway, which leads down to the Marsden Cross. The development work also includes panels along the pathway that tell the history of the land and the people being remembered in the bicentennial commemorations.

To register for the day and for further details that includes parking, free shuttle buses, and what to bring, go to www.rangihouaheritage.co.nz

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

THURSDAY 25 DECEMBER 11AM

The ecumenical service, at the Marsden Cross site, will be Anglican led and include church leaders from across the country. The service will remember the gift of two hundred years ago and those who enabled it on that site, as well as celebrate the ongoing work of the gospel. People are asked to make their own way to the site, by vehicle or boat, and are encouraged to bring a picnic and stay for the afternoon if they wish to.

For further details on the day, go to www.gospel2014.org