



## **Historical Timeline of the Houghton Valley Area by G. Corbishley**

### **Formation of the land**

Wellington is underlain by rocks of the Torless Complex which are late Paleozoic to Mesozoic in age. The principal rocks are greywacke (sandstone) and argillite (siltstone) with minor amounts of conglomerate. "Disruption of the sediments by plate movement was so intense that the once horizontal bedrock layers are now vertical with the appearance of "bedrock". Houghton Valley was formed by tectonic activity. (Dynamic Wellington, 2000. Pg. 11)

### **Sea Levels**

Mid-Holocene period: the sea level in the Pacific and Tasman seas level was up to 1.5 m higher than now (Pillans B, Huber P 1995).

### **First Human Settlements**

13th Century: archaeological evidence suggests that Maori settled in the south coast area in the thirteenth century and lived in relative peace for approximately 200 years (McFadgen B. 2007). Middens on the Rongotai Isthmus were found to contain a wide variety of birds, shells, fish as well as moa and tuatara bones (McKay 1879). Pingao, Flax, Taupata, grew in the coastal areas. Inland was mainly Podocarp forest (Buchanan 1872).

### **Catastrophic Events**

Fifteenth century: the population had increased to the point where food resources were becoming scarce, and the population was heading for a crisis. The gradual reduction of trees and earthquakes followed by tsunami, resulted in extensive food shortages, death, and destruction of settlements (McFadgen B. 2007).

Over time the depleted population slowly built up again due to successive migrations from the north eastern areas of Rangitane, Ngaai Tara, Ngaai Tahu and lastly Ngaati Ira Iwi. It was not long after these fifteenth century catastrophes perhaps, that Whatonga and his Ngaai Tara people moved into the Wellington region from the eastern sides of the North Island. One of the first things they did was construct four main pa, three along the Te Ranga a Hiwi ridge line (from Buckley Rd to Mt. Victoria), which had a clear line of sight to the main pa which was on the site of Worsley Bay School. One of the three ridge pa was built at the southern end overlooking Island Bay beach. This pa was called Uruhau and the main house, Te Mahio. The attack on Uruhau has been told in detail in 'Stories', based on Elsdon Best's book, 'The Land of Tara', (1918).

### **Raids by northern iwi, 1818 to 1832 (approximately)**

Ngaai Tara (later Muaupoko), Ngaati Ira, Ngaati Rangitaane, Ngaati Kahungungu, Ngaati Haamua, Ngaati Apa occupied the land bounded by the Tararua Ranges in the east and the Tasman Sea in the west, and from Rimurapa (Sinclair Head) in the south to the Rangitikei River in the north, until the first of several heke south by northern tribes in 1819 which forced all to look for new lands to settle. Eventually Muaupoko resettled in Horowhenua. (Bateman 2006). Ngaati Ira and Ngaati Kahungungu moved out from Wellington and Porirua to Wairarapa. Ngaati Toa and Te Atiawa from the north western area of the North Island were settled in the region by the time the first European settlement began in the 1840s, but only a few settled in this area of the south coast in seasonal times.

### **Vegetation in the 19<sup>th</sup> century**

The little evidence that exists, suggests that much of the big trees had gone before European settlement. And what was left was taken for fence posts, home fires, garden stakes etc. George Forster, On board the 'Resolution' (1820's) described the coast around Terawhiti, 'the environs of this bay were dreary, blackish, barren mountains, of a great height, almost wholly destitute of woods and shrubs, and running out into long spits of sharp columnar rocks into the sea. 'McLeod N.L. & Farland B.H (ED) 1970 Pg. 16).

In comparison, James Coutts Crawford wrote about Miramar Peninsula.' In the year 1840, when the first European settlers landed on the shores of Port Nicholson, the hills of the peninsula were chiefly clothed with the common fern mixed with Phormium tenax (common flax), koromiko, tutu, ti (cabbage tree), etc. A few patches of bush filled some of the gullies, but, in general, the forest had been destroyed (Struthers J. 1975).

According to the memoirs of Alexander Sutherland's daughters, '1850-60s: "Houghton Bay itself was not of much interest to the [Sutherland] girls, but frequent reference was made to the charming bush which clothed the sides of the-valley right up to the foot of Mount Albert. After the citizens of the growing town had depleted the Bay shore of a tremendous quantity of drift timber they attacked this valley and tipped the logs over the steep hill bordering the bay" (Sutherland A. 1947 Pg 124).

### **Ancient Placenames:**

Te Ranga - a - Hiwi Ridge is Buckley Rd to Mt. Vic. according to McGill D. (1984) However older name was Mata - Ranga (Struthers J. 1975). Other pre – nineteenth century names are Haewai, Te Raekaihau, Waitaha.

### **Robert Houghton**

1843: Houghton Bay was named after him. He lived in a house in Manners St. Wellington with his wife. Together they ran the 2 ship signal stations at Flagstaff Hill and Mt Albert until he died in 1843. He used to walk / ride there every day and arrange the flags on the mast.

### **Alexander Robert Sutherland (1806-1877)**

1843: Alexander Sutherland took ownership of Section No 6. Over time he farmed

the land from Houghton Bay to the Wellington Zoo until he died in 1877. He built a house in Lyall Bay (122 Queens Drive). When he died property speculators Messrs. Mace and Jackson purchased his property. It then passed to a large syndicate known as, 'Melrose properties'. The Houghton Valley area was subdivided and parts sold off from 1879 onwards.

### **Earthquake**

1848: On the 16 October a M7.9 earthquake hit Wellington, with aftershocks that lasted for 8 days, causing considerable damage to buildings and flooding. (Dynamic Wellington, Pg.145)

### **Wairarapa Earthquake**

1855: "An M8.1–8.2 earthquake occurred on 23 January. An almost immediate sequence of waves (slosh) was generated by the differential uplift and deformation of the Wellington Harbour basin, followed later by the tsunami generated in Cook Strait along the fault rupture, propagating in through the Entrance. Run-up heights reached between 3–4 m in and around Wellington Harbour, with the highest waves occurring at Evans Bay and Lyall Bay". (Gilmour & Stanton, 1990) "It consisted of an initial 50 seconds shock followed by strong shaking for up to 3 minutes. Several people were killed; four fifths of all chimneys destroyed". (Dynamic Wellington, Pg. 145)

"Reference was made to caves that formerly existed near the top of the hill near the outward point of the bay [Te Raekaihau Headland]. These were subjects of interest to the [Sutherland] girls, who never ascertained how far they penetrated into the hill. They were closed up by the earthquake of 1855". (Sutherland A. 1947 Pg 124)

### **Sale of Land**

1863: "Country Sections Nos 1 and 4 [Houghton Valley] town district of Wellington Area 216 acres. Conveyance No. 4203 dated 31 January, 1863. Trustees of James Lumsden of Glasgow to Alexander Sutherland of Lyalls Bay, Settler, consideration 400 pound". (Sutherland A. 1947 Pg 40). (see map in 'Remembering').

### **Sale of Land**

1869: "Country Sections No 3 [Houghton Valley] town district of Wellington Area 106 acres 3 roods 8 perches. Conveyance No. 10976 dated 28th October 1869. John Edward Wainhouse of skircoat in the parish of Halifax in the County of York, England to Alexander Sutherland of Lyalls Bay, Settler, consideration 700 pound" (Sutherland A. 1947 Pg 40). (see map in 'Remembering').

### **Sheep farming**

1870: "The sheep carried on the Lyall's Bay station in 1870 amounted to between 1200 and 1500 half-breds" ( the sheep station was from the Zoo to Houghton Bay) (Sutherland A. 1947 Pg 64).

### **The Melrose Borough Council**

1888: Incorporated in 1888 and had jurisdiction over a large district extending from the Botanical Gardens to Oriental Bay (round the city), including Upland Farm,

Mitchelltown, Taitville, Brooklyn, Vogeltown, Island Bay, Houghton Bay / Valley, Melrose, Kilbirnie and Roseneath. It lasted until 1903 when an amalgamation took place with the city in 1903 (Evening Post, 1904, p. 25 Papers Past).

### **The Hermit**

1890s: The hermit's cave was on the western side of Houghton Bay beach. He lived in cave under existing road. (see photo in 'Remembering')

### **The Esplanade**

1895: Survey Plan of Queens drive which was approved by the melrose Borough Council. Work started in 1894 and completed in 1896. (Ring around the city). A builder, G.H Bayliss, got the job to form Queens Drive (Kenneally 1984)

### **The Laurenson family**

1900: James Laurenson purchased sections 348 – 352 on the 20 Dec 1900 ( WCC Archives). (His house may have been the first in View Rd - No. 22).

### **The (Jack) Sinclair Family**

1901 (about): the first of two Sinclair families came and built a house at 91 Houghton Bay Rd (which may have been the first one in Houghton Bay Rd. They set up a blacksmiths on the corner of View Rd and Houghton Bay Rd, which ran until the early 1950s (Burns M & A. Interview 2010)

### **The Isbister Family**

1902: Robert Isbister paid rates on Lots 221/6, 293, 295/8, 300, 61, 72, on the 23/09/02 (WCC Archives). (He built No 106 Houghton Bay Rd in 1906).

### **The Jacobsen Family**

1903: "LADIES COLUMN. Girls Gossip: A wedding was solemnized at Houghton Bay, Mr. Alexander M. smith being married to Miss Emma Frederica Jacobson, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Alfred Jacobson" (EP, Vol. LXVI, Issue 88, 10 Oct. 1903, Page 10. Papers Past). (Their house was on the present site of the basketball court, opposite 171 Houghton Bay Rd).

### **The Restieaux Family**

1905 (about) Walter & Pheobe Restieaux began farming on the western side of Houghton Bay Rd. Their dairy farm (which they rented from Mrs. Merry) went from Cave Rd to the school (McArthur V. conversation 2012).

### **The Lea Family**

1908: Built the first house in Hungerford Rd (67). Mr Lea lived there until he died in 1950. The house was passed onto his niece who lived there with her husband (Wally Langston) and children until 1984 (B. Langston, Interview 2012)

### **The Zigzag**

1909: "Tram extension to Lyall Bay completed. Quote by Mr James Laurenson: 'Then came the tram to Lyall Bay [1909], a red letter day. Money was collected, land was procured, and a public right of way from View rd north to Lyall Bay, for which

the late Mr. Williamson deserves credit, was completed and handed over to the city council, which took two years to take over this free gift" (EP 16 Feb 1928 Papers Past).

### **The McClintock Family**

1909: "Roading Requests. More consideration. Mr. A. McClintock, a resident of Houghton Bay Road, who owned several acres on it, and had lived there for 27 years" (EP 14 Sept 1937 Papers Past). ( McClintock's lived at 61 Houghton Bay Rd and milked 2-3 cows)

### **Mr. Lopez**

1911: "GORED BY A BULL. INQUEST ON NICHOLAS LOPEZ. In an enquiry into the circumstances of the death of Nicholas E. Lopez, a dairy- man, who was gored by a bull in a paddock at Melrose on Tuesday evening last, was held by the District Coroner (Dr. M Arthur) to-day. Station-Sergeant Darby represented the police. Evidence was given that deceased left his home shortly after 7 o'clock on the evening in question to round up the bull, which had been sold. About an hour afterwards the animal came close to the homestead, and Mrs. Lopez was unable to get out. Eventually she stoned it away, and as her husband had not re- turned she became alarmed, and a search was instituted. There was no sign of deceased, however, and it was not until the next morning that his mangled body was found in the field. The bull was shot later by a constable. A verdict was returned that deceased met his death through being gored by a bull" (EP, Vol. LXXXII, Issue 145, 16 Dec.1911, Pg 3 Papers Past).

### **The (Jim) Sinclair Family**

1924: Jim Sinclair, came to valley from Waipawa. His family followed him in 1926 and they settled in 56 Houghton Bay Rd. Later he farmed the upper valley with his father and brother Tony (Sinclair R. Conversation 2012).

### **The South Melrose Ratepayers and Residents' Association**

1925: "A NEW ASSOCIATION- SOUTH MELROSE RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS. A very largely attended meeting of the residents of Buckley road, View road, Houghton Bay road, and district was held at the residence of Mr. J. Prentice last night, and it was unanimously agreed to form an association named "The South Melrose Ratepayers and Residents' Association." Mr. Wallace was elected president, and Mr. Prentice secretary. Mr. Prentice outlined his reasons for calling the meeting, pointing out that the residents themselves were as much to blame as the City Council for the backward condition of the district. Various important, matters were discussed: Transport facilities, council milk supply, electric light, extension of water supply, telephone services, and other matters, and deputations were formed to wait on the Tramways and Milk Committees in regard to the district's requirements. The meeting was of an exceptionally enthusiastic character, and residents are now looking forward to getting conveniences which are long overdue" (EP, Vol. CX, Issue 138, 8 Dec 1925, Page 4 Papers Past).

### **Houghton Valley Progressive Association**

1926: "HOUGHTON VALLEY - AN ASSOCIATION RENAMED'. At the monthly meeting

of the South Melrose Association it was decided, owing to the continual confusion with Melrose, to rename the association Houghton Valley Progressive Association" (EP, Vol. CXI, Issue 40, 16 Feb. 1926, Page 7 Papers Past)

### **Haughton Valley**

1926: "HAUGHTON VALLEY- A YEAR'S PROGRESS. The first annual meeting of the Haughton Valley Progressive Association was held on Monday. Mr. P. Wallis, president, in submitting his report, dealt with the activities and progress made during the year. He said 30 new houses had been built in the district; five deputations had waited on the City Council and committees, with the result that a milk delivery had been obtained; drainage had been laid from Lyall Bay to View road; the. Electric light had been extended along View road north, and along a big portion of Haughton Bay road.

The Gas Company had laid the mains throughout the greater part of the district, with the assurance that the work would be completed shortly. The Mayor and councillors had paid a visit to the district, with the result that the council was making Hornsey road into one of the finest marine and scenic drives in Wellington" (EP., Vol. CXII, Issue 114, 10 Nov. 1926, Page 13 Papers Past).

### **Community Hall**

1927: "In 1927 Wilhelmina Williamson donated land in Houghton Bay Rd for the building of a local hall and Mr. Sinclair with his father James and brother Jack were regulars at working bees to excavate the section. [Wilhelmina lived in 104 Houghton Bay Rd until the 1950s] A loan of 550 pounds was raised and was finally paid off in 1953. Jack Sinclair drew up the plans. Jim and Jack Sinclair (brothers) set the piles in place ( EP: 29 Jan 1992).

### **Community Hall**

1928: HVPA incorporation granted. Constitution:

The name of the Association shall be 'The Haughton Valley Progressive Association (Incorporated)', hereinafter referred to as 'The Association'.

Objects:

(a) to create and foster a healthy public spirit in the district and the advocacy of necessary public works and efficient administration of local and municipal affairs;

(b) to purchase, lease or otherwise acquire land, and erect a hall of its own theron, to be used for offices, meeting hall or club room; and to be able to mortgage the same under the advice and the approval of a special meeting of members called for the purpose. (HVPA minute book: 24 April 1928)

### **Community Hall**

1929: "Special meeting to discuss the hall. It was suggested that owing to the

extremely hard nature of the ground in the hall site, the length of the proposed hall be reduced from 61 feet to 52' 6". (Haughton Valley Progressive Association Minute Book, 5-3-1929).

### **Community Hall**

1929: Naming of the Hall: 'the hall be called the Haughton Valley Hall". (Haughton Valley Progressive Association Minute Book 19-6-29).

### **Community Hall**

1929: "the committee moved and carried that the hall be rented to the Education Dept for use as a school" (Haughton Valley Progressive Association Minute Book, 2-7-1929).

### **Community Hall**

1929: "Hall opened on a Saturday Night" (Haughton Valley Progressive Association Minute Book, 10-8-29).

### **Houghton Valley School**

1929: Mrs. Moatt moved, Mr. Jim Sinclair sec. that the Education Board be asked to send the children from Lyall Bay school who are eligible to attend the Haughton valley School, to be sent to said school" (Haughton Valley Progressive Association Minute Book, 3-12-29)

### **Houghton Valley School**

1930: "NEW SCHOOL FOR HAUGHTON BAY. The Minister of Education (the honoured Mr. Atmore) has telegraphed to Mr. R. Semple, M.P., that Cabinet has, on Mr. Atmore's recommendation, approved a grant for the erection of a new school at Haughton Bay" (Evening Post, Volume CIX, Issue 56, 7 March 1930, Page 11 Papers Past).

### **The Depression**

1930: " Mr Burn canvassed the district for a distressed family. A bag of flour and 12 pound 16 – 6 was collected". (Haughton Valley Progressive Association Minute Book: 1-12-30)

### **Hungerford Rd**

1935: "MELROSE AND HAUGHTON BAY FROM TUESDAY NEXT'. The Mayor, Mr. T. C. A. Hislop, and members of the, tramways committee this morning visited Melrose and Haughton Bay in response to the representations of the deputation which waited on the City Council on Tuesday evening asking for improved transport, and went over the area from the top of the hill at Melrose to the foot of the valley, investigating also the possibilities of future developments. This afternoon Mr. Hislop announced that an improved bus service would be instituted as from Tuesday next.

The improvements to the service, said Mr. Hislop, will involve a better early morning and evening service; than has been given up till now and as soon as the new road, Hungerford Road West, to connect View Road with Haughton Bay Road, is completed the committee hopes to continue the service down

View Road, so as to connect, via Hungerford Road West, with Houghton Bay Road and so serve by immediate contact a much larger area than can be served at present. (EP, Vol. XII, Issue 49, 1935. Papers Past)

### **Houghton Valley Progressive Assn:**

1936: "Tar sealed roads - Houghton Valley Needs - Residents protest'. HB Progressive Assoc protested to the mayor, Mr T.C.A. Hislop about the poor state of the steps - Houghton Tce. Demanded that Houghton Bay Road, that be tarsealed. That a bathing shed be erected in Princess Bay" (EP, 10 November 1936, Papers Past).

### **Houghton Valley Affairs**

1937: "During the year, it was stated, the City Council attended to the following works:- formation and channelling of Hungerford Road; storm water drains temporarily attended to; renewal of Houghton terrace steps; tar-sealing of Houghton Bay Rd from Russell Terrace to the top of the hill, and Hornsey Road to the junction off Houghton Bay Road. According to the annual report, nothing was done in the direction of a sewage system, and with summer almost here, it was desirable that the City council should see to the work" (EP 24 Nov 1937, Papers Past).

### **HOUGHTON BAY SCHOOL CLUB**

1938: "Houghton Bay School Tennis Club was opened on Saturday before a full attendance of members and visitors. The president, Mr. Harry Brooks, congratulated the club on the greatly improved standard of play and welcomed new members. Mrs. M. Walls, wife of the club captain, served the first ball and the season was declared open. A very successful dance was held in the evening" (Evening Post, Volume CXXVI, Issue 84, 6 October 1938, Page 23 Papers Past).

### **Sale of Restieaux Diary:**

1938: "UNRESERVED CLEARING SALE, AT PARK ROAD, MIRAMAR' (next Shell Co.), On Monday, August 22, 1938, At 12 Noon., MESSERS. WRIGHT, STEPHENSON, AND CO., LTD., have received instructions from Messrs. Leask and Sons, and Mrs. B. Restieaux, to sell by Public Auction the following:—  
74 HEAD CATTLE, comprising 25 Cows in full milk  
6 Cows, just calved  
7 August Calvers  
September Calvers  
6 October Calvers  
6 Late Calvers  
9 Heifers in Calf  
4 Yearling Heifers  
2 Bulls  
10 5-gallon Milk Cans, 7 %-gallon Billies, 2 Servers, 200 feet "inch" Water Piping, Copper and Stand.  
LIGHT LUNCHEON PROVIDED" (EP, Vol. CXXVI, Issue 44, 20 August 1938, Page 16 Papers Past).



### **The Second World War**

1940: "the association moved that we call a public meeting for the purpose of setting up a local patriotic committee at 3pm on Saturday July 20th 1940" (Houghton Valley Progressive Association Minute Book: 1st July 1940)

### **The Second World War**

1940: "Home Guard: Mr. E.H. Drake reported on the meeting attended by himself in connection with the formation of a local committee and reported that a committee had already been set up and that the local enrolling depot would be the school every Friday evening from 6.30 PM to 7.30 PM" (Houghton Valley Progressive Association Minute Book, 7th Oct 1940).

### **Land slip**

1941: "Mrs. Miller, of 75 Hungerford Road, which runs off Houghton Bay Road, had a beautifully laid-out garden almost completely destroyed in a recent storm. The surface of the steep hill for 100 yards behind her house slipped down towards Houghton Bay Road, carrying with it trees and shrubs, and piled up against the back of the house, where the spoil was twelve feet high. The City Council has since removed tons of debris from the back yard, and generally tidied up the place" (EP 1941, Papers Past).

### **Earthquake**

1942: On the 24th June a magnitude 7.1 occurred. 10,000 chimneys collapsed and 5000 houses damaged. Another severe shock occurred on 2nd August. Several buildings were damaged. (Dynamic Wellington, 2000. Pg 145)

### **The Restieaux Farm:**

1943: "THE MERRY ESTATE- AUCTION OF PROPERTIES. An auction sale of unusual interest, of properties in the Alice Merry estate, began this morning and, was still in progress when "The Post" went to press. The properties concerned are shops, dwellings, and land situated in the city and in Brooklyn, Vogeltown, and Houghton Bay. Some 50 houses and shops and the land were offered in 36 lots. A hillside property of 43 acres of land at Houghton Bay with a fiveroomed dwelling, and valued by the Government at £2110, was started at £1000 and reached £1350, at which price it was sold" (the Wellington City Council bought it to construct the Houghton Valley Rubbish Tip) (EP, Vol. CXXXV, Issue 148, 24 June 1943, Page 3 Papers Past)

1945: "Child killed: MILK LORRY WRECK - FOUR OTHERS INJURED. A six-year-old boy, Frank Hayward, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. J. C. Hayward, live at 56 Buckley Road, Melrose, was killed this morning when a City Corporation milk lorry in which he was riding, left the Houghton Bay Road and crashed down a precipitous bank. Four other boys were injured. Six boys, who were on their way to the Houghton Bay School, were on the lorry, the driver of which had given them a lift. The vehicle fell about 30 feet, and stopped upside down, with all the boys pinned under it so that it had to be lifted to get them out. Four of the boys—Donald Lefentz, 13, of Houghton Bay Road. Murray King 12, of 61

View Road, Graham Jones, 7, of 63 View Road, and Denis Edwards, 10, of 3 Hungerford Road, were taken to the hospital by the Free Ambulance, suffering various injuries, none of which is likely to prove fatal. The sixth boy, Raymond Algar, of Hungerford Road, was badly shaken. The driver of the lorry, Henry Roger Eggers, is also in hospital, suffering from shock" (EP, Vol. CXL, Issue 31, 6 August 1945, Page 6 Papers Past)

### **Community Hall**

1949: Hall ceiling was lined ( recycled material from the Centennial Building)

*(Research to gather historical information focused on pre- 1950s, in order to gather the information before it was lost. Historical information post - 1950s will hopefully be done sometime in the future, Grant Corbishley).*

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Abbreviations

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