

# Pears, Poison and Patriots

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Tales from 'Wild Oratia'

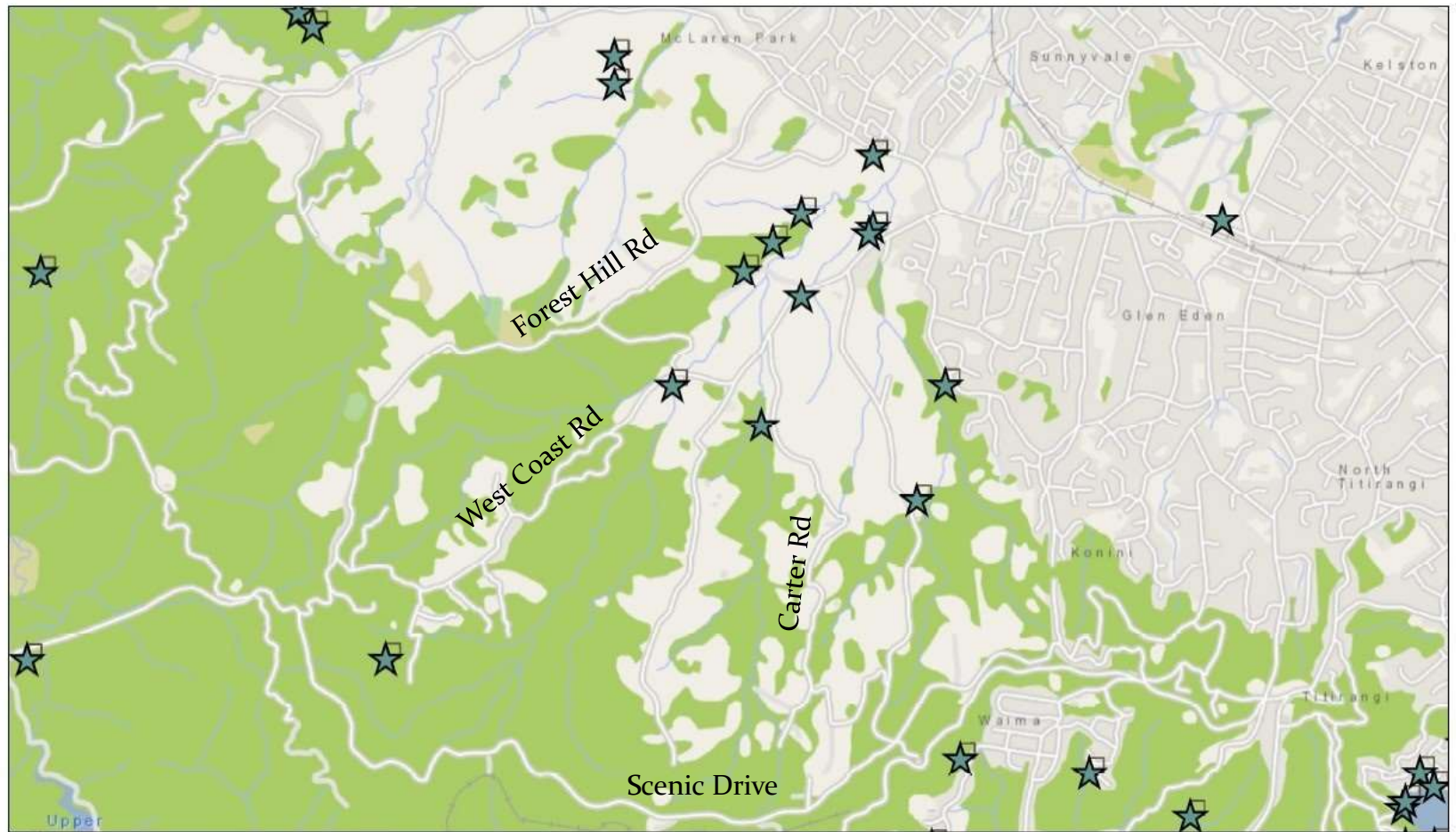
Zarah Burnett



# Maori Settlement

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# Archaeological Sites



**NZAA Site**



Pending



Approved



Inactive

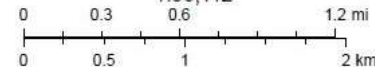


NZAA Site Area



NZAA Site Accuracy

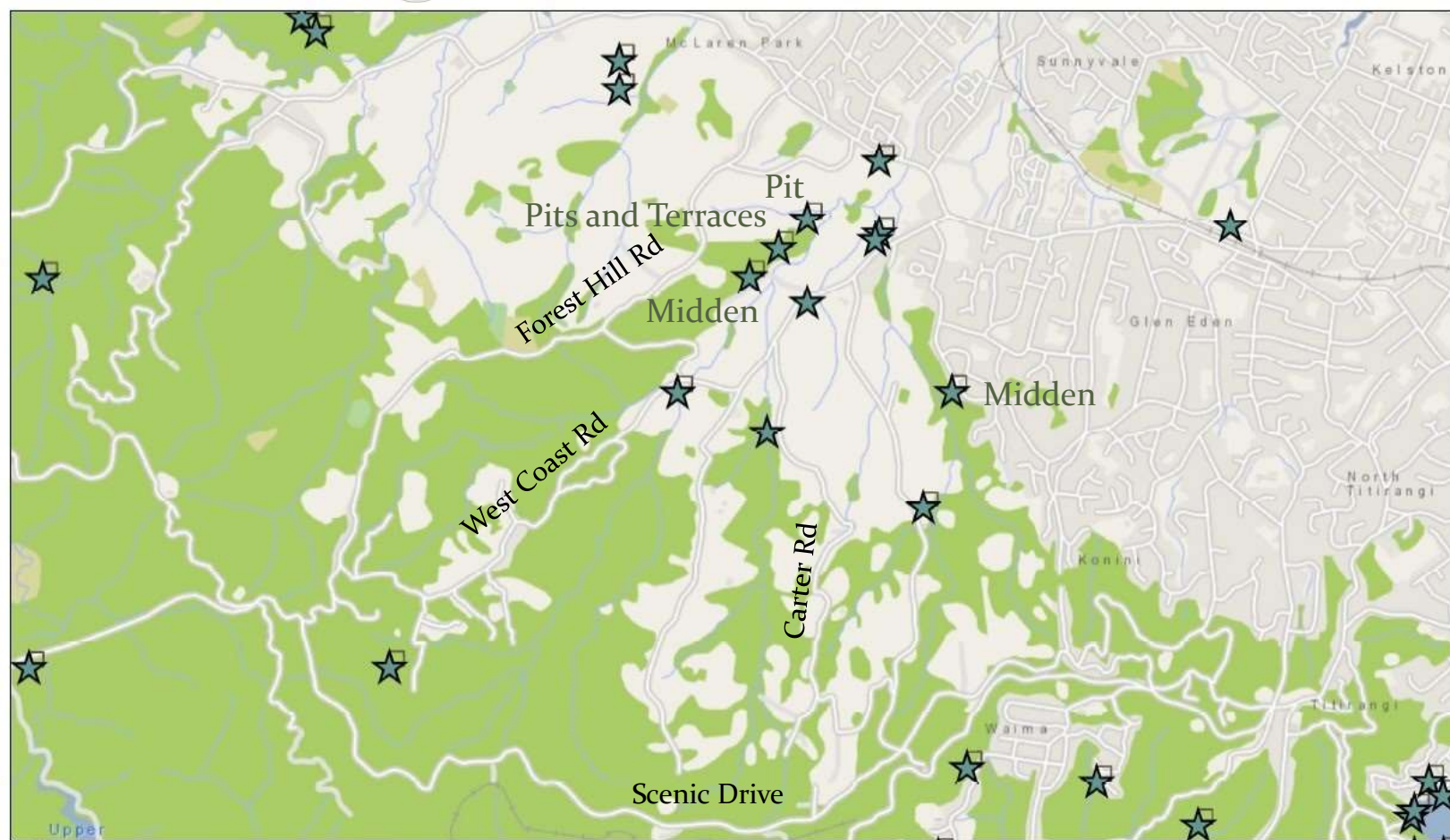
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Land Information New Zealand, Eagle Technology



# Archaeological Sites



**NZAA Site**



Pending



Approved



Inactive

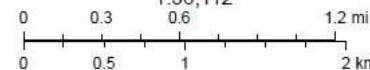


NZAA Site Area



NZAA Site Accuracy

1:36,112



Land Information New Zealand, Eagle Technology

# European Settlement

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# Parker Family



Photograph dated 1951 showing the front of the hexagonal house at 64 Parker Road. (Source: Auckland Libraries, West Auckland Research Centre, J.T. Diamond Collection, JTD-13A-05374-1)

# Davidson Family



Sketch  
drawing of  
Sunnydale  
Homestead  
(Source:  
*Observer*, 19  
November  
1892, p.5)



Murder!

**THE SUSPICIOUS CASE AT  
WAIKOMITI.**

**THE WAIKOMITI MYSTERY.  
TRACES OF POISON.**

**The Waikomiti Murder Case.**

**WAIKOMITI MURDER.  
CONTINUATION OF THE TRIAL.  
PURCHASE OF POISONS.**

**EVIDENCE OF THE CHEMISTS AND  
OTHERS.**

**THE WAIKOMITI MURDER  
TRIAL.**

**WAIKOMITI POISONING CASE  
Charge of Murder Against  
Alex. J. Scott.**

**MURDER BY POISON  
A SUSPICIOUS DEATH**



# Murder!



Eliza Carter (left), James Knowles Parker (middle) and John Moorehead (right) taking the inventory at the scene of the crime. (Source: *Observer*, 19 November 1892, p.8)

# Dalmatian Migrants

This photo of John and Kate Vella (nee Marinovich) with their family was taken in 1903. They had settled that year in Oratia as the first Dalmatian settlers in the valley. Originally Ivan Vela, John anglicised his name to John Vella. He first arrived in N.Z. in 1887, returning to Podgora three times before travelling back to N.Z. with wife Kate and two children in 1899. They had three more children, born in N.Z., and now have descendants in N.Z. to the fifth generation.



(Source: Auckland Libraries, West Auckland Research Centre, Dalmatian Genealogical and Historical Society Collection, DGHS-PA-1-1-001)

**Wines.**

## VELLA'S WINE.

FROM OUR VINEYARD TO YOUR TABLE.

Vella's Wines have been declared by experts to be the best of the finer class of wines. They are three years old and have the characteristic body and delicate aroma of carefully-matured and high-class wines.

**GUARANTEE:** If not perfectly satisfied, pay Freight one way, return the wines, and we shall return your money as gladly as we accept it.

**PORT AND SHERRY.**

Terms: 25s per case, cash with order. When ordering state how many of each (12 big bottles to a case).

We pay Freight to your nearest station.

**JOHN S. VELLA.**

**ORATIA, NEAR AUCKLAND.**

(Source: *New Zealand Herald*, 12 December 1916, p.3)



# Dalmatian Migrants



Apple picking in Oratia, ca. 1949. From left: Wally Nola, Alex Sunde, Victor Sunde, Gordon Sunde, Rudy Sunde, Gloria Sunde, Steve Mrkusich. (Source: Auckland Libraries, West Auckland Research Centre, Rudy Sunde Collection, RSU-P-0026)

# Working the Land

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# Timber Extraction



Felling of a giant kauri,  
Taupaki Bush (Source:  
Alexander Turnbull  
Library, Manuscripts &  
Pictorial Collection, PA7-  
05-04)

# Timber Extraction



(Source: Auckland Libraries, West  
Auckland Research Centre, J.T.  
Diamond Collection, JTD-13D-02143)

Felling of a giant kauri,  
Taupaki Bush (Source:  
Manuscripts & Pictorial  
Collection, Alexander  
Turnbull Library, PA7-05-  
04)



# Timber Extraction



(Source: Auckland Libraries, West Auckland Research Centre, J.T. Diamond Collection, JTD-13D-0214)

Felling of a giant kauri, Taupaki Bush (Source: Manuscripts & Pictorial Collection, Alexander Turnbull Library, PA7-05-04)





# Orchards & Nurseries



A fruit label from the Parr family's Atherton Canning Co. which operated between 1904 and 1910. (Source: Auckland Libraries, West Auckland Research Centre, Box 1, Ephemera – Folder 2, 'Fruit Label', OFM-001-0010)



# Orchards & Nurseries



MEMBERS OF THE AUCKLAND FRUITGROWERS' UNION CONFERENCE, NOVEMBER 14, 1900.

Delegates at the Auckland Fruitgrowers' Union Conference, 14 November 1900. John Parr is standing third from left (middle row) and Humphrey Sharp is shown seated second from right (Source: Auckland Libraries, Sir George Grey Special Collections, AWNS188991210-5-1)

Community

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# Commemoration

## Lord Kitchener Statue

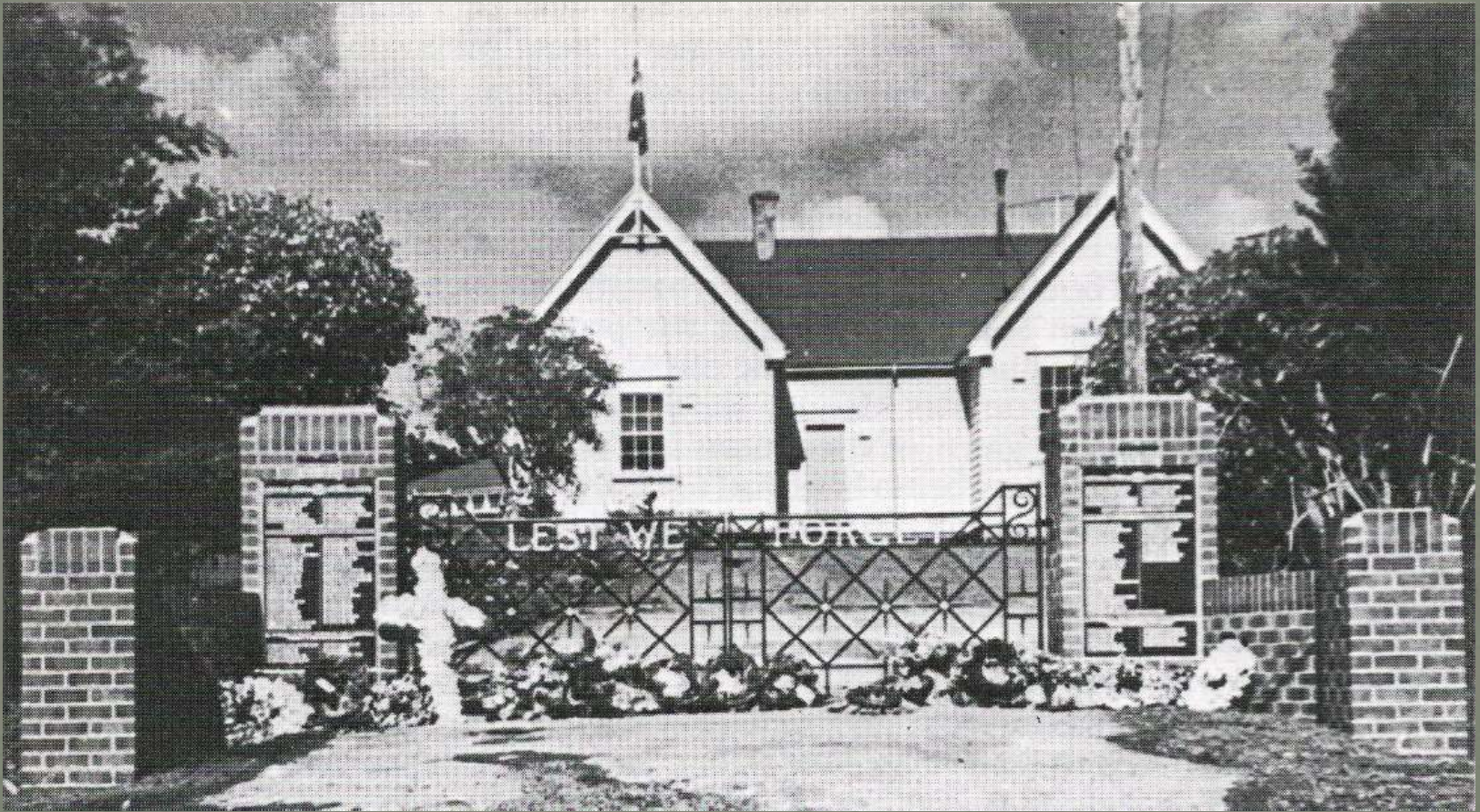


(Source: Unveiling Lord Kitchener Statue, 6 December 1922. Auckland Libraries, West Auckland Research Centre, Rudy Sunde Collection, RSU-P-0037)



# Commemoration

## Memorial School Gates



(Source: W.R. Allen, *Oratia My Valley*, p.44)



# Oratia's War Heroes



PTE. W. C. SHARP.  
of Oratia.  
Killed in action.

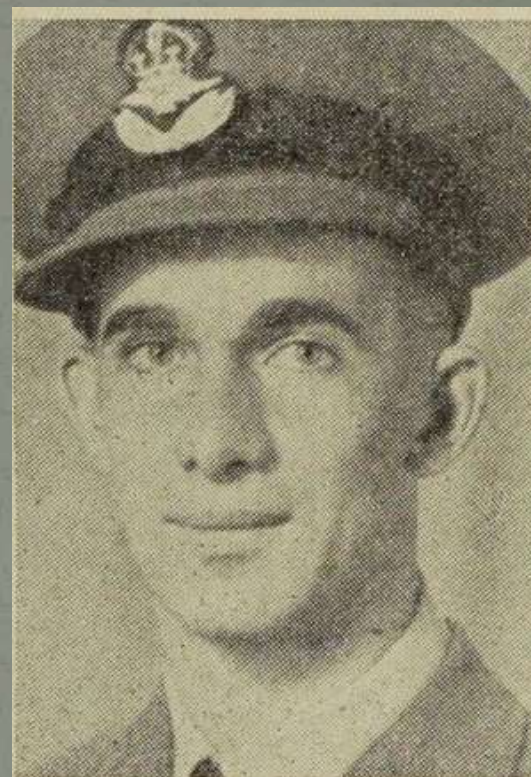
(Source: Auckland  
Libraries, Sir George Grey  
Special Collections,  
AWNS-19180516-41-34)

# Oratia's War Heroes



**PTE. W. C. SHARP,**  
of Oratia.  
Killed in action.

(Source: Auckland  
Libraries, Sir George Grey  
Special Collections,  
AWNS-19180516-41-34)



**Flying-Officer I. Marino-**  
**vich,** of Oratia, Auck-  
land, missing on opera-  
tions.

(Source: Auckland  
Libraries, Sir George Grey  
Special Collections, AWNS-  
19431020-20-20)



# Recreation & Entertainment

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# Settlers' Hall



(Source: Auckland Libraries, West Auckland Research Centre, J.T. Diamond Collection, JTD-13A-01011)



# Music



Oratia Band, ca. 1905. From left to right, back row: Will Carter (senior), John Shaw, Alex Cochrane, William Carter (junior), Jim McCaull the drummer in civilian dress, Humphrey Sharp, Charlie Shaw, Ernie Carter; seated centre is Bandmaster Levy; front: back left, Bob Parr; front left, Henry Carter; back right, Ebb Parr; front right, Jack, Johnny Sharp. (Source: Auckland Libraries, West Auckland Research Centre, J.T. Diamond Collection, JTD-13K-01015)

# Music



Oratia Band, ca. 1908. (Source: Auckland Libraries, West Auckland Research Centre, J.T. Diamond Collection, JTD-13K-05602)



# Music



Oratia Swing Kings, ca. 1950. (Source: Auckland Libraries, West Auckland Research Centre, Rudy Sunde Collection, RSU-P-0043)

- <http://www.clough.co.nz/reports.html>
- <http://oratia.org.nz/2013/09/04/oratia-historical-document/>