

HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND Pouhere taonga

New Zealand Heritage List/Rārangi Kōrero - Report for a Historic Area Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui, Wellington (List No.9621)



Lighthouse, Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui, Kerryn Pollock, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, 20 November 2021

Kerryn Pollock, Katharine Cox and Michael Kelly FINAL: Last amended 29 May 2023 Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXEC	3	
1.	IDENTIFICATION	4
1.1.	Name of Area	4
1.2.	Location Information	4
1.3.	Legal Description	4
1.4.	Extent of List Entry	5
1.5.	Eligibility	5
1.6.	Existing Heritage Recognition	5
2.	SUPPORTING INFORMATION	6
2.1.	Historical Information	6
2.2.	Physical Information	17
2.3.	Sources	19
3.	SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT	26
3.1.	Section 66 (1) Assessment	26
4.	APPENDICES	29
4.1.	Appendix 1: Visual Identification Aids	29
4.2.	Appendix 2: Visual Aids to Historical Information	46
4.3.	Appendix 3: Visual Aids to Physical Information	49
4.5.	Appendix 4: Significance Assessment Information	57

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose of this report

The purpose of this report is to provide evidence to support the inclusion of Baring Head/Ōruapouanui in the New Zealand Heritage List/Rārangi Kōrero as a historic area.

Summary

Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui in Te Whanganui-a-Tara is a place with a long and diverse history of human occupation. It has traditional significance as the den or resting place of the ancestor Pouanui and is located within a wider landscape replete with archaeological sites associated with tangata whenua. It has outstanding historical significance as the site of the first fully electrified lighthouse in Aotearoa New Zealand and represents the beginnings of the modern lighthouse system. The nearby defence structures connect the place to one of the most significant events of the twentieth century, the Second World War, and the presence of the globally important NIWA CO₂ monitoring station on the site links it to the beginnings of modern climate change research. The lighthouse complex is very intact, providing excellent insights into a way of life now passed, and its contemporary social value is highlighted by community efforts to ensure its retention and restoration. The lighthouse itself is a landmark structure and has architectural significance for its streamlined Moderne form and technological significance as an exemplar of early automation.

Te Whanganui-a-Tara was named after Tara, son of Whātonga, captain of the migratory waka *Kurahaupō*. Tara's brother Tautoki is associated with the ancient pa Parangarahu, which was near Ōrua-pouanui. This place is unlikely to have been a place of permanent settlement but was close to known settlements, such as a kāinga also named Parangarahu in nearby Fitzroy Bay. The cave after which Ōrua-pouanui was named was used as a shelter during food gathering expeditions, and the cliff above the cave was the final resting place of a woman. When Te Tiriti o Waitangi was signed in 1840, Ōrua-pouanui was within the rohe of Te Ātiawa and was owned by the iwi until 1914. It was subsequently part of the Riddiford family's large farm and Eric Riddiford gifted the site to the Crown for lighthouse purposes. The lighthouse, first lit in 1935, was Aotearoa New Zealand's first fully electrified lighthouse, and it replaced the country's first lighthouse, built at nearby Pencarrow in 1859.

The lighthouse was manned, and the complex consisted of two keepers' houses and associated outbuildings, a powerhouse (the lighthouse's power source) and a garage. In 1935 Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui became part of the country's coastal defence network with the construction of an observation post and barracks, brought into service on the outbreak of the Second World War five years later. In

1972 a CO_2 monitoring station was set up in a surviving component of one of the defence structures, and this was instrumental in confirming the negative impact of human activity on the climate.

The lighthouse was fully automated and remotely operated in 1988 and the last lighthouse family left in 1989. The Greater Wellington Regional Council took over management of the keepers' houses in 1992. In 2010 a consortium led by Greater Wellington purchased land adjacent to the lighthouse complex, including the defence structures, and it became part of the East Harbour Regional Park. The keepers' houses were saved from proposed demolition following a community campaign and are now managed by Greater Wellington with support from the Friends of Baring Head Charitable Trust, which also fundraised for the ecological restoration of the wider landscape. The lighthouse managed by Martime New Zealand remains a vital part of the country's marine safety network.

1. IDENTIFICATION¹

1.1. Name of Area

Name: Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui

1.2. Location Information

Address 1580 Coast Road Wainuiomata Hutt City

Additional Location Information GPS S 41 °24.45 39' E174 °52.2975'

Local Authority Greater Wellington Regional Council

1.3. Legal Description

¹ This section is supplemented by visual aids in Appendix 1 of the report.

Pt Lot 1 DP 72418 (RT 556278, NZ Gazette 1995 p.8), Lot 2 DP 72418 (RT 40D/367), Lot 4 DP 59276 (RT WN42B/597, NZ Gazette 2011, p.3957, NZ Gazette 2013, p.2310), Pt Parangarahu 1A3 (RT 920719, NZ Gazette 1995, p.1364), Wellington Land District.

1.4. Extent of List Entry²

This historic area consists of an area of land that contains a group of inter-related historic places. The identified historic places that contribute to the values in this historic area are the Baring Head lighthouse station comprised of the lighthouse, the lighthouse keepers' houses and outbuildings, the powerhouse, the garage, the rockery, barbeque and shelter belt, the defence site comprised of the observation post, the wireless room, the engine room and the ruins of the barracks and ablution block, the pumphouse, the WAAC barracks foundations, the NIWA clean air station and archaeological sites R28/37 (cave with midden), R28/36 (burial) and R28/48 (lighthouse and radar station). The area of land that encompasses these historic places, includes (the land described as Pt Lot 1 DP 72418 (RT 556278, NZ Gazette 2011, p.3957, NZ Gazette 2013, p.2310), Pt Parangarahu 1A3 (RT 920719, NZ Gazette 1995, p.1364), Wellington Land District.

1.5. Eligibility

This area is physically eligible for consideration as an historic area. It consists of an area of land that lies within the territorial limits of New Zealand and that contains inter-related historic places. There is sufficient information included in this report to identify this area and the historic places within it.

1.6. Existing Heritage Recognition

Local Authority and Regional Authority Plan Scheduling

Not scheduled in the Hutt City District Plan Operative 24 June 2003, [as amended]. Scheduled in the Greater Wellington Proposed Natural Resources Plan Appeals Version Final 2022, Schedule C4: Sites of significance to Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o te Ika.

² See 'Physical Information' for an analysis of this statement. This section is supplemented by visual aids in Appendix 1 of the report.

Reserve

This area is part of a Recreation Reserve, NZ Gazette 1995 p.8, NZ Gazette 1995 p.1364 and a Scenic Reserve, NZ Gazette 2011, p.3957, NZ Gazette 2013, p.2310.

New Zealand Archaeological Association Site Recording Scheme

This area or sites within this area have been recorded by the New Zealand Archaeological Association. The references are R28/37 (cave with midden), R28/36 (burial) and R28/48 (lighthouse and radar station).

2. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

2.1. Historical Information

Tangata Whenua

Ōrua-pouanui, near the entrance of Te Whanganui-a-Tara, the great harbour of Tara, commemorates the den or retreat ('rua') of Pouanui.³ There is a cave in the rockface below the present-day lighthouse which may be Pouanui's refuge and the landmark whose name was later used to describe the entire headland.⁴ Tribal narratives describe the great Polynesian explorer Kupe as the first person to visit Aotearoa New Zealand and he spent time in what became the Wellington region, naming places in and around the harbour before returning home to Hawaiki.⁵

Following permanent settlement, the harbour was named after the rangatira Tara, son of Whātonga, the captain of the migratory waka *Kurahaupō*.⁶ Tara and his brother Tautoki travelled down the east coast of Te-Ika-a-Māui from Māhia, past Rangiwhakaoma (Castlepoint) and round Ōkoriwa (Palliser Bay) to reach Parangarahu (Fitzroy Bay) and Te Whanganui-a-Tara (Wellington). Tara's people were known as Ngāi Tara and they occupied the east and south coast of Wellington, while Tautoki and his people settled around Upper Hutt and east into Wairarapa.⁷ His descendants were known as Rangitanē after his son of this

³ G.L. Adkin, The Great Harbour of Tara: Traditional Māori Place-names and Sites of Wellington Harbour and Environs: A Revision, Wellington, Whitcombe and Tombs, p.55; Raukura Consultants, Orua-Poua-Nui Baring Head: Cultural Values Report, 2011, p.20.

⁴ This cave is NZAA site R28/37 cave with midden.

⁵ Te Ahukaramū Charles Royal, 'First peoples in Māori tradition - Kupe', *Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand*, 2005, <u>http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/first-peoples-in-maori-tradition/page-6</u> (accessed 27 April 2021).

⁶ Rāwiri Taonui, 'Ngā waewae tapu – Māori exploration - Wairarapa and Wellington', *Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand*, 2007, <u>http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/nga-waewae-tapu-maori-exploration/page-8</u> (accessed 27 April 2021).

⁷ Raukura Consultants, 2011, p.7.

name. Tautoki is associated with Parangarahu, a pā located on the plateau above present-day Fitzroy Bay a little north of Ōrua-pouanui.⁸ From Parangarahu a watch could be kept on the harbour and the pā was close to kaimoana and the eel lagoons of inland lakes Kōhangapiripiri and Kōhangatera.⁹

In the seventeenth century Ngāti Ira migrated south from Hawke's Bay and intermarried with Ngāi Tara and Rangitanē to become the dominant iwi. Ngāti Kahungunu also had a presence in the area. Ngāti Ira was supplanted in the 1820s and 1830s by Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Tama and Ngāti Mutunga, all of whom who came south from Taranaki during a period of great upheaval associated with the introduction of Pākehā muskets into te ao Māori.¹⁰ Ngāti Mutunga first settled in Waikanae on the Kāpiti coast, while Ngāti Tama kept travelling south and established themselves at Tiakiwai (in present-day Thorndon).¹¹ Ngāti Mutunga joined them, inhabiting the western side of the harbour. Together, they established the people of Taranaki in Te Whanganui-a-Tara. At first, they lived alongside Ngāti Ira but a battle between Ngāti Mutunga and Ngāti Ira in the late 1820s resulted in the latter's gradual ejection from Te Whanganui-a-Tara.¹²

Waikato and Ngāti Maniapoto incursions into Taranaki in the early 1830s promoted a further wave of migration south. The 1831 invasion of Pukerangiora Pā on the Waitara River was disastrous for Te Ātiawa and many people left Taranaki in the migration Te Heke Tamateuaua.¹³ Te Ātiawa first settled at Waikanae and were then invited to join Ngāti Mutunga at Pito-one (Petone).¹⁴ The Ngāti Mutunga rangatira Putukawenga gifted Waiwhetu, the land east of Heretaunga (Hutt River), and Whiorau (Lowry Bay) to Te Ātiawa. This allowed Te Ātiawa to form a strong base in Te Whanganui-a-Tara. When Ngāti Mutunga and Ngāti Tama people migrated to Rēkohu (Chatham Islands) in 1835, their land rights around the

 ⁸ Ibid., pp.7, 27. The spelling of this place follows Raukura Consultants, fn1 p.6; an alternative spelling is Parangarehu.
 ⁹ Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust and Greater Wellington Regional Council, 2014, *Parangarahu Lakes Area Co-Management Plan and Amendment to the GWRC Parks Network Plan*, p.15.

¹⁰ Chris Maclean, 'Wellington region - Early Māori history', *Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand*, 2007, <u>http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/wellington-region/page-5</u> (accessed 27 April 2021).

¹¹ Morris Love, 'Te Āti Awa of Wellington - Migrations of the 1820s', *Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand*, 2005a <u>http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/te-ati-awa-of-wellington/page-2</u> (accessed 14 May 2021).

¹² Waitangi Tribunal, Te Whanganui a Tara Me Ona Takiwa: Report on the Wellington District, Legislation Direct, 2003, p.22.

¹³ Morris Love, 'Te Āti Awa of Wellington - The migration of 1832', *Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand*, 2005b <u>http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/te-ati-awa-of-wellington/page-3</u> (accessed 14 May 2021).

¹⁴ Morris Love, 'Te Āti Awa of Wellington - 1830s: settling the land', *Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand*, 2005c, <u>http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/te-ati-awa-of-wellington/page-4</u> (accessed 14 May 2021)

harbour were transferred to Te Ātiawa. In 1839 Te Ātiawa and Ngāti Kahungunu made peace, with Ngāti Kahungunu occupying Wairarapa and Te Ātiawa Te Whanganui-a-Tara.¹⁵

Occupation of Ōrua-pouanui and environs

Ōrua-pouanui itself is unlikely to have been permanently settled but it was close to the kāinga of Parangarahu, located on the coast in Fitzroy Bay below the ancient pā of the same name.¹⁶ Pouanui's cave, which extends into the headland by around 30 metres, was used as a shelter during food gathering expeditions along the coast.¹⁷ On the edge of the cliff above the cave was a burial site, reputedly that of a woman, who had been covered with rocks and boulders.¹⁸

Parangarahu was a seasonal fishing village, and its inhabitants were also horticulturalists, building stone walls to protect crops.¹⁹ Following organised Pākehā settlement, Māori were 'active participants in rural industry' - wheat was grown, and the stone walls may have been extended as the amount of land under cultivation increased to supply the Pākehā market, including in New South Wales, Australia.²⁰

Ōrua-pouanui was initially claimed as a public reserve by the British Crown following the New Zealand Company's much disputed 1839 purchase of Te Whanganui-a-Tara. However, it was included within the 4,700 acre Parangarahu Block (also known as Wainuiomata) awarded to Te Ātiawa in 1847 by William McCleverty, who had been appointed to convince Māori to exhange their cultivations for other land after the New Zealand Company sold land under cultivation to Pākehā settlers.²¹ Pākehā settlement also brought another name for Ōrua-pouanui - William Wakefield of colonising firm the New Zealand Company named it Baring

¹⁵ Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust and Greater Wellington Regional Council, 2014, p.16.

¹⁶ Raukura Consultants, 2011, p.27. This is NZAA site 28/9.

¹⁷ J.B. Palmer, 'Maori Sites in Fitzroy Bay'', New Zealand Archaeological Association Newsletter, 1963 6(3), p.133.

¹⁸ Ibid., p.19; Palmer, p.134. This is NZAA site 28/36. The koiwi was discovered when the foundations we being dug for the lighthouse in 1934 ('Skeleton Found', NZ Herald, 22 January 1934, p.13).

¹⁹ Tony Walton and Bruce McFagden, 'Fitzroy Bay: A Further Archaeological Survey', Wellington Archaeological Society, 1987, pp.1-2; Palmer, p.132.

²⁰ Raukura Consultants, 2011, p.15; Rārangi Kōrero Committee comment, February 2023 meeting.

²¹ Ibid., Steve Quinn, 'Report on the McCleverty Arrangements and McCleverty Reserves, WAI 145 research report, 1997, pp.162-64.

Head, after one of the company's directors Francis Baring.²² The traditional name was officially restored in 2009 by the Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika Deed of Settlement.²³

Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui remained in Te Ātiawa ownership until the early decades of the twentieth century, though was leased to Pākehā farmers for most of that period.²⁴ Henare Te Puni and Mawene Hohua of Petone ran sheep in the area in the late 1860s.²⁵ In 1913, 198 acres of the Parangarahu 1A block was apportioned to Rangiwhaia te Puni and immediately transmitted to her children, as she had passed away.²⁶ The land was leased to her daughter Ema Te Puni and her Pākehā husband Frederick Morrison, and Ema inherited the entire block as whānau passed away.²⁷ Ema herself died in May 1920; not long prior she sold the land to William Cruickshank, a sheep farmer of Masterton.²⁸

Lighthouse Complex

In 1859 the country's first lighthouse was opened at nearby Pencarrow Head.²⁹ In 1930 the government announced that Pencarrow was to be replaced with a new lighthouse at Baring Head, which was at a higher elevation outside the main dangers of the harbour and thus more visible to ships approaching these hazards.³⁰ Pencarrow was often swathed in fog and by this period its fixed light was dulled by night-time light pollution from Wellington city across the harbour.³¹

William Cruickshank owned the land until 1940 but appears to have informally sold it to runholder Eric Riddiford years earlier, as Riddiford was publicly lauded for gifting the land for the new lighthouse.³² He was repaid by the construction of a government-funded bridge to

²² Edward Jerningham Wakefield, Adventure in New Zealand, from 1839-1844: With Some Account of the Beginning of the British Colonization of the Islands, London, John Murray, 1845, p.100; The New Zealand Journal, 7 March 1840, p.34.

²³ Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika Deed of Settlement, p.26 <u>https://www.govt.nz/assets/Documents/OTS/Taranaki-Whanui-ki-Te-Upoko-o-Te-Ika-Deed-of-Settlement-19-Aug-2008.pdf</u> (accessed 2 December 2021).

²⁴ Waitangi Tribunal, *Te Whanganui a Tara Me One Takiwa: Report on the Wellington District,* Wai 145, Legislation Direct, Wellington, 2003, p.105, 107; Quinn, pp.162-64.

²⁵ Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust and Greater Wellington Regional Council, 2014, p.20.

²⁶ RT WN218/105 and RT WN222/142, Wellington Land District; *Evening Post*, 3 May 1913, p.4.

²⁷ RT WN222/142, Wellington Land District; 'Local and General', *Dominion*, 6 August 1921, p.6.

²⁸ 'Deaths', Evening Post, 5 May 1920, p.1; RT WN222/142, Wellington Land District.

²⁹ Helen Beaglehole. *Lighting the Coast: A History of New Zealand's Coastal Lighthouse System*, Christchurch, Canterbury University Press, 2006, p. 142.

³⁰ Ibid., p.105; 'Numbered Days', *Evening Post*, 6 December 1930, p.10.

³¹ Beaglehole, 2008, p.104.

³² Correspondence in 'Wellington Road District – Baring Head Lighthouse Access Road, Legislation', R17297326, Archives New

his land over the Wainuiomata River.³³ While it was first thought that it would be possible to access the site from the sea, the steep cliffs surrounding the site made that impossible and instead an overland route from Wainuiomata was formed.³⁴ The road and bridge were constructed between 1931 and 1932.³⁵

While the bridge and access road made it possible to construct the lighthouse, it also meant that supplies and equipment for the future running of the lighthouse could be supplied by road rather than sea, as had been the case at Pencarrow.³⁶ In the decades that followed their construction, the road and bridge were the subject of regular correspondence about their physical condition. The road was frequently damaged by weather events and needed repair, including regular grading and metalling. The bridge also required regular repairs.³⁷ On one occasion, in 1956, the bridge was entirely submerged by a flood.³⁸ Barely a year went by in the post-Second World War period when either the road or bridge did not need attention.

Baring Head was the country's first fully electrified lighthouse and was powered by dieselgenerated electricity.³⁹ It was to be a 'much more up-to-date affair' than its predecessor at Pencarrow.⁴⁰ The 12-metre-high tower was made of reinforced concrete and sat 85 metres above sea level.⁴¹ Construction began in 1934. Stability was a paramount consideration, and the final site was slightly east of the original planned location after solid foundations could not be found on digging 2.5 metres down. Work temporarily ceased in the winter of 1934 because the wind was so strong, the contractor J. Jackson stating 'I have known times when you could hardly stand up again the wind they get out here, and there is no chance to work in such conditions'.⁴²

Zealand, shows that government officials negotiated with Eric Riddiford, who stated he was the owner, the transaction not having been formally recorded in the land transfer system. The transfer was formally made in 1940 and his daughter Rosemary Riddiford was recorded as owner (RT WN222/142, Wellington Land District).

³³ 'The Light in Action', *Evening Post*, 18 June 1935, p.10.

³⁴ Beaglehole, 2008, p.142.

³⁵ 'Lighthouse Site', *Evening Post*, 16 January 1932, p.10.

³⁶ Evening Post, 9 September 1933, p.10.

³⁷ See correspondence in 1950, 52, 53, 55, 56, 60 etc. in18/1/1 Pt.1, Lighthouses – Baring Head, Archives New Zealand (ANZ).

³⁸ District Commissioner to Resident Engineer, MOWD, 3 September 1956, 18/1/1, ANZ.

³⁹ Beaglehole, 2008, p.142.

⁴⁰ 'Numbered Days', *Evening Post*, 6 December 1930, p.10.

⁴¹ Beaglehole, p.143.

⁴² 'Almost Complete', *Evening Post*, 18 January 1935, p.8.

As well as the lighthouse, the complex consisted of two timber keepers' houses in the typical state house style of the era with outbuildings (1934) for the head and assistant keepers and their families, a concrete powerhouse containing the diesel generator (1935), a garage and outbuildings. The keepers' houses were identical, each having three bedrooms and a living room, drawing room, scullery, bathroom, washhouse and outhouse.⁴³ The interiors were 'tastefully papered and panelled and a number of built in cupboards and wardrobes [lent] an atmosphere of compact comfort to the buildings'.⁴⁴ The powerhouse was designed in a domestic rather than utilitarian style, which contributed to the village-like appearance of the lighthouse complex. Two diesel engines were installed in the powerhouse in April 1935 which generated power for the lighthouse, the keepers' houses and a radio beacon.⁴⁵ The first principal keeper Bob Wilson spent many hours planting a shelter belt around the complex and built a rockery in front of the powerhouse.⁴⁶

The lighthouse was first lit on 17 June 1935.⁴⁷ Unlike Pencarrow, with its fixed light 'which does not conform to the best modern practice', Baring Head's light flashed, making it more recognisable as a maritime safety light.⁴⁸ The lighthouse radio beacon was the second to be installed in the country and enabled ships with the necessary equipment to locate their position when out of sight of the light and during foggy conditions.⁴⁹ On the same day Baring Head was lit, the light at Pencarrow was extinguished.⁵⁰ Baring Head was the second-to-last lighthouse built in the country and was followed by Cape Rēinga in 1941.⁵¹

Lighthouse Keeping

Baring Head was different to most other lighthouse stations in its proximity to urban areas and relatively easy accessibility by land.⁵² Electrification meant keepers were not required to keep a 24-hour watch on the light, as was the case with kerosene-powered lighthouses,

⁴³ 'New Lighthouse at Baring Head', *Evening Post*, 26 July 1934, p.15.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ 'New Lighthouse', *Evening Post*, 8 April 1935, p.8.

⁴⁶ Beagehole, p.174; 'Almost Complete', *Evening Post*, 18 January 1935, p.8.

⁴⁷ Ibid., p.292.

⁴⁸ 'Coastal Light', New Zealand Herald, 15 January 1935, p.8.

⁴⁹ 'Better Days', *Evening Post*, 28 December 1934, p.9; 'Pencarrow to Baring', *Evening Post*, 18 June 1935, p.8; Beaglehole, pp.159-60.

⁵⁰ 'Pencarrow to Baring', *Evening Post*, 18 June 1935, p.8.

⁵¹ Beaglehole, p.292.

⁵² Helen Beaglehole to Ann Neill, New Zealand Historic Places Trust, 13 August 2011. Copy in Heritage NZ file 12023-305 vol.3.

making the job less onerous. The powerhouse was equipped with two diesel generators, the second of which started automatically in the event of the first one breaking down.⁵³ The head and assistant keepers tested, monitored and cleaned the lighthouse equipment, undertook regular maintenance on the complex, including the houses, and operated the radio beacon.⁵⁴ Assistant keeper Thomas Smith, who was stationed at Baring Head from 1945-1947 wrote 'with no night watches or weather reporting Baring Head was an easy station: apart from routine powerhouse and tower duties, most of our time was spent outdoors and we deplored the fact we were, in the main, groundsmen, not Lighthouse keepers!'⁵⁵ From 1951 there was only one keeper at Baring Head.⁵⁶

A school was briefly established at the station in 1950, with seven pupils enrolled at the time.⁵⁷ However, this arrangement only lasted that year, and the children of keepers were sent to school in Wainuiomata.⁵⁸ They walked to the Wainuiomata Coast Road, where they would be picked up by the school bus. Despite Baring Head's proximity to civilisation, an emphasis was placed on self-sufficiency, as was the norm at other stations. Land adjacent to the station was set aside – and fenced – for cows (for milking) plus a few sheep.⁵⁹

The lighthouse's closeness to Wellington also made it attractive to visitors. In the early 1960s keeper Bill Kemp regularly took 'school groups, trampers, rock climbers and people interested in our way of life' around the complex.⁶⁰ In his words, 'when head office [of the Marine Department] had any VIPs to show a lighthouse to they would invariably come to Baring Head. It happened quite often so the station had to be up to scratch'.⁶¹ Participating in maritime safety operations was another regular task. The last lighthouse keeper Steve O'Neill

⁵³ 'Baring Head', *Evening Post*, 10 June 1935, p.11.

⁵⁴ Memorandum for Secretary, Naval Department, 5 June 1935. ADOE 16612 M1 796 8/62/1, Baring Head – Origin – General, ANZ.

⁵⁵ Thomas Smith, Man the Light! The Life Story of Thomas Smith, his Family and their Service in New Zealand Lighthouses, Auckland, T.G.Smith, 1996, p.185.

⁵⁶ Martime New Zealand, Baring Head Posters, n.d. Copy on Heritage New Zealand file 12023-305.

⁵⁷ AADQ 23834 W3368 1, School Buildings and Sites – Wellington and Marlborough Districts- Baring Head Lighthouse School, ANZ.

⁵⁸ Nicholas Boyak, 'Former Lighthouse Keeper Angered by Baring Head Plans', *Dominion Post*, 20 April 2010 <u>https://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/local-papers/hutt-news/3600901/Former-lighthouse-keeper-angered-by-Baring-Head-plans</u> (accessed 19 May 2021).

⁵⁹ District Commissioner of Works to Resident Architect, MOWD, 19 May 1961, AATE 28023 W3395 1, 18/1/1 Pt.1, Lighthouses – Baring Head, ANZ.

 ⁶⁰ Bill Kemp, *Pass Safely, Sailor: Adventures of a Lighthouse Keeper*, Wellington, Steele Roberts, 2004, p.152.
 ⁶¹ ibid.

(keeper from 1976-1989) took part in 86 search and rescues during his 12-year career at Baring Head.⁶²

Since Baring Head 'first demonstrated the efficiencies of electrification' in 1935, a nationwide process of lighthouse automation and 'demanning' of stations had been in train.⁶³ At the end of the Second World War there were 61 lightkeepers; this declined to 51 in 1955 and 39 in 1969.⁶⁴ From the early 1970s technological developments reduced the 'once-critical importance of lighthouses', and lighthouse equipment was increasingly monitored remotely.⁶⁵ By 1981 there were 21 keepers, including at Baring Head.⁶⁶ The lighthouse was remotely automated and demanned in October 1988 and Steve O'Neill and family, the last of the lightkeepers, left in January 1989.⁶⁷

Second World War

Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui became part of the country's coastal defence network in 1935 when a concrete observation post and small concrete barracks were built 500 metres inland from the lighthouse and 166 metres above sea level.⁶⁸ They were associated with the Palmer Head Battery west of Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui on the other side of Wellington Harbour, which was part of a nationwide effort to upgrade coastal defences in main centres against a backdrop of rising tensions in Europe.

The observation post was seldom used until the outbreak of the Second World War (1940-1945), when it was brought into constant service. The existing barracks was too small, so in 1941 this was converted into a wireless room and a larger timber barracks was built nearby, as was an ablutions block.⁶⁹ Another small concrete building, probably an engine room that powered the wireless room, was constructed next to this. A pump house was built on the

⁶² Facebook post 'What's So Special about Baring Head'? 9 March 2011. Copy on Heritage New Zealand File 12023-305; Steve O'Neill, personal communication to K Pollock, 15 January 2023.

⁶³ Beaglehole, p.247.

⁶⁴ ibid., p.254.

⁶⁵ ibid., p.256.

⁶⁶ ibid., p.263.

⁶⁷ ibid., p.292.

⁶⁸ Peter Cooke, *Defending New Zealand: Ramparts on the Sea 1840-1950s*, Wellington, New Zealand Defence Study Group, 2000, p.492.

 ⁶⁹ Commander, Royal New Zealand Artillery to Quartermaster General, 15 July 1940; Quartermaster General to Headquarters, Central Military District, 10 January 1941. AAYS 8638 AD1 1080 203/167/1 pt.1, Defence Works – Buildings – Baring Head – Coast Defences', ANZ.

Wainuiomata River and supplied water to a concrete storage tank near the barracks and wireless room. Members of the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC) staffed a naval signal station in front of the lighthouse and were housed nearby in a purpose-built timber barracks.⁷⁰

The military complex was staffed for the duration of the war. The observation post barracks were dismantled in 1946, leaving only the concrete foundations and chimney, and the WAAC barracks was similarly dismantled.⁷¹ The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research took over the main naval signal station building in 1946 and used it for an experimental radar station.⁷² From 1954 it was used by the Royal New Zealand Airforce before being sold for removal to the Wainuiomata Girl Guides in 1960.⁷³

Clean Air Station

In 1972, Dave Lowe of the Institute of Nuclear Sciences set up an atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO_2) monitoring station at Baring Head Ōrua-pouanui.⁷⁴ He had been taking samples at Makara on Wellington's west coast since 1970 but his samples were contaminated by the photosynthesis of local vegetation, and he needed a cleaner site. One-third of Baring Head's wind came from the south and had not recently crossed land, making it a more suitable location. Lighthouse keeper Alan Martin showed him a small concrete building in front of the lighthouse near the edge of the cliff that was a surviving component of the naval signal station.⁷⁵ The building had mains power and was ideally situated for southerly winds.

As early as 1973 it was clear that Baring Head/ \overline{O} rua-pouanui was an excellent location for CO₂ monitoring, Lowe writing 'during [that] winter there were a lot of southerly gales with an exceptional amount of baseline data...This baseline CO₂ data was the gold standard we were aiming for....'⁷⁶ Lowe conducted pioneering work from the station, 'making the first ever continuous baseline atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) measurements in the southern

⁷⁰ Cooke, p.494.

⁷¹ Acting Officer Commanding, Central Military District, to Army Headquarters, 9 July 1946. AAYS 8638 AD1 1080 203/167/1 pt.1, Defence Works – Buildings – Baring Head – Coast Defences', ANZ

⁷² Memorandum, Naval Secretary, 7 October 1946. AEKN 19606 W1414 SIRW1414 62 26/3/18, Experiment Station – Mt Victoria & Baring Head, ANZ.

⁷³ Acceptance of Tender, 3 May 1960. ADOE 16612 M1 771 8/62/15, Baring Head Lighthouse – Radar Station

⁷⁴ Dave Lowe, The Alarmist: Fifty Years Measuring Climate Change, Wellington, VUW Press, 2021, pp.58-61.

⁷⁵ Ibid. Papers in ABPL w5011 7457 Box 3 45/2/2 pt.1, Lighthouses – Buildings – Baring Head 1970-1988 confirm the survival of this building.

⁷⁶ Ibid., p.81.

hemisphere' (and the second in the world) and confirming the negative impact of human activity on the climate.⁷⁷ He was a lead contributor to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007.⁷⁸ The station remains in operation and contributes vital data to global studies on climate change.⁷⁹

Regional Park

In 1979 public land in the vicinity of Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui was formed into what became known as the East Harbour Regional Park.⁸⁰ Following the final automation of the lighthouse, the Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) took over management of the keepers' houses in 1992, hoping to use them as park ranger accommodation, but accessing the houses through private land proved difficult and they remained unoccupied for years.⁸¹ In 2010, following a public campaign, a consortium consisting of the Greater Wellington, the Department of Conservation, the Hutt City Council, the Nature Heritage Fund and a private benefactor purchased 284.6 hectares adjacent to the lighthouse complex, land which included the Second World War observation post and associated buildings and the pumphouse.⁸² This purchase provided access to the lighthouse complex but Greater Wellington proposed demolishing the houses due to maintenance and security costs. Former lighthouse keepers Bill Kemp and Steve O'Neill advocated for their retention, with Kemp arguing 'the [ex]keepers I have spoken to are all in favour of [the complex] being retained...and renovated.⁸³

In 2011 the Friends of Baring Head Charitable Trust was created to support the GWRC's stewardship of Baring Head Ōrua-pouanui.⁸⁴ The tourism potential of the lighthouse complex was increasingly recognised, and this helped to secure the future of the keepers' houses.⁸⁵

⁷⁷ Ibid., p.11; Joel MacManus, 'The Alarmist: Climate Scientist Dave Lowe's 50-year Fight', 16 May 2021 <u>https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/climate-news/125018367/the-alarmist-climate-scientist-dave-lowes-50year-fight</u> (accessed 17 May 2021).

⁷⁸ NIWA website, 'NIWA Scientists Part of Nobel Peace Prize: Congratulations!' <u>https://niwa.co.nz/news/niwa-scientists-part-nobel-peace-prize-congratulations</u> (accessed 17 May 2021).

⁷⁹ 'Baring Head Greenhouse Gases', NIWA website <u>https://niwa.co.nz/atmosphere/facilities/baring-head</u> (accessed 5 May 2021).

⁸⁰ Greater Wellington Regional Council, *East Harbour Regional Park Resource Statement*, September 2007, p.26.

⁸¹ Nicholas Boyack, 'Former Lighthouse Keeper Angered by Baring Head Plans', Dominion Post, 20 April 2010 <u>https://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/local-papers/hutt-news/3600901/Former-lighthouse-keeper-angered-by-Baring-Head-plans</u> (accessed 11 May 2021).

⁸² Kiran Chug, 'Regional Council pays \$1.7m to Keep Baring Head', Dominion Post, 5 July 2010, p.A4.

⁸³ Boyack, 2010; Katie Chapman, 'Time Dims Allure of Old Lighthouse Homes', *Dominion Post*, 24 March 2010, p.A10.

⁸⁴ 'Friends of Baring Head Newsletter', October 2011 <u>http://www.baringhead.org.nz/news.htm</u> (accessed 12 May 2021).

⁸⁵ Tourism Resource Consultants, 'Baring Head: Recreation and Tourism Option Study Final', March 2011; Greater Wellington

That year the 284.6-hectare block was declared a scenic reserve and Baring Head/Ōruapouanui (excluding the lighthouse and the NIWA station) became part of the East Harbour Regional Park in 2012.⁸⁶ The Friends of Baring Head restored the Second World War pumphouse in 2012-13. The group undertook weed management and ecological restoration in the broader park and were involved in subsequent building restoration work, with Friends member Colin Ryder spearheading fundraising campaigns supported by a Greater Wellington project team.⁸⁷

Greater Wellington commissioned a heritage strategy, landscape plan and other buildingrelated studies. In 2017 the powerhouse roof was replaced, followed by the house roofs in 2018.⁸⁸ Some of the buildings were painted in 2019-2020.⁸⁹ After considerable fundraising led by Colin Ryder, grants were obtained to research, develop and install interpretation in the powerhouse. This culminated in the opening of the Story Hub visitors centre in the restored powerhouse in February 2021.⁹⁰ In line with Greater Wellington's Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan, the landscape around the lighthouse complex will be progressively restored with native vegetation, with features of historic value such as the rock garden succulents retained, while bookable overnight accommodation is planned for the station buildings.⁹¹ The lighthouse itself remains in service.⁹²

Associated List Entries

Regional Council, 'Baring Head – Update on Research', 28 February 2011, p.3, copy on Heritage New Zealand file 12023-305 vol.2.

⁸⁶ New Zealand Gazette 8 September 2011, p.3957; Boffa Miskell, 'Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui Lighthouse Compound Heritage Plan Prepared for Greater Wellington Regional Council' 7 May 2014, p.1.

⁸⁷ Friends of Baring Head Facebook posts 16 April 2012 and 6 March 2013.

⁸⁸ Friends of Baring Head Facebook posts 7 November 2017 and 13 September 2018.

⁸⁹ Friends of Baring Head Facebook posts 29 April 2019, 10 July 2019 and 21 January 2020.

⁹⁰ Greater Wellington Regional Council Facebook post 18 February 2021

⁹¹ 'Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan 2020-2030', Greater Wellington Regional Council website <u>https://www.gw.govt.nz/your-region/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans-and-reports/parks-plans/toitu-te-whenua-parks-network-plan-2020-2/</u> (accessed 20 January 2023).

⁹² Maritime New Zealand website, 'Baring Head' <u>https://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/public/history/lighthouses/Baring-Head/</u> (accessed 14 May 2021).

2.2. Physical Information

Current Description93

Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui is approximately 20 kilometres south of the Lower Hutt suburb of Wainuiomata in the southern-most portion of the East Harbour Regional Park. Public access to the complex is via a walking and cycling track from the East Harbour Regional Park carpark on Coast Road. Vehicle access is via a two-kilometre private gravel road that begins on the south side of the bridge over the Wainuomata River; this is not publicly accessible.

The wider site is composed of the Baring Head lighthouse station (containing the lighthouse, dwellings and associated structures), all clustered together on the south-western edge of a cliff that falls steeply to the beach below, the access road, a NIWA research station, the foundations of a WAAC barracks building, the remains of an observation post (including three concrete buildings and the foundations of barracks), and a pump house near the Wainuiomata River.

The road, completed in 1932, is narrow (3-4 metres) and metalled with some parts sealed with bitumen. It leaves the Coast Road a few kilometres from the coast. Just under three kilometres in length it passes over the bridge over the Wainuiomata River and after a flat section climbs to the plateau above the river and from there, heads in a generally southwards direction across relatively level ground to the lighthouse station. The road was clearly built for motor traffic, as the early climb is quite steep. The 2018 one-way bridge is concrete with metal railing.

The lighthouse complex is circled by a boundary fence and macrocarpa trees that formed the original pentagonal shelter belt, which is now only partially intact. The lighthouse itself is outside the boundary fence and is located near the cliff that forms the southern-most part of the site. In front of the lighthouse are the NIWA buildings. Within the boundary fence are the head keeper's house and the assistant keeper's house, both of which are timber buildings in a state house style, the concrete powerhouse, a timber garage, small timber outbuildings and two telecommunications towers. The rockery built by the first keeper Bob Wilson in front of the powerhouse survives largely intact. The rockery forms the centre of the roundabout connected to the driveway. Some of the concrete edging of the roundabout is discernible, as are concrete paths to the houses. At the time of visiting (September/November 2021 and

⁹³ Site visits by Kerryn Pollock, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, 7 September and 20 November 2021.

March 2023) the complex was undergoing restoration. Work on the powerhouse was completed by 2023, the restoration of the assistant keeper's house and outbuildings, and the garage well advance, and work on the exterior of the head keeper's house was boarded up commenced.

Approximately 500 metres north-east of the lighthouse station, atop a large hill 166 metres high, are the remnants of the observation post complex built for the Palmer Head Battery.

See the historic places section below for a description of individual buildings and structures.

Construction Professionals

J. Jackson – building contractor

Construction Materials

Keeper's houses and out-buildings: timber, iron, concrete Powerhouse: concrete, iron Lighthouse: concrete, glass, copper, iron NIWA buildings: concrete, fibrolite Observation post complex: concrete, timber

Key Physical Dates

1932: Original construction of access road
1934: Original construction of keepers' houses and outbuildings
1935: Original construction of lighthouse and powerhouse
1935: Original construction of observation post and first barracks
1941: Original construction of second observation post barracks, ablutions block, engine
room, pump house, naval signal station and WAAC barracks
1941: Refurbishment/renovation of first observation post barracks into a wireless room
1946: Partial demolition of observation post barracks and WAAC barracks
1960: Relocation of main naval signal station to Wainuiomata
2013: Maintenance/repairs – painting of pump house
2017: Maintenance/repairs – replacement of powerhouse roof
2018: Maintenance/repairs – replacement of house roofs
2018: Restoration of lighthouse complex commenced

Uses

Accommodation – House

Cultural Landscape – Historic Landscape

Defence – Barracks/camp housing (former)

Defence - Observation Post (former)

Defence – Defence Base Army (former)

Defence – Defence Base Navy (former)

Defence – Defence Base Airforce (former)

Defence – Defence Other (former)

Funerary Sites – Isolated Grave/Burial Site

Māori – Ancestral Landscape

Māori - Cave/Rockshelter

Māori – Kōiwi – Single Burials

Māori – Midden

Research – Scientific building/Laboratory

Transport – Lighthouse

Utilities - Power House

Historic Places⁹⁴

Head Keeper's House



The head keeper's house (1934) is on the north side of the complex near the entrance gate and is currently (2023) at the beginning of restoration. The entrance porch is at the back of

⁹⁴ All photographs by Kerryn Pollock, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, 20 November 2021, aside from the WAAC barracks, which was photographed on 7 September 2021 and the Head Keeper's House, which was photographed on 8 March 2023.

the house on the east elevation and opens directly into the kitchen. Off the kitchen is a laundry with a stainless-steel tub and what was a small bathroom, which was later used as a utility room. The house originally had three bedrooms; one was converted into a bathroom and separate toilet at an unknown date. A gibralter board-lined hallway runs between two bedrooms and a storage cupboard on the south side and a drawing room on the north side. A small bedroom (formerly a porch) is on the west side.⁹⁵ The living room opens off the kitchen and forms the north-west corner of the house. The drawing and living rooms retain the original fireplaces with brick surrounds and timber cabinetry. Behind the house is an outbuilding containing a toilet and coal store, a small firewood shed, and a chicken coop, all of which are contemporaneous with the house.

Assistant Keeper's House



The assistant keeper's house (1934) is near the lighthouse on the south side of the complex and renovation was well-advanced when visited. The layout is the same as the head keeper's house, but the timber tongue and groove-lined entrance porch is on the front (west elevation). The original kitchen cabinetry has been replaced, most likely in the 1980s. Off the kitchen is a wash house with a concrete tub, and a scullery. The drawing and living rooms retain the original fireplaces with brick surrounds and timber cabinetry. Behind the house is an outbuilding containing a toilet and coal store, a small (now empty) pump shed and a picket fence.

⁹⁵ Personal communication, Fiona Colquhoun, Greater Wellington Regional Council, to Kerryn Pollock, 14 December 2022.

Powerhouse



The stucco-clad concrete powerhouse (1935) was fully renovated when visited. The main entrance is on the west elevation and the door opens onto a hallway which is also clad in stucco. Directly off the hall inside the front door is the radio room on the north side. The powerhouse room itself is at the back of the building and an L-shaped battery room is between this and the radio room. The fuel store is on the south elevation. All the machinery has been removed. The building was opened as a site interpretation centre in 2021.

Garage



The exterior of the lapped weatherboard-clad timber garage has been fully renovated and a new roller door installed. This small structure is exposed to southerly gales and was braced by timber buttresses on the north elevation 1968 following the devastating Cyclone Giselle

(which sunk the passenger ship *Wahine*).⁹⁶ The garage is used as a volunteer base and has a simple kitchen and bunk beds.

Lighthouse



The 12-metre-high hexagonal lighthouse is made of reinforced concrete and is supported by six slim, flared buttresses that portray a streamlined Moderne influence in their graceful curves. Each side of the chamber is punctuated by narrow rectangular inset windows. Above the chamber is a narrow balcony and a glass lantern crowned with a copper dome. The light is a flashing LED beacon. A small timber-panelled door is on the eastern side of the chamber. A small steel ladder on the western side gives external access to the lantern and was used by the lighthouse keepers when cleaning the lantern glass.

NIWA Clean Air Station



⁹⁶ Steve O'Neill, personal communication to K Pollock, 15 January 2023.

The National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) clean air station is a collection of four small buildings, a wind turbine and a metal mast surrounded by a security fence. Three of the buildings, two of which are fibrolite and one concrete (part of the original radar building of the Second World War naval signal station), are directly in front of the lighthouse, the fourth (fibrolite) is next to the mast to the east. Concrete steps, another remnant of the naval signal station, connect the two parts of the clean air station. A signal mast was originally at the top of the concrete steps where the metal mast is.



Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC) Barracks

Concrete foundations are all that remains of the WAAC barracks, which were dismantled in 1946.

Observation Post



The observation post for the Palmer Head Battery is built into the slope and constructed of reinforced concrete. This building retains part of its camouflage (a layer of earth and vegetation directly on its roof) but the cantilevered roof over the viewing slit has collapsed,

preventing safe entry inside. All remains of the observation post complex are fenced off to discourage entry.

Wireless and Engine Rooms



On the north side of the hill below the observation post is the former barracks (later the wireless room; left) for the observation post. Also built of reinforced concrete, this building is rendered on the outside. Alongside it is another building – probably the engine room – constructed during the war but not rendered. Both buildings are flat roof, rectangular boxes and are largely reduced to shells. The concrete water tank that services the barracks is directly above these buildings.

Barracks and Ablution Block Site



A short distance further north down the hill is the site of the accommodation barracks and ablution block for the men who staffed the observation post. Built in 1940, the barracks is

assumed to have been constructed of timber and is no longer evident bar a concrete chimney. All that remains of the ablutions block is the concrete foundations, floor and drain.

Pump House



The pumphouse is a small timber building clad in rusticated weatherboards and a corrugated iron roof resting on concrete foundations. The interior is unlined, and the timber is weathered and watermarked. The concrete base of the pump, which has been removed, remains in place.

2.3. Sources

Sources Available and Accessed

Correspondence files at Archives New Zealand and Helen Beaglehole's *Lighting the Coast: A History of New Zealand's Coastal Lighthouse System* (2006) were the major sources of information, supplemented by Waitangi Tribunal reports, Te Ara entries and commissioned cultural values, archaeology, and Greater Wellington Regional Council-commissioned reports. Richard Te One of the Wellington Tenths Trust, Jo Greenman, Fiona Colquhoun and Ricky Clarkson of Greater Wellington Regional Council, and former lighthouse keeper Steve O'Neill reviewed the listing report.

Further Reading

Beaglehole, Helen, Lighting the Coast: A History of New Zealand's Coastal Lighthouse System, Canterbury University Press, 2006.

Greater Wellington Regional Council Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui <u>webpage</u>. This page includes a number of reference reports about this place.

Lowe, Dave, *The Alarmist: Fifty Years Measuring Climate Change*, Wellington, VUW Press, 2021.

3. SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

3.1. Section 66 (1) Assessment

This area has been assessed for, and found to possess archaeological, architectural, cultural, historical, social, technological, and traditional significance or value. It is considered that this area qualifies as part of New Zealand's historic and cultural heritage.

Archaeological Significance or Value

Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui is in an area with a long history of human occupation and numerous known archaeological sites associated with tangata whenua. Archaeological methods of investigation have the potential to shed further light on its use as a place of shelter during food gathering expeditions and determine whether the burial site uncovered during excavations for the lighthouse indicates that Ōrua-pouanui was a dedicated place of final rest. Archaeological investigation of the lighthouse complex and defence sites have the potential to uncover material pertaining to the daily life of lighthouse families and defence personnel.

Architectural Significance or Value

The lighthouse is a landmark structure and has architectural significance for its streamlined Moderne design elements expressed in the simple sweeping curves of the elegant buttresses. The keepers' houses and outbuildings are good representatives of the state house style of the day. All these buildings have high authenticity and intactness.

Historical Significance or Value

Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui has outstanding historical significance as the site of the first fully electrified lighthouse in Aotearoa New Zealand. In proving the efficiencies of automation, Baring Head represents the beginnings of the modern lighthouse system which rests on automation and remote monitoring of lighthouses. The lighthouse complex is very intact and is particularly well-placed to provide meaningful insights into life on a lighthouse station. Baring Head Ōrua-pouanui's strategic location meant it became part of the country's coastal defences in the interwar period and the remains of the observation post, naval signal station

and associated structures ties the place to one of the most significant events of the twentieth century, the Second World War. Further historical significance is derived from the presence of the NIWA CO₂ monitoring station, from where globally significant scientific research into climate change has been conducted since 1972. This was prefaced by use of the naval signal station by the Department of Science and Industrial Research as an experimental radar station in the post-war period.

Social Significance or Value

Baring Head lighthouse was manned from 1935 to 1989 and was home to many families during this period. The distinctive way of life on a lighthouse station created a sense of camaraderie in lighthouse families and its proximity to Wellington made it an attractive destination for day-trippers who wanted a slice of lighthouse life. Its social significance was highlighted when the keepers' houses were threatened with demolition in 2010, and former keepers and members of the public successfully lobbied for their retention and restoration, culminating in the creation of the Friends of Baring Head Trust.

Technological Significance or Value

The lighthouse has technical significance as the first fully powered by electricity in Aotearoa New Zealand. This was the way of the future for lighthouses and was the context for the policy of demanning slowly implemented over the second half of the twentieth century. It represents the triumph of technology over human labour.

Traditional Significance or Value

Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui has traditional significance to Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika as the den or resting place of Pouanui. The official restoration of the original name Ōruapouanui in 2009 was a public and legal recognition of this traditional value.

Summary of Significance or Values

Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui is a place with many strands of significance that reflect its layered histories and stories. As the location of the den or resting place of Pouanui, it has traditional significance for its connection to this ancestor, an association duly recognised through the official place name and known about by tangata whenua for generations. Baring Head was the first fully automated lighthouse in Aotearoa New Zealand and represents the start of the modern lighthouse system, giving the place special historical and technical significance, while the intact lighthouse station complex illustrates well a way of life now gone. The NIWA CO₂

monitoring station adds a global dimension to its historical significance. Successful community action to save the lighthouse complex when it was threatened with demolition demonstrates its social significance.

4. APPENDICES

4.1. Appendix 1: Visual Identification Aids



Extent maps



Extent includes the land described as Pt Lot 1 DP 72418 (RT 556278, NZ Gazette 1995 p.324), Lot 2 DP 72418 (RT 40D/367), Lot 4 DP 59276 (RT WN42B/597, NZ Gazette 2011, p.3957, NZ Gazette 2013, p.2310), Pt Parangarahu 1A3 (RT 920719, NZ Gazette 1995, p.1364), Wellington Land District, and the Baring Head lighthouse station comprised of the lighthouse, the lighthouse keepers' houses and outbuildings, the powerhouse, the garage, the rockery, barbeque and shelter belt, the defence site comprised of the observation post, the wireless room, the engine room and the ruins of the barracks and ablution block, the pumphouse, the WAAC barracks foundations, the NIWA clean air station and archaeological sites R28/37 (cave with midden), R28/36 (burial) and R28/48 (lighthouse and radar station) thereon. Source: Google Earth with QuickMap overlay



Pt Lot 1 DP 72418 (RT 556278, NZ Gazette 1995 p.324) and Lot 2 DP 72418 (RT 40D/367). Source: Google Earth with QuickMap overlay. Note that the land parcel in red is not included in the extent. This parcel is a Police reserve and contains a telecommunications tower and associated small buildings.⁹⁷

⁹⁷ This has been excluded as it was determined that the moderate significance of the reserve did not warrant consultation required.



Lot 4 DP 59276 (RT WN42B/597, NZ Gazette 2011, p.3957, NZ Gazette 2013, p.2310), Pt Parangarahu 1A3 (RT 920719, NZ Gazette 1995, p.1364). Source: Google Earth with QuickMap overlay.



Pt Parangarahu 1A3 (RT 920719, NZ Gazette 1995, p.1364). Source: Google Earth with QuickMap overlay.

Current Identifiers



RECORD OF TITLE UNDER LAND TRANSFER ACT 2017 FREEHOLD



Search Copy

Identifier	556278
Land Registration District	Wellington
Date Issued	10 June 2011

Prior References B412212.1

Estate	Fee Simple	
Area	10.5892 hectares more or less	
Legal Description	Part Lot 1 Deposited Plan 72418	
Purpose	recreation reserve	
Registered Owners		
Wellington Regional	Council	

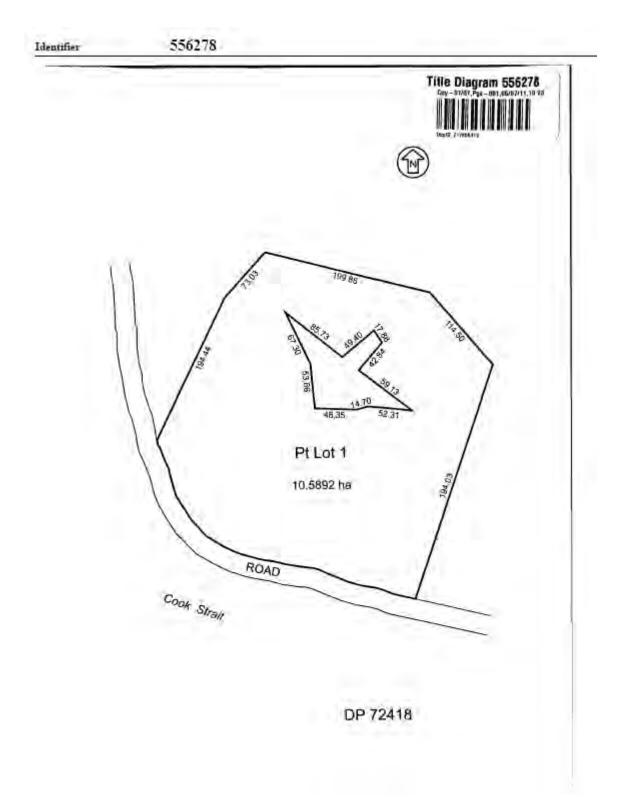
Interests

Appurtenant hereto is a right of way and a water easement created by Transfer 218019 - 14.3.1933 at 2:50 pm

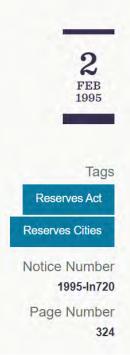
Appurtenant hereto is a right of way created by Transfer 218022 - 15.3.1933 at 2:20 pm

Subject to a right of way over part marked A on DP 72418 specified in Easement Certificate B209789.2 - 13.12.1991 at 1:41 pm

Appurtenant hereto is a right of way created by Transfer B317400.1 - 4.11.1993 at 1:31 pm Subject to the Reserves Act 1977



Land Notices



Classification and Vesting of Reserve Pursuant to the Reserves Act 1977, and to a delegation from the Minister of Conservation, the Regional Conservator of the Wellington Conservancy of the Department of Conservation, hereby classifies the reserve, described in the Schedule hereto, as a recreation reserve, subject to the provisions of the said Act, and further, vests the said reserve in The Wellington Regional Council in trust for that purpose, subject to the deed between the Minister and the said Council dated 14 November 1994. Schedule Wellington Land District Hutt City Baring Head Recreation Reserve 10.5892 hectares, more or less, being Part Lot 1, D.P. 72418, situated in Block VIII, Pencarrow Survey District. Subject to easement certificate B. 209789.2, right of way granted by transfer B. 317400.1 and appurtenant to rights of way created by transfers 218019 and 218022, water rights created by transfer 218019. All Gazette notice B. 408085.1. Dated at Wellington this 25th day of January 1995. A. ROSS, Regional Conservator. (Files: Doc RO GA3/101)1CL



RECORD OF TITLE UNDER LAND TRANSFER ACT 2017 FREEHOLD



Search Copy

IdentifierWN40D/367Land Registration DistrictWellingtonDate Issued13 December 1991

Prior References PROC 2174

Estate	Fee Simple	
Area	5710 square metres more or less	
Legal Description	Lot 2 Deposited Plan 72418	
Registered Owners		
Maritime Safety Aut	thority of New Zealand	
Interests		
The within land has	no frontage to a legal road	
Subject to Part IV A	Conservation Act 1987	

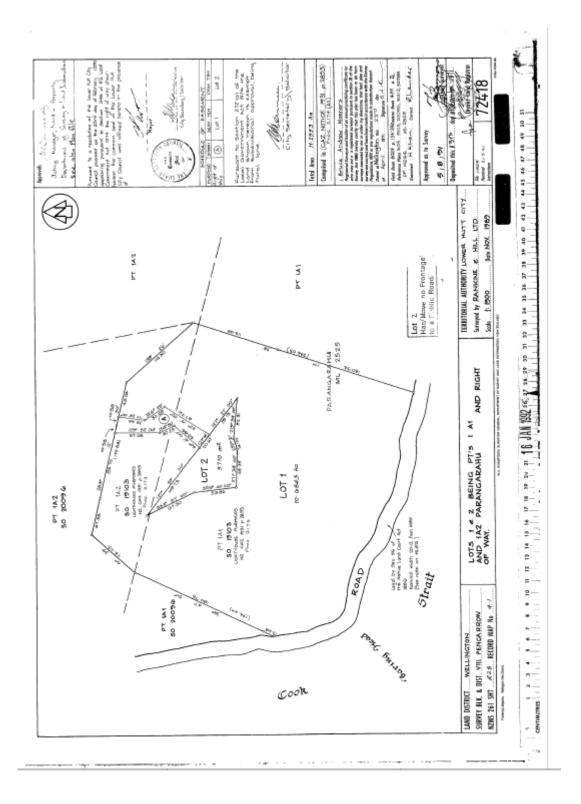
Subject to Section 11 Crown Minerals Act 1991

Appurtenant hereto are rights of way and water rights created by Transfer 218019

Appurtenant hereto are rights of way created by Transfer 218022

Appurtenant hereto is a right of way created by Transfer B209791.1 - 13.12.1991 at 1.41 pm

Appurtenant hereto is a right of way specified in Easement Certificate B209789.2 - 13.12.1991 at 1.41 pm





RECORD OF TITLE UNDER LAND TRANSFER ACT 2017 FREEHOLD



Search Copy

Identifier

WN42B/597

Land Registration District Wellington Date Issued 03 February 1993

Prior References

Estate	Fee Simple	
Area	284.6000 hectares more or less	
Legal Description	Lot 4 Deposited Plan 59276	
Purpose	Scenic Reserve	
Registered Owners		
Wellington Regional	Council	

Interests

Subject to right of way over parts marked A, B, G and I and to water supply rights (in gross) over parts marked E, F, G and H on DP 59276 in favour of Her Majesty the Queen created by Transfer 218019

Subject to a right of way over part marked C on DP 59276 created by Transfer 218022

Subject to right of way over parts marked A, B, G and I on DP 59276 created by Transfer 250154

Appurtenant hereto is a right of way specified in Easement Certificate 189837.2

The easements specified in Easement Certificate 189837.2 are subject to Section 309 (1) (a) Local Government Act 1974

Subject to a right of way over part marked D on DP 59276 created by Transfer 265365.14

Appurtenant hereto is a right of way created by Transfer 439467.6

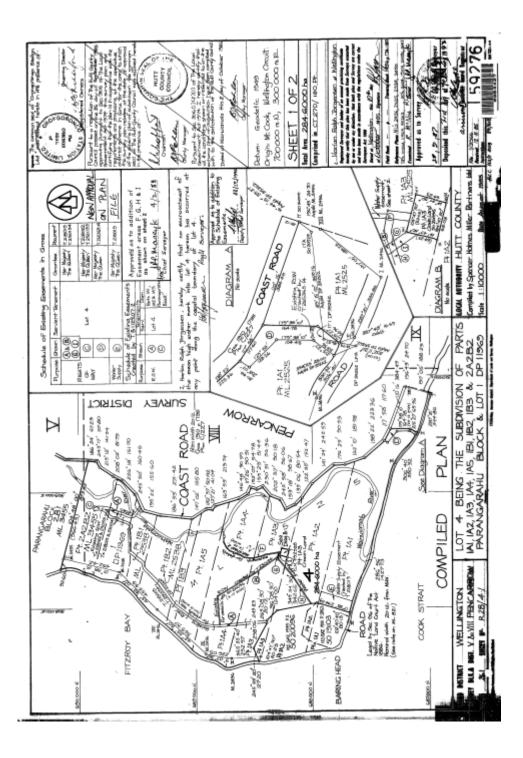
The easements created by Transfer 439467.6 are subject to Section 309 (1) (a) Local Government Act 1974

Subject to a right of way over parts marked A and C on DP 59276 created by Transfer B112207.2

Subject to a profit a prendre (minerals) (in gross) over parts marked G and H on DP 72284 in favour of Firth Industries Limited for a term of 100 years from 5.2.1985 created by Transfer B347360.2 - 10.3.1994 at 2.41 pm (affects part formerly part Orongorongo 1A1)

8527939.2 Encumbrance to (now) Stanley Properties Limited - 30.6.2010 at 2:57 pm

Subject to the Reserves Act 1977



Declaration That Land is a Reserve

Pursuant to the Reserves Act 1977, the Wellington Regional Council hereby notifies that a resolution to the following effect was passed by the council on the 27th day of July 2011:

"That in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 14 of the Reserves Act 1977, and acting under an instrument of delegation from the Minister of Conservation, Wellington Regional Council hereby resolves that the piece of land held by Council in fee simple and described in the Schedule shall be hereby declared to be a scenic reserve for the purposes specified in Section 19 of the Act and is deemed pursuant to Section 16(2) to be classified for that purpose within the meaning of the Act, and furthermore the Council acting pursuant to statutory powers contained in Section 16(10) of the Act declares the said reserve to be part of the East Harbour Regional Park".

Wellington Land District—Hutt District

Schedule

Description

ha 284.6000

Lot 4 DP 59276 and subject to rights of way (in gross) over parts marked "A," "B", "G" and "T" and to water supply rights (in gross) and parts marked "E", "F", "G" and "H" on DP 59276 in favour of Her Majesty The Queen created by Transfer 218019 and subject to a right of way (in gross) over part marked "C" on DP 59276 in favour of Her Majesty The Queen created by Transfer 218022 and subject to rights of way (in gross) over parts marked "A", "B", "G" and "T" on DP 59276 in favour of Her Majesty The Queen created by Transfer 250154 and appurienant hereto is a right of way specified in Easement Certificate 189837.2 are the easements specified in Easement Certificate 189837.2 are subject to section 309(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 1974, and subject to a right of way over part marked "D" on DP 59276 created by Transfer 265365.14 and appurtenant hereto is a right of way created by Transfer 439467.6 and the casements created by Transfer 439467.6 are subject to section 309(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 1974 and subject to a right of way over parts marked "A" and "C" on DP 59276 created by Transfer B112207.2 and subject to a *profit d prendre* (minerals) (in gross) over parts marked "G" and "H" on DP 72284 in favour of Firth Industries Limited for a term of 100 years from 5 February1985 created by Transfer B347360.2 (affects part formerly part Orongorongo 1A1) and subject to Encumbrance in favour of Michael George Cantrick Stephens and Stephen Bruce Bayliss created by Memorandum of Encumbrance 8527939.2 (all Computer Freehold Register WN42B/597).

Dated at Wellington this 7th day of September 2011. DAVID BENHAM, Chief Executive, Wellington Regional Council.

Reserves Act 1977

Amendment to a Notice Declaring That Land is a Reserve

Under the Reserves Act 1977, the Chief Executive of the Wellington Regional Council amends an error in the notice classifying a reserve dated the 7th day of September 2011 and published in the *New Zealand Gazette*, 8 September 2011, No. 138, page 3957, by replacing in the resolution "Section 19"

with

"Section 19(1)(a)".

Dated at Wellington this 1st day of July 2013. DAVID BENHAM, Chief Executive, Wellington Regional Council.

2310



RECORD OF TITLE **UNDER LAND TRANSFER ACT 2017** FREEHOLD Search Copy



920719 Identifier Land Registration District Wellington Date Issued

22 November 2019

Prior References B437549.1

Estate Area Legal Description Purpose **Registered Owners**

Fee Simple 4046 square metres more or less Part Parangarahu 1A3 Block Recreation Reserve

Wellington Regional Council

Interests

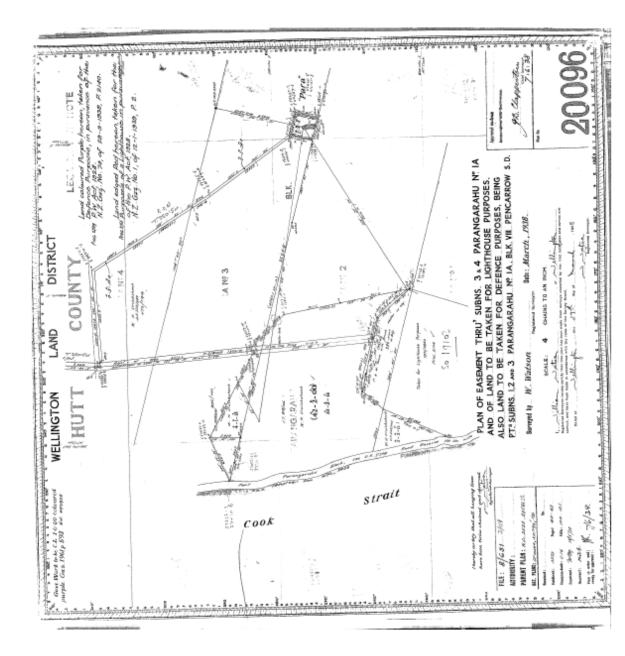
Subject to the Reserves Act 1977

Appurtenant hereto is a right of way and water supply rights created by Transfer 218019 - 14.3.1933 at 2:50 pm

Appurtenant hereto is a right of way created by Transfer 218022 - 15.3.1933 at 2:20 pm

Appurtenant hereto is a right of way created by Transfer 250153 - 7.12.1939 at 10:15 am

Appurtenant hereto is a right of way created by Transfer 250154 - 7.12.1939 at 10:16 am



New Zealand Gazette, 1995, p.1364

Classification and Vesting of Reserve

Pursuant to the Reserves Act 1977, and to a delegation from the Minister of Conservation, the Regional Conservator of the Wellington Conservancy of the Department of Conservation hereby classifies the reserve, described in the Schedule hereto, as a recreation reserve subject to the provisions of the said Act, and further, vests the said reserve in the Wellington Regional Council in trust for that purpose.

Schedule

Wellington Land District-Hutt City

4046 square metres, more or less, being Part Parangarahu 1A3, situated in Block VIII, Pencarrow Survey District together with appurtenant rights of way created by Transfers 218019, 218022, 250153 and 250154 and water supply rights created by Transfer 218019. All Gazette notice B. 432984.1.

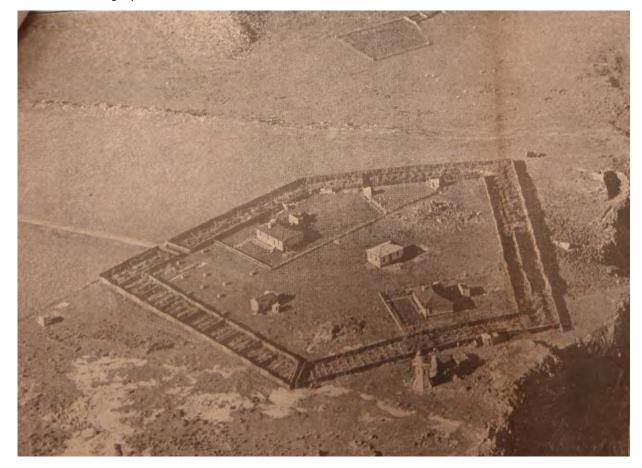
Dated at Wellington this 3rd day of May 1995.

ALLAN ROSS, Regional Conservator.

(Files: DOC RO GA3/101)

ICL

4.2. Appendix 2: Visual Aids to Historical Information



Historical Photographs

Figure 1: Baring Head lighthouse complex, 1935. Source: R19982160, Baring Head – Origin – General, Archives New Zealand.



Figure 2: Baring Head lighthouse complex, 1937. Source: EP-Transport-Shipping-Lighthouses-01, Alexander Turnbull Library.



Figure 3: CO_2 monitoring station, 1972. More structures were subsequently built on the site and the windows appears to have been filled. Source: Dave Lowe.



Figure 4: Construction of the barbeque area behind the powerhouse, early 1980s. Source: Steve O'Neill.

4.3. Appendix 3: Visual Aids to Physical Information

Current Photographs of Area



Figure 5: The main buildings of the lighthouse complex: (I-r) the head keeper's house, the powerhouse and the assistant keeper's house.



Figure 6: The assistant keeper's house.



Figure 7: outbuildings behind the assistant keeper's house.



Figure 8: the head keeper's house⁹⁸



Figures 9-10: outbuildings and chicken coop (right) behind the head keeper's house

⁹⁸ Taken 8 March 2023.



Figure 11: the powerhouse



Figure 12: Remnants of the stone barbeque behind the and powerhouse



Figure 12: the garage



Figure 13: the lighthouse and NIWA mast in the background.



Figure 14: CO_2 monitoring station. The concrete building in the centre is the surviving remnant of the radar station.



Figure 15: remnants of WAAC barracks



Figure 16: 1935 observation post



Figure 17: Original barracks/wireless room (I) and engine room.



Figure 18: remains of the 1940 barracks and ablution block



Figure 19: Pump house

4.4. Appendix 4: Significance Assessment Information

Part 4 of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014

Significance or value (Section 66(1))

Under Section 66(1) of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014, Heritage New Zealand may enter any historic place or historic area on the New Zealand Heritage List/Rārangi Kōrero if the place or area possesses aesthetic, archaeological, architectural, cultural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, technological, or traditional significance or value.