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## **BARING HEAD / ORUA-POUANUI PARK PLACE NAME ORIGINS**

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This document is about the origin of the place names that are located at Baring Head / Orua-Pouanui Park, Wainuiomata.

Baring Head is named after Francis Baring (1800 – 1868) who was a supporter of the New Zealand Company. He was also a member of parliament in England and a banker.

Orua-Pouanui is named after of the place of the den or retreat of Pouanui. O means of. Rua means place. Pouanui is a name of a person.

The area for the purposes of this document is the western side of the Wainuiomata River to Fitzroy Bay starting from about 1460 Coast Road, Wainuiomata and going south. The Greater Wellington Regional Council owns the park and the area covered is about 295 hectares. They have owned the park since 2011. Construction of the lighthouse complex was started in 1931 and completed in 1935. The lighthouse itself and another area are still in private hands but rest has public access. All tracks were marked out in 2011. It excludes rock names along the foreshore at Baring Head / Orua-Pouanui.

Access to the Baring Head / Orua-Pouanui Park is from:

- Beach Access Carpark at 1540 Coast Road, Wainuiomata.
- Lighthouse Road Carpark at 1460 Coast Road, Wainuiomata.
- Fitzroy Bay.

This document is part of a series of the origin of place names of Wainuiomata.

Other documents that relate to the area are:

- For information on the high points on the Ōrongorongo side of the Wainuiomata River watershed area see the Ōrongorongo Place Name Origins document.
- For information on the topographical features such as high points, tracks and streams of Wainuiomata, that is the watershed from the head of the Wainuiomata River to the mouth where it enters the sea at the Wainuiomata Coast and its tributaries, see the Wainuiomata Place Name Origins document.
- For information on central Wainuiomata, such as houses, parks and suburb names etc that are on the flat area see the Wainuiomata Central Place Names Origins document.
- For information on road and street names of Wainuiomata, see the Wainuiomata Street Names Origins document.

For more history about the Māori naming and their association with Baring Head / Orua-Pouanui Park see the book called The Great Harbour of Tara by G. Leslie Adkin.

See also the Wikipedia page on the Baring Head.

The document is laid out in the following style:

Locality Name for example – Baring Head.

Type of geographical feature for example – Headland.

Definition for example – Francis Baring (1800 – 1868) was a supporter of the New Zealand Company. He was also a member of parliament in England and a banker. It is also known as Orua-Pouanui.

Source of the information for example – Map.

Meaning of the information for example – Wikipedia.

Time frame when the name came into existence for example – 1840s.

The Map sources are from various topographical maps as stated in the Bibliography.

See the Bibliography for further sources of information.

**Baring Head**

**Headland**

**Baring Head Bridle Track**

**Track**

**Baring Head Lighthouse Track**

**Track**

Francis Baring (1800 – 1868) was a supporter of the New Zealand Company. He was also a member of parliament in England and a banker. It is also known as Orua–Pouanui. The road to the lighthouse was constructed in 1932.

Source – *Map*. Information – *Wikipedia*. Time Frame – *1840s*.

**East Harbour Bridge**

**Bridge**

Geographical term in that the area is on the east side of the harbour. The first bridge was in existence from 1932 to 2018 when it was replaced by another one just downstream. It is also known as the Lighthouse Bridge and Whites Bridge.

Source – *Greater Wellington Regional Council*. Information – *Internet Dictionary*. Time Frame – *1930s*.

**Fitzroy Bay Lookout Track**

**Track**

Robert Fitzroy (1805 – 1865) was a Governor General of New Zealand from 1843 to 1845. He was also the captain on the ship *Beagle* with Charles Robert Darwin (1809 – 1882) who came up with a theory of evolution.

Source – *Map*. Information – *Wikipedia*. Time Frame – *1840s*.

**Lighthouse Complex Track**

**Track**

A tower or other structure containing a beacon light to warn or guide ships at sea. The road to the lighthouse was constructed in 1932.

Source – *Map*. Information – *Internet Search*. Time Frame – *1930s*.

**Orua-Pouanui**

**Headland**

Of the place of the den or retreat of Pouanui. O means of. Rua means place. Pouanui is a name of a person. It is also known as Baring Head.

Source – *The Great Harbour Of Tara by G. Leslie Adkin*. Information – *The Great Harbour Of Tara by G. Leslie Adkin*. Time Frame – *1800s*.

**Pumphouse River Track**

**Track**

Where the water was pumped from the Wainuiomata River up the hill and over to the World War 2 (1939 – 1945) observation post at Mt Para and the houses at the Lighthouse. The pumphouse was built in 1940.

Source – *Map*. Information – *Research Report on Heritage Features Baring Head, Wellington by the Greater Wellington Regional Council*. Time Frame – *1940*.

**Pylon Track**

**Track**

A tall tower-like structure used for carrying electricity cables high above the ground. These were constructed between 1948 to 1950 when the lighthouse was switched from diesel to electricity.

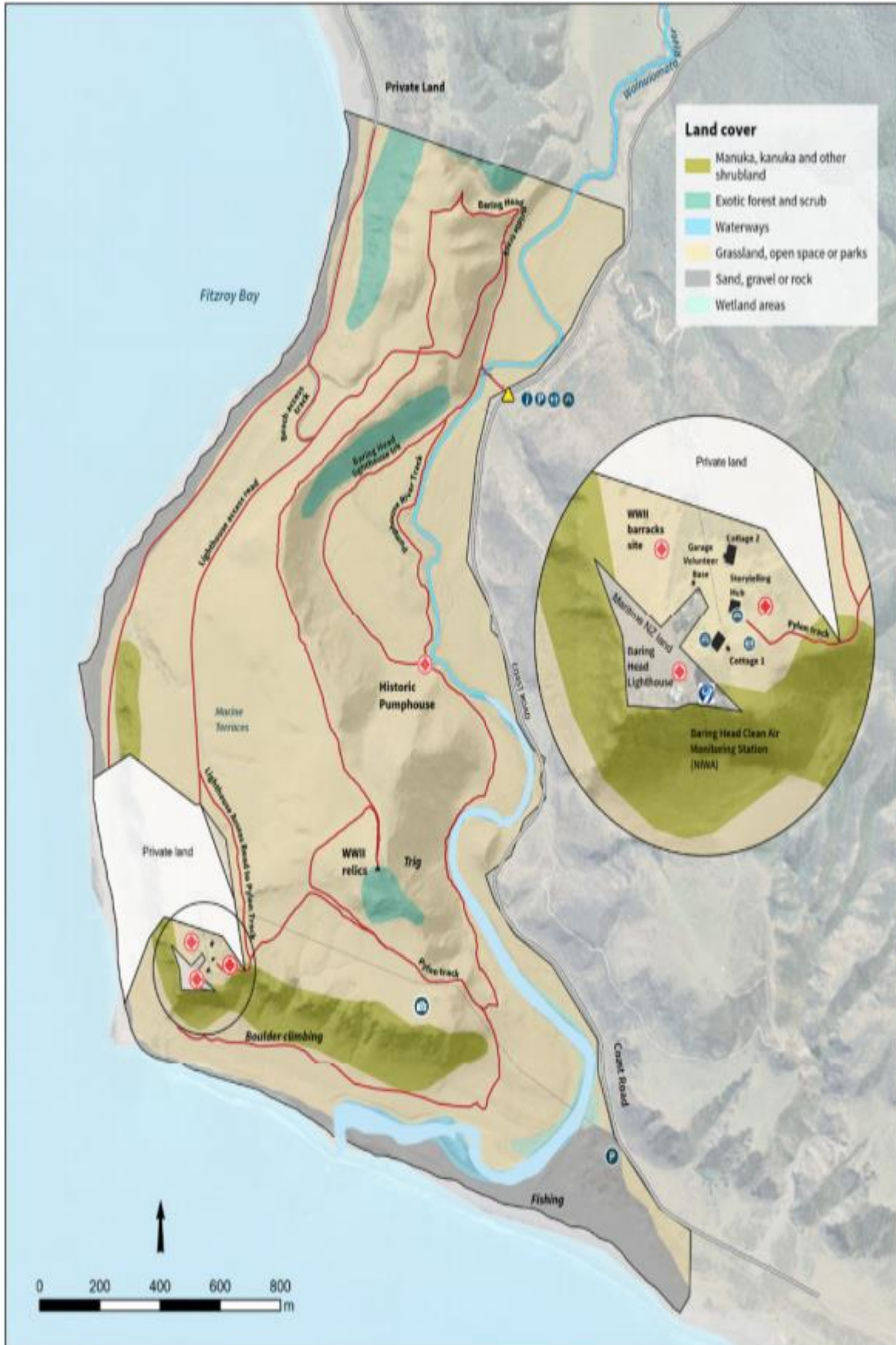
Source – *Map*. Information – *Research Report on Heritage Features Baring Head, Wellington by the Greater Wellington Regional Council*. Time Frame – *1950*.

**WWII Lookout Trig Track**

**Track**

Where there are remnants of a World War 2 (1939 – 1945) lookout post. This was first originally constructed in 1935 but was upgraded in 1940. It is also known as Mt Para. This is named after the Māori settlement called Parangarahu located in the southern end of Fitzroy Bay that existed until the 1850s.

Source – *Map. Information – Research Report on Heritage Features Baring Head, Wellington by the Greater Wellington Regional Council. Time Frame – 1940s.*



## **Bibliography**

### **Maps**

- Lower Hutt BQ32 Edition 1.08 2019.

### **Other Sources**

Birth and Deaths dates have been obtained from:

- Birth, Death and Marriage Indexes from New Zealand, England and Ireland.
- Other genealogy sources such as Ancestry and Find My Past.

Other:

- Greater Wellington Regional Council website.
- Internet Dictionary.
- Internet Searches.
- Wikipedia.

### **Books / Documents**

- Adkin, G. Leslie. The Great Harbour of Tara.
- Best, Elsdon. The land of Tara and they who settled it.
- Foley, Kristen. Wellington Rock – A Guide for Climbers.
- Greater Wellington Regional Council. Research Report on Heritage Features Baring Head, Wellington.
- Kenneally, J. M. and B. M. Wainuiomata These Passing Years.
- Lane–Taylor, Joanne. The History of the Orongoronga Valley and Environs.
- Reed, A. W. A Dictionary of Maori Place Names.

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