



Learning to Grow; Growing to Learn

Whakapū te ake; Whakaako te tipu

Ko Kohukohunui te maunga
(Hunua ranges is the mountain)

Ko Wairoa te awa
(Hunua to Maraetai is the river)

Ko Tainui te waka
(Tainui is the canoe)



Ko Flat bush te whenua
(Flat bush is the land)

Ko Ngai tai te iwi
(Ngai tai is the tribe)

Ko Baverstock Oaks te kura
(Baverstock Oaks is the school)

The Story of Where our School Sits

This helps people connect to the place where they are and to places they have already been to. Connection is very important in Te Ao Māori, we call this **whakawhanaungatanga**.



Baverstock oaks School

Learning To Grow Growing to Learn

Ko Kohukohunui te maunga



Kohukohunui (688 metres) is the highest point in the Hunua Ranges.

Māori made some use of the ranges and early European visitors found areas of clearing that had been used as gardens. Ngāi Tai are tangata whenua. Some Māori archaeological sites are known. The main part of the ranges was subject to confiscation after the New Zealand Wars.

Early European use of the ranges was for timber extraction and for farming but low soil fertility limited success. There has been some mining of Manganese in the past.

From the 1920s onwards the land was progressively bought by Auckland City Council utilising funds from its water supply operation.

Ko Wairoa te awa

The Wairoa River (long water) river runs south-southwest from its headwaters in the Hunua Ranges. It turns northward, falling over the Hunua Falls before veering north eastward at Clevedon. It finally winds through an estuary to reach its entrance to the Hauraki Gulf at Pouto Point. We believe that the Ngai Tai used this river for transportation reasons.



The Wairoa River plunges over the Hunua Falls.

Ko Tainui te waka

When the Tainui waka reached Aotearoa, its first landfall was at Whangaparaoa, at the eastern end of the Bay of Plenty.

On arrival, the captain of the canoe, Hoturoa, built an altar there to give thanks to the Gods for their safe arrival, and to seek continuing protection and sanction for the future well-being of the ship's company.

Geneological traditions tell us that some of the company stayed behind in the Bay of Plenty, at both Whangaparaoa and further west at Torere, but the majority continued westward to Coromandel (where one of the sails was left at Whitianga).

Eventually they entered the Hauraki Gulf and the Waitemata, where some others left the Tainui waka and settled on the narrow isthmus which later became known as Tamaki-makaurau.

Some sources say that there was a landing at Whakakaiwhara, the headland of the Wairoa River, in what is now Duder Regional Park.

Ko Flat bush te whenua

European settlement began in the 1840s onwards with most settlers of the wider East Tamaki area being from Scotland and Ireland. The most prominent settler of Flat Bush during this period was the Wesleyan missionary Reverend Gideon Smales. He purchased a 400 acre block from the Government which included Te Puke o Tara. He farmed the land at the foot of the hill and opened a quarry on the mountain. The hill has been mostly destroyed through quarrying.



Ko Ngai tai te iwi

The first people who are associated with the Flat Bush area are members of the Maori tribe known as Ngai Tai. Originally known as Ngati Tai the Ngai Tai iwi are descendants of the Tainui Canoe.

There had been fighting at Torere where the Tainui canoe had landed and the Ngai Tai leader of the time, Tamatea Toki Nui, urged his children and other members of the tribe to leave.

His three daughters sailed from Torere, to Papa Aroha to visit with relations. They met another visiting party of relatives from the Tamaki Maraetai section of Ngati Tai and they made their home within the Maraetai-Wairoa-Hunua areas. From that time the broader name of Ngai Tai was likely retained. These are the ancestors of the people who make up Ngai Tai today.



The footprint preserved in ash following the eruption of Rangitoto.

Ko Baverstock Oaks te kura

In February 2005, Baverstock Oaks School opened its doors to the then, new inhabitants of Flatbush. The school is built on a 4.13 hectare site and is located on part of the original Baverstock family farm. It was therefore only fitting that the school use the name of the prominent local family.

In the heart of the school are some large oak trees, originally planted by Charles Baverstock. Planning the school's buildings was carefully done to ensure the trees survived and the name Baverstock Oaks School, was chosen.

