

Remembering the Battle of Gate Pā - Pukehinahina.

April 29th this year marks the 157th anniversary of the Battle of Gate Pā- Pukehinahina. The Anglican Parish of Gate Pā is offering a short service at 4pm on that Monday in Hori Tapu - St. Georges Anglican Church to commemorate this battle and to honour all those who fought and died in this tragic event; to reflect on the consequences of these military engagements for ngā iwi o Tauranga Moana; and to consider the significance of this whole story for us as a city today.

The service will start at 4pm, when the British forces began their march up Pukehinahina. We will hear an account of the battle followed by a time of silent reflection with images playing on the screens. At 4.30 the bell will be rung 60 times to remember the approximately 60 men who lost their lives in the battle and we will be led in prayers/karakia for the future of our city. This year Otamataha Trust chairperson Puhirake Ihaka will speak about the significance of this battle for us as a city, and what might happen in the future to acknowledge our history. The Otamataha Trust, which was created in 2014, administers property in Tauranga on behalf of Ngati Tapu and Ngai Tamarawaho. Puhirake played a significant role in championing the legislation in 2014 that formally established the Otamataha Trust to enable property to be used for the benefit of people and hapu from whose tupuna that property was originally derived. Puhirake also sits on the Elms Trust Board.

The service will be followed by refreshments in the lounge.

Because St. Georges Church sits on the site of the Battle of Gate Pā we feel a sense of responsibility for holding the story of both the battles and the aftermath with integrity, and to offer ways the people can hear about, engage with and reflect upon these stories and what they mean for us living in Tauranga Moana today. 2014 saw huge gatherings to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the battles of Gate Pā and Te Ranga with some very significant events held on the actual days of the battles. This will be the seventh time we have offered this service as a place for those who wish to continue to mark this day and its significance. It continues to be our hope that this service will be the beginning of some ongoing events for the people of this city to engage with the story of the New Zealand and conflicts and our colonial past and how these shape present day New Zealand society. This is part of our contribution to this ongoing work.

Dates and times:

Thursday 29th April at 4pm

The service will be held at Hori Tapu - St. Georges Anglican Church, 1 Church St. Gate Pā (on the corner of Cameron Rd. and Church St. above the Mega Mitre 10).



For more information please contact

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