

An example of an early partnership between Māori and pākehā came at Horeke on the upper reaches of the Hokianga Harbour. In 1826, three Australian businessmen set up New Zealand's first large scale manufacturing plant. They partnered with local Māori to build ships, using the abundant kauri forests nearby as their building material. At its height the yard employed up to 50 English boat builders and many local Māori. Horeke was so isolated that many of the metal fastenings and other building supplies, as well as food, was sailed across from Sydney, Australia, a week's sail away in a good wind.

The first boat produced was a 40 tonne schooner called the 'Enterprise', launched in 1827. The next year a boat carrying a very important name, the 'New Zealander,' was launched and was much larger at 140 tonnes. The boat was named for a carved figurehead on the bow of a Māori, known in the rest of the world at that time as a New Zealander. The boat set a new speed record to Australia of six days, but within a decade she had broken her anchor chain and was wrecked on rocks at Mahia Peninsula.

After only three ships had been made, the Australian owners of the business went bankrupt, closing the business. Horeke Tavern, the oldest pub in New Zealand, which had started as a business supplying food and drink to the shipyard workers feared they would go bankrupt too. Extensions were made to the original one room pub to make sure that the local flax-processing settlement would get their supplies from there. Many Māori women would cut and process the flax, creating ropes for ships for the endless stream of passing ships. The Horeke Pub still operates to this day.



Local economies and trade

Produced by Paul Tucker@Orewa College (2023)

Questions (look in the text for highlight clues!)

- 1) Who owned the Horeke ship yards?
- 2) What do you think was the main reason why the shipyard was built at Horeke?
- 3) In what year was 'New Zealander' launched?
 - a) 1826
 - b) 1827
 - c) 1828
- 4) What record did the 'New Zealander' hold?
- 5) What is the main reason why boats had to sail to Sydney, Australia, from Horeke?
 - a) To break sailing records.
 - b) To obtain more workers.
 - c) To get supplies for the shipyard.
- 6) Why were the Horeke shipyards closed?
- 7) What product was useful to sailors, created by the women of the flax-processing plant?

Word Salad

Find the meaning of these words and put each of these words into a sentence.

- 1) abundant
- 2) isolated
- 3) wrecked

Naming Words (Pronouns)

For each sentence find the word that is used in place of a person.

- 1) Everybody worked hard at Horeke.
- 2) The women made themselves available.
- 3) He launched the boat into the harbour.



This extraordinary korowai (cloak) was created in the early 1820's and purchased by one of the three owners of the Horeke shipyards.

It is the only surviving cloak that is made from kākāpō feathers, over 11,000 (eleven thousand) of them! It can be seen in a museum in Perth, Scotland.

