

History shows that the oldest building in our local community is Orewa House. This has stood next to Nukumea stream for over 160 years. It was originally built by Captain Rhodes for his Māori wife using timber from large kauri trees.



When the Rhodes family moved to Thames, Orewa House was purchased by Major Grut, establishing a home for the Grut family for generations. They were responsible for making their home into a postal depot for the region, with goods and supplies arriving by steam boat from Auckland. Along with the post came many visitors so for a time Orewa house became known as a boarding house. Travellers often stayed before travelling overland to the hot springs at Waiwera or further to Puhoi. It was Major Grut and his sons that carved out the road across the coastal hills above Orewa and Waiwera. The local government was going to build the road north through Wainui, but the path cut from the bush by the Grut family meant that the new road would now pass in front of Orewa House.

In 1919 the house was purchased by Edward and Alice Eaves. Their hospitality became famous in the region, throwing lavish parties, yachting regattas and delivering fine home cooked meals for all their guests. Alice gifted a large section of the land behind the house to the local community for their enjoyment, re-planting the slopes with many kauri trees. Today the public can still walk through this reserve known as Eaves Bush. Orewa House still stands, watching Orewa change over time.

Origins, voyaging and adaptation
Produced by Paul Tucker@Orewa College (2022)

Questions (look in the text for highlight clues!)

- 1) Where was the new road from Auckland originally planned to go through?
 - a) Wainui.
 - b) Orewa.
 - c) Puhoi.
- 2) How long has Orewa House stood for?
- 3) What were the two types of business that operated from Orewa House?
 - 1)
 - 2)
- 4) Which one of the three (3) families planted kauri trees?
 - a) The Gruts.
 - b) The Rhodes.
 - c) The Eaves.
- 5) Why were the Eaves family so famous in the region?
- 6) The lasting legacy of the Rhodes family is Orewa House. What is the lasting legacy of the Grut family and the Eaves family?

Word Salad

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

- 1) responsible
- 2) lavish

Describing Noun Words (Adjectives)

For each sentence find the word that describes a naming word.

- 1) The building was very long.
- 2) The new owners moved in quickly.
- 3) The roses bloomed red in spring.

