



Ōrewa House soon after Alice Eaves purchased it and as it looks today. Behind the house is the Alice Eaves Scenic Reserve and Nukuhau Pā.

At the northern end of Ōrewa Beach there is a forest that survived the changes that came when pākehā arrived. As a little girl I called this place Nukuhau Pā, named as it looked over Nukumea stream. This was the last inhabited pā site in the region, falling in 1821 to a heavily armed Ngāpuhi raiding party. Many were killed, others fled and only a few elders stayed in the pā after the battle, refusing to leave the only home they had ever known. They used the abundant fishing grounds, cared for each other and waited for their time to die. Today this important place has all but been forgotten, its defensive ditches overgrown with scrub, the whare and people returned to the soil and the flat living area of the pā now home to mighty kauri trees.

The first pākehā owner of the land was Captain Rhodes who purchased it and built Ōrewa House in 1857, on the beach side of Nukumea Stream. I worked for him for a few years in his role as postmaster, receiving mail that arrived by boat and helping deliver it to the few homes in the region. I liked the captain as he was like me, a go-between. He had married a Māori wahine and had two children that looked a little like speckled potatoes too. I would speak with the captain as we rode horses around the region, explaining why Māori had left the area, explaining the unfairness of the Mahurangi Purchase to tribes, and showing him the best fishing spots.

When I next visited Ōrewa House it would be as a guest of the Eaves family, who in 1919 had turned it into a boarding house. Mrs Eaves provided a great atmosphere for all travellers who stayed, holding sailing races in the stream and playing the latest dance music at night. Hearty home cooked meals and lawn games happened everyday, as well as day trips over the hill to the healing waters of Waiwera. It would be Alice Eaves that secured the heavily forested land that loomed over Ōrewa House. She gifted the land in 1955 to the council so it could be used by all. The council has created a walking track, large wooden boardwalks and placed signs that educate walkers about some of the history of this special place. When I walk through the park now I am thankful to all the people who owned this special land, knowing that they all acted as kaitiaki (guardians).

- 1) When was Ōrewa House first built?
 - a) 1821
 - b) 1857
 - c) 1919
- 2) What do you think the te reo Māori word 'wahine' means from the sentence in the story?
 - a) A Māori chief.
 - b) A Māori woman.
 - c) A Māori go-between.
- 3) What are two uses that Ōrewa House has had that are mentioned in the story?
- 4) What is the reason from the story that many travellers found themselves at Mrs Eaves boarding house?
 - a) Her legendary parties.
 - b) To compete in the sailing races.
 - c) To travel to the healing waters over the hill.
- 5) Which is not a feature added by the Auckland Council for the public?
 - a) Signs about the history of the place.
 - b) The planting of kauri trees.
 - c) Wooden boardwalks.
- 6) What were three activities that Alice Eaves often put on for the enjoyment of her guests?
- 7) What are two reasons that members of the defeated tribe stayed on at Nukuhau Pā?
- 8) What is one feature of the pā that can still be seen today in Alice Eaves Park?
- 9) What are two reasons that Wikitoria gave for her liking of Captain Rhodes?
- 10) Which of the following groups do you think is most responsible for protecting the heavily forested land? Explain why you think this.
 - Māori
 - Alice Eaves
 - Auckland Council

Word Salad

There are many unusual words and phrases in the story you have just read. Complete the following tasks to ensure your understanding:

- 1) Find the definitions of the following English words.
 - a) inhabited
 - b) elder
 - c) abundant
 - d) scrub
 - e) loomed
- 2) Use each of the five words/phrases in five separate sentences using your own words.

Parts of Speech:

The following sentences have many different parts of speech. Identify a noun, an adjective and a preposition in each sentence:

- a) The little buggy bounced over the hill.
- b) Wikitoria stood under the huge tree.
- c) Her speckled skin slipped under the sheets.

Did You Know?

The story states that Alice Eaves gifted the land to the Auckland council in 1955, being named in her honour. She made the bequest in her will as she died that year. It would not be until 1973 that the land where Nukuhau Pā stood would be added to the reserve. This had been owned by Alice's son Victor Eaves - who has another park named after him in Ōrewa! (see the image below) - who, like his mother, wanted the park to be enjoyed by all the public.

