

## Glorit residents celebrate 150 years

- DELWYN DICKEY
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Delwyn Dickey

The kiwi release crowd at the Mataia homestead in 2013

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Farming areas around the Kaipara Harbour flow into one another around the body of water.

Each little district similar to its neighbours. And so it is for Glorit, with its rugged 'character building' hills that abruptly end in rolling pinned flats flowing out to salt marshes at the harbour's edge.

When the first European settlers arrived in the area, the wetlands were far more extensive than today and the area was called Araparera - "walk of the duck" - seemingly for all the ducks that lived in the swamps in the area.



Delwyn Dickey

A new kind of settler: Instead of clearing land Thomas and Mahrukh Stazyk's land at Glorit has been restored to native bush.

John and Margaret Gardner, along with their two sons, gave the area its name when they named their new farm.

The family bought the land from Hori Te Mori in 1868. John wanted the farm named after Glorat, a farming area near Glasgow, and an estate he had visited there when he lived and worked in the area as a butcher. Apparently struggling to understand their broad Scottish accent the land clerk misspelt the name when registering the farm, and Glorit has stuck.

The current Mataia homestead was built in 1891 and, along with the farm, is still in the Gardner family.



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Abingdon rugby tour students were just some of the volunteers that helped on the Cue Haven restoration project.

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Often the event that stands out in most communities is a tragedy and so it was at Glorit when 10 people, including five members of the Perkins family, drowned in a boating accident on the Kaipara Harbour in 1895.

After sailing to Motorimu Island for a picnic one day that summer, the sail boat they were in capsized in strong winds and big waves. With the fast currents the Kaipara is renowned for, and with no one able to swim, they all drowned. This included Mrs Perkins and her four children aged from 10 to 21.



DELWYN DICKEY/STUFF

The memorial erected in the tiny Glorit cemetery for the 10 people including five members of the Perkins family who drowned in the Kaipara Harbour in 1895

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In charge of the boat, Thomas Edwards had tried to save the others, but in the end was the only survivor.

The farming community has become something of a conservation enclave in more recent times including with Gil Adshead (nee Gardner) and her husband Kevin heavily involved with a pest eradication project which saw brown kiwi returned to the wild on Mataia farm. They are also involved with the Forest Bridge Trust raising funds and encouraging farmers to fence off remnant bush in the area, particularly along the Hoteo River and school children and communities to do pest trapping locally.

The local Puatahi Marae, part of Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara has been heavily involved with pest control in the 615 hectare former Department of Conservation reserve Atuanui/Mt Auckland since taking it over as part of their Treaty of Waitangi settlement.

Thomas and Mahrukh Stazyk bought a small 24 hectare dairy farm in 2003 and have since, with volunteers' help, planted more than 165,000 native trees to return it to native bush. Called Cue Haven the Stazyk's gifted the property to the CUE Haven Community Trust on 1 July 2017, for the community to use and enjoy.

To acknowledge the 150 years of permanent European settlement in Glorit, Cue Haven and Mataia homestead will open to the public free of charge for picnicking and walks on March 16 and 17.

Register for a five hour circular self-guided walk or a three hour self-guided walk through conservation areas at Mataia with Gill at [kqadshead@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kqadshead@xtra.co.nz)

- Stuff