

# Heritage Walks of Devonport

## Devonport Waterfront

Approximately 1 hour walk

Please respect the privacy of owners  
by not entering their properties

### Explore North Shore

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Thanks for the support of the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board  
and all the residents of Devonport who have contributed  
to the development of this project

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## Don't miss these three additional walks which explore other areas of Devonport's development

### Victoria Road – Town Centre

The walk along Victoria Road features many late Victorian  
and Edwardian commercial buildings at the heart of the town centre, as well  
as Windsor Reserve. Mount Victoria is an optional loop.

### Cheltenham – Fort Takapuna

Starting from Torpedo Bay, this walk continues along  
Cheltenham Beach, up Vauxhall Road to Fort Takapuna and loops back  
beside the Waitemata Golf Course and Tainui Road.

### Our Neighbourhood

This wander through established residential streets  
highlights homes of early Devonport residents, as well as  
the first power station, the Mount Victoria cemetery  
and some of Devonport's early churches.  
The Devonport Museum and Mount Victoria are optional loops.

## Fact or Fiction?

### Local Folklore & Fanciful Anecdotes

- As far back as 1891, the Devonport Borough Council stated in its annual report, that public opinion was quite against encouraging women bathers and even hinted the hours of bathing by males on beaches to be before 8am and after 6pm. Mixed bathing was strictly prohibited.
- King Edward Parade has been known previously by two other names: in 1859 it was originally called The Strand, and later Beach Road. It was given its present name in 1901 to commemorate the coronation of King Edward.
- A therapy pool was built at the base of North Head, for First World War soldiers. The natural flow of the tide would fill it with sea water. Structure repaired in 2008 by Rotary Devonport.
- North Head is a prime viewing point for activities on the harbour, including cruise ship arrivals, the annual Anniversary Day Regatta, Coastal Classic Race to Russell, Round The World yacht races and even a Nuclear Peace flotilla which met US naval vessels in the 1980s. Huge crowds pack onto North Head to welcome and farewell boats of all descriptions.
- Devonport Yacht Club is proud to claim Peter Blake, world-renowned yachtsman (Whitbread, America's Cup, special envoy for the UN Environment Programme), as a former member. His widow, Lady Pippa Blake, is still the Patron.
- In July 1976, Devonport Council asked for government assurance that no nuclear ships would be given permission to berth at Devonport Naval Base. In September 1980 the Devonport Council declared itself a Nuclear-Free zone.
- The North Shore United Football Association Club, founded in 1887, is one of NZ's oldest. NZ's first cricket club was formed in Devonport in 1864, just after the Waikato Wars ended.
- In 1942, a net boom extending from North Head across to the southern side of the harbour was built to stop torpedos and submarines from entering the harbour.

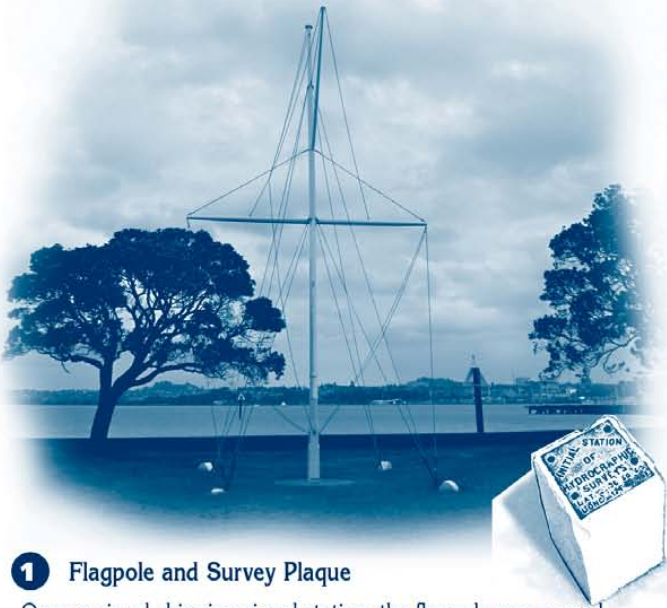


**K**ing Edward Parade stretches along the foreshore from Devonport Wharf to North Head. During the early nineteenth century a commercial centre was developed, beginning with the Masonic Hotel, and various boat-building facilities (including Logan, Bailey, Holmes and Beddoes). By 1914, King Edward Parade was graced with a string of residential buildings.

## Devonport Waterfront



*Start from Devonport Wharf (opposite the Esplanade). Walk east through Windsor Reserve, towards King Edward Parade. Keep on the seaward side.*

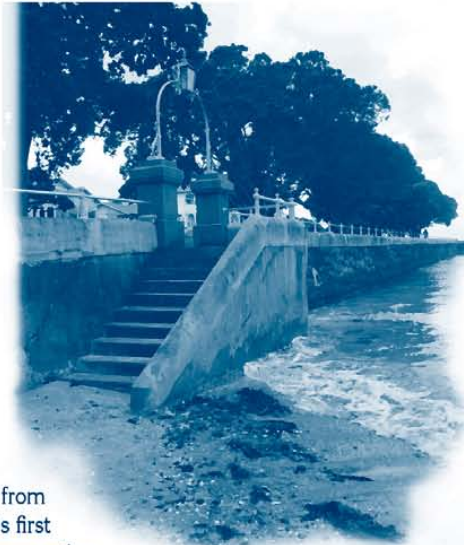


### 1 Flagpole and Survey Plaque

Once a visual shipping signal station, the flagpole was moved from Mount Victoria in 1957, to mark the site of the birthplace of the New Zealand Navy. In the 1840s naval vessels had stores and repair depots in the area. It is also one of the many areas along the foreshore where Maori canoes landed in 1350 AD.

### 2 Commemorative Sea Wall

Begun in 1902 and completed in 1929 the scoria and concrete commemorative sea wall was erected by the Devonport Borough Council, to mark the Coronation of Edward VII. Devonport Borough Council were able to secure partial funding from the government for this first stage of the wall as a coronation monument, but with the news of the end of the second Anglo-Boer War having recently been received, its official opening became an impromptu celebration of peace in South Africa as well.



### 3 HAMPTON BEACH HOUSE 4 King Edward Parade

This home replaced an earlier dwelling that was destroyed by fire, along with several neighbouring

properties, in 1910. It was designed by architect W A Cumming, and erected in 1912 for Hugh Wright, the founder of the famous menswear retailer, Hugh Wright Ltd. His family-run business went on to become one of the largest and best-known menswear chains in the country, surviving for over a century. Within a few years it became the home of Dr Charles Wheeler, who provided medical services to the Devonport community until shortly before his death in 1937.



### 4 ELIZABETH HOUSE 5 King Edward Parade

Formerly the Ventnor Private Hotel which was destroyed by fire in 1910. The present building was erected in 1911 to a design by architect John Currie and built of brick to decrease the risk of fire. It had 50 guest rooms and an impressive dining room. The Ventnor catered for holiday makers for decades until WWII when it was requisitioned by the Defence Department. After the war the building was renamed Elizabeth House and used by the Navy to accommodate the WRENS – Womens Royal NZ Naval Service. The Navy vacated in 1991 and the building is now in private residence.



### 5 ROCKCLIFF 6a King Edward Parade

This striking stucco Arts and Crafts style house was built in 1923, designed by architect William Cumming, for Gilbert Sanford, who

played a major role in growing the family fishing business. From his front window Sanford would watch the fishing boats head out each day, and if they were late, would be on the telephone asking why.



**6** 7 King Edward Parade

Family home of Oliver Mays who in 1861 taught at a

local school, and two years later became Postmaster of the Devonport area. In 1924 Grey Street was renamed Mays Street in his honour. The house remained in the Mays family, bought in 1946 by granddaughter Jocelyn and her husband, A R D (Rex) Fairburn, a well known poet, literary critic and academic.

**7** EXECUTION SITE  
opposite to corner of Mays Street and King Edward Parade

On the morning of Saturday 23 October 1847 the mutilated bodies of Lieutenant Robert Snow, his wife, and young daughter were found in the burnt-out remains of their home. One of the few Pakeha settlers living on the North Shore from 1841, Robert Snow was officer in charge of the Royal Naval Base.

The hunt for the killer went on for months until finally Joseph Burns confessed to the murders, and stealing £12 from the family. On 17 June 1848, Burns was escorted to the site of the murders where he was hanged in front of a large crowd. He was the first Pakeha to be hanged for a capital crime in New Zealand.



**8** Lava Flows  
opposite 14 King Edward Parade

Lava flows from the eruption of Mount Victoria, many years ago, spread down the mountainside and through to the sea, forming the distinctive black lava flows that are visible beyond the seawall. The stone walls on the opposite side of the road were constructed from rock taken from surrounding paddocks.



**9** Devonport Yacht Club (DYC)

Founded in 1905, but its heritage can be traced back to 1881 when the first regatta was held. Considered one of New Zealand's most respected yacht clubs. The clubhouse was originally the waiting shed on the old Victoria Wharf. The yard is full of colour and activity during winter months, with numerous boats up on cradles being painted and repaired.



**10** Boatbuilders' Plaque Reflects on the growth of the early ship-building industry along the Devonport foreshore.

*Continue past Devonport Yacht Club on the right hand side*

**11** Calliope Sea Scout Hall (former North Shore Rowing Club)

Built in 1900, this was the second clubhouse built for the North Shore Rowing Club, (established 1874) which has become the oldest surviving rowing club in Auckland; the club relocated to Lake Pupuke in the 1960s and their former clubhouse is now used by the Calliope Sea Scouts.



**12** Watson Memorial Clock

Erected to commemorate the former ferry terminal and cargo facilities constructed on this site. Look also for the Duder's Wharf Plaque, behind the clock, on the sea wall.

**13** MASONIC HOTEL

29 King Edward Parade

Designed by architect Richard Keals and erected in 1866 for Thomas Duder, the Masonic Hotel quickly became an important local meeting place in Devonport. In the early days it not only served as the venue for meetings of social and sports bodies, it was also the location of coroners' inquests and local government meetings. The hotel has been extended and altered many times over the years but remains a prominent feature of this part of King Edward Parade. It has recently been converted to apartments.



**14** 30-33 King Edward Parade

A single-storey timber shop on the corner of King Edward Parade and Church Street was demolished and replaced with this two-storey building. Part of this earlier building was left unadorned by the decorative detailing that dominates the rest of the facade. Erected for the Duder brothers in 1912 to a design by Edward Bartley, the eastern end possibly incorporates an earlier building which housed Henry Ford's Refreshment Rooms in the nineteenth century.

**15** 40 King Edward Parade

In 1910 this property became home to Walter Gudgeon, recently retired from several official posts in the Cook Islands. He also played an important role in the invasion of Parihaka in November 1881; by 1887 he was in charge of the New Zealand Police Force, later appointed judge of the Native Land Court, and was one of the founders of the Polynesian Society in 1892. In 1898 Gudgeon was appointed British Resident in the Cooks and was instrumental in establishing a formal relationship between New Zealand and the Cook Islands when the islands were annexed to Great Britain and federated with New Zealand in 1901.





### 16 Tainui Memorial

The Tainui Memorial commemorates the arrival of the Tainui canoe from Polynesia, over 500 years ago. Erected by the Devonport Borough Council in 1959, the orb and bird on the top of the memorial were donated by King Koroki. The text on the memorial reflects the view prevailing in 1959, that the Tainui was part of a 'Great Fleet' of canoes that arrived in 1350 AD.

*Cross the road to Cambridge Terrace. Enter the Devonport Domain, on the right-hand side of this road.*



### 18 Torpedo Bay

Named after the torpedo boats that berthed at the Naval Wharf in 1886. A submarine mining station was established here in the 1880s, in the wake of the Russian scare. In the twentieth century the mining programme was dispensed with, and their buildings were used by the Army. Takapuna was the name of a spring which formerly flowed profusely from the base of Maungauika/North Head. It was named by the commander of the Tainui canoe, after a spring of that name in the Society Islands. Takapuna became the Maori name for the wider Devonport area. The spring was piped when the Naval facility was built at Torpedo Bay in the late nineteenth century.

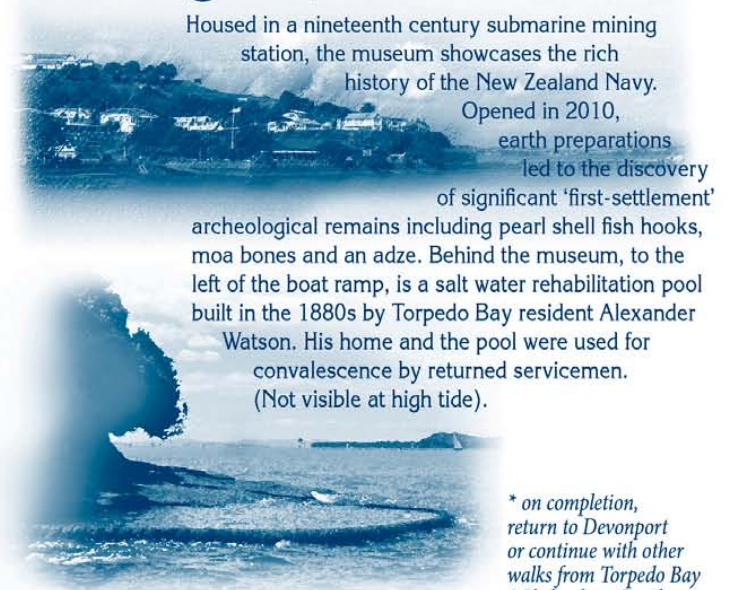
### 20 Plaque on seawall outside museum

Commemorates the arrival of the French Corvette Astrolabe in 1827. It is believed that its commander, Dumont D'Urville, climbed Mount Victoria to survey the harbour.



### 21 The Navy Museum

Housed in a nineteenth century submarine mining station, the museum showcases the rich history of the New Zealand Navy. Opened in 2010, earth preparations led to the discovery of significant 'first-settlement' archeological remains including pearl shell fish hooks, moa bones and an adze. Behind the museum, to the left of the boat ramp, is a salt water rehabilitation pool built in the 1880s by Torpedo Bay resident Alexander Watson. His home and the pool were used for convalescence by returned servicemen. (Not visible at high tide).



*\* on completion, return to Devonport or continue with other walks from Torpedo Bay / Cheltenham Road*



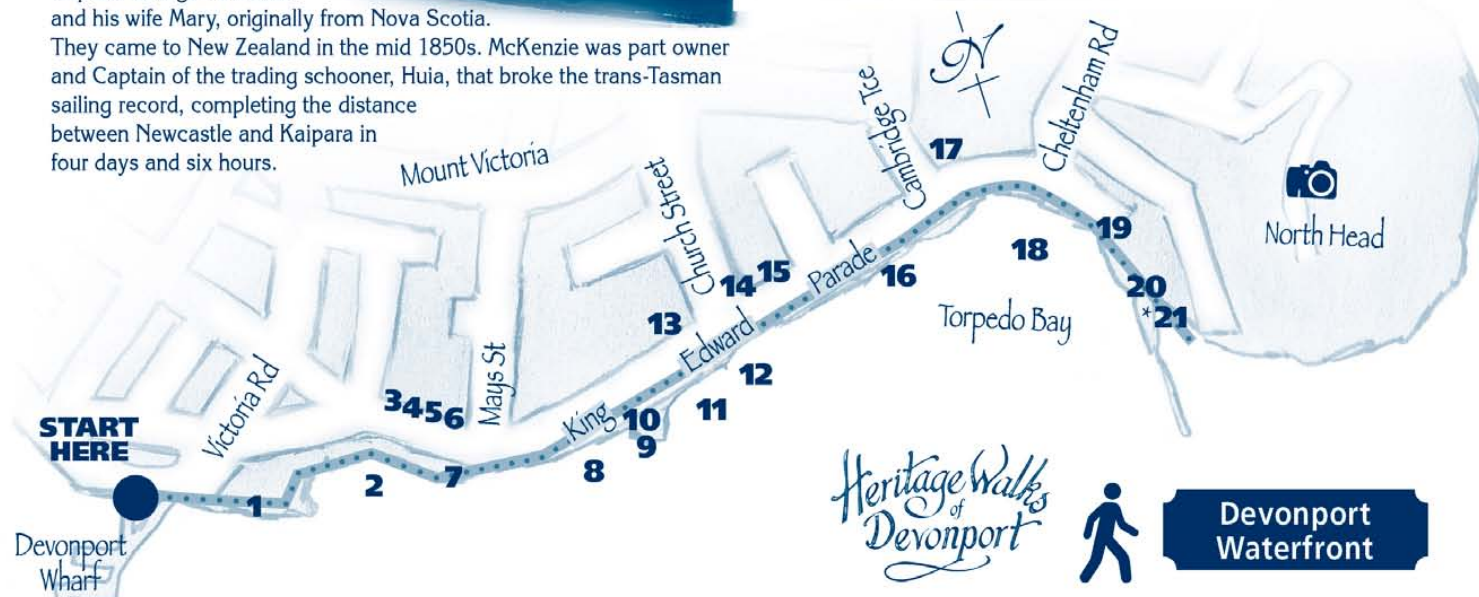
### 17 Cricket Pavillion

Military and civil officers brought the love of cricket with them from England and the North Shore Cricket Club was established in 1864; their first club captain being Captain G Wynyard of the 68th Regiment. In 1890, the newly formed Devonport Borough Council met with the club and agreed that a pitch would be laid on a reclaimed swamp nestled between three extinct volcanoes. The current clubrooms were built in 1966.

*Head through the park, back towards the waterfront, turning left before you get your feet wet*

### 19 62 King Edward Parade

This was the home of Captain George McKenzie and his wife Mary, originally from Nova Scotia. They came to New Zealand in the mid 1850s. McKenzie was part owner and Captain of the trading schooner, Huia, that broke the trans-Tasman sailing record, completing the distance between Newcastle and Kaipara in four days and six hours.



*Heritage Walks of Devonport*



**Devonport Waterfront**