

## PIRONGIA HERITAGE & INFORMATION CENTRE



TE WHARE TAONGA  
O NGA ROHE O AREKAHANARA

### THE CENTRE

The Heritage & Information Centre, on State Highway 39, offers information to visitors about Pirongia and its district. Advice is available about places to visit and things to do.

A variety of displays tell the story of the settlement from its military beginnings to the present day. They include artifacts, and the stories of local families, institutions and the changing landscape.

Information may be obtained about visiting a number of historic sites, including the East Redoubt and the Armed Constabulary Redoubt which the Historic Places Trust describes as the best preserved redoubt in the country. Each is within easy walking distance.

Particular attention is paid to Mount Pirongia which dominates the landscape. The mountain was of great significance to the original Maori occupants of the area and today provides outstanding recreational opportunities.

### HISTORIC SITE

A most significant event in our history, took place in Pirongia on 11th July 1881, when King Tawhiao met Major Mair to declare peace, with a symbolic laying down of arms. This took place on the roadway outside the present Alexandra Hotel.

## THE BUILDING

The Pirongia Heritage & Information Centre, Te Whare Taonga O Ngaa Rohe O Arekahanara, occupies the former St Saviour's Church, located in Franklin Street.

St Saviour's was built in 1901 as an Anglican Church, on the site of the Armed Constabulary Redoubt in Bellot Street, where it served the local congregation until 1959 when the present Anglican Church was built.

In 1960, the old church was removed to Waikeria where it served an inter-denominational congregation at the prison settlement until 1999 when it was deconsecrated and returned to its present site in Pirongia.

The building was refurbished by prisoners from Waikeria and opened as a Visitor Centre in 2003.

The initiative of the Pirongia community and those who preserved the building were publicly recognized in awards by the Waipa District Council in 2003 and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust in 2006.

### OPENING HOURS

**Tuesday to Sunday 10:30 am - 3:30 pm**

Public Holidays except Christmas Day

Other times by prior arrangement

Free entry



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## PIRONGIA VILLAGE A SMALL PLACE WITH A GREAT HISTORY



## GATEWAY TO PIRONGIA FOREST PARK



Pirongia Heritage & Information Centre  
798 Franklin Street, Pirongia  
Phone: (07) 871 9018  
E-mail: [Pirongia.hvc@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Pirongia.hvc@xtra.co.nz)  
[www.pirongiaheritage.org.nz](http://www.pirongiaheritage.org.nz)



1. Armed Constabulary Redoubt. NZ's best preserved Redoubt. Original site of the PHIC Building.



2. Pirongia East Redoubt. Military Reserve Site with an identified ground layout.



3. War Memorial Public Hall, built in 1922 to commemorate World War 1 and later WW 2 soldiers.



4. The Library. Originally the Granary by the Waipa River.



5. Alexandra Hotel. Roadway in front is where King Tawhiao declared peace. (See Historic Site)



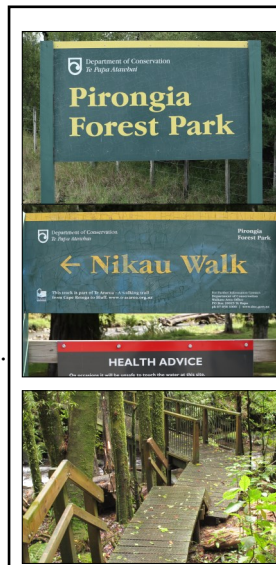
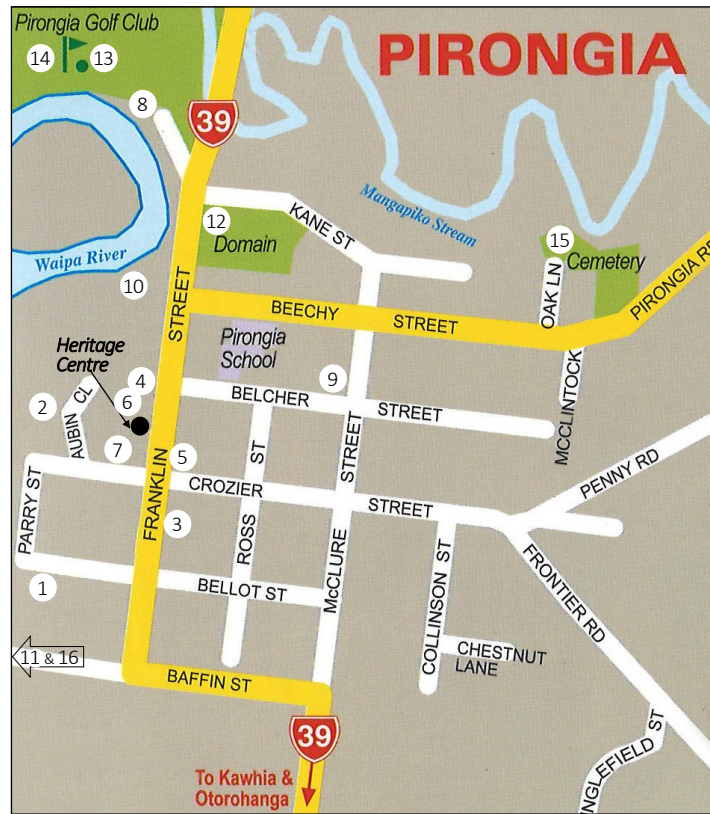
6. The Play Centre. Moved from Pirongia School in 1978. Part of the oldest school building in the Waikato (1873)



7. Enviro Centre. Classroom moved from Pirongia School, now Te Whare Taiau for Pirongia Te Aroaro O Kahu Restoration Soc.



8. Matakitaiki Pa. Famous Battleground. Where the Musket overcame the Mere.



There are many Pirongia Forest Park Walks. DOC Pamphlets at the Centre - Recommended.

Kaniwhaniwha Reserve (Te Pahu) Brochure for Nikau Walk available. View NZ's tallest Kahikatea Tree.

Mangakara Nature Walk. (Greys Road) A really great, easy one hour walk through an original forest that escaped early timber milling.



9. Te Ngahere Conservation Reserve. A park layout of many native plants endemic to the Pirongia area.



10. Esplanade Walk. A popular riverside trail from Franklin Street.



11. Pukehoua High Bridge. Across the Waipa River built in 1914.



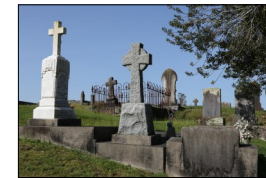
12. Sports Centre. Catering for Rugby, Cricket, Bowls, Squash, Tennis, Netball.



13. Golf Course. Contains a pristine easy walking 18 holes.



14. Racing Club Monument at the Golf Club. The Racing Club was established in 1864 with the final race day in 2018.



15. Alexandra Cemetery. Early settlers graves from 1873 to present day.



16. Mountain Bike Trail. Easy to expert difficulty trails.