



1838 Turanganui harbour William Colenso

TAI TIMU TAI PARI: THE WAHAPŪ OF THE WAIMATĀ

COASTAL RESTORATION TRUST CONFERENCE 2025 UAWA



Let the River Speak team meets with farming community, Waimata Valley hall 2018



Waimatā River Catchment group, Waikereru team (Malcolm Rutherford & Graeme Atkins) & Let the River speak research team March 2021

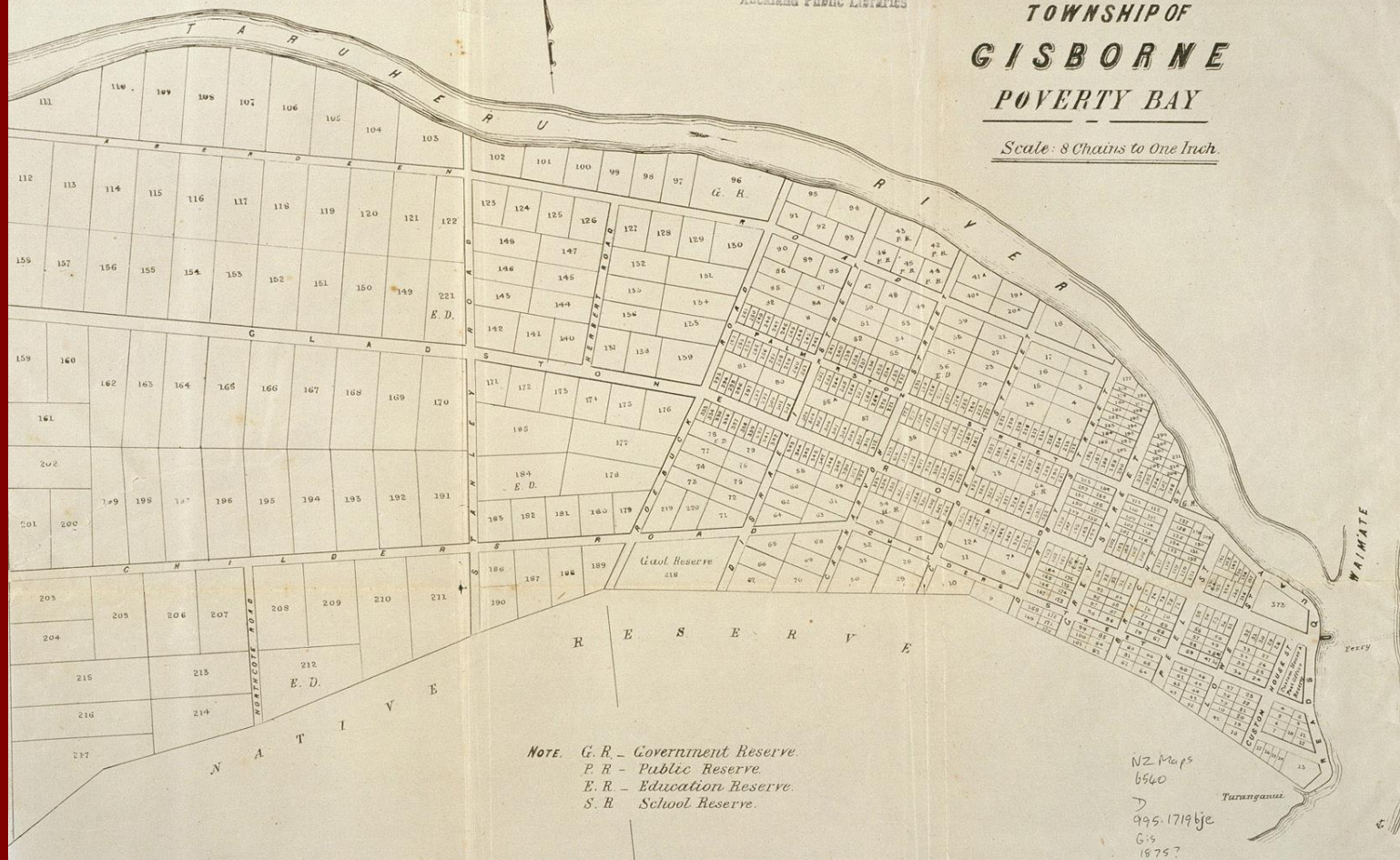


Let the River Speak team with waka ama paddlers

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# TOWNSHIP OF GISBORNE POVERTY BAY

Scale: 8 Chains to One Inch.



Copies of this Map may be obtained from the Publisher, HENRY WISE, Dunedin. Price 1s. each.

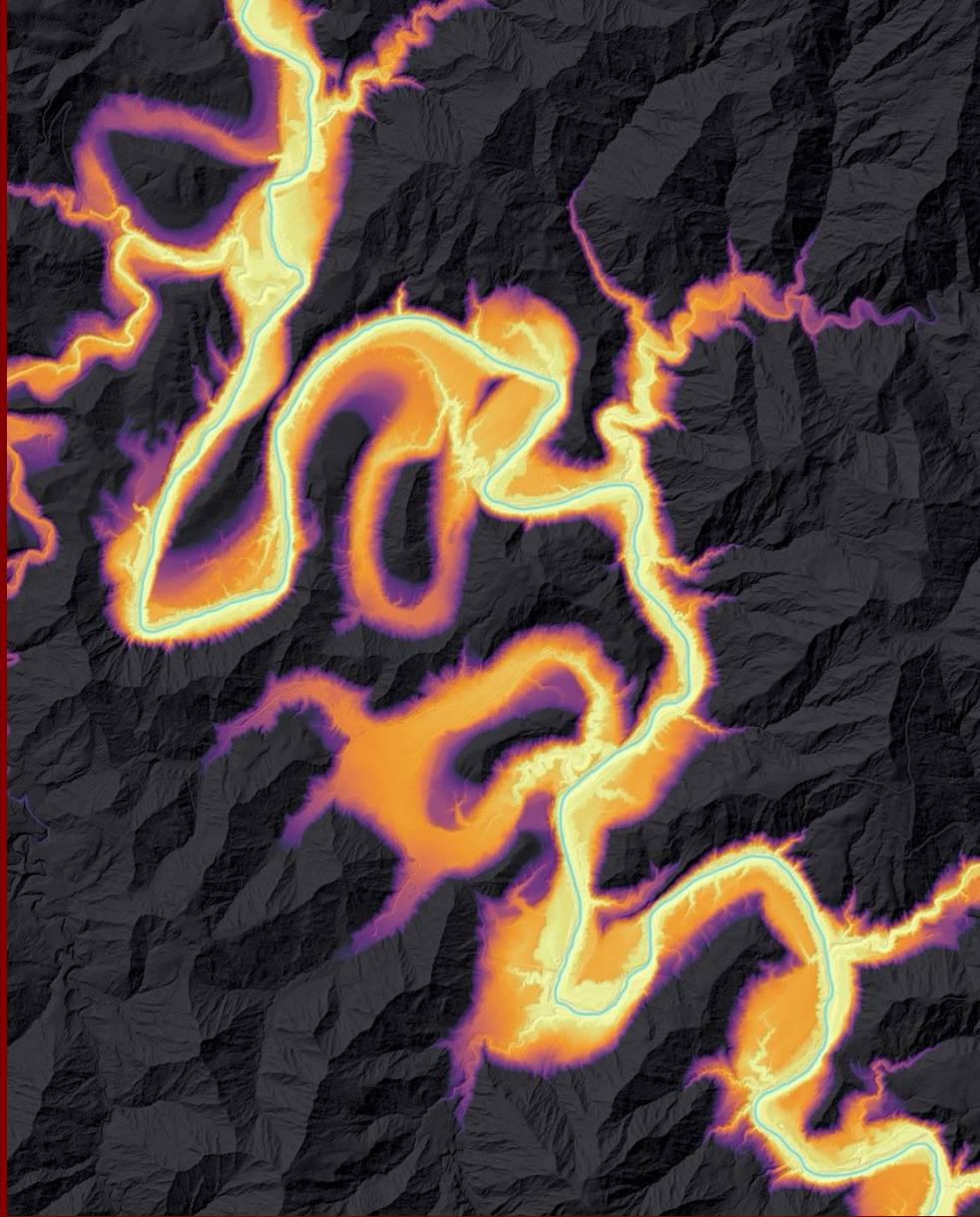
Township of Gisborne c. 1875



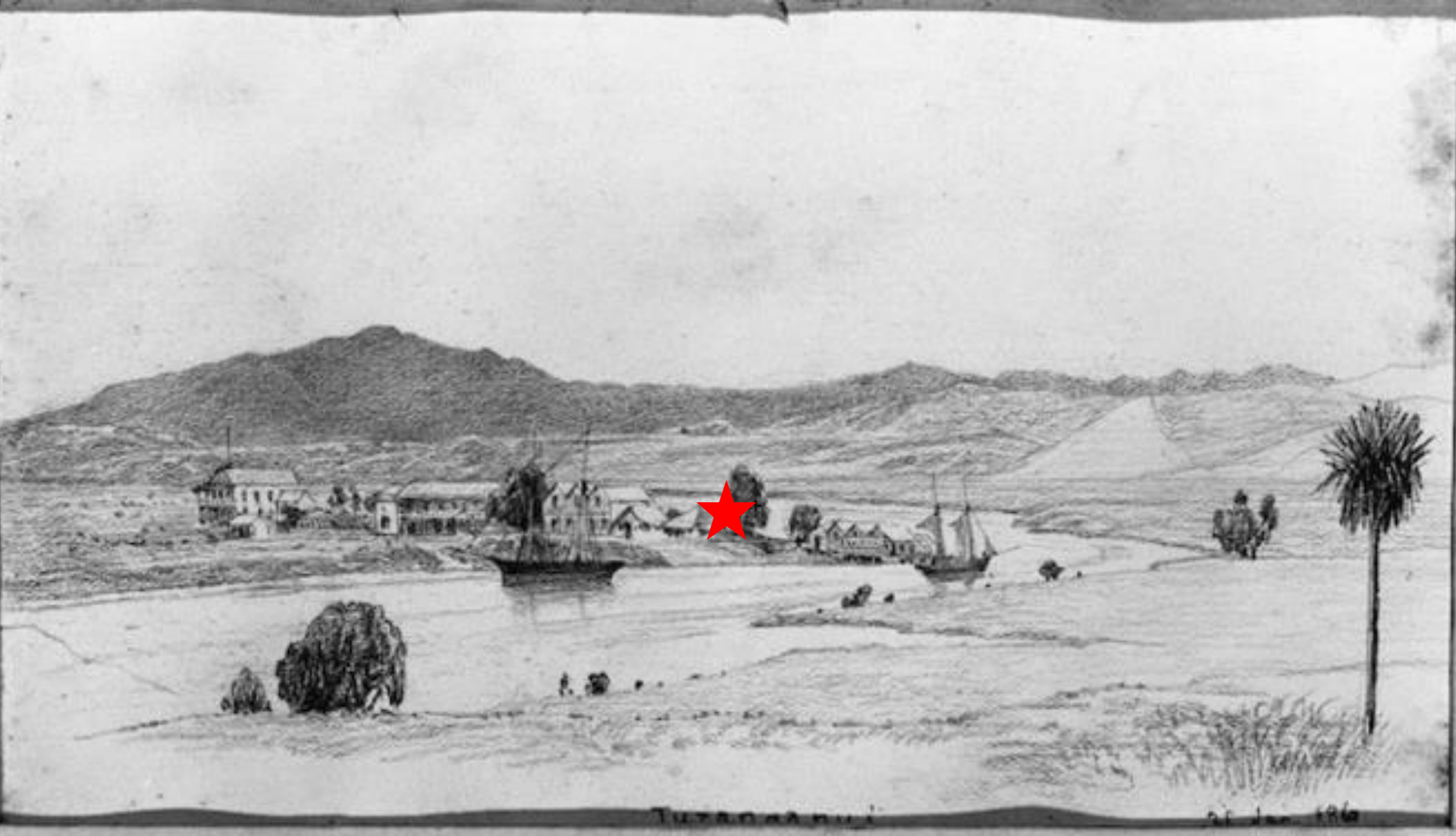
1838 Te Wahapū o Waimatā

Turanganui harbour looking out to sea, showing Titirangi and a settlement on the east side:

Jan 29, William Colenso, Hawkes Bay Cultural Trust



Lidar Map of the Waimatā River, showing its movements through time



1869 The west bank of 'Nga Wai Weherua,' where Kiwa settled generations earlier

Shows hotel buildings, wharf and sailing vessels at Turanganui-a-Kiwa, the original site of Gisborne, before the township of Gisborne was surveyed and named in 1870.



Matuatonga and his wife Hamo-te-rangi built a house called Matatuahu on this site  
1871 the junction of Pitt St and Read's Quay. Ellberbeck Studio



Puhi Kai Iti



1876 Panorama of Gisborne from Kaiti Hill. Part three of a three-photo panorama: Waikanae Stream features. WF Crawford.



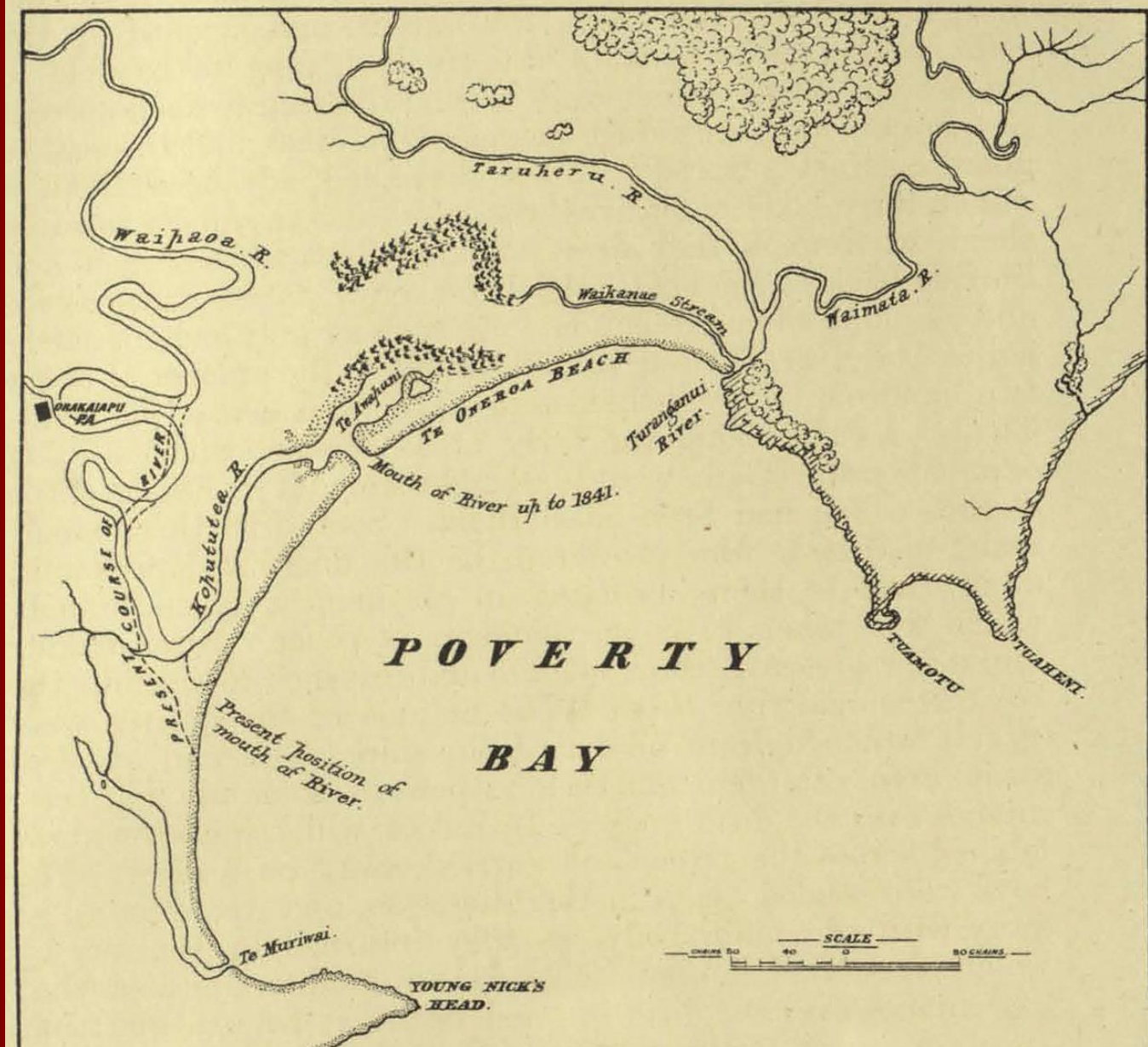
c. 1895 Waimata River above the ford, Gisborne Region  
Daniel Manders Beere [NL 1/2-096217-G]



1886 Looking down Tūranganui from Kopuawhakapata Creek  
WF Crawford.



1887 Gisborne and the bay from above Waimata River, 29 September 1887.  
WF Crawford.



1888 William Leonard Williams sketch of Turanganui River and Waimata at time of Cook's arrival



1905 Re-enactment of Cook's landing, 16 Aug 1905.  
WF Crawford



1905 Re-enactment of Cook's landing, 16 Aug 1905.  
WF Crawford

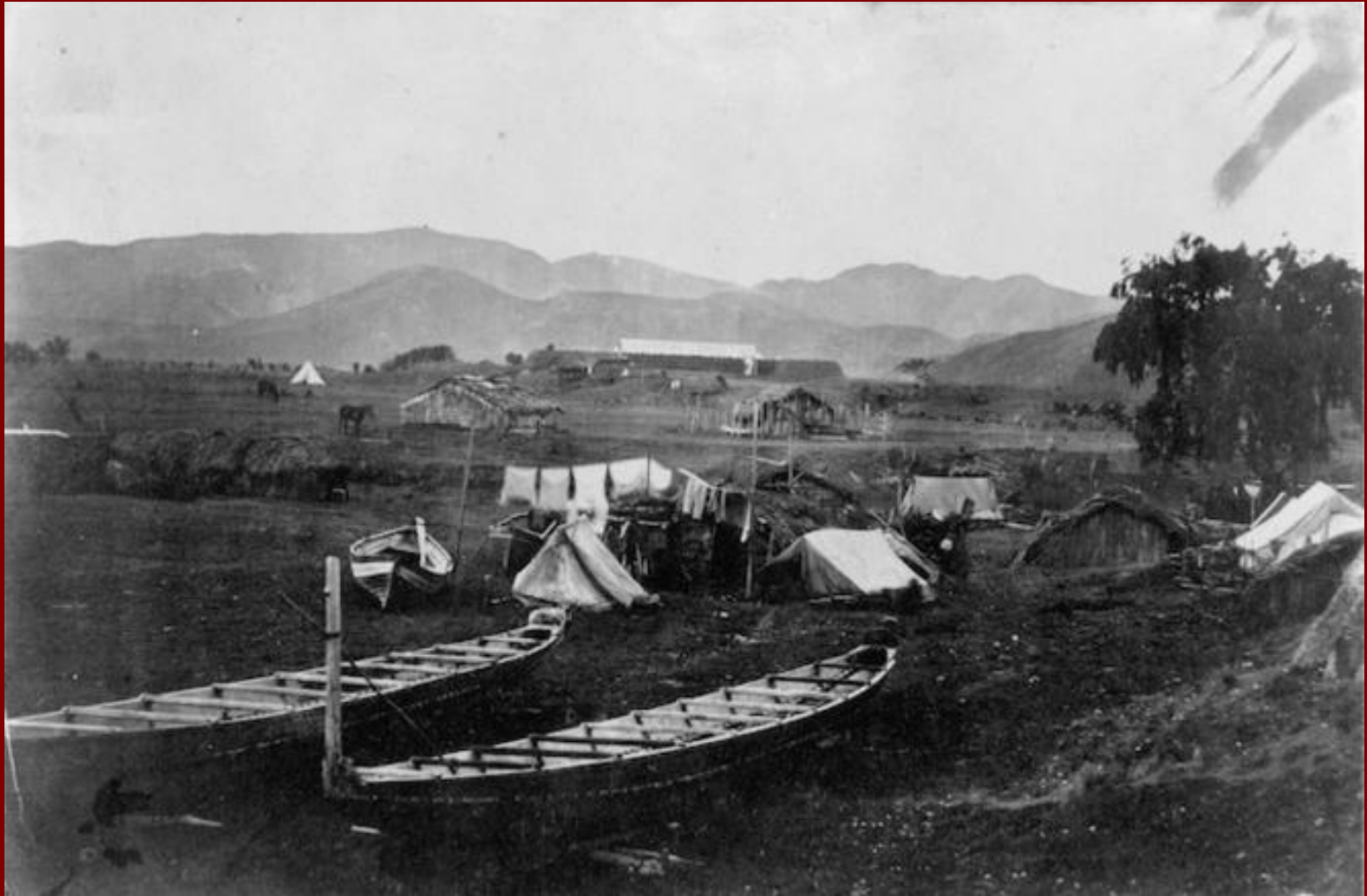


### 1866 The military encampment at Poho a Rawiri, Turanganui

, Photograph probably taken by William Leonard Williams, who was living in nearby Waikahua cottage, close to the Cook landing site, in early November 1865 (NL PA1-q-193-085-2)



1866 Scene near Poho o Rawiri, showing the Turanganui river in the background, probably by William Leonard Williams (NL PA1-q-193-090-1)



1866 Scene near Poho O Rawiri, showing Wilson's redoubt in the background and waka in the foreground, probably by William Leonard Williams (PA1-q-193-084-1)



1871 Gisborne Harbour Ellberbeck Studio



1871 Tūranganui Jetty

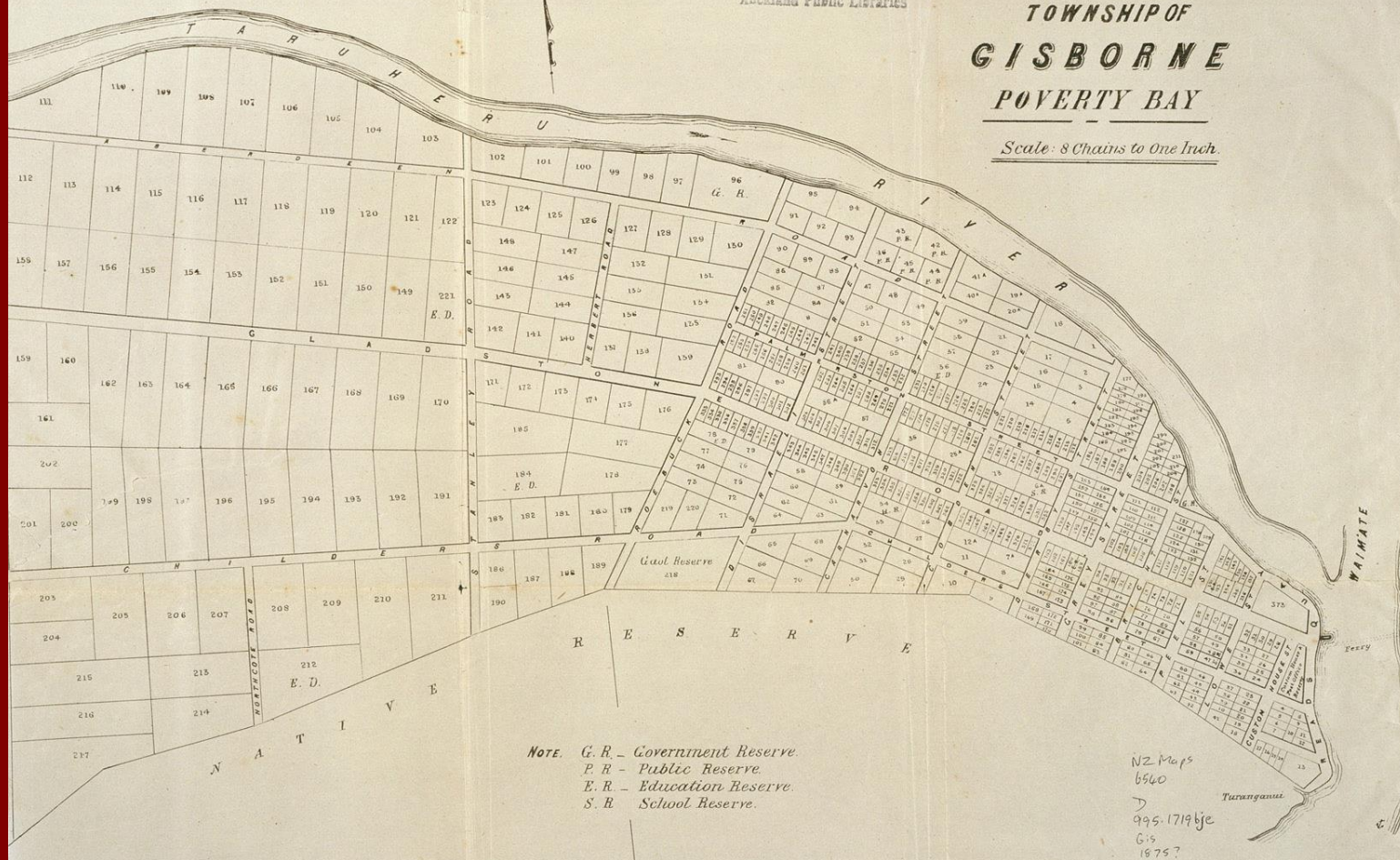


1874 Panorama Lowe Street W.F. Crawford

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Township of Gisborne c. 1875



1876 Panorama from Brewery Tower. Part (iv) of the panorama:  
looking across to Kaiti Hill, Read's house and harbour. W.F.  
Crawford



1876 Panorama from Brewery Tower. Part (iii) of the panorama:  
looking across to Kaiti Church and Poho-o-Rawiri, Albion stables  
in foreground.. W.F. Crawford



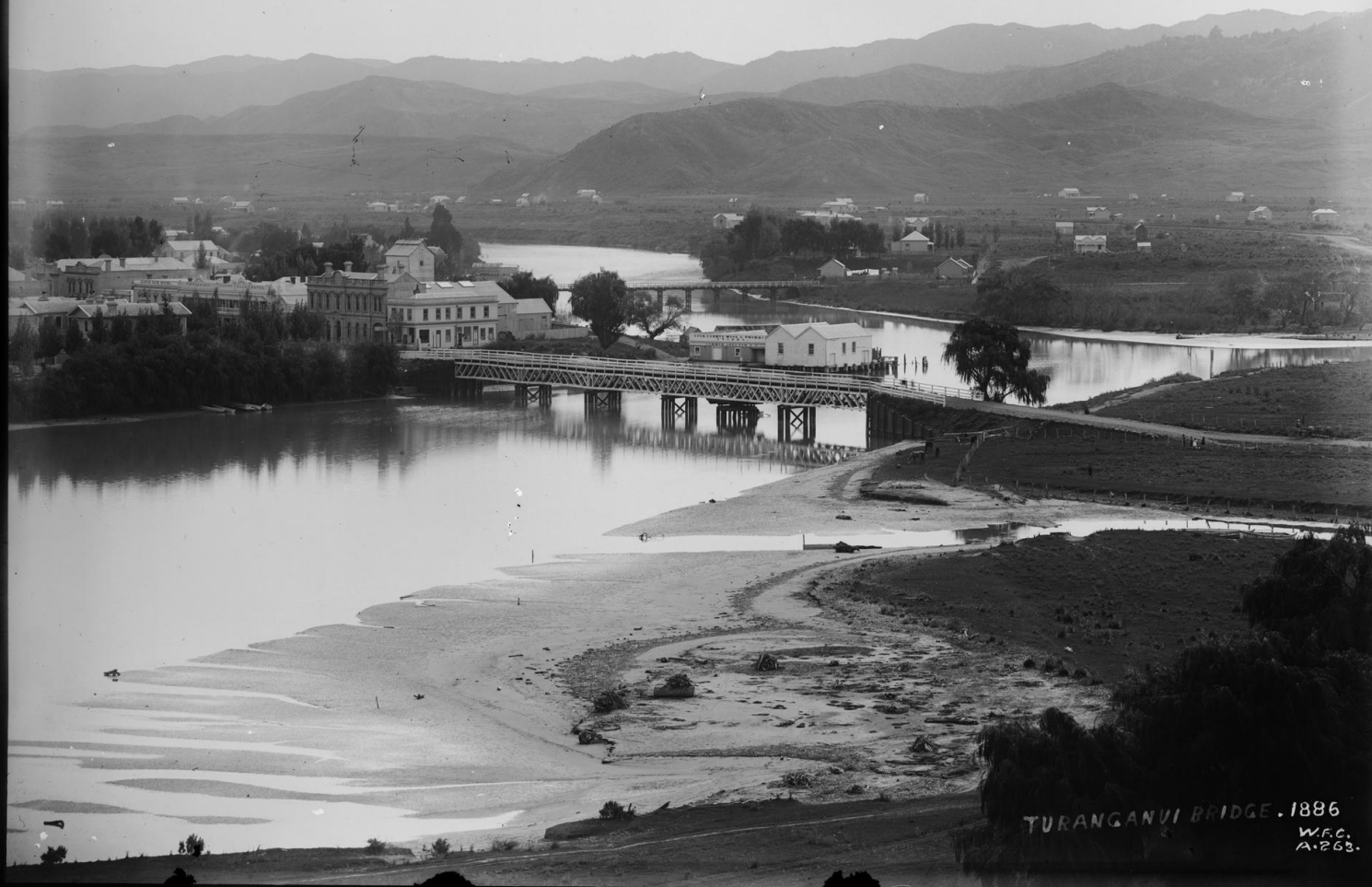
1876 Panorama from Brewery Tower. Part (ii) of the panorama:  
junction of the Taruheru and Waimata Rivers, looking across to  
Kaiti. W.F. Crawford



1876 Panorama from Brewery Tower. Part (i) of the panorama:  
junction of Taruheru and Waimata Rivers, looking towards  
Kaiti., W.F. Crawford



1885 Turanganui bridge construction WF Crawford.



1886 Turanganui bridge from Kaiti Hill. WF Crawford.



Kaihi Bridge. Gisborne. F.G.R. 5275.

1913 Turanganui bridge Frederick George Radcliffe.



1886 Gisborne from Kaiti Hill. View of beaches, Waikanae Stream and breakwater, to Nesbitt's. WF Crawford.



1888 building the breakwater 23 June 1888, view from Waikanae Beach. WF Crawford.



1889 building the breakwater WF Crawford.





c. 1892 Hole in the Wall, off Darwin Road. WF Crawford



1895 A young, unidentified boy on the Waimata River Road, Poverty Bay,  
Gisborne Region, including view of native bush  
Daniel Manders Beere. (NL1/4-034263-G)



1894 10 Sept Two groups of unidentified men at a working bee removing slips from the Waimata River Road, [Poverty Bay?], Gisborne Region, including river (NL 1/4-034262-G)

## 1870s ONWARDS FOREST CLEARANCE

The inland bush began to be felled and burned

“Some four thousand acres of bush country were cleared in the Waimata district yesterday, a good burn being obtained”

[1895]

The plumes of smoke rose so high that people out at sea thought that a volcano had erupted in land. The lights had to be turned off in the offices in town.



1905 EAST COAST TIMBER & TRADING CO  
WF Crawford



1905 EAST COAST TIMBER & TRADING CO  
WF Crawford



Mr Wilson's house in a valley with forest and cleared trees surrounding it,  
near Cape Runaway., Canon Pahewa

1876, 1880, 1892, 1894, 1902, 1910  
MAJOR FLOODS ON THE RIVERS

At times of heavy rainfall, the exposed mudstone hillsides  
slid and slipped, blocking the river.

When these dams burst, they released surging waves  
downstream, eroding river banks, destroying bridges,  
choking the estuary with sediment and covering the beaches  
with logs



March 1910 Turanganui River & rivers' junction in flood  
WF Crawford glass plate



1894 WAIKANAE BEACH AFTER FLOODING

Daniel Manders Beere



1894 WAIKANAE BEACH AFTER FLOODING

Daniel Manders Beere



1925 The East Coast road



### WAIMATA'S "LITTLE ROTORUA"

On Mr Stan Jones's Kaharoa Station in the Waimata Valley near Gisborne there is a small area which has all the trademarks of Rotorua except two.

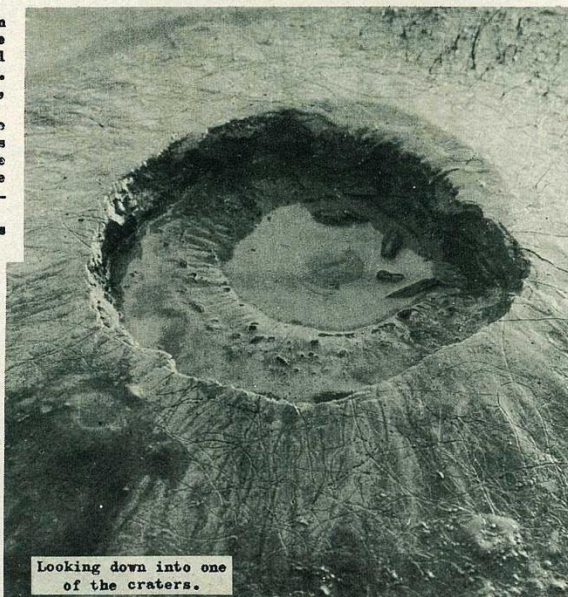
The exceptions: there's no steam, and no smell.

For the rest, the scene is quite thermal. There are "boiling" mudpools and little "crater" mountains. The "plop" of the mud "boiling" can be heard long before the scene is reached.

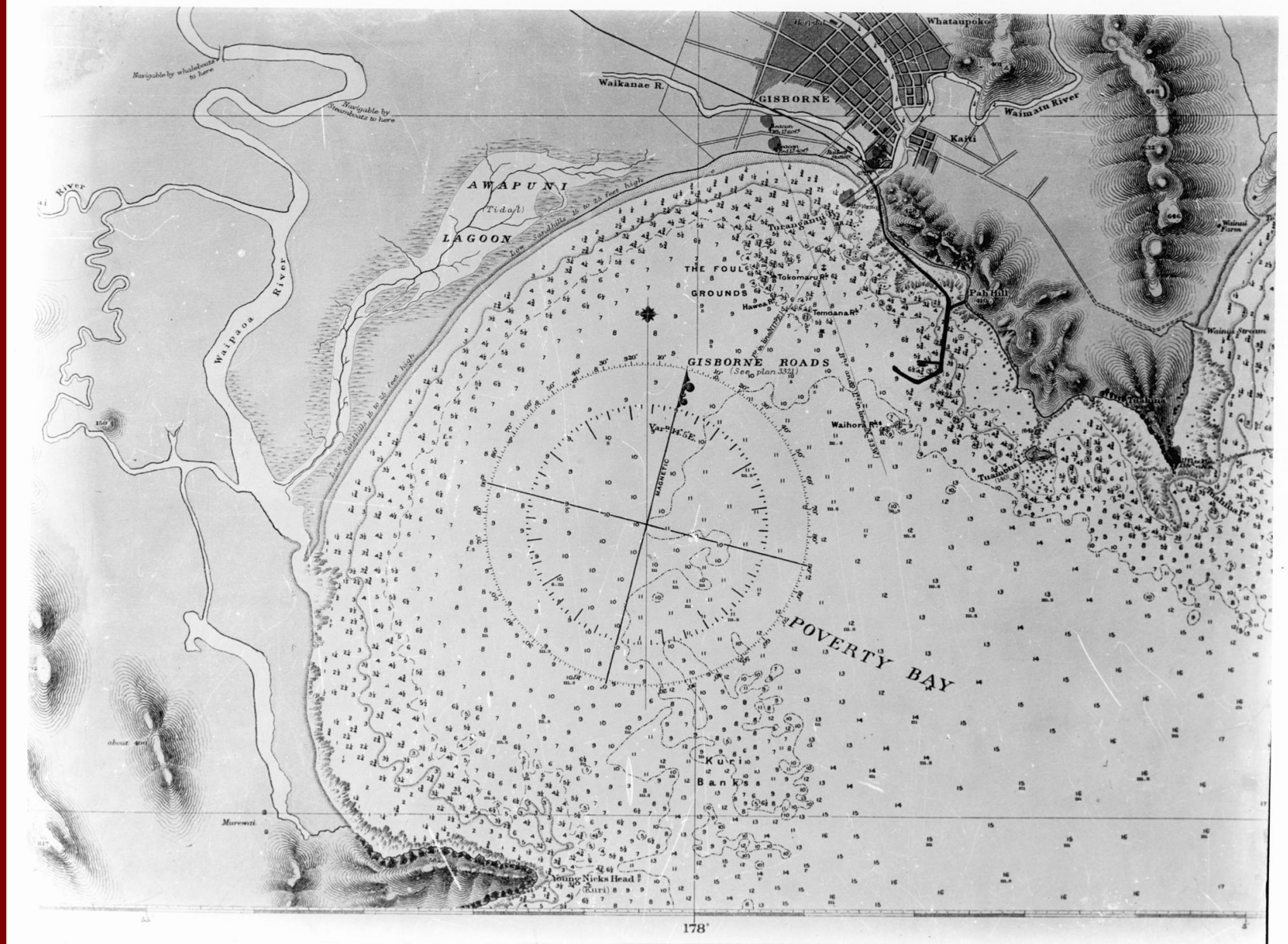
The phenomenon is caused by springs welling up in the soft ground.



"Little Tongariro" bears likeness to volcanic cone



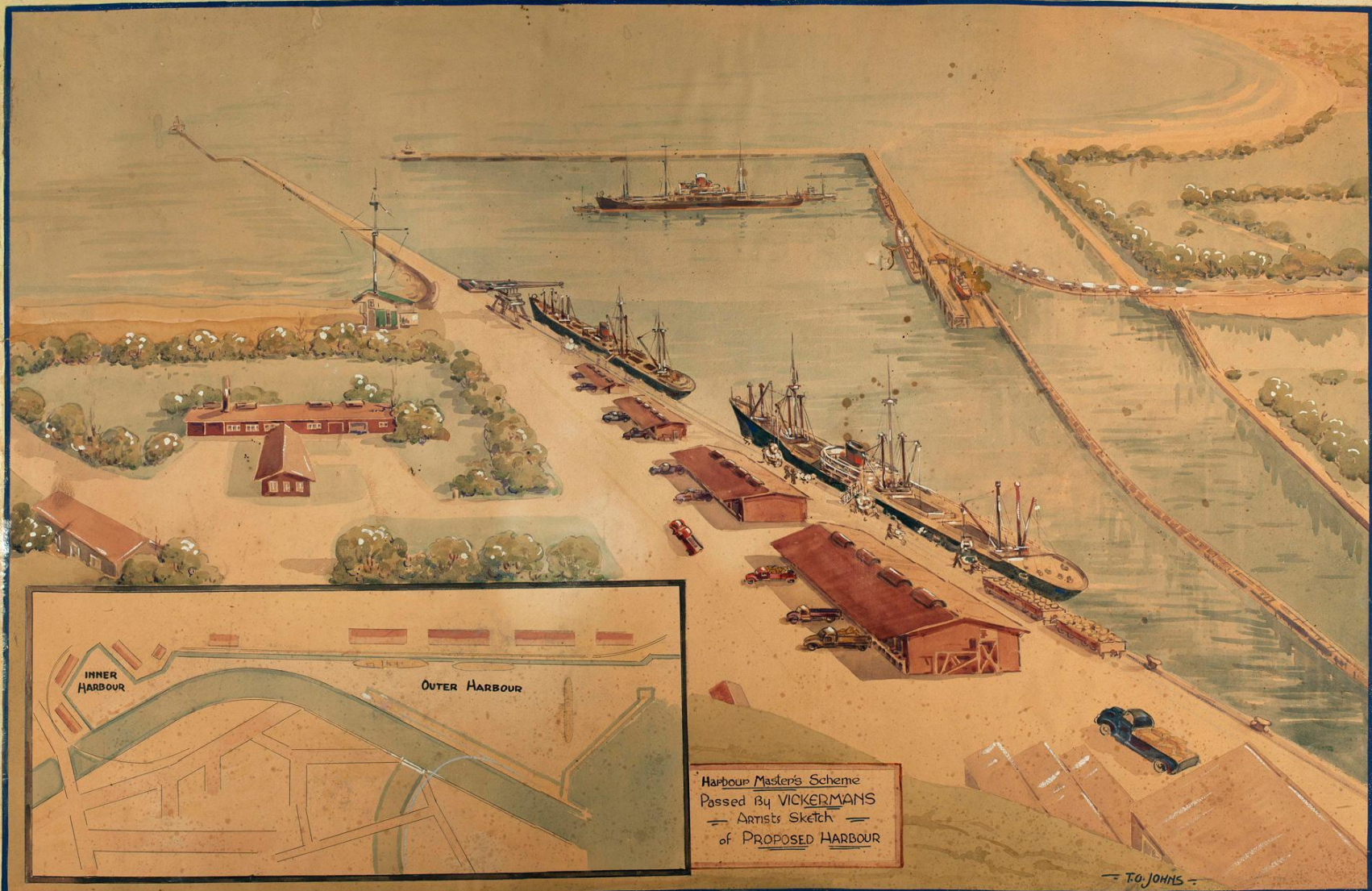
Looking down into one of the craters.



1897 Copy of hydrographic chart of Gisborne harbour, circa April 1897. WF Crawford.



c. 1928 Harbour wall under construction.. A black and white photograph depicting Gisborne Harbour wall under construction and a boat, the MV Takitimu, towing a wooden barge.



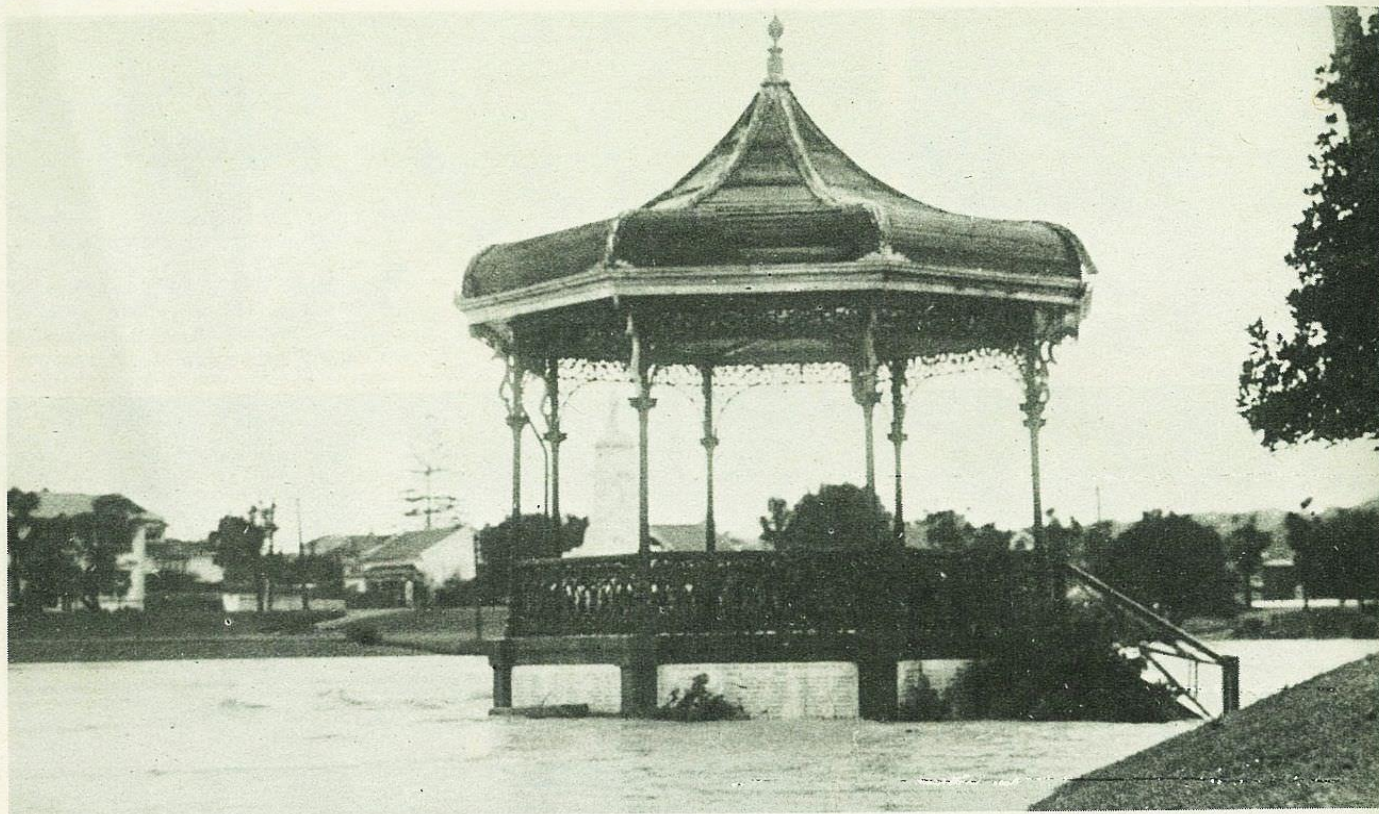
c. 1940s An artist's sketch of the Harbour Master's scheme of proposed changes to Gisborne Harbour, passed by Vickermans, drawn by T O Johns

1920s THE RIVER WAS SPLIT FROM THE PORT,  
POHO-O-RAWIRI WAS SHIFTED INLAND, MAJOR  
RECLAMATIONS BURIED THE ROCKY REEF

Athough 'the Cut' was completed in 1931, the river continued to flood, in 1938 and 1944, for instance, when a large flood swept trees downstream, damaging the William Petty bridge.

There were more major floods in 1948, 1950, 1955, 1958, 1968, 1971 and 1981.

There were more logs on the beaches and the harbour had to be dredged

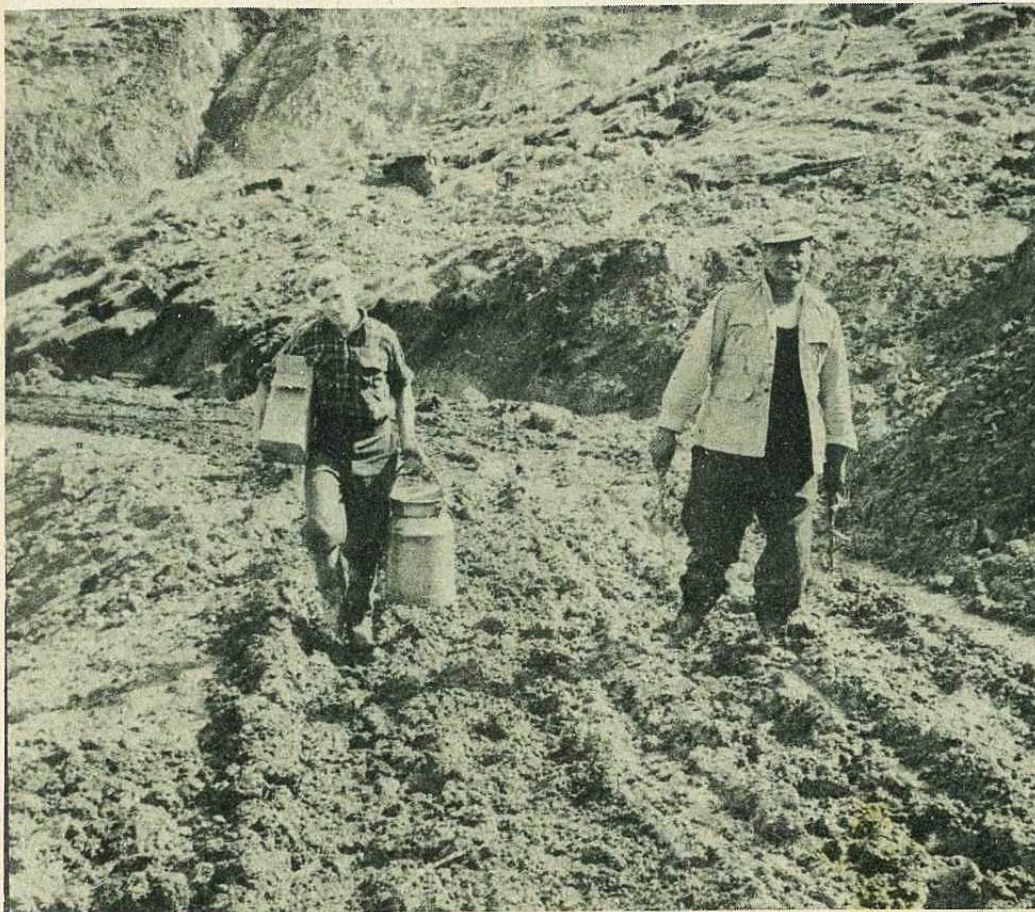


## Pictures From The Past

Following on last month's 1938 flood pictures from Mr C. V. Clayton of Wairoa we have another two photographs from the same gentleman. ABOVE—The flood waters in the Waimata River quite surrounded the old band rotunda near the junction of the Waimata and Taruheru Rivers. BELOW—Flood waters also spread across the main roads at Makaraka. Ancell's Store is on the left and the Roseland Hotel is on the right.



1948 Slash on Waikanae Beach after flooding



GISBORNE PHOTO NEWS

September 22, 1955

## Waimata Slip

A new road over the Waimata slip, on the Riverside Road, which had been considered to be too unstable for work to be done on it for some considerable time, was in use only two or three weeks after the disaster which wrecked a quarter-mile of road early in August. A track over the slip was started by Cook County staff to help a farmer get his cream out. Then Mr. R. F. Holden, of Rimuroa Station, put two bulldozers to work. Soon a fairly good road had been built, and the adjacent slopes planted with saplings.

Left: Lugging stores and cream cans up new road during temporary impassability due to wet weather.

23

1955 Riverside Road Slip, Gisborne Photo News No. No.  
15, September 22, 1955



Clearfelled FSC registered plantation Waimata River

THEN CAME THE CYCLONES

1988 CYCLONE BOLA, followed by major flooding in  
2009 and 2015

2023 CYCLONES HALE & GABRIELLE



1988 BOLA FLOODING WAIMATA RIVER



Forestry slash, upper Waimatā River, Cyclone Gabrielle



Slash upriver from Waikereru  
Cyclone Gabrielle



Riverside Road to Waikereru, trashed, Cyclone Gabrielle



Riverside Road to Waikereru  
Trashed, Cyclone Gabrielle



2023, 14 February, Waimata River, William Pettie bridge blocked  
Ben Cowper, Gisborne Herald



2023, 14 February, Waimata River  
Paul Rickard, Gisborne Herald



Gisborne town bridge, Cyclone Gabrielle



Forestry slash, Gisborne, Cyclone Gabrielle



Waka ama paddling Waimata River