

## Luggage labels forgotten items from the past

More than 64 years ago on a winter Sunday evening I often went to the old Palmerston North railway station to help my father rent pillows to passengers on the Limited and Express trains to Auckland. I have vivid memories of being sent by my father to watch for the locomotive. After it had whistled and roared through Longburn it would soon turn through a short bend brightly lighting the way with its impressive headlight to snort to a cloudy stop near the parcels office. Plump pillows in their freshly washed cases were housed in a well used rudimentary mobile stand and we almost always sold them all. My job was to restock the stand as transactions had to be done as quickly as possible. Meanwhile passengers sampled the menu in the refreshment rooms.

One day an American traveller asked if he could have a label for each of the stations on the NIMT route. I duly handed him a handful which I took from a rack which was fixed to the wall right next to the parcels window.

The engine prior to departing would blow down its cylinders enveloping me in a noisy cloud of steam. All I wanted was to be an engine driver. At 9 years of age the world appeared to stand still and the mighty KAs would always be there.

I took a duplicate set of labels ,including variants, and put them in a small box rediscovering them years later in the rafters in our garage where I had put them for safe keeping. These labels are ephemeral items, mere scraps of paper which were only ever designed for a short temporal existence. Of course labels from many stations are missing but none the less there are still some real gems.

I am privileged to have them and was fortunate enough to be able to subsequently add a few more when on a DA cab ride with my locomotive assistant brother, Simon, on a trip round the block [down the Wairarapa and back up the through the Manawatu]. When we got to Eketahuna we stopped briefly at the station to find they were clearing it out prior to demolishing it. There in a rack were a few more labels so I quickly grabbed them before they too were consigned to the dustbin of history.

I hope you enjoy these flimsy tokens of a past long gone. Where possible I have embellished them with suitable images and links hopefully without infringing copyright. Let me know if I have and I will adjust accordingly.

Paul Stichbury August 2023



A list of stations on the NIMT

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North\\_Island\\_Main\\_Trunk#Stations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Island_Main_Trunk#Stations)

**Our first journey begins in Wellington and ends in Dargaville.**

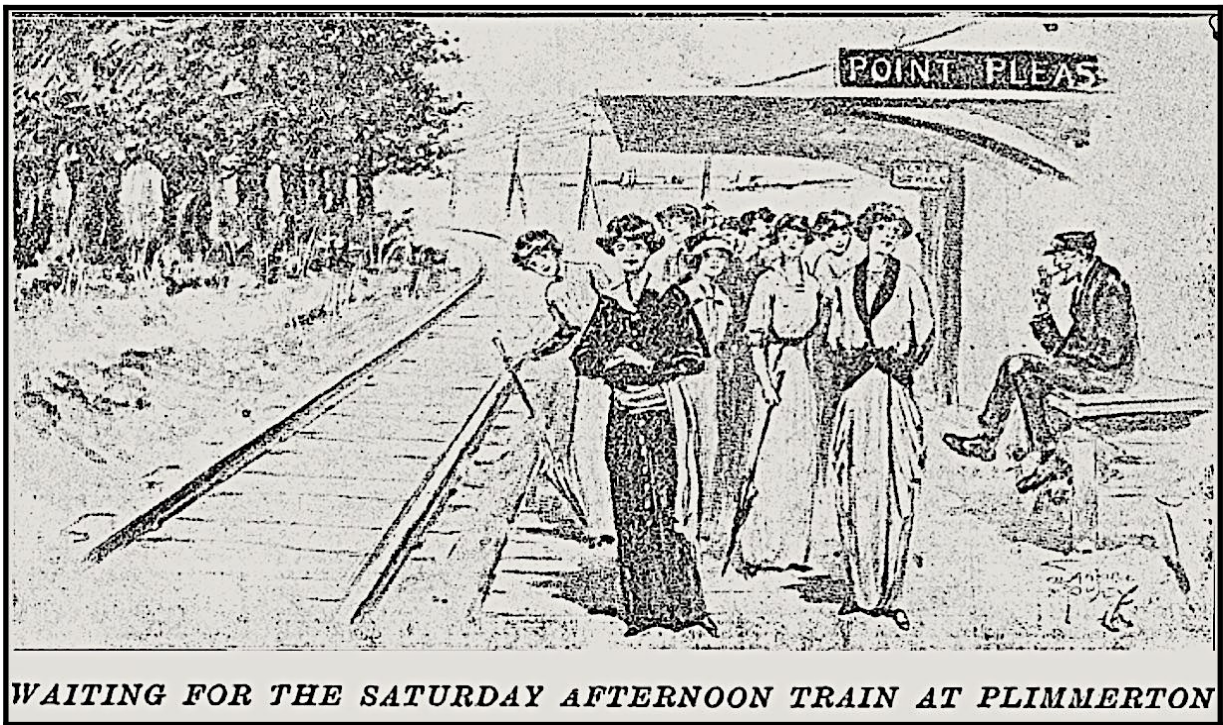




No. 647. Railway Offices, Wellington.



Own postcards  
Wellington station staff circa 1910

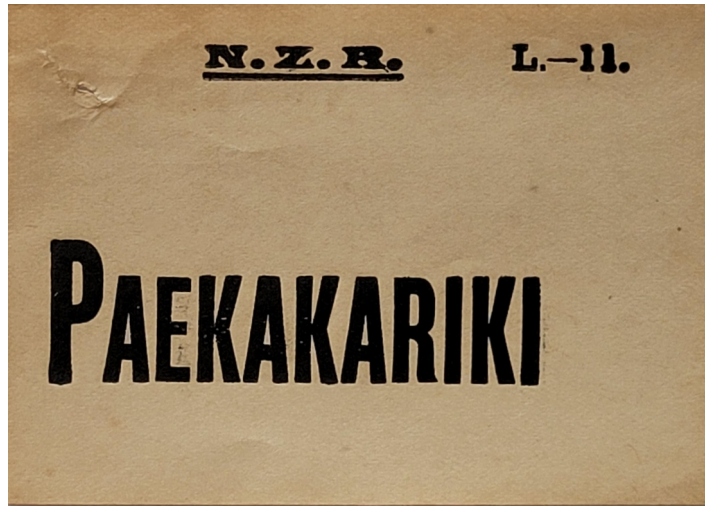


<https://www.plimmerton.nz/places/railway-station/>  
1914

**National Library of New Zealand**

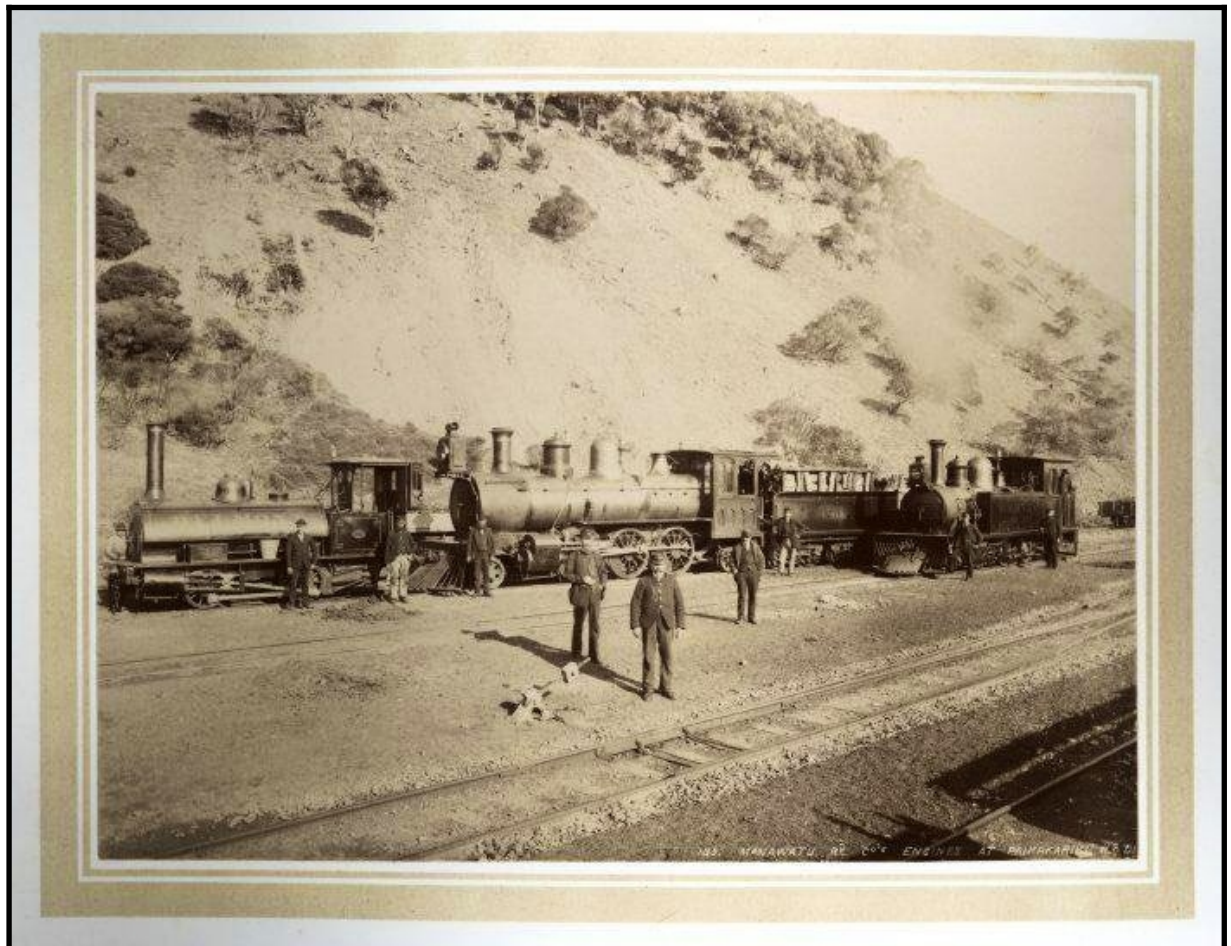


Local enthusiasts  
<https://www.steaminc.org.nz/>



Wellington and Manawatu Railway locomotives and crew 1910

LINK



L.—11.

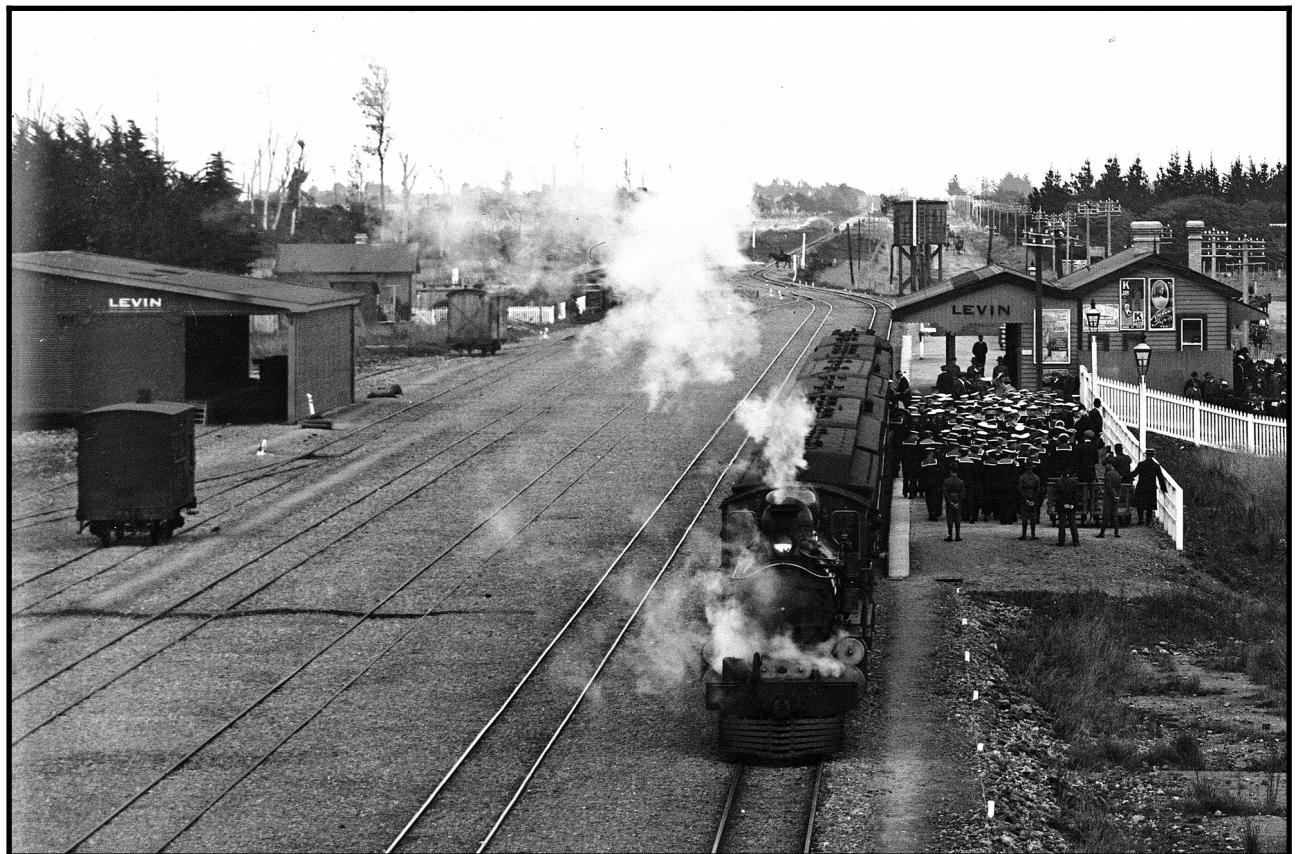
New Zealand Railways

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# PARAPARAUMU



1900 <https://natlib.govt.nz/records/23153256>



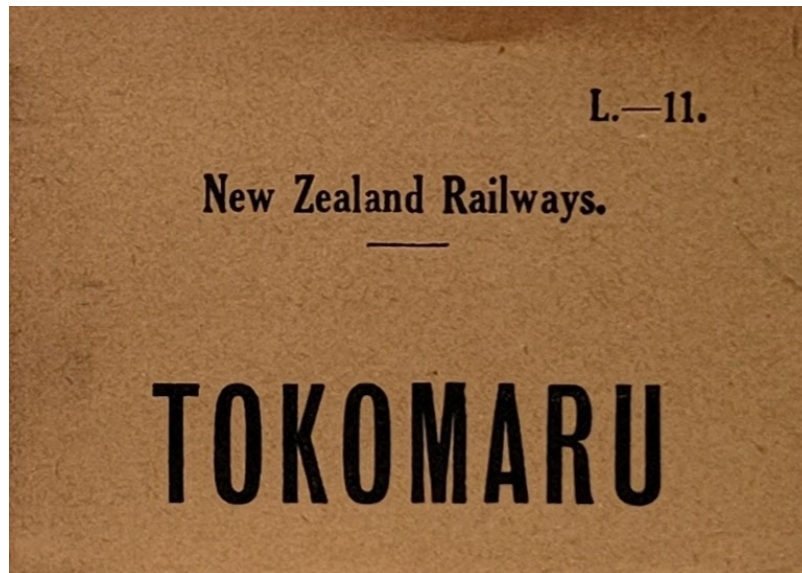
**On 12 April 1913, HMS New Zealand arrived in Wellington, for a 10-week tour of the country. Around 500,000 New Zealanders inspected their £1.7 million gift to Britain's Royal Navy (worth \$231 million in 2007) while it was there.**

A few days after its arrival, a large contingent from the ship's crew enjoyed a day in Levin. Horowhenua farmer and amateur photographer Leslie Adkin took a series of photographs of the visit.

He climbed the roof of a nearby shop to take this one, showing the Mayoral welcome, with local Territorials (part-time, volunteer soldiers) on horseback and school cadets in attendance. All of Levin turned up to welcome the sailors.

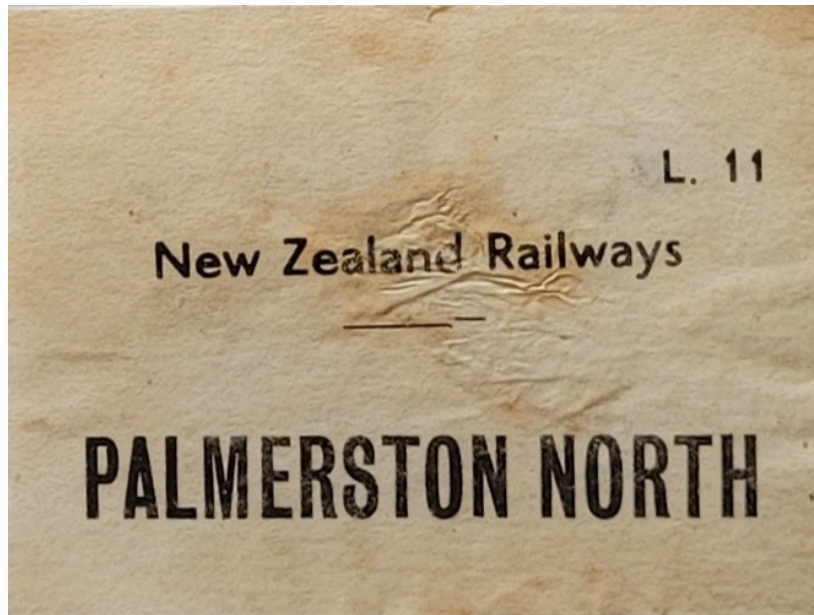






Tokomaru about 1908

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tokomaru\\_railway\\_station](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tokomaru_railway_station)



**These four now rebound books were found under a shed in the old Palmerston North yards when they removed. The unknown owner worked in Greymouth in 1899 and Hawera in 1901. The**

books were given to me 43 years ago by my neighbour Mr  
Clouston  
some images are accessible at the link below



<https://turiteadocuments.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/catechism-of-the-locomotive.pdf>

Own postcard - 1911

Roland Penhall's superb Palmerston North photographic record can be found here

<https://manawatuheritage.pncc.govt.nz/collections/754b1788-2e45-4ee1-aac0-55c333073bd1?total=240>

The Fields Express Sunday to Wellington 21 April 1961

LINK



**My father asked if he could have some firewood from the old station when it was pulled down. Not long after that an articulated truck appeared in our driveway and a gigantic pile of timber was dropped off. A good laugh all round. Took ages to cut up and several years to burn.  
Station and yards 1937**



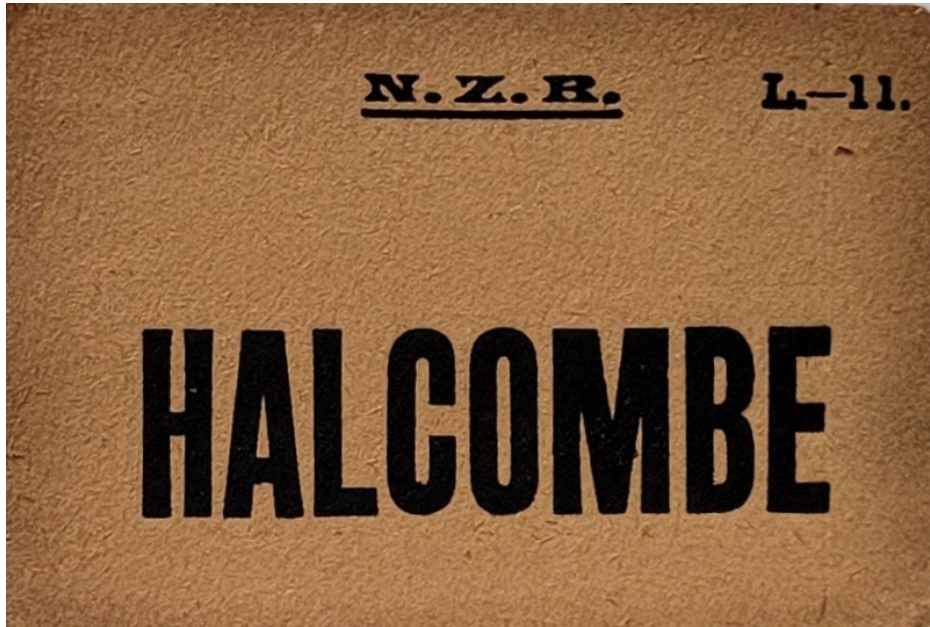


**LINK**  
**Local enthusiasts**

<http://steamrail.org.nz/main.php>

<http://www.halcombcommunity.co.nz/history-of-rail.html>

LINK





**Derailment at Halcombe 1902**



**LINK**



**Marton Junction 1909 Godber image**

**LINK**

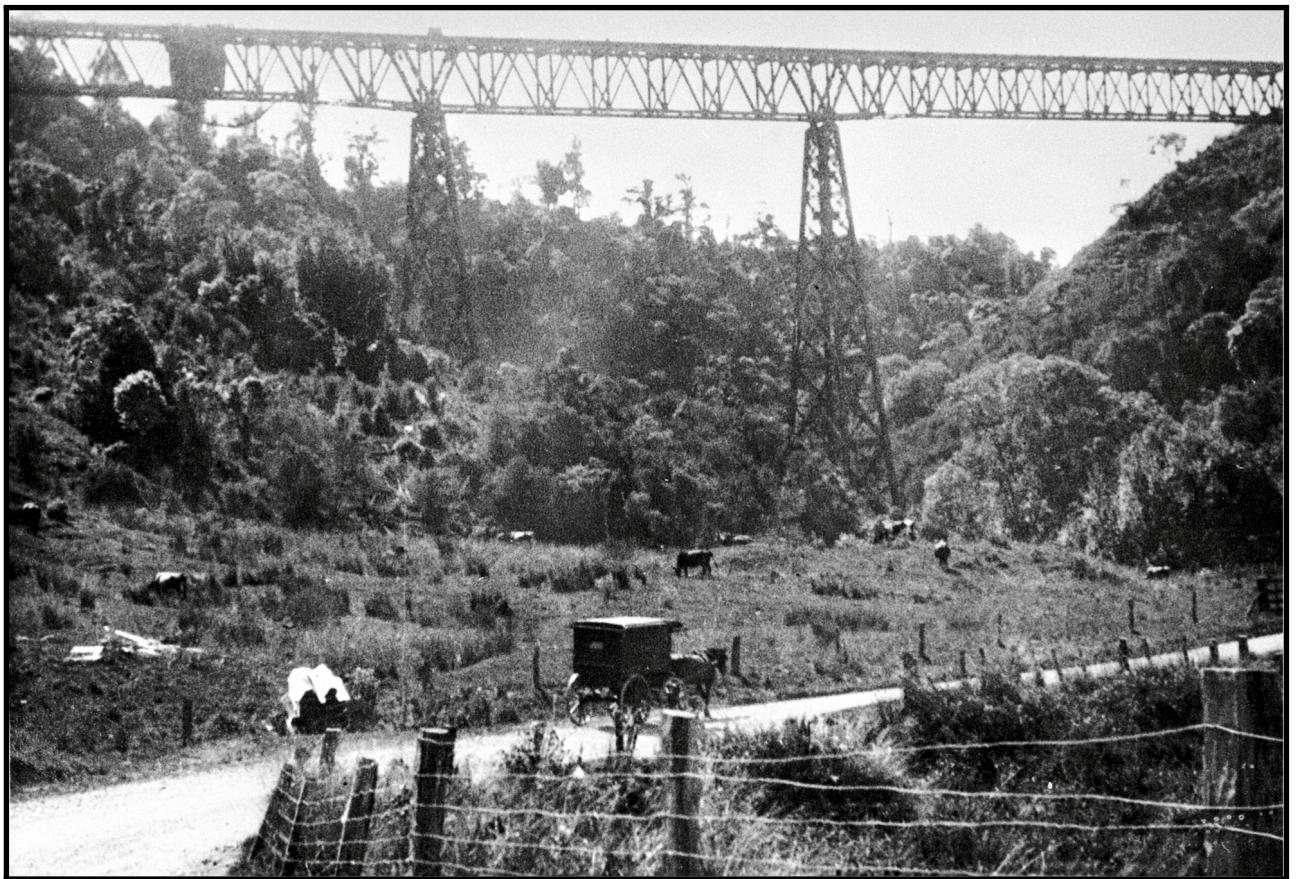






**Hunterville circa 1900**

**LINK**



**Viaduct near Ohingaiti 1933**  
**LINK**

L. 11

New Zealand Railways

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# Mangaweka



**Mangaweka station circa 1905**  
**LINK**



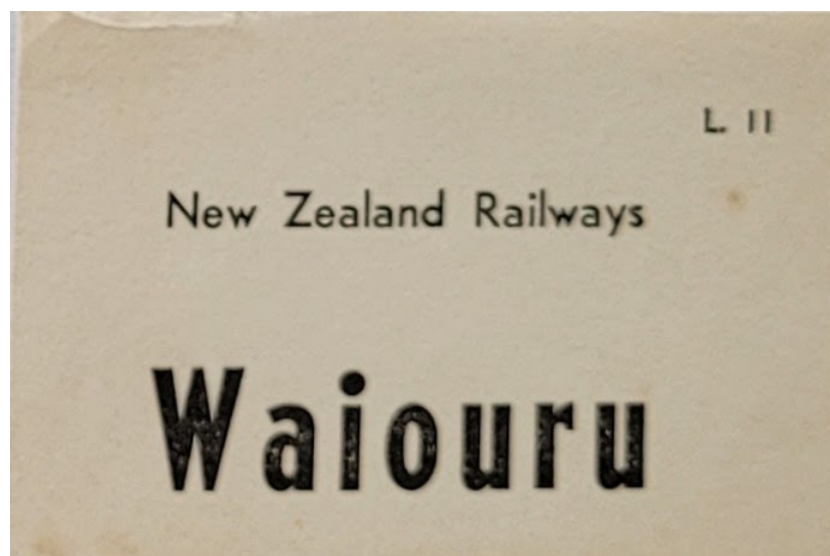
LINK





Taihape station 1915

[LINK](#)





Own photo



Here are two amazing scenes taken in Waiouru.

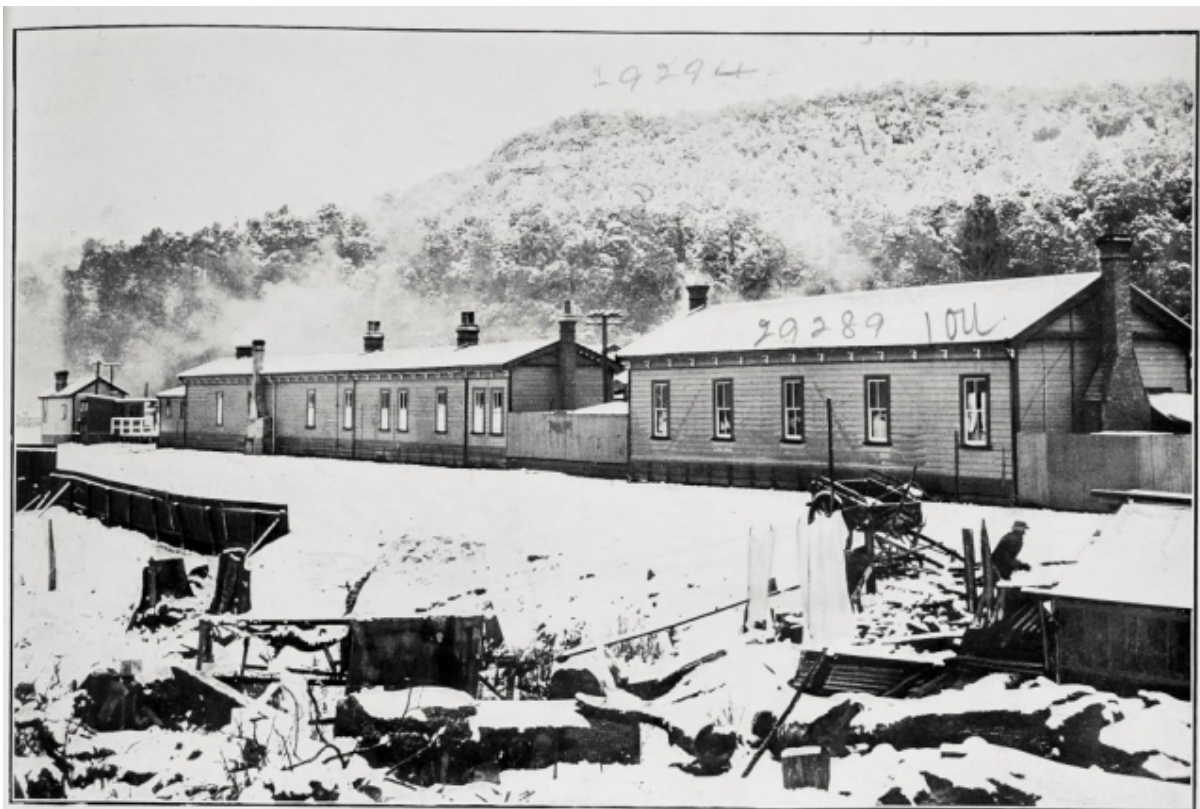
You can see two young women in their best white dresses and bonnets after I edited the image.



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# OHAKUNE



THE STATION BUILDINGS AT OHAKUNE AFTER THE FALL, SHOWING SNOW-COVERED BUSH IN THE BACKGROUND.





Lc-11.

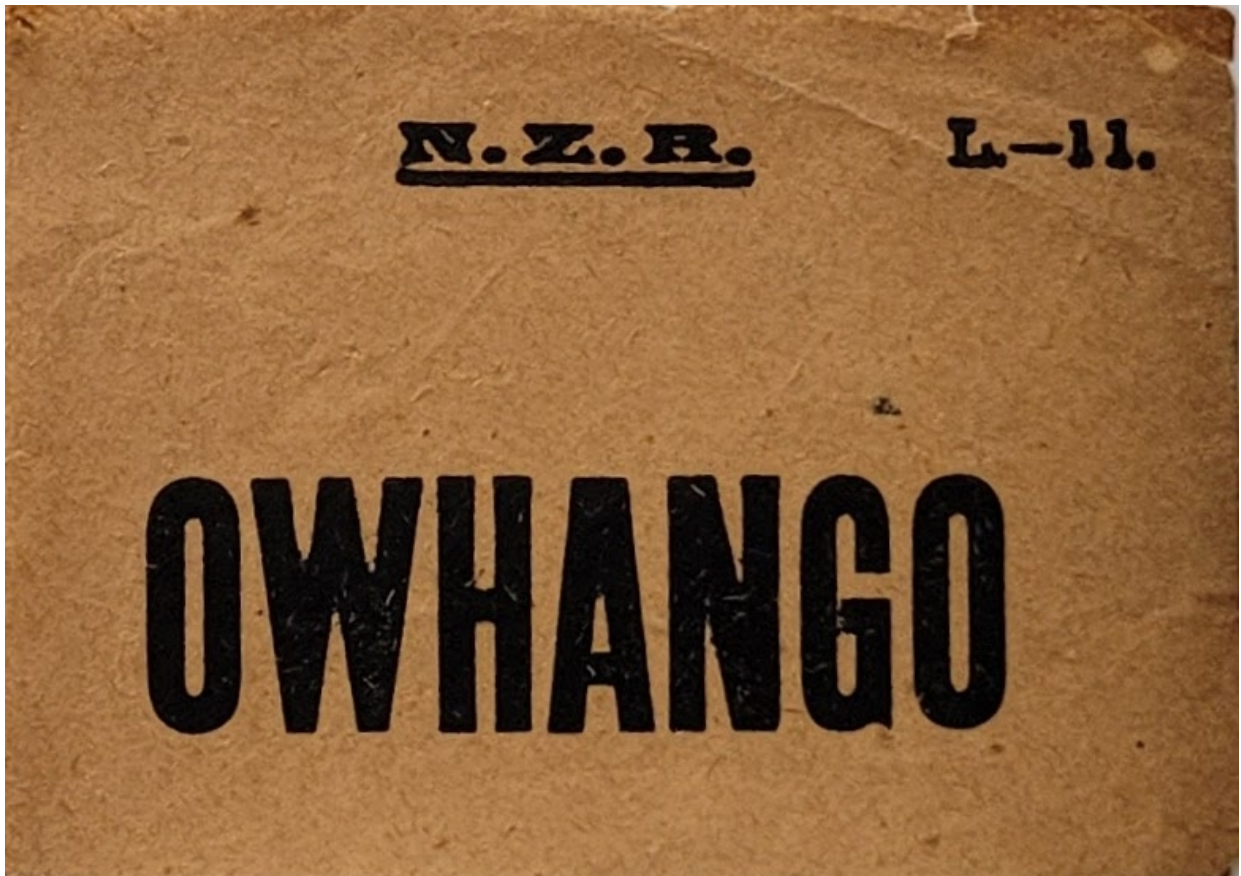
New Zealand Railways.

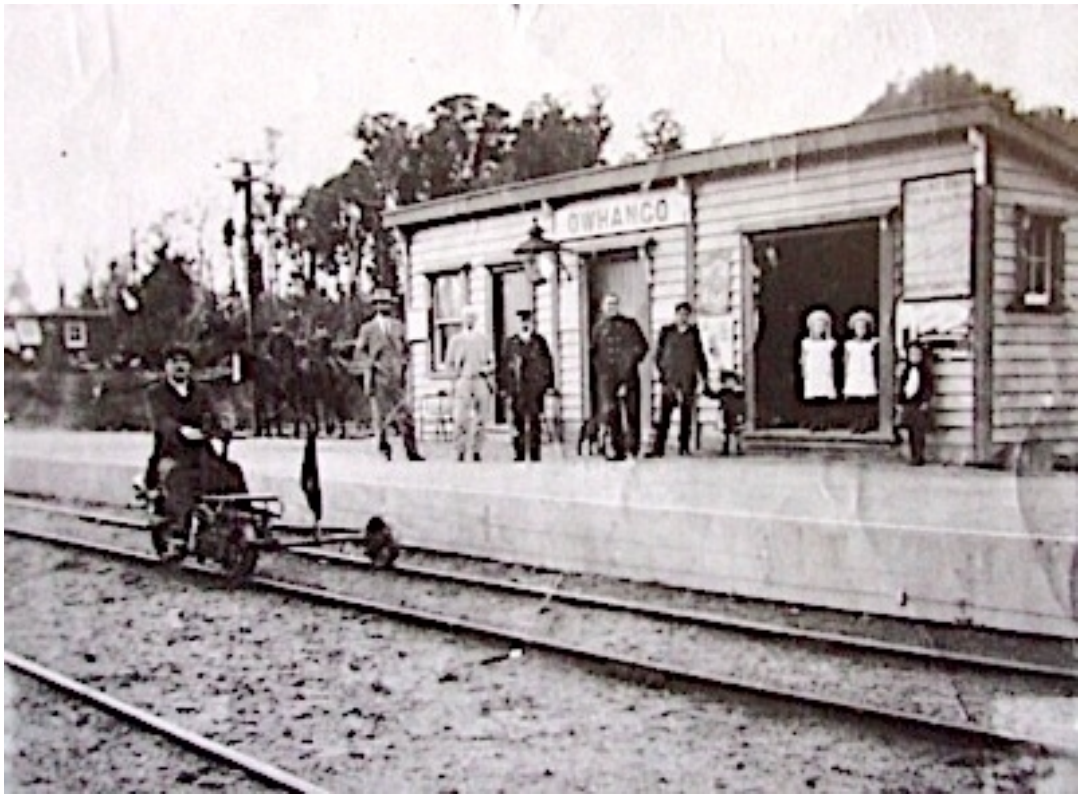
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**NATIONAL PARK**



[https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/national-park-railway-station,](https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/national-park-railway-station)





N. Z. R.

L.-11.

**TAUMARUNUI**

LINK



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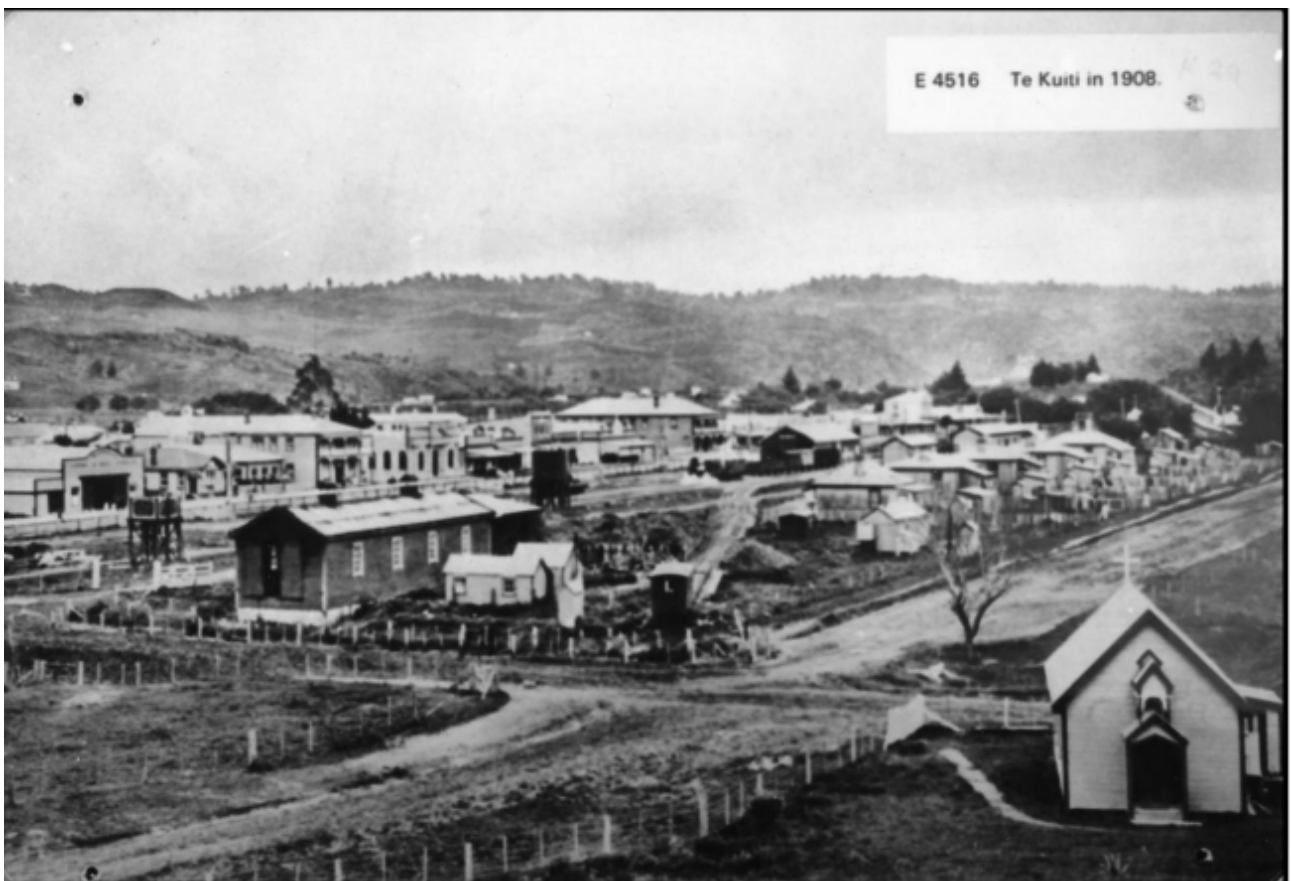
# Mangapehi



L.—11

New Zealand Railways

# Te Kuiti



E 4516 Te Kuiti in 1908.



L.—11

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**OTOROHANGA**



L.—11

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**TE AWAMUTU**







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**Frankton Jnc.**





The key to the refreshment rooms given to me more than 50 years ago,



Albert Percy Godber

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New Zealand Railways.

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# HUNTLY



L.—11.

New Zealand Railways

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**PAPAKURA**

<https://kura.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/digital/collection/photos/id/37522>

Image dated 1957



L. 10

New Zealand Railways

# Papatoetoe





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New Zealand Railways

# AUCKLAND





R.T. SERIES NO 8005

ROTORUA EXPRESS LEAVING AUCKLAND, N.Z.



N. Z. R.

L.-11.

# AVONDALE



Avondale Station

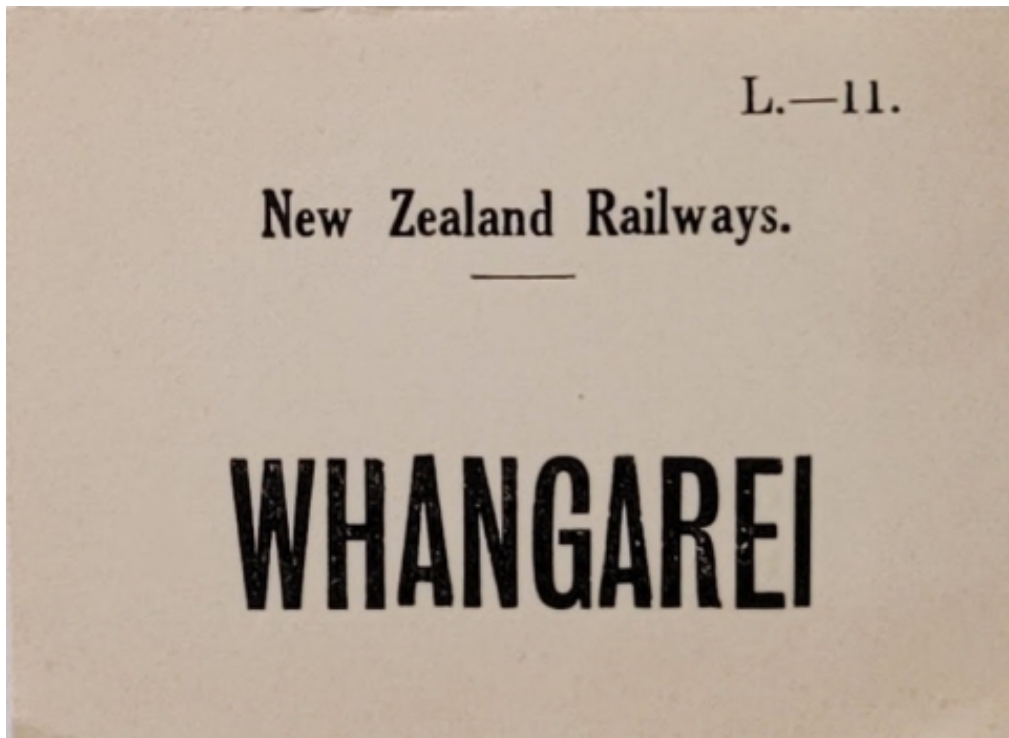
L.—11.

New Zealand Railways

# Maungaturoto



<https://www.engineeringnz.org/programmes/heritage/heritage-records/northland-railways/>



[https://ndhadeliver.natlib.govt.nz/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?  
dps\\_pid=IE1199251&dps\\_custom\\_att\\_1=emu](https://ndhadeliver.natlib.govt.nz/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE1199251&dps_custom_att_1=emu)



