

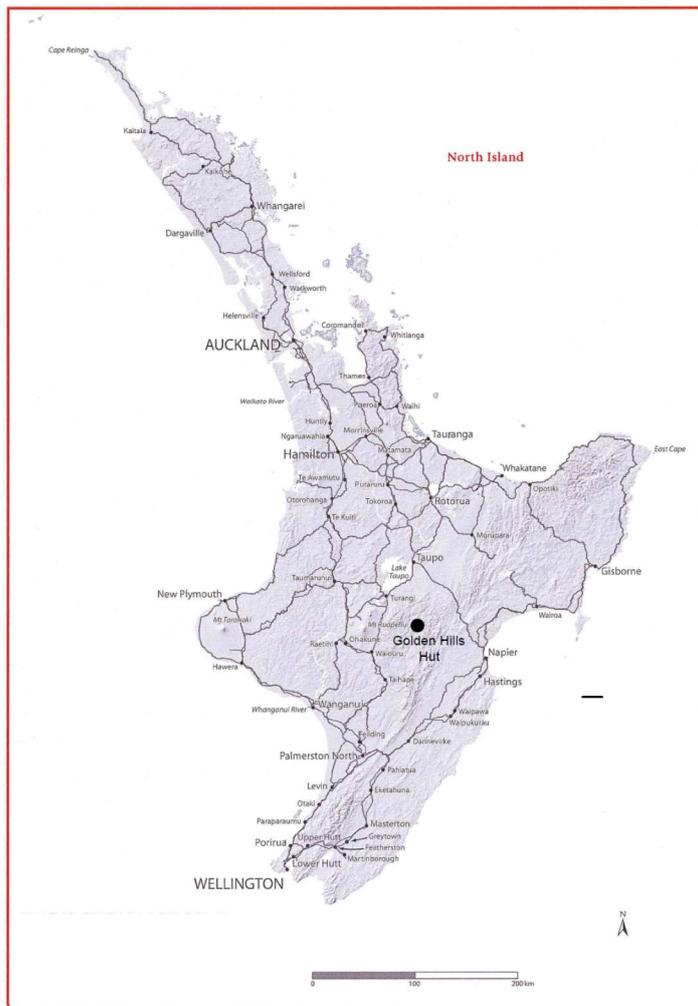
Golden Hills Hut Application - Question Notes in Full

1. What is the name of the place or area?

Golden Hills Hut (colloquially now called 'old' Golden Hills Hut as a new modern hut by the same name has been built in the area).

2. Provide a detailed location map

Location: -39.219813, 176.156555



3. Is there a specific legal entity of the hut or land eg land lot number for the site

Owhaoko D No 1

LINZ Title Information

Parcel ID : 4056565; Parcel Name: Pt Owhaoko D1; Survey Area : 1239.3497
Part Indicator : PART
Māori Name : Owhaoko
Appellation Type : MAOR
Parcel Intent : DCDB
Data Modified On : 14/03/1996
Spatial Data Modified On : 10/06/2002

Maori Land Court

Block ID : 20004; District: Aotea; Title Order Ref: 33 NA 44-46

Title Order Type : Partition Order
Title Order Ref : 33 NA 44-46
Title Notice Ref : -
Title Order Date : 11/07/1894
Land Status : Maori Freehold Land
Plan : ML 1363
LINZ Ref : 424613
Area (ha) : 1239.3497
Total Shares : 6997
Total Owners : 118

4. Name the current owners

Owhaoko B&D Trust (Ahu Whenua Trust)

Land Administrators – Responsible Trustees

Ball Barbara Agnus; Hartley Angus David Hemi; Hawira Te Rangiangoa;
Mako Cyril Ngawhare; Ross Mark Mohoanui; Steedman Richard Hamish;
Steedman Terence Huia

Landowners – *Title Details Full List of Landowners Report - Maori Land Court - Owhaoko D1.pdf*

5. Identify other people or organisations that are connected to the site

Local iwi and land owners – Ngati Tamawhiti tribe
Heritage Trail walkers; Helisika Ltd and hunting/fishing/ecotourism parties
Local authorities - Horizons Regional Council and Rangitikei District Council

6. Has there been other consultation as to an opinion of heritage status?

Heritage listing was raised at Owhaoko B&D Trust AGM 19th Nov. 2016 as part of the General Manager's report, which was adopted unanimously.

Several hunters who have used the hut in the past have in recent months posted positive comments on Fish n Hunt website with regard to the historical value of restoring the hut.

7. Why is an application to be listed being made, what are the aims for the listing?

The Golden Hills Hut has significant local history stemming from its usage during the late 1800's and as such needs to be preserved as a historical place of interest for heritage trail walkers, guests of local eco-tourism enterprises and traditional land owners who currently use the area for annual hui.

In these earlier years, the Golden Hills Hut was used as the primary place of shelter in the area as well as being used as a supply store for the stockmen who worked on the full muster for the Ngamatea sheep station (also referred to in earlier days as Owhaoko).

Ngamatea was the largest sheep station in the North Island at that time and the hut is now is still a living example of life for the sheep stockmen who lived and worked during that era.

Its historical value is important to the area and this application is being made to secure its status as a building of significant historical interest to protect it for generations to come.

8. How many other similar sites are there in NZ?

There are only a few surviving mustering huts that are listed in books or online, similar in design and historic purpose. Hunters and trampers talk of other huts, derelict or otherwise but these are difficult to verify.

Heritage NZ

Only four heritage **Stockman's huts** are listed. The hut in the North Island is **Westlawn Hut**, Wairouru Army (*below*) is most similar to Golden Hills.

[PDF printed page from www.heritage.org.nz/the-list]

Of the three in the South, two are made of stone and the Deep Creek Hut has had considerable additions made during restoration in 1970's and 90's.



Golden Hills Hut



Westlawn Hut

Backcountry Huts

The following published resources -

A Bunk for the Night – A Guide to NZ's Best Backcountry Huts – Barnett, Brown, Spearpoint
Shelter from the Storm – The Story of NZ's Backcountry Huts – Barnett, Brown, Spearpoint
 show a handful of huts built in the same period for miners in the South Island and others built circa 1940's by NZ Forest Service and now maintained by DOC.

Beech Hut

Built in c.1905 in the Eyre Mountains/Taka Ra Haka Conservation Park in Southland, was also used for station mustering through to the 1950-60's (*right*).

[*Shelter from the Storm* p62]

Camp Stream Hut dating back to 1898 and **Cowshed Hut** have since been restored with more modern additions.

[*Shelter from the Storm* p167 & 214].



Old Manson Hut c 1950 and the **Iron Whare** built in 1870's, both used for the Ngamatea muster, still remain. The exterior materials used for the walls however are wooden slats.

[*Shelter from the Storm* p44 & 46].

9. Why does the site have value to NZ? Its significance?

Golden Hills Hut represents a period in NZ history that developed a unique life style for the pioneers of high sheep stations in wild and unbroken backcountry.

Not only a remaining prime example of a pioneer stockman's hut, the value of Golden Hills is intrinsically wrapped in the history of what was renowned as a 'mecca for backcountry musterers'. [*Big Country of the North Island by Peter Newton, p148*]

The station could be considered equal to some of the largest South Island stations in terms of vastness, remote location and numbers of sheep mustered. A true stockman envied all who took their turn at mustering on the Ngamatea sheep station.

[*Historic Sheep Stations of the North Island by Colin Wheeler, Chapter Ngamatea p 52*]

The station once called Ōwhaoko, first leased in 1878 eventually became one of the largest sheep stations in the North Island, extending between the upper Rangitīkei and Ngaruroro rivers and the Kaimanawa, Kaweka and Ruahine ranges.

The station stretched 50 kms long and double that by horseback, and so the Golden Hills holding paddock became a central muster point of sheep before finally heading back to the station for shearing.

Built in the 1925, Golden Hills, the largest hut, was a vital point in the network of eight outlying huts and two tent camps. Each hut had a horse paddock and holding pen.

[*Ngamatea: the land and its people by Hazel Riseborough, Chapter 2 p52*]

[*Station Country: Back-country life in NZ by Philip Holden, Chapter 18 p182*]

11. Dates the site has been visited

Two recent visits have been made by the Trust to assess the viability for restoration. The first late 2016 and more recently in February 2017.

12. Describe the site area and hut

The hut is situated on remote Owhaoko B&D Trust land between the Kaimanawa and Kaweka Ranges. Access is by helicopter from Helisika Ltd, Taharua Rd, Poronui off SH5 which is an approximate 50 minute drive from Taupo.

Golden Hills Hut is tucked away in a picturesque grassy clearing along the headwaters of the Taruarau River and is surrounded by beech forest and tussock lands. It is a short walk from where the helicopter lands before the tree line starts.



It is a typical 12'x14' size (4.1mx5.1m) built in those days, has rock fireplace and corrugated iron chimney at the back, a wooden door in the front and small two high windows at the either end.

The steep pitched hut is made of split beech poles cut from the local bush, the roof and walls are malthoid covered with corrugated iron. As with most of the huts built in that time, all materials were taken in, with the exception of felling local trees for the framework.

The floor is earthen and the unlined interior framework serves as shelves and hanging hooks. The rafters sport carved names and signatures of past inhabitants as does the front door.

Historical description

The hut was said to be airy, cold and breezy but more comfortable than some.

Golden Hills was uniquely larger than the other muster huts, being more frequently used and required to store supplies for horses and the men. The frontage once had an open verandah used for storing wood and hanging wet oilskins.

The bunks made of sacking are two up and two down side by side. They have beech pole frames and large sacks joined together by uncomfortable stitching down the middle. A long wooden table top for multiple purposes sits in the middle and a couple of small wooden open cupboards mounted on the wall.

[*Ngamatea: the land and its people* by Hazel Riseborough, Chapter 4 p105, 106 description of the hut, page 106 photo of the hut, p109-110 bathing facilities]

[*Sunrise on the Hills* by Christopher Lethbridge, p154]

[*Station Country: Back-country life in NZ* by Philip Holden Private Huts, p135-136, p135 Photo]

Long gone is the store shed for horse chaff among the trees surrounding the hut.

[*Matt's Last Muster* by Jeanette Crossley p105, 108-109]

Photo – *Golden Hills Visitor's Book*, Lester Masters 1947

13. Describe its condition

The age of the hut has seen its condition decline, particularly within the last ten year's when the hut hasn't been used as often because there is now a modern hunters' hut in the region.

It was recognized that the hut had immense historical significance to the area and wider New Zealand and so the Owhaoko B&D Trust, which administers seven land blocks forming part of the Mōkai Pātea lands which belong to Ngāti Tamakōpiri, Ngāti Whitikaupeka and Ngāti Whiti Tama, has begun a preliminary report to ascertain what will be required to restore the hut and its surroundings back to its original condition.

A registered qualified builder who has seen many backcountry huts while hunting, has ascertained that the beech timber framework is holding well, much of the original materials can be reused and feels that the prospect of restoration is very viable.

The Trust has been offered restoration assistance from qualified builders who appreciate its historic value and have used the hut while hunting in times past.

14. Provide evidence on the origins and development of the site eg why it was built?

The hut was built by in 1925 by the then owners, Messrs Carmichel and Ruddenclaw to accommodate men when working in the area as part of the network of camps for the muster.

Made from malthoid construction, all materials apart from the beech pole framework obtained from the nearby bush, were brought in from the station. The hut was built by Jack Steel (Ngamatea packman for the muster), Jimmie Wetherstone and Barny Knoll.

The first semi-permanent occupants were rabbiters Jerry Johnson, Jeffries and Bill Goldfinch.

[*Backcountry Tales* by Lester Masters, p21]

[*Station Country: Back-country life in NZ* by Philip Holden, Chapter 18 p182]

Home for the gangs of weather-hardy musters and their cooks, the hut also became a refuge for the likes of deerstalkers, rabbiters, possum hunters, fencers, goldminers, observers of bird and plant life, tramping and mountaineering clubs, and in more recent times pony club, boys brigade, scouting and school camp parties. A number of bodies like NZ Forest Service, Sika Research, NZ Deer Cullers, NZ SAS and the Pest Destruction Board have all used the hut at various times as a base camp for workers. At the beginning of WW2 the hut was even used for NZ Army guerrilla warfare training.

[*The Golden Hills Visitor's Book* and photo documents those who frequented the hut from 1945 - 1973 and adds to the tales told by its inhabitants.

[*Ngamatea: the land and its people* by Hazel Riseborough, Chapter 2 p42,54,55,56,60; Chapter 5 p153,155,226,227,233]

[*Backcountry Tales* by Lester Masters, p22-23,28]

[*Sunrise on the Hills* by Christopher Lethbridge, p73]

[*Big Country of the North Island* by Peter Newton, p154-155]

From 1925 to 1968 (the last full muster), Golden Hills was used as the central point store of horse chaff and supplies. It continued to be used up to the late 1970's for straggle musters by horseback, however the first bulldozed track of 1970 revolutionised the muster and motorised transport changed the nature of mustering from then on. The long journey back to Ngamatea station was a thing of the past and the hut predominantly became home to hunters and lovers of the outdoors.

[*Ngamatea: the land and its people* by Hazel Riseborough, Chapter 2 p42,54,55,56,60; Chapter 4 p90-91 and photo p93; Chapter 5 p182]

[*Matt's Last Muster* by Jeanette Crossley, p99 photo, 104-105, 108-109]