



***Nau mai, haere mai,
welcome to Taihape.***

20 Mount Stewart

This area of native bush was transferred to the Taihape Borough Council in 1908 and created a Borough reserve known as Mt Stewart. The name was derived from a Scottish councillor of the time after the name of his estate back in Scotland. Taihape Rotary installed the initial tracks and tower at the top of the hill and now maintained by the Friends of Taihape.

21 Majestic Cinema

Silent films screened from 1913 till 1930 when patrons were treated to the latest advances in motion picture science - speaking movies. During the 1990's, the Taihape College students ran it as an enterprise which won them national acclaim and then closed. The theatre reopened in 2010 and continues to screen up-to-date movies. Note the side hoarding 'The MAJESTIC NZs Finest Country CINEMA'.

22 The Court House

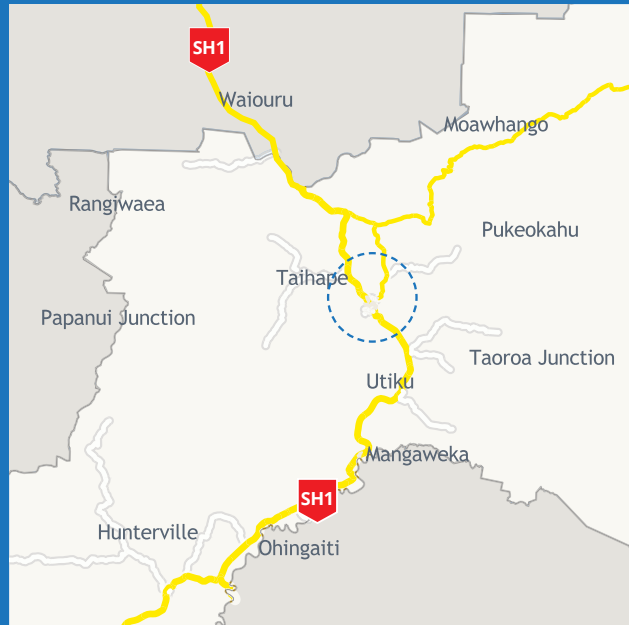
Built in 1906, possibly spurred by the frequent unruly keg parties held in local paddocks, which reached a climax on 26 November 1898. Unruly locals forced the local JPs to read the Riot Act which is only the second time it has been read in NZ.

23 Gumboot Throwing Lane

A millenium project for 2000, the throwing lane was built as a fun activity for locals and travellers taking a break.

 Discover - Heritage Listed Buildings

the way life should be



Rangitikei Information Centres

For all Rangitikei tourist information, Intercity bus, Interislander ferry, Bluebridge ferry and Great Journeys of New Zealand train bookings.

Taihape 📞 06 388 0604

Marton 📞 06 327 0080

Bulls 📞 06 322 0055

✉ info@rangitikei.govt.nz

Rotary 

The information in this brochure was largely taken from Robertson, D. 1995. Give me Taihape on a Saturday Night. Heritage Press Ltd.

 **RANGITĪKEI**
DISTRICT COUNCIL

www.taihape.co.nz
www.rangitikei.co.nz

TAIHAPE

HIKOI Town Walk

Significant Sites and Heritage Buildings



24 Taihape's Gumboot

Built as a millennium project in 2000 by sculptor Jeff Thomson this multi coloured climbable gumboot reflects the hard working Taihape farmers as depicted through John Clarke's character Fred Dagg.

Heritage
Rangitikei

 **RANGITĪKEI**
AOTEAROA

1 Old Railway Station and Turntable

The main trunk line, running between Wellington and Auckland, linked with Taihape in 1904. Between 1930 and 1980, the railways had a major influence on the town's prosperity, employing at height 400 staff. Taihape's railway station closed in 1991. Nostalgia for the days of steam locomotion led to a local resurgence in railway activity. Taihape Rotary successfully re-installed the old Taihape turntable scrapped in 2003. The turntable opened for business in 2007 and is now used to service steam train excursions.

2 The Foundry

The oldest surviving business in Taihape. Originally opened in the late 1800s as a livery stable, developed into an engineering business and run by the Marsh family up till 1983 when it was sold to the Bradley family and became Taihape Engineering Ltd. Their ex-railway steam train whistle sounds at every lunch and smoko break.

3 Achilles Corner

Commemorates the role of the New Zealand warship HMS Achilles in the battle of the River Plate. A number of locals crewed the ship hence the association with Taihape.

4 The Town Hall

Fledgling Taihape became a borough in 1906 and the town hall was opened in 1912. The gracious facade is a little Greek and a touch Georgian. Fine pressed metal ceilings can be seen in the library. The Town Hall continues to be the centre of community activity, hosting over the years church services, funerals, anniversary celebrations, RNZB & NZSO Shows, badminton, local shows and all manner of entertainment, including the world premiere of "Thelma of Taihape" the first film shoot shot in the town. Presently awaiting earthquake strengthening.

5 Cascade Brewery

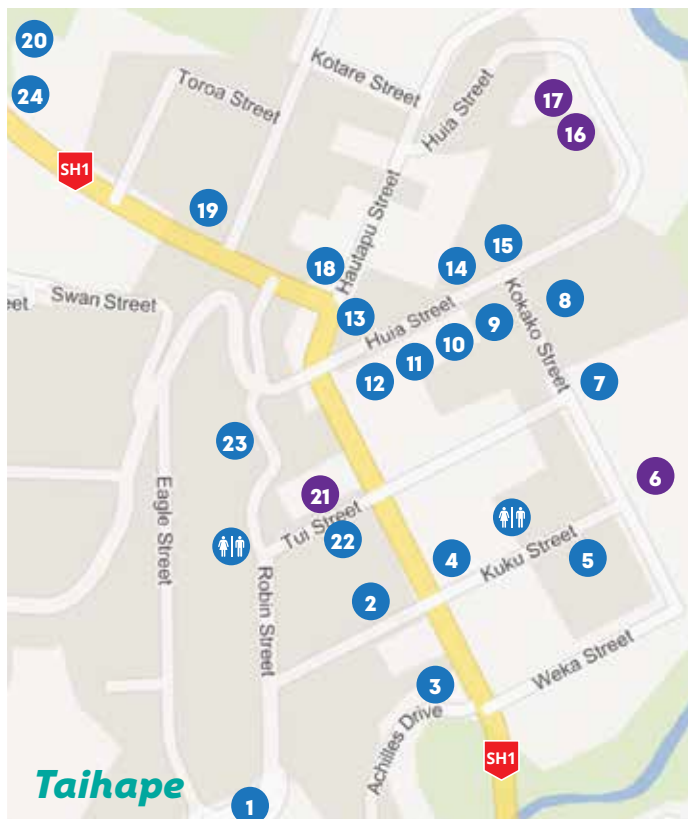
With the strong temperance movement to the north and the hard labour of early Taihape industry, a local brewery trade flourished. The Main Trunk Brewery was established on this site in 1908 by W J Kuhtze. The 1935 Cascade Brewery's typical art deco in its design, is proudly etched as "NZ's most modern brewery". Cascade was bought out by Dominion Breweries in 1955 and centralisation of the industry led to the brewery's closure.

6 The Grandstand

Completed in 1924, the Grandstand, now a listed building, hosted the first two-day A&P Show in 1925. Host also to regal and vice-regal events, the grandstand and associated recreation ground is now a focus for rugby and other sporting events.

7 The Memorial Gates

These gates unveiled in 1926, mark the entrance to the former Taihape School. The gates' pillars list the teachers and pupils who died for King and Country during the two World Wars.



8 Taihape Area School

On the site of the original school Taihape District High School which then became the Taihape Primary in 1963. Now the Taihape Area School opened in 2010 catering for children from year 1 to 13 drawing children from a vast area surrounding Taihape. It is innovative and modern in its design but serious faults have been identified which now have to be rectified.

9 Magpie Manor

The home of Douglas McDiarmid, a world-famous painter born here in 1922, who died in France in 2021 at the age of 99. One of his paintings called Cartiers Hill was painted from the top window of this building which was the first view he got each morning when he woke up. He moved to Paris after the war to pursue his career as an artist in Europe.

10 Taihape Museum

The first Methodist church built in 1902 sits at the rear of the present building which was built in 1910 and closed as a church in 1973. It was converted into the Taihape Museum in 1975 and is home to a treasure trove of local history and memorabilia.

11 The Telegraph Exchange/Le Cafe Telephonique

The old Telephone Exchange first opened in 1954 as a manual exchange and went to automatic in 1986. In 1995 it became Café Exchange and a further name 2008 to the present Le Cafe Telephonique.

12 The Post Office

Opened in 1907 it originally housed the clock tower which had to be removed after the Napier earthquake. It now houses two retail shops.

13 The Triangle

A gathering place at dawn on ANZAC Day, the cenotaph commemorates those gallant local boys who fell in the Great War. The Clock Tower prominently aligned to the north, was erected in 1954, fitted with a modern electric clock but taking its bell and striking mechanism from the old Post Office clock.

14 Presbyterian Church and Hall

The Presbyterians built its first church in 1904 for £179. In 1979 the old church was demolished and replaced with the present-day modern church. The hall next to it was built in 1913. The minister at the time was Rev. Catherwood - he was a keen boxer and he had it built as a boxing gym for the youth of the day before the start of World War 1.

15 Masonic Lodge

Built in 1906, it is one of the oldest buildings still used for its original purpose.

16 St Margaret's Anglican Church

Opened in 1902 it is the last of the towns original churches still in use. St Margaret's is a typical English country church with wood panelling and beautiful stained glass windows.

17 St Mary's Catholic Church

Built in 1954 to a design by architect Ernst Plischke is an architectural style dramatically different to its neighbour. The paintings inside depicting the "Stations of the Cross" are unique. The figure of Christ crucified seen on the front is by Martin Roestenberg, a significant Taihape artist at the time.

18 Gretna Hotel

At the turn of the 19th century, saw-milling and road and rail construction boosted demand for temporary accommodation in Taihape. Taihape had more sawmills per square mile than anywhere else in New Zealand. The Gretna Hotel quickly became the towns principal accommodation and watering hole for itinerant workers and locals alike.

19 Farmlands Mural

Painted in 2019 by artist Otis Frizzell. Farmlands selected various branches to have murals depicting their areas painted on them. Taihape got the sheep.