

## A Place of Significance

### Pre and post Learning Experiences

These are suggestions that could be adapted to suit different levels.

#### Interview with an Older Person

Choose a person who grew up in your district in the 1950's or earlier. Ask if they would be willing to talk about some of the older buildings in the district. You may wish to compile your own questions but here are some examples:

Ask:

- What buildings in this district are still the same as when you were a child?
- Which of the older buildings have changed? How?
- Which building do you think is the most important historical building? Why?

Make a map of the district showing just the buildings built before the 1950's. Discuss how the area has changed. Collect photos of places taken in earlier times and compare these images with the same scene today.

Discuss reasons why people like to retain historic buildings.

#### Problem Solving

Choose an old building in the district.

Make a list of all the problems associated with maintaining this building, for example:

Problem	Solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vandals might write graffiti on it.</li><li>• Someone may set fire to it.</li><li>• Heavy vehicles may cause damage.</li><li>• It may cost a lot of money to repair it.</li><li>• It may no longer be very comfortable to live in.</li></ul>	

Group discussion:

List as many solutions to the problems listed above as possible.

Ask: Why is it important to maintain and protect this building?

### **After a Visit to Highwic**

Alfred Buckland was a well-known man in Auckland who was a trusted businessperson with many and varied business interests. You can find out more about him on the web. Some of the men he would have associated with are John Logan Campbell, James Dilworth, Bishop Selwyn and George Grey. Contemporary people whom Alfred Buckland would have heard of but possibly have not met are Kate Sheppard, Richard John Seddon, Rewi Maniapoto and King Tawhaio.

Select any one of these famous New Zealanders to research and present as a book, radio report, or web page.

### **The Buckland Family**

During your visit to Highwic, find out about Mariamne Buckland. She was one of the daughters of Alfred and Eliza Buckland and she lived to be 102 years old. There are recordings of her telling stories of life in the early days.

In one story she describes her trip to the famous pink and white terraces near Rotorua, at the age of fifteen.

- On a map of New Zealand find her route.
- Find out what year she travelled to Rotorua.
- List some of the difficulties of a journey like that in those days. Compare with today.
- Research the Mount Tarawera eruption.



Mariamne Buckland 1855 – 1957

### **Conservation**

At Highwic there is a large collection of furniture, artwork, costumes and household linen, photographs and ornaments that relate back to the nineteenth century. Not all of these items belonged to the Buckland family but they serve to furnish the house as it once was.

Discuss:

- What mementos from the past do you keep at home?
- Why do you keep it/them?
- How do you look after it/them?

Work in groups to complete the following chart. If you have difficulty answering these questions you might like to ask your parents or grandparents.

Conservation Procedure	What type of Object?	Why would you do this?
Keep the dust off.		
Polish with Museum polish.		
Keep away from water or damp places.		
Store in a dark place.		
Keep out of the sunshine.		
Keep away from insects.		

### Interpretation

Select one of the rooms at Highwic. Find out as much as you can about the ways this room would be used in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

1. Recreate the room either as a model or a drawing.
2. Prepare your information report.
3. Show and tell other class members about the room you have chosen.

You might like to arrange a return trip to Highwic and act as a Highwic host – telling your friends or family about some of the information you have found out.

