



## Timeline of events significant to Hawke's Bay's agricultural and pastoral industry

Researched and compiled by Ewan McGregor to 2013

- 181 AD** Taupo eruption (recorded in the Northern Hemisphere), with other Central North Island eruptions, influences the soil type over much of Hawke's Bay.
- c1000** Maori arrive. Maori introduce the rat (kiori) and dog (kuri) and subsequently hunt Mōa and other species to extinction and fire large tracts of Hawke's Bay land.
- Pre-European Maori agriculture (Karaka, kumara). Cook; observed...plantations of yams, sweet potatoes, and cocoas (taro). He also commented on Poverty Bay coast and Mahia & Portland Island; We could...distinguish several spots of land that were cultivated; some seemed to be fresh turned up, and lay in furrows like ploughed land and some had plants upon them in different stages of growth. Maori also harvested the fern roots and the shoots and roots of juvenile cordyline (cabbage tree), and to a small degree the Karaka tree for its fruit, sometimes planting the species inland.
- 1350** Takitimu canoe arrives, calling, it is believed, at Mahia, Nuhaka, Wairoa and finally at Waimarama where a school of learning was established.
- 1550** Approximate date of Kahungunu occupation of Hawke's Bay
- 1773** Captain James Cook hoves to in the HMS Adventurer at Pourerere and gifts to Maori pigs, fowl and (presumably vegetable) seeds. Pigs, known to this day as 'Captain Cookers', thrived beyond expectations (although it is a matter of conjecture as to whether the survivors were from this liberation), the fowl did not, and there is no indication that the seeds were successfully cultivated. Later, explorers, missionaries, and whalers and sealers provided Māori with seeds which they most definitely productively cultivated, assisted by metal tools. Cook gave Maori 'a piece of red baize, some garden seeds, two pigs of each sex, and likewise three pairs of fowls'. Elsewhere he records giving Maori radishes, cabbages, turnips, carrots, onions, parsley, peas, beans, potatoes, so it could be assumed that similar species were gifted here.
- 1830s** Whalers and traders introduce steel tools for Maori to cultivate crops.
- 1840s** (Late) Frederick Sturm and William Colenso introduce fruit trees to Hawke's Bay.
- 1849** Northwood and Tiffen drive 3,000 Merino sheep up the coast from Wairarapa to Pourerere on behalf of Charles Nairn where they depastured on the region's first grazing run.
- 1850** Donald McLean (later Sir) in his capacity as Crown Land Purchasing Agent visits Hawke's Bay to explore land purchases.
- 1851** McLean returns and negotiates the purchase of large tracts of Hawke's Bay land from Nati Kahungunu.
- 1853** Romney Marsh sheep introduced from England and provide the basis of the NZ Romney crossbreed sheep which becomes the dominant Hawke's Bay (and North Island sheep breed after the turn of the 20th Century).
- 1854** Fred Chapman of Edenham Station (Elsthorpe District) plants out gorse (recorded in his diary). Likely the first gorse in Hawke's Bay.
- 1855** Hawke's Bay's first official post office opened at Ahuriri.
- Napier becomes a customs port of entry.
- Wairarapa Earthquake severely affects parts of Hawke's Bay.

- 1856** By this time Donald McLean has purchased, on behalf of the Crown, 1,200,000 acres of land from Maori, and there are 30 sheep stations established in Hawke's Bay carrying 130,000 sheep, 3,081 cattle and 382 horses. Progress is frustrated by a serious outbreak of scab.
- 1857** Hawke's Bay Herald formed, soon to become a daily, the region's first.
- 1858** Land owners meet in Napier's Royal Hotel and form an association, the forerunner of the Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society.
- Formation of the Hawke's Bay Provincial District, stretching from the southern end of the Whararatas in the north to the eastern end of the Manawatu Gorge.
- 1859** Post-master General accepts tenders for the conveyance of inland mail in Hawke's Bay.
- Richardson's shipping company formed, which served small ports and coastal stations on the east coast for the next 103 years. A close family and business relationship with the Stock and Station agency Williams & Kettle ensures that this company has a strong cliental of coastal stations serviced by the company.
- 1860s** (Early) Radiata pine likely to have been introduced into Hawke's Bay after being brought to New Zealand by Californian gold miners.
- 1863** The first show held in Havelock North by the newly formed Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society.
- Severe earthquake in Hawke's Bay
- 1865** Catholic missionaries begin winemaking at Meeanee.
- 1866** Nair Brothers of Porerere import two Shorthorn bulls and a cow with calf at foot, the first purebred imports of the breed in New Zealand. The shorthorn was the predominant beef breed until crossing with Hereford and Angus breeds in the early 20th Century.
- Battle of Omarunui defeats the Hauhau, consolidating Maori-Pakeha relations in Hawke's Bay.
- 1867** Flood. Ngaruroro alters its course from what is now the Karamu Stream to near its present position, passing east of Fernhill.
- First record of an artesian bore sunk in the Heretaunga Plains, at Meeanee.
- Regular coach service between Napier and Waipukurau established.
- 1868** Hawke's Bay Acclimatisation Society formed, later to introduce animal species for recreation, some enriching the life of the locals, and some having the opposite effect.
- 1870** Hawke's Bay's first saw mill operated by Cashmore in the Waipukurau district. This has been confused in at least one history publication as Waipureku, the Maori name for the Clive district.
- 1874** The Queen Bee arrives in Napier from Britain with a shipment of 650 birds of various species, organised by the H. B.
- Acclimatisation Society to 'remind the settlers of home'.
- 1875** Napier (later Hawke's Bay) Harbour Board formed. For the next 60 or so years it would be largely funded by a rate on land, which, primarily, was rural land. For this reason the Board was an elected body, remaining so long after the need for rating income.
- 1876** Three counties (Wairoa, Hawke's Bay and Waipawa) replace the abolished Hawke's Bay Provincial District Council.
- Rabbit Nuisance Act passed.
- Railway reaches Waipawa.

- 1878** Report of land purchase by Thomas Tanner and others ("The Twelve Apostles") supports the right to land ownership on the Heretaunga Plains, thereby leading to their development.
- First traction engine in N. Z. imported by Thomas Tanner.
- 1880** Scab, a serious skin disease of sheep through infection of a mange mite first identified in NZ in 1849, is eradicated due to requirements of sheep owners to carry out control measures.
- 1881** Stock and station agency Williams and Kettle established.
- 1884** North Island's first export of frozen meat from Nelson Brothers' Tomoana plant successfully shipped through the Port of Napier. This leads to the demise of the Merino as the principal sheep breed and the gradual emergence of dual purpose
- Romney 'Crossbred'. (Tomoana was initially established in 1881 as a preserving and boiling down works.)
- Huge bush fires along 70 mile bush.
- 1885** First livestock sale yards, in Hastings.
- Centrifugal cream separators introduced to dairy factories, allowing for the efficient separation of cream. They later become available on farms, reducing the need to deliver whole milk to butter factories.
- 1886** Waipawa River permanently diverted into the Tukituki River, enabling the reclamation of fertile lowlands in the Te Hauke area.
- 1887** Wool scouring gets underway with 4,000 of the 30,000 exported through Napier.
- Harbour Board begins development of Breakwater Harbour.
- Railway reaches Woodville.
- Hawke's Bay Rabbit Board established (N. Z.'s first). But rabbits first seen in southern part of the Province in the 1860s.
- Freezing works, owned by North British and Hawke's Bay Freezing Coy. Ltd., opened at Western Spit (later known as Westshore) primarily to serve producers north of the Inner Harbour.
- 1889** Hawke's Bay Hunt founded.
- 1891** First commercial winery established by Bernard Chambers at Te Mata.
- 1892** Introduction of machine shearing at Blackhead Station.
- Through railway to Wellington completed.
- Lands for Settlement Act passed by the Liberal Government, leading to the breaking up for family settlement of the big estates, affecting Hawke's Bay more than any other North Island region. (The Act contained a compulsory acquisition clause if the owner proved unwilling to sell to the government. The clause was only invoked once, that being the Woburn Estate of Purvis Russell, of Hatuma.) This legislation went hand-in-hand with graduated land taxes.
- Heretaunga Co-operative Butter Factory established at Hastings, and a dairy factory opened at Umutaoroa in the Dannevirke District. This leads to the replacement of the dual purpose shorthorn with dairy breeds.
- 1894** Sheep Breeders Association formed.
- 1897** One of the greatest floods to have affected the province causes major losses on the Plains.
- Norsewood Dairy Company opens a dairy factory.
- William Shrimpton of Matapiro Station imports three deer from Otago, and establishes a herd which he later liberates.

They work their way up the Ngaruroro and into the ranges where they flourish

**1900** Noxious Weeds Act.

**1902** First National Conference of the Farmers' Union.

First Autumn Show

Bernard Chambers acquires the first car in Hawke's Bay, an Oldsmobile.

**1903** Stortford Lodge saleyards opened.

**1904** J. N. Williams opens a canning factory at his Frimley Estate. It closed in 1913. Little preservation of fruit and vegetables was then done until the emergence of James Wattie in 1934.

**1905** Thos. Borthwick & Sons open freezing works at Paki Paki.

Horton's Nursery opened. This becomes a substantial establishment supplying large numbers of fruit trees throughout the country and even South America.

**1909** Harbour Board ceases development of Breakwater Harbour and focusses on Inner Harbour.

**1900-10**

Machine shearing comes into general use.

**1910** Herd testing of dairy herds begun.

**1911** Hawke's Bay Rivers Board formed.

**1914** National records show that the Hawke's Bay Land District contains a quarter of the national sheep flock.

Outbreak of World War One. This leads to the reduction of manual labour in the agricultural industry, much permanently due to the appalling casualty rate. As a War measure the bulk purchasing of farm exports is introduced.

**1914-16**

Severe drought, perhaps the region's worst. Many cattle perish due to lack of drinking water.

**1915** Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act passed.

Gerhard Husheer develops a tobacco farm at Te Awanga, but it proves unsuccessful, being subject to unseasonal late frosts.

He then enters into the business of cigarette and tobacco manufacture at Ahuriri with great success.

Hawke's Bay Farmers Meat Company opens freezing works at Whakatu, which later came to be regarded as the nation's flagship by the industry.

**1916** Fruitgrowers Federation formed.

**1917** Freezing works opened in Wairoa, exporting through Waikokopu.

Tractors (of a sort) make their appearance on farms.

**1918** Returning soldiers begin to be settled on farms. Over the next 30 years indifferent prices, reversion and rabbits lead to a high number of failures with many settlers subsequently being forced off their properties with little or no capital to show for it.

**1919** Fordson tractors (the tractor equivalent of the Model T) make an appearance in N.Z. (Total number of tractors in N.Z. equals just 136.)

Josiah Howard bequeaths Smedley Station, west of Tikokino, to the Crown for the purposes of agricultural education. It is in a rundown condition and it is not until 1931 that cadets are able to be accepted. It

becomes the leading institution in the country educating farm cadets without the need for direct government assistance, although it doesn't pay income tax.

**1920s** Post War motorisation, specially the availability of the 'Model I' Ford, leads to changing commercial patterns, and the consequent decline of the hamlet in favour of the larger towns, a process that continued for the rest of the century.

**1920** Nelson Brothers sell Tomoana freezing works to Vestey of the United Kingdom.

State Forest Service formed.

First aircraft (flying from Gisborne on 19th June) lands in Hawke's Bay at the Hastings racecourse, after making an emergency landing at Waikare Station, where repairs were effected.

**1921** Hydro power (from Mangahao in the Horowhenua) reaches Hawke's Bay. Rural reticulation begins soon after, but takes another forty years before generally complete.

Herbert Guthrie-Smith publishes Tutira, the Story of a Sheep Station, (revised 1926 and 1939), still regarded as New Zealand's most notable non-fiction book.

New Zealand Women's Institute formed at Rissington.

**1921-22**

Meat prices slump, leading to formation of the N.Z. Meat Board to co-ordinate marketing.

**1922** Embankment road and bridge across Inner Harbour opened, funded equally by Harbour Board, Hawke's Bay County Council and the Railways Department. (It was to be the enclosure of a proposed deep-water port.)

**1923** Dairy Control Board (later becomes the N. Z. Dairy Board in 1961) created to control marketing.

**1924** Westshore freezing works closes, unable to compete with Whakatu and Tomoana following the opening of the embankment bridge.

Severe flood, with a metre of rain recorded at Puketitiri.

**c1925** First cartage of sheep by truck (with three-deck crates).

**1925** Hawke's Bay Spring Show first held at Tomoana.

First tractor (McCormick Deering) with power take-off shaft appears.

**1926** Large plantation forest established by Chambers at Waikoau, the first in Hawke's Bay. Species include radiata, redwood and douglas fir.

Co-operative dairy herd scheme developed, which later developed into a national scheme, allowing the scientific identification of individual cow performance.

**1927** Seed certification introduced, firstly for potatoes and wheat, but two years later for grass seeds.

**1928-29** First export apples shipped from Port of Napier.

**c1929** Last wool exported across the surf on the Hawke's Bay coast, at Purerere, although it was shipped from the coast at Akitio up to 1942, but that was just south of the H.B. boundary.

**1929** First power scheme completed at Waikaremoana, thereby hastening the reticulation of power to rural areas.

New variety of ryegrass developed by DSIR, initially known as Hawke's Bay ryegrass. Hawke's Bay becomes the preeminent region for ryegrass seed production, which is in great demand nationally, especially during the era of vigorous land development through the third quarter of the 20th Century.

New York Wall Street stock market crash precipitates global depression.

- 1930** White butterfly makes its appearance in Hawke's Bay, the first in New Zealand, affecting the cultivation of brassica crops.
- 1931** Hawke's Bay Earthquake. Two metre up-thrust drains much of the Ahuriri Lagoon, and subsequent drainage by government largely completes the process, allowing the farming of several thousand of acres which hitherto didn't exist.
- Napier has since largely expanded over much of the area.
- Thos. Borthwick & Sons Paki Paki freezing works seriously damaged by the Earthquake and permanently closed. It later becomes a plastics factory (1947).
- Severe drought known as 'Earthquake Year Drought'.
- Whakatu and Tomoana Freezing works move from solo butchers to the chain system, the first in the country to do so.
- William (Billy) Richmond forms a meat company bearing his name.
- 1932-33** Farm product prices reach nadir. Government devalues (then known as an exchange premium) the £ by 25%.
- Small Farms Board established under legislation, primarily to settle qualifying unemployed men. By 1941 388 families had been settled, mostly in Auckland and Hawke's Bay.
- 1934** James Wattie establishes J. Wattie Canneries, thereby profoundly changing land use on the Heretaunga Plains and, later, other productive flat land.
- After an intense public debate the Napier Harbour Board resolves to develop the Breakwater Harbour as a deep water port, the first ferro-concrete wharf being opened in 1939. Thus ends, well almost ends, the division within the Harbour Board between the Inner Harbour and the Breakwater Harbour.
- 1935** First tractors with rubber tyres.
- 1936** New Zealand Wool Board formed.
- First open season on possums. (A licence needed hitherto.)
- Tutaekuri River diverted away from Napier and out to sea at Awatoto.
- Severe late frost virtually wipes out the season's fruit crop.
- Piet van Asch establishes New Zealand Aerial Mapping, based in Hastings, operating out of Bridge Pa airport. As a result high-definition vertical photos of farm properties become available and a valuable tool for planning.
- First D2 diesel crawler tractor introduced to Hawke's Bay, heralding a new era in crawler tractor technology that was to lead to major land development and hill country improvement through the use of bulldozers, root rakes and giant discs, although it was not until after WW2 that this was able to be fully realised.
- First use of aircraft in agriculture in New Zealand when Jock McHardy sows grass seed on steep coastal hills at Blackhead Station.
- 1937** Sufficient land is acquired through Harbour Board lease immediately south of the Napier Boys' High School to form a farm to provide practical instruction as part of the agricultural course at the school.
- 1938** 'ANZAC Day' storm causes severe erosion north of Napier and siltation of the fertile Esk Valley.
- Railway opened to Wairoa (and Gisborne in 1942).
- Powerful transmitter established at papa provides improved radio coverage.
- 1939** World War Two begins. Soon after, commandeering of main farm products is introduced, and remains until some years after the cessation of hostilities.

- 1941** Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act passed by Parliament, largely as a result of the 1938 ANZAC Day Storm.
- c1943** Merrick Williams of Ngahere Station, Omakere, pioneers over-paddock planting of poplar for soil conservation. This later becomes a primary policy of the Catchment Board and Regional Council.
- 1943** Soldiers' Settlement Act passed.
- 1944** First State Forest established at Gwavas, thereby starting a trees versus farming debate in farming circles.  
Hawke's Bay Catchment Board formed as a result of the 1941 Act.  
Last bullock team in Hawke's Bay.
- 1945** Federated Farmers formed.
- 1946** Army surplus 4-wheel drive trucks and jeeps become available, enhancing cross country mobility. New British Landrovers soon after become available.  
Severe drought.  
End of the 'Country Quota, which allowed for lower population in rural parliamentary electorates.  
Hormone weedicides became available.
- 1948** NZ £ re-valued 25%.
- 1949** First Ferguson tractors available with revolutionary three-point linkage.
- 1950s** Bulk header harvesters become commonly used.
- c1950** Electric fences begin to be used on dairy, and later, sheep farms.
- 1950** First aerial sowing of fertiliser in Hawke's Bay.  
First Blossom Festival held in Hastings.  
Pressure treating of radiata pine for preservation using tanalythe introduced.
- 1951** Wool prices boom. Waterfront strike/lockout leads to the cancellation of some sales.  
One of heaviest snow storms in Hawke's Bay's European history.
- c1952** Last use of traction engine for threshing on farms.
- 1953** East Coast Farmers Fertiliser (now Ravensdown) opens plant at Awatoto.  
Flood in eastern Central Hawke's Bay causes widespread erosion and stock losses.
- 1954** First use of a helicopter in Hawke's Bay.  
Godfrey and Ivan Bowen shear blow-for-blow at McLean Park for Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh. Godfrey Bowen, thereafter, becomes a proponent of in his improved shearing technique.  
Introduction of polythene pipe, revolutionising domestic, stock and irrigation water reticulation.
- 1956** Hawke's Bay Branch of the Farm Forestry Association formed.
- Mid 1950s**  
Tanker milk collection begins in Hawke's Bay. This leads to a substantial reduction in pork production on dairy farms due to the cessation of the availability of skim milk.
- 1958** Last Autumn Show.
- 1959** First export of exotic wood (logs) through the Port of Napier.

Hydatids Act passed, leading to farmers (and other dog owners) to present their dogs at six-weekly intervals for dosing and sampling at a centrally located roadside strip.

### Early 1960s

Trucks begin to be equipped with trailers, dual sheep and cattle crates and ever increasing engine power, leading to significant advances in road transport efficiency.

**1960s** Era of major improvement through straightening and sealing of main arterial roads throughout the region.

**c1960** Commercial cultivation of kiwifruit begins.

**1960** Major reconstruction of the Napier Taupo Road begins, being completed a decade later, thus greatly increasing market opportunities with the northern half of the North Island.

**1961** Thybenzole, a new broad-spectrum sheep drench, developed, eliminating a condition of 'hogget ill-thrift', but really simply internal worm burden. This new type of drench replaced the commonly used Phenothiazene, the benefit of which one vet described as being the boosting the morale of the farmer rather than the health of the sheep.

Stock and station agencies Dalgety and the N. Z. Loan Company amalgamate, beginning a trend of amalgamation that eventually leads to just one by 2005 with the Wrightsons acquisition of Williams and Kettle.

Extremely wet winter causes lambing losses, and fruit tree fatality through root rot.

**1962** Windy spring in 1961 causes the soil to 'turn from porridge to concrete, leading to drought through the summer of 1962.

Fire destroys much of J. Wattie Canneries factory.

Bloom dips banned.

Farmers Trading Society (later renamed Farmlands) formed.

Dieldren and Aldren insecticides banned by the United States.

**c1963** Perendale breed, named after Sir Geoffrey Peren who developed it from Cheviot and Romney genes, first registered.

**1963** Television transmissions begin in Hawke's Bay.

**1964** Dedicated wool exchange built on Napier's Marine Parade eliminating the need for sales to be held in the Municipal Theatre.

Graham Lowe establishes a meat business in Hastings, which eventually develops into a major enterprise.

**1965** Safety frames on new tractors become compulsory. (Between 1949 and 1964 there were 369 tractor fatalities in N.Z.)

### Mid 1960s

Motorbikes adapted for off-road use begin to be used on farms. These are soon after replaced by purpose built farm bikes of Japanese manufacture. The days of the farm hack are numbered.

**1966-67** Wool prices slump.

**1967** \$NZ devalued by 20%.

**1968** Harbour Board resolves to develop the Breakwater Harbour into a quay-side port, as opposed to finger piers. This enables the accumulation of inwards and outwards cargo at the quayside and the elimination of ship-side congestion, thus leading to major improvements in efficiency.



- 1969** 60,000 Two-tooth ewes yarded at the first Waipukurau ewe fair of the season, thereby symbolising, surely, the zenith of the Hawke's Bay sheep industry.
- c1970** First deer farm in Hawke's Bay.
- 1970** Consents for irrigation water takes introduced.
- 1972** First hydraulic digger in Hawke's Bay.
- 1972-73** New wool marketing proposals based on compulsory acquisition and coinciding with price recovery sparks a fiery debate among farmers nationally, but led from Hawke's Bay. The proposals are abandoned.
- 1973** Severe drought.
- Establishment of the Pan Pac Mill at Whirinaki gives a boost to the plantation forestry industry.
- Britain joins the European Common Market (later the European Union).
- 1974** Poplar rust reaches Hawke's Bay from the north (originally blown across from Australia) effectively suspending poplar planting for soil conservation for a decade.
- Major food affects much of eastern Hawke's Bay.
- Waipukurau Borough, County and Patangata County Councils amalgamate to form the Waipukurau District Council.
- This is the first such amalgamation of boroughs and counties in Hawke's Bay. Others follow before further mandated restructuring in 1989.
- Pacific Freezing (a joint venture between Richmonds and Lowe Walker) opens a dedicated beef processing plant at Whakatu.
- 1975** The election of the Third National Government which implements a raft of farm production incentives leading to the imprudent development of steep land, over stocking, and production levels in excess of market requirements.
- 1970s** Farmers' wives (later the description would become wives/partners) increasingly commence, or re-commence, employment in town, travelling daily, after children have started school. Or, also increasingly, female partners become active in on-farm operations, especially where distance makes daily commuting to town impractical.
- Computer technology substantially increases farm accountancy efficiency.
- Diversification becomes the catch cry as farm product prices languish. The consensus is "that if you can afford to diversify you don't need to; if you need to you can't afford it".
- 1977** Queen Elizabeth II National Trust formed to assist land owners to protect physically and legally in perpetuity natural features on their land. This signals an awakening in environmental and natural heritage protection that develops into the 21st Century.
- 1978** First dedicated container ship loads containers at the Port of Napier. It is a roll-on roll-off vessel not requiring on-shore cranes, as the Port is prevented from so equipping itself by the New Zealand Ports Authority.
- 1980** Ngaruroro river breaks its bank at Twyford.
- 1981** Freezing works opened at Takapau (H.B. Farmers Meat Company) and Oringi (Pacific Freezing) after the industry is delicensed (licences were needed to open and operate a meat plant) as a result of farmers' pressure nationwide, but led by Hawke's Bay Federated Farmers.
- 1982-85** Meat Board Intervention in lamb market.
- 1983** Severe drought. Lake Hatuma dries up.

**1983-84** The national sheep flock reaches its zenith at 70.3 million head.

**1984** The election of the Fourth Labour Government leads to the cessation of government assistance to the farming industry.

The New Zealand farming industry thereby becomes the least subsidised of any developed country in the world. But in conjunction with other fiscal and monetary policies the inflation that had debilitated the exporting industries for the previous twenty years is brought under control.

**1986** Severe winter drought.

**1987** Hawke's Bay Farmers Meat Company is taken over by W. Richmond Ltd and the Whakatu freezing works is immediately closed, the victim of overcapacity.

**1988** The Central Hawke's Bay Vet Club introduces 'Ultra-sound scanning' of pregnant ewes to enable early and reliable detection of drys and multiple births. Initially this involved dragging the ewe across the board, but later 'walk-through' crates were developed in the early 1990s. This was a major breakthrough in late-winter early-spring management.

Cyclone Bola dumps heavy rain on Northern Hawke's Bay (and Gisborne) leading to a national rethink, as with the 1938 storm, on the wisdom of farming steep and erodible hill country.

In anticipation of local government reform, management of the Port of Napier is placed under an appointed independent directorship, but remaining in the ownership of the soon-to-be dissolved Harbour Board. Ownership is transferred the following year to the Hawke's Bay and Manawatu/Wanganui Regional Councils, the former with 92%.

**1989** Major nation-wide reform of local government, resulting in Hawke's Bay having four 'territorial' authorities, and a regional council, being primarily responsible for environmental management.

Severe drought.

#### **Late 1980s**

Three, but soon after, the more stable four wheel low-tyre-pressure motorbikes become available for on-farm mobility, and quickly became standard farm equipment.

#### **Early 1990s**

Cell phones become generally available for communication providing efficiency and security for on-farm operations.

**1992** Resource Management Act Passed.

Flood in Central Hawke's Bay raises Tukituki River to record levels.

Dedicated rescue helicopter established.

**c1992** Pour-on parasite control becomes available, greatly easing the task of controlling internal and external parasites, especially with cattle.

**1994** Tomoana freezing works closes.

Internet/email introduced.

Forestry Amendment Act No 2 severely controls logging of native trees on private land.

**1995** Hawke's Bay Environmental Awards inaugurated.

Hawke's Bay Regional Council introduces the Regional Landcare Scheme providing funding assistance for private landowners in recognition of the public benefit.

#### **Early 2000s**

Good prices for milk vis-à-vis meat and wool, and developments in irrigation technology lead to a major upsurge in dairy production in Hawke's Bay. Sustained improving fortunes of dairy farmers alters the social status of the sheep farmer vis-à-vis the 'cow cockie'.

- 2000** Willow saw fly arrives in Hawke's Bay seriously debilitating river protection plantings.
- 2001** Dairy cooperative Fonterra formed, bringing to virtual completion the amalgamation of a proliferation of small dairy factory cooperatives, of which there were 17 in the old Hawke's Bay Provincial District area.
- 2004** Dunedin based Primary Producers Cooperative Society completes an acrimonious takeover of W. Richmond Limited. (Later called Silver Fern Farms.)
- 2008** Oringi meat plant closes

#### **2008-2013**

Series of seasons of moderate to severe drought.

- 2009** Broadband arrives in Hawke's Bay
- 2011** Severe flood along the narrow coastal margin of Hawke's Bay causes severe erosion, exacerbated by the coincidence of an earthquake.
- 2012** Hawkes' Bay Regional Council promotes a major dam on the Makaroro river for irrigation on the Ruataniwha Plains.

Eastern Horticulture Field Days inaugurated.

- 2013** Severe drought affects Hawke's Bay and beyond.  
Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society celebrates 150 years of service to the Hawke's Bay Province.
- 2017** A night spectacle at HB A&P Show was trialled but it was not a great success

- 2019** Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The first known case was identified in China, December 2019. The disease quickly spread worldwide, resulting in the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hawke's Bay region suffered drought over summer

- 2020** In response to the first COVID-19 outbreak in late February 2020, the New Zealand Government closed the country's borders and imposed Nationwide lockdown from 26 March to 27 May 2020. Regionalised alert level changes then came into effect, where the Auckland Region has entered lockdown twice, in August–September 2020 and February–March 2021.

Hawke's Bay A&P Show had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 lockdown restrictions... Affect on Society events Show /NHFD

Hawke's Bay region suffered another drought during lock down which was said to be the worst drought in 100 years.

HB A&P Society provided Hawke's Bay Showgrounds to operate as a distribution centre for #thecollectivehug initiative set up by Diana Greer to support farmers through the drought.

HB A&P Society provided Hawke's Bay Showgrounds to operate a COVID-19 food supplies hub with Iwi.

A very reduced HB A&P Show was held due to COVID-19 constraints

- 2021** New Zealand entered nationwide lockdown the Government abandoned its elimination strategy while accelerating the country's vaccination rollout. Auckland remained in a form of lockdown until 3 December 2021.

HB A&P Show was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions

**2022** 27<sup>rd</sup> June The Hawke's Bay A&P Society General Committee voted to sell Tomoana Showgrounds to Hastings District Council - 2/3 majority to sell to the Council. Sale and Purchase agreement and side license agreement signed which allows the Hawke's Bay A&P Society to continue to use the grounds free of charge for 10 days per annum, plus pack in and out days. The Hastings District Council will ensure the grounds are kept so the Society can hold the annual HB A&P Show as required.

National Horticultural Field Days were postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

February and May, the Government gradually eased border restrictions, public gathering limits, and vaccine mandate requirements. In September 2022, the Government ended the COVID-19 Protection Framework, lifting the remaining vaccine mandates and mask requirements.

The Society held the first full HB A&P Show in three years, due to Covid-19 restrictions.

**2023** 14th February Severe Tropical Cyclone Gabrielle devastated the North Island of New Zealand the deadliest cyclone and weather event overall to hit New Zealand since Cyclone Giselle in 1968, surpassing Cyclone Bola in 1988.

Civil Defence requisitioned Hawke's Bay Showgrounds from Hawke's Bay A&P Society to set up the regional Cyclone Distribution Centre, with supplies being sent by air and road to isolated regions. The operation lead by Civil Defence was run with NZ Defence, Fire & Emergency New Zealand, HB Regional Council, Iwi, Volunteers HB, HB A&P Society and other organisations.

20<sup>th</sup> March Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Empowering Bill received Royal Assent. [House - New Zealand Parliament \(bills.parliament.nz\)](https://bills.parliament.nz)

17 March Tomoana Showgrounds subdivision finalised in preparation for land sale. HB A&P Society to retain 2.8ha and Hastings District Council to purchase

31 March Hastings District Council purchased the Hawke's Bay Showgrounds, which was now to be named Tomoana Showgrounds.

Hawke's Bay Primary Sector Awards were postponed then held in a new format for the year with no awards, a cocktail style function for the sector to reconnect.

National Horticultural Field Days was postponed due to Cyclone, and held at the HB A&P Show.