

# TARAWERA 1886

With the assistance of  
the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council  
of New Zealand

Auckland City Art Gallery  
10 June to 3 August 1986

Charles Blomfield (1848-1926)  
*White Terrace* 1897  
oil on canvas, 815 x 1330mm  
collection of the Auckland City Art Gallery  
presented by D. L. Murdoch, Esq.

# TARAWERA 1886

With the assistance of  
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This exhibition commemorates the eruption of 10 June 1886, when the Tarawera volcano obliterated the famous pink and white terraces of Rotomahana, and tragically destroyed the villages of the tangata whenua, Ngāi Tahuourangi.

From its 'discovery' in 1841 to its destruction in 1886, Rotomahana and its terraces became the most frequently depicted of all New Zealand's scenic wonders. Here is a broad range of this work, encompassing watercolours, photographs, oil paintings, and published maps and prints. Essentially this is art produced by tourists, and later for tourists – pictures that inevitably contributed to the international fame of what was called the eighth wonder of the world.

The spectacular destruction of the terraces was documented by George Valentine and Charles Blomfield, who had earlier contributed some of the most compelling pictures of pre-eruption Rotomahana. The desolation was soon known as 'The New Wonderland', for the eruption spelt not an end, but rather a change of focus for tourism in this district. Instead of Te Wairoa and Rotomahana, there were now the Buried Village, the craters of Tarawera, and the new thermal wonders of Waimangu.

Thanks are due to the institutional and private lenders whose generosity has made this exhibition possible. Special thanks also to Ron Keam for help with the identification and dating of works.

Roger Blackley  
Curator, Historical New Zealand Art

## Checklist of the Exhibition

### TANGATA WHENUA

Alfred Burton (1834-1914)

1. *At Rotomahana* c.1879 photograph\*, 160 x 205mm National Museum, Wellington
2. *Runanga House, Hinemihi, Wairoa* 1885 photograph\*, 390 x 500mm National Museum, Wellington
3. *Aporo & Ngareta at Wairoa* 1885 photograph, 197 x 144mm Otago Early Settlers Museum, Dunedin
4. *Paul at Wairoa* 1885 photograph\*, 207 x 163mm National Museum, Wellington
5. *Ngareta at Wairoa* 1885 photograph\*, 210 x 163mm National Museum, Wellington
6. *Mabel Widliff at Wairoa* 1885 photograph\*, 210 x 163mm National Museum, Wellington
7. *At Te Ariki, Lake Tarawera* 1885 photograph\*, 390 x 500mm National Museum, Wellington

\* modern prints from original glass negatives

Josiah Martin (1843-1916)

8. *Rotomahana Hotel* c.1885 photograph, 152 x 202mm Auckland Institute and Museum
9. *Camp, White Terrace* c.1885 photograph, 152 x 201mm Auckland Institute and Museum

Charles Spencer (1854-1933)

10. *Pink Terrace* c.1883 photograph, 151 x 206mm Auckland City Art Gallery

Gottfried Lindauer (1839-1926)

11. *Ti Paea Hinerangi, Guide Sophia* 1896 oil on canvas, 675 x 560mm Partridge Collection, Auckland City Art Gallery

12. *Tuhoto, Tohunga of the Tuhourangi Tribe* 1894 oil on canvas, 680 x 565mm Partridge Collection, Auckland City Art Gallery

Charles Goldie (1870-1947)

13. *Ahinata Te Rangitautini, Tuhourangi Tribe. A Survivor of the Tarawera Eruption* c.1903 oil on canvas on board, 600 x 495mm Sergeant Art Gallery, Wanganui
14. *Kapi Kapi, aged 102 1910* [Ahinata Te Rangitautini] oil on panel, 265 x 205mm Auckland City Art Gallery

### ROTOMAHANA KI TARAWERA

THE LANDSCAPE 1841-1886

Joseph Jenner Merrett (1816-1854)

15. *A hot spring in the warm lake of Rotomahana* c.1841 pen and ink with wash, 163 x 250mm Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington

Samuel Williams, after a drawing by Joseph Jenner Merrett

16. *Cascade of Boiling Water at Rotu Mahana* engraving, 65 x 90mm [vignette on title page of Diefenbach's *Travels in New Zealand*, London 1843] Auckland Public Library

John Guise Mitford (1822-1854)

17. *Lake Tarawera* 1845 watercolour, 210 x 350mm private collection
18. *Tarawhera Lake, Tauraroa Pah, Whareroa Pah in the distance* 1845 watercolour, 358 x 507mm Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington
19. *Pwai Island and Onkapuarangi* 1845 watercolour, 226 x 324mm private collection

## TE AITUA

OMEN, ERUPTION, AFTERMATH

Kennett Watkins (1847-1933)

76. *The Phantom Canoe. A Legend of Lake Tarawera* 1888 oil on canvas, 1020 x 1705mm Partridge Collection, Auckland City Art Gallery

Harry Rountree (1878-1951)

77. *The Phantom Canoe* c.1900 gouache, 390 x 330mm private collection

Unknown artist (oil paintings photographed by Burton Bros, Dunedin)

78. *The Phantom Canoe, seen on Lake Tarawera May 31st 1886* photograph, 130 x 192mm National Museum, Wellington
  79. *Mount Tarawera in Eruption* photograph, 140 x 193mm National Museum, Wellington
- William Potts, after an oil painting by Charles Blomfield
80. *Mount Tarawera in Eruption, June 10, 1886. (From the Native Village of Waitangi, Lake Tarawera, N.Z.)* chromolithograph, 350 x 510mm [from Edward Wakefield's *New Zealand Illustrated*, Wanganui 1889] Auckland Institute and Museum

S. Percy Smith (1840-1922)

81. *Tarawera Eruption. Map shewing the Great Fissure and Points of Eruption* photolithograph, 324 x 294mm [map no.2 from Percy Smith's *The Eruption of Tarawera*, Wellington 1886] Auckland City Art Gallery

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Charles Heaphy (1820-1881)

20. *Crater of White Terrace* watercolour, 394 x 603mm Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington

A. Meerman, after a photograph by Bruno Hamel (active Auckland 1858-1860)

21. *Te Tarata am Rotomahana* [1859] chromolithograph, 132 x 208mm [colour plate from Hochstetter's *Neu-Seeland*, Stuttgart 1863] Auckland Public Library

A. Welker, after Ferdinand von Hochstetter (1829-1884)

22. *Rotomahana or the Warm Lake and the Hot Springs* 1859 chromolithograph, 245 x 200mm [map IV from Hochstetter and Petermann's *Geological and Topographical Atlas*, Auckland 1864] Auckland Public Library

William Fox (1812-1893)

23. *Approach to Te Tarata* c.1864 watercolour, 240 x 307mm Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington
24. *Crater, Te Tarata, Rotomahana* c.1864 watercolour, 248 x 305mm Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington
25. *Boiling mud pool near Te Tarata, Rotomahana* c.1864 watercolour, 215 x 283mm Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington
26. *Ohapu, perpetual geyser near Rotomahana* c.1864 watercolour, 254 x 320mm Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington

John Kinder (1819-1903)

27. *Rotomahana. The Tarata No 2* 1866 photograph, 191 x 244mm National Museum, Wellington
28. *Rotomahana. The Tarata No 5* 1866 photograph, 199 x 248mm National Museum, Wellington

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29. *Roto Kahahi, 1866, Outlet of Lake* c.1887 watercolour, 201 x 308mm Ferrier-Watson Collection, Waikato Museum of Art and History, Hamilton

30. *The Wairoa near Lake Tarawera, with Mission Chapel of Temu, January 4, 1866* c.1887 watercolour, 194 x 300mm Ferrier-Watson Collection, Waikato Museum of Art and History, Hamilton

31. *Wairoa Fall and Gully leading to Lake Tarawera, January 15, 1858* c.1887 watercolour, 190 x 305mm Ferrier-Watson Collection, Waikato Museum of Art and History, Hamilton

32. *Te Tarata, the White Terrace, Rotomahana,* watercolour, 151 x 303mm Ferrier-Watson Collection, Waikato Museum of Art and History, Hamilton

33. *Inside the Crater, White Terrace, the Basin empty, January 3, 1866* c.1887 watercolour, 208 x 341mm Ferrier-Watson Collection, Waikato Museum of Art and History, Hamilton

34. *Waikanapa-napa, Rotomahana, Old Sinter Terrace* c.1887 watercolour, 193 x 309mm Ferrier-Watson Collection, Waikato Museum of Art and History, Hamilton

35. *Onkapuarangi, the Pink Terrace, January 2, 1866* c.1887 watercolour, 160 x 308mm Ferrier-Watson Collection, Waikato Museum of Art and History, Hamilton

Daniel Louis Mundy (active NZ 1858-1875)

36. *Rotomahana. General View looking East* c.1870 photograph, 194 x 254mm private collection
37. *Te Tarata. Mouth of the Boiling Geyser* autotype, 210 x 250mm [plate IV from Mundy's *Rotomahana*, London 1875] Auckland City Art Gallery



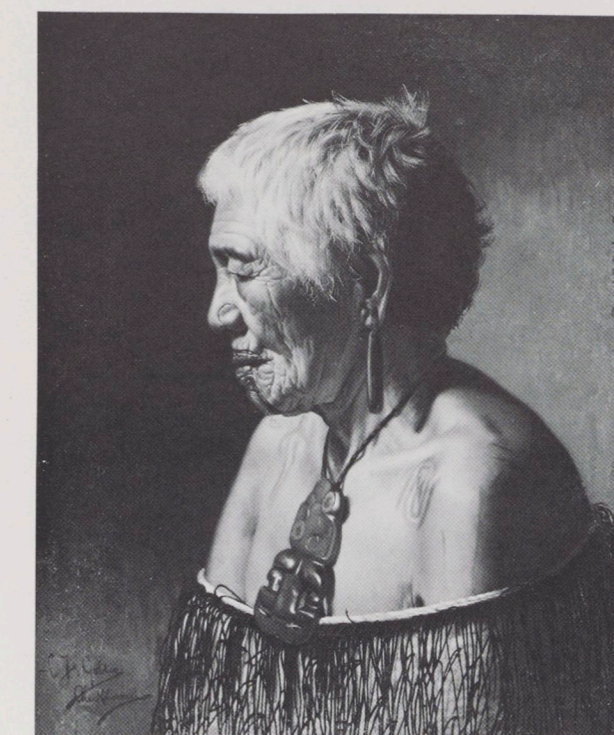
No.7 Alfred Burton, At Te Ariki, Lake Tarawera 1885

93. *The Rescue Party, Wairoa* 13 June 1886 [sightseers from Cambridge] photograph\*, 161 x 205mm National Museum, Wellington
94. *Survivors* [at Ohinemutu] 14 June 1886 photograph\*, 159 x 205mm National Museum, Wellington

Frederick Muir (and assistant)

95. *Sophia's Whare, Wairoa* August 1886 photograph\*, 162 x 207mm National Museum, Wellington
96. *Interior of Crater, Mount Tarawera* July/August 1886 photograph\*, 390 x 500mm National Museum, Wellington

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No. 13 Charles Goldie Ahinata Te Rangitautini, Tuhourangi Tribe. A Survivor of the Tarawera Eruption

38. *Sketch Map to illustrate the Southern Wonderland, Rotomahana, & the Boiling Springs of New Zealand* lithograph, 328 x 205mm [from Mundy's *Rotomahana*] Auckland Public Library

John Barr Clarke Hoyte (1835-1913)

39. *Rotomahana, with the pink terrace, and Te Tarata in the distance* c.1873 watercolour, 418 x 655mm Hocken Library, Dunedin
40. *Lake Tarawera, from Kariri* 1873 watercolour, 430 x 735mm Auckland City Art Gallery presented from the estate of E. Earle Vaile, 1956

W. Blatchley, after a watercolour by Charles Decimus Barraud (1822-1897)

41. *Tarawera Lake* 1875 chromolithograph, 255 x 360mm [from Barraud's *New Zealand, Graphic and Descriptive*, London 1877] Auckland Public Library

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100. *Rotomahana. Showing Site of White Terrace* 10 October 1886 photograph, 191 x 289mm Auckland Institute and Museum

101. *The Rent in Rotomahana from the Black Crater* 26 November 1886 photograph, 209 x 151mm Auckland Institute and Museum
102. *Rotomahana from Hape-o-Toroa* 26 November 1886 photograph, 191 x 291mm Auckland Institute and Museum

Charles Blomfield (1848-1926)

103. *Tikitapu Bush destroyed by the Eruption* October 1886 oil on paper on card, 255 x 450mm private collection
104. *Bush killed by the Eruption, Rotomahana, on the edge of the deposit* October 1886 oil on paper on card, 255 x 450mm private collection
105. *The Mud Covered Country from Pareheru* 10 October 1886 oil on paper on card, 255 x 450mm private collection
106. *The Mud Covered Country* 12 October 1886 oil on paper on card, 255 x 450mm private collection
107. *Top of Tarawera* 1887 oil on canvas, 460 x 760mm private collection
108. *Rotomahana after the Eruption* 1887 oil on canvas, 430 x 585mm private collection
109. *Are the Terraces Destroyed?* 6 October 1886 oil on paper on card, 260 x 455mm private collection

George Valentine (active 1885-1890)

110. *The Aftermath: Rotomahana as it now is* 1887 oil on canvas on board, 500 x 890mm private collection
111. *Rotomahana from the Pink Terrace: Evening* c.1925 oil on canvas, 815 x 1320mm private collection

R. Smythson, after a watercolour by Charles Decimus Barraud

42. *Onkapuarangi* 1876 chromolithograph, 252 x 356mm [from Barraud's *New Zealand*] Auckland City Art Gallery

Herbert Deveril (active Aust. and NZ 1864-1884)

43. *The White Terrace, Rotomahana* 1876 photograph, 262 x 357mm Otago Early Settlers Museum, Dunedin
44. *Portion of White Terrace* 1876 photograph, 262 x 357mm Otago Early Settlers Museum, Dunedin

Kennett Watkins (1847-1933)

45. *Te Tarata, dry*, October 1876 watercolour, 415 x 717mm private collection
46. *Geyser of Okiuvi, Rotomahana* c.1876 watercolour, 460 x 335mm Auckland City Art Gallery

William Pulman (active Auckland 1870s)

47. *Baths at foot of White Terrace* c.1876 photograph, 152 x 196mm Auckland Institute and Museum
48. *Baths, top of White Terrace* c.1876 photograph, 148 x 206mm Auckland Institute and Museum

Robert Henry Bartlett (active Auckland 1866-1880)

49. *Pink Terrace Baths* c.1878 photograph, 245 x 290mm Forgie Album, Auckland Institute and Museum

Charles Spencer (1854-1933)

50. *Cold Water Basins, White Terrace* c.1883 photograph, 152 x 204mm Auckland City Art Gallery
51. *Umbrella Buttress, Pink Terrace* c.1883 photograph, 152 x 204mm Auckland City Art Gallery
52. *Umbrella Buttress, Pink Terrace* c.1883 photograph, 152 x 204mm Auckland City Art Gallery

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RELICS

Josiah Martin

112. *Wairoa Upper Fall, Lake Tarawera* photograph, 209 x 151mm Auckland Institute and Museum
113. *Tarawera, Wairoa Falls (Middle)* photograph, 209 x 151mm Auckland Institute and Museum

These photographs were donated to the Museum by Mrs S. C. Garlick in 1957. No.113 is inscribed on the back: 'This photo was taken out of a broken show case that was laying on the floor and partly covered with mud, in McRae's Hotel Te Wairoa 12th June 1886.'

Charles Spencer

114. *Ngawhana (old Maori Cave)* photograph 162 x 213mm private collection
115. *Above Pink Terrace* photograph, 160 x 213mm Spencer Album, Auckland Institute and Museum

This photograph album was a gift from Spencer to the Hazard family of Te Wairoa, in return for their hospitality during his photographic excursions. The album was retrieved from the ruins of the house, and was presented to the Museum by Mrs E. Aitchison, daughter of Ina Hazard. (Information from Ron Keam.)

Charles Blomfield

116. *Roto Tarawera* oil on canvas, 305 x 510mm private collection

A gift from the artist to the Hazard family, this depiction of the lake and volcano only narrowly escaped destruction during the eruption. Blomfield recognized its status as a relic, and brought the painting back to Auckland with him in October 1886.

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53. *The Pink Terrace* c.1883 photograph, 152 x 204mm Auckland City Art Gallery

Josiah Martin (1843-1916)

54. *White Terrace Eruption* 22 November 1885 photograph, 201 x 152mm
55. *Crater, White Terrace* November 1885 photograph, 140 x 200mm Kinder Album II, Auckland Institute and Museum

These two photographs were acquired by John Kinder, who mounted them in this album together with his own photographs. Kinder inscribed the date of an eruption witnessed by Martin on 6 November 1883, but they almost certainly date from Martin's 1885 visit. Kinder used Martin's view of the empty crater as an aid when painting his own watercolour (no.33).

Alfred Burton (1834-1914)

56. *Wairoa* 1885 photograph, 144 x 197mm Auckland City Art Gallery
57. *Old Maori Church, Wairoa* 1885 photograph, 145 x 197mm Auckland City Art Gallery
58. *Lake Tarawera, from Wairoa* 1885 photograph, 149 x 209mm Auckland City Art Gallery
59. *White Terrace* 1885 photograph\*, 500 x 390mm National Museum, Wellington
60. *Panorama of Rotomahana* 1885 five photographs\*, each 490 x 590mm National Museum, Wellington

\* modern prints from original glass negatives

George Valentine (active 1885-1890)

61. *White Terrace and Lake Rotomahana* 1885 photograph, 190 x 291mm Auckland Institute and Museum
62. *White Terrace, Lake Rotomahana* 1885 photograph, 190 x 291mm Auckland Institute and Museum

63. *Cold Water Basins, White Terrace* 1885 photograph, 192 x 292mm Auckland Institute and Museum
64. *Coffee Cups, White Terrace* 1885 photograph, 190 x 292mm Auckland Institute and Museum
65. *Whatapoh, Lake Rotomahana* 1885 photograph, 190 x 291mm Auckland Institute and Museum
66. *The Porridge Pot, Lake Rotomahana* 1885 photograph, 189 x 290mm Auckland Institute and Museum
67. *Pink Terrace, Lake Rotomahana* 1885 photograph, 192 x 292mm Auckland Institute and Museum

Charles Blomfield (1848-1926)

68. *Te Tarata, the Great White Terrace, Rotomahana* 1882 oil on canvas, 510 x 915mm private collection
69. *A Rainy Day at Rotomahana* 1883 oil on canvas, 510 x 915mm private collection
70. *Pink Terrace* 1885 oil on canvas, 435 x 585mm private collection
71. *White Terrace, Lower Basins* 1885 oil on canvas, 430 x 585mm collection of Maurice Lennard, Auckland
72. *Mud Flat, Rotomahana* 1885 oil on canvas, 355 x 610mm collection of Maurice Lennard, Auckland
73. *Wairoa Church* 1886 oil on canvas, 302 x 455mm private collection
74. *White Terrace* 1897 oil on canvas, 815 x 1330mm Auckland City Art Gallery presented by D. L. Murdoch, Esq.
75. *Pink Terrace* oil on cardboard, 170mm (diameter) Auckland City Art Gallery