

Welcome to Torbay

The Torbay community is known for being supportive and friendly, with a great many groups and clubs to be involved in. A list of contacts is included in this brochure.

Torbay Village has more than 30 businesses offering the kind of one to one, personal service that seems to be disappearing from our shopping experience. The village has a very active business association, responsible for many projects including the murals and gardens in the village.

To help you get to know Torbay, see the back of this brochure for three walks of varying lengths, from 15 minutes to 2 hours. All start and end at the village, so you can reward yourself with a coffee and a muffin when you get back.

Here is the history to some of the highlights of our lovely neighbourhood. All can be visited during the walks. For more information contact the Torbay Historical Society, listed in the community group contacts.

Waiake Beach **1**

This sandy beach and grassy picnic spot is a safe place to swim and when the tide is out you can walk around the rocks to The Tor and Northward to Winstone's Cove. You will pass by the piles of an old wharf that in the early days, served scows and steamers carrying

cargo and passengers. Before the wharf passengers were landed by dinghy, onto the beach. Renowned Torbay pioneer Captain Charles Cholmondeley-Smith (1834-1935) who owned a sawmill at the bay, erected a flagpole to signal the steamer, in case it had no cargo or passengers to land. Waiake means water from below, named for the mineral spring which bubbled up from the rocks and supplied the only fresh water for miles along the coast. The Waiake waters were said to have curative qualities and attracted Maori and visitors from all over New Zealand. The spring is underground now across the road directly behind the wharf pilings. Waiake Beach also used to be known as McGowan's Beach, after Anstruther McGowan, affectionately known as Father McGowan. He owned a large block of land from the beach, up the South bank of Deep Creek to the falls at the top, some of it in apple orchard.

The Tor **2**

Torbay's namesake can be seen straight out from Waiake Beach. The Tor is tapu to Maori and according to legend, a beautiful girl called Moeora often sat at the edge of the cliff, singing with the tuis and weaving mats for her father, an old Maori chief. One day the edge of the cliff fell away beneath her and she was killed on the rocks below.

Moeora is illustrated in a mural in the Torbay shopping village.

Winstone's Cove **3**

You can get to Winstone's Cove around the rocks from the Tor, or by Gray Crescent and down a track called Revenue Run. The cove is a lovely quiet place for

relaxing and swimming. Shellfish are still gathered off the rocks at the Northern end of the Cove and fisherman cast lines for kingfish and schnapper. Also on this side of the cove, a track called Moonshine Run goes up through the bush to Marama Street. You will find this track by taking the flight of concrete steps going up to a platform of rock and onwards into the bush.

These track names hint at the illegal wine making and moonshining developed to a fine art by some of the local early settlers. The scows carrying this cargo would glide quietly into the coves around the coast at night, after being signalled by the moonshiners from the shore. The tracks were used to quickly move the alcohol under cover of darkness, once it was landed.



After the storm