

HISTORY

Non-Māori History

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Settlement resulted in major changes for the land, water, plants and bird life here. People set about draining wetlands as these were the highly fertile parts of the landscape and good for farming. Wetlands were seen as areas of waste to be filled and then put to good use. This is what happened in parts of Pekapeka.



IMG 213



Railway

In 1875, the Wellington-Napier railway line was built through the wetland. This cut through “Island Pa” and separated part of the stream which is now a small lake.

Roading

State Highway 2 was first a walking track and then a horse track, winding along the western boundary. As technology changed, the track turned into a road. In 1955 the road was straightened, cutting through the western side of the wetland.

Rubbish

For a long time, it was normal practice to dump rubbish in or near wetland areas. On this site there is rubbish dating from the 1870s until as recently as the 1990s. Material from the demolished Mayfair and Pacific Hotels is still at Pekapeka, as a reminder of what we've learned about looking after our environment.