

Episode 0: What is this?

Kia ora, gday and welcome to The History of Aotearoa-New Zealand, Episode 0: What is this? Hello there! If you have managed to find this, download it and bothered to turn it on to listen to then it's probably safe to assume two things: 1. That you are a fan of history and 2. You want to know more about the history of New Zealand. Great! That's what this podcast is about, if you hadn't gathered that from the title already. I intend in this episode to give you an idea of what this is going to entail and hopefully sell you on the idea of the project so you will want to keep listening and learning.

The idea of this podcast started when I began listening to other narrative history podcasts to satiate my thirst for knowledge and learning about the world. However, when I finally decided to find something similar for my home country to those of the History of Rome, History of Byzantium or the British History Podcast, I came up with nothing. I felt a bit despondent about this and let it mull in my brain for a while, umming and ahing over whether I should give it a go and whether I could even do something on the scale of those brilliant podcasts. It wasn't until I went to see the Gallipoli exhibit and the Great War Exhibition in Wellington that I really decided to give it a crack. The stories of the men and women involved in this country's biggest military disaster was naturally shocking and sobering. I wanted to be able to tell the stories of these people, let the wider world know who they were and what they fought for, as well as those who came before them. Another reason I wanted to start this project was that I personally believe the teaching of the history of New Zealand that isn't the Treaty of Waitangi is severely lacking and as such, I think an easily accessible resource like this could be a great benefit to history nerds and the wider public as well.

This podcast will be a narrative history in the vein of those podcasts already mentioned. That is to say that it will be like me telling you a story with characters, events, twists and turns while also hopefully teaching you something new. If you are listening to this close to time of upload then the first few proper episodes are already up for your enjoyment. They cover the land before humans and how the early Maori arrived here. The hope would be to take it all the way into the 20th century if this project is deemed worthy enough by those of you out there. I am also thinking about doing dramatic retellings of Maori myths such as Kupe, Maui and those that describe how the mountains, rivers and lakes came to be and why certain birds only sing at certain times or look the way they do. Maori myth is filled colourful characters and stories which I think could be cool to add some storytelling flair to. I will potentially be doing special type episodes on Maori art, language, medicine, food and warfare. That last one of course including something most people in the world who follow sport will be familiar with, the haka. Other topics I'd like to cover are the voyages of various Europeans to New Zealand, early settler and Maori relations, the Land Wars, of course the Treaty and Aotearoa's involvement in the world wars. Not too spoil too much but I absolutely cannot wait to cover the Bob Semple with you, arguably the most amazing thing this country has ever produced.

Of course, you are probably wondering who this voice is you are hearing and hopefully going to be hearing more of! My name is Thomas, I'm a Kiwi born and bred, having lived in Aotearoa all my life. Although my background is not history related, it's working with native animals, I am a mega history

nerd. I am a sponge for all interesting facts about animals, history and science in general. I have a great passion for learning and sharing knowledge, a passion that I hope to convey and perhaps pass on to you, dear listener. At the moment this is currently a passion project for me, something I will be doing in my spare time. As such, I do work a full time job and I am pretty new to this so I don't currently have any schedule on account of I don't know how long episodes will take to produce. In saying that, I will try get episodes out every two to three weeks, or earlier if I can. I'm only one man and your patience will be highly appreciated and hopefully worth the wait. I will try to become better at recording, speaking, editing and not sounding like I'm reading from a word doc, which as I said is exactly what I'm doing. So again, your patience with this would be amazing. Now, no doubt it will be of little importance to most of you but I think I should probably disclose the following: I am Pakeha, my ancestry entirely comes from Britain. I say I should disclose this as I am sure there are those out there (however small a minority) that won't like me talking about Maori history just by the fact I have no ancestry or link to an iwi. Personally, I do not think this is a concern. The history of this land and its people is a history that belongs to all of us, not any one group due to ancestral links. We are all New Zealanders, Kiwis and it is history of the people that were here before that have made this country what it is today. To add to this, this podcast will endeavour to show history in a most unbiased light as possible. This will mean showing its sometimes brutal and unsavoury side that we may wish to ignore. These ideas, events or people have shaped our country just as much as any triumph and as such should not be glossed over. In saying that, we aren't going to be all serious all the time, history should be fun and exciting! I will endeavour to entertain as well as educate. To add to all that, this podcast is not meant to be a comprehensive source. I will endeavour to do my best in covering as much as possible but naturally some stuff will need to be cut. Further reading is always encouraged and I would consider it a success if I inspired you to go seek out more information on your own. Overall, the main ethos of this podcast can be summed up in a popular Maori saying: He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tangata, he tangata, he tangata. What is the most important thing in the world? It is people, it is people, it is people.

If you aren't a native Kiwi, that is someone from New Zealand, then some of the words I have used so far may be foreign to you, in fact, the first thing I said to you likely would have confused you. Kia ora is a casual greeting in Te Reo Maori, the Maori language, which will naturally feature heavily in this podcast. As a non-fluent speaker of Te Reo myself, I am not expecting anyone to know each and every word used. I will assume in this project that everyone is coming at this fresh, you know nothing of New Zealand and you want to know more so I will endeavour to explain each idea and word as we go so you don't get lost. To add to this, since I am not a fluent speaker, I am eventually going to mispronounce something along the way, in fact I may have already, if so, sorry! So, when that happens, feel free to send me an angry email telling me I stuffed up so I can correct it. I also encourage to do this if I get a fact, date or anything else wrong, we need to get this right and the help of those that know more than me helps greatly and is much appreciated.

So, to wrap up, this will be a narrative show about the history of New Zealand from prehistory to nearly modern, I will endeavour to do my best in pronunciation and getting my information right but this can (and likely will) go wrong so I hope that you can point that out to me and forgive any minor errors. Most importantly, I am here to help educate and entertain you. I really think this can be something useful and special to New Zealand and the wider historical podcast community. I hope that you think so too and will join me for this trip through the fantastic history of our island nation. If you have any questions that I haven't covered here or you want to suggest topics or directions for

the show to go in, you can email me at historyaotearoa@gmail.com or you can find me on Twitter at HistoryAotearoa or even Facebook at History of Aotearoa New Zealand Podcast. And with that I say, haere tu atu, hoki tu mai, go well and return in good health.