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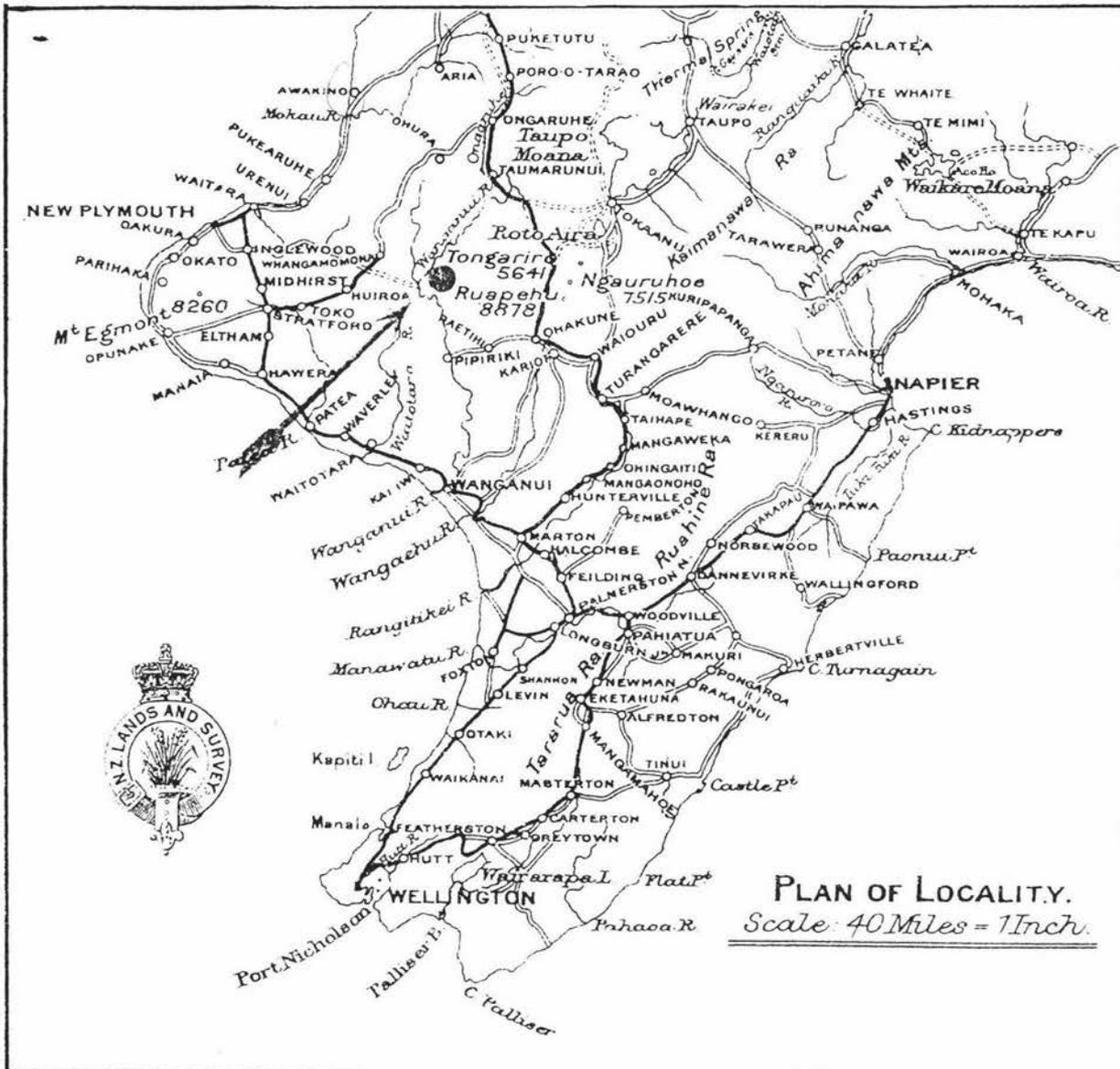
COMBATING ISOLATION:
THE WOMEN OF THE MANGAPURUA
1917 -1942.

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Arts in History at Massey University.

Jocelyn M. Carver
1998

MANGAPURUA

LOCALITY MAP



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ABSTRACT

In 1915 the Discharged Soldiers' Bill was introduced into Parliament in recognition that many returning servicemen would be looking for land. The Mangapurua was one of the areas offered to servicemen. It was an isolated valley, covered in virgin bush, on the Wanganui River. The first of the men arrived in 1917 and by 1920 the women were entering the Valley; wives, mothers and sisters. Some of these women would live here for the next twenty years until the Valley was closed and they were forced to leave their homes and farms. The conditions that most of the women faced on arrival were primitive. The housing was in many cases sub-standard and they had few facilities. To exacerbate their problems was the financial situation of the period which meant that there little money available for anything but essentials. The focus of this thesis is the ways the women combated their isolation, taking into consideration their backgrounds, their standards and values, their workloads and the homes they developed.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Frontispiece

Acknowledgments

Abstract

Table of Contents

List of Maps, Photographs and Tables

INTRODUCTION..... page 1

Chapter One:
GEOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC OVERVIEW..... page 6

Chapter Two:
THE SOCIAL CONTEXT OF THE WOMEN'S ROLE IN
THE VALLEY..... page 21

Chapter Three:
COMMUNICATIONS AND THEIR PLACE IN THE LIVES
OF THE WOMEN OF THE MANGAPURUA..... page 36

Chapter Four:
'HOME SWEET HOME': ACCOMODATION AND FACILITIES..... page 51

Chapter Five:
WOMEN'S WORK..... page 67

Chapter Six:
STANDARDS AND VALUES AMONG THE WOMEN..... page 85

Chapter Seven:
SOCIAL ORGANISATION..... page 100

CONCLUSION..... page 114

BIBLIOGRAPHY..... page 118

LIST OF MAPS PHOTOGRAPHS AND TABLES

Mangapurua Locality.....	Frontispiece.
Families from the Mangapurua	page 5
Whirinaki Survey District.....	page 9
List of the Original Settlers.....	pages 10/11
Selections of Original Settlers	page 12
Conditions of Sale.....	page 15
Historic Map of the Mangapurua Valley.....	page 43
The Mangapurua Postman	page 47
Bettjemans' First Home.....	page 51
Phil Bennett's Original House.....	page 53
Laundry Day in the Mangapurua.....	page 76
Jean Bolton's Stores Order.....	page 79
The Original School.....	page 108