



Visiting the island

Conservation Code

Please:

- Do not bring dogs or other pets onto the reserve or foreshore. They are a threat to the protected kiwi and weka and other wildlife. 
- Do not light fires. They get out of control easily and could devastate Mansion House and the reserve. No fireworks or candles. Gas barbeques permitted. 
- Take your rubbish off the island with you - "Pack in - Pack Out". There are no rubbish disposal facilities on Kawau. 
- Bicycles and vehicles are not permitted in the reserve 
- Do not camp in the historic reserve. 
- Do not remove or disturb any historic remains. They are an important record of the history of this area and are protected by law.

General information

- An electric barbecue is available free of charge in Mansion House Bay.
- There is no public transport once on Kawau Island.
- There are many safe anchorages for private boats in and close to Mansion House Bay.
- Mansion House Cafe is open during summer months. Please phone 09-422 8903 for more information

Welcome to Kawau

Kawau Island lies north of Auckland in the Hauraki Gulf. Rich in history, the island was once a busy mining settlement, and later became the home of New Zealand Governor Sir George Grey, who developed the stately Mansion House and its exotic gardens.

Today about ten percent of the island is protected as publicly owned historic reserves managed by the Department of Conservation. The remainder of the island is privately owned, with a small resident population.

Getting there

Ferries and water taxis travel to Kawau Island daily from Sandspit Wharf, near Warkworth, which is about one hour's drive north of Auckland. Contact the ferry companies for timetables and more information.

Regular services from Sandspit:

Kawau Cruises and Water Taxis

Ph 0800 111 616 or 09-425 8006 **Bookings essential**

Further information

DOC Warkworth Great Barrier Island Area Office
Mansion House, Kawau Island
Ph 09-422 8882, 09-425 7812 (office hours)
Email: kawauislandfc@doc.govt.nz

DOC Visitor Centre, Corner Princess Wharf
137 Quay St, Downtown Auckland
Ph 09-379 6476 fax 09-307 2614

Email: aucklandvc@doc.govt.nz
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Published by
Department of Conservation
Private Bag 68 908, Newton
Auckland 1145, New Zealand
April 2011

New Zealand Government

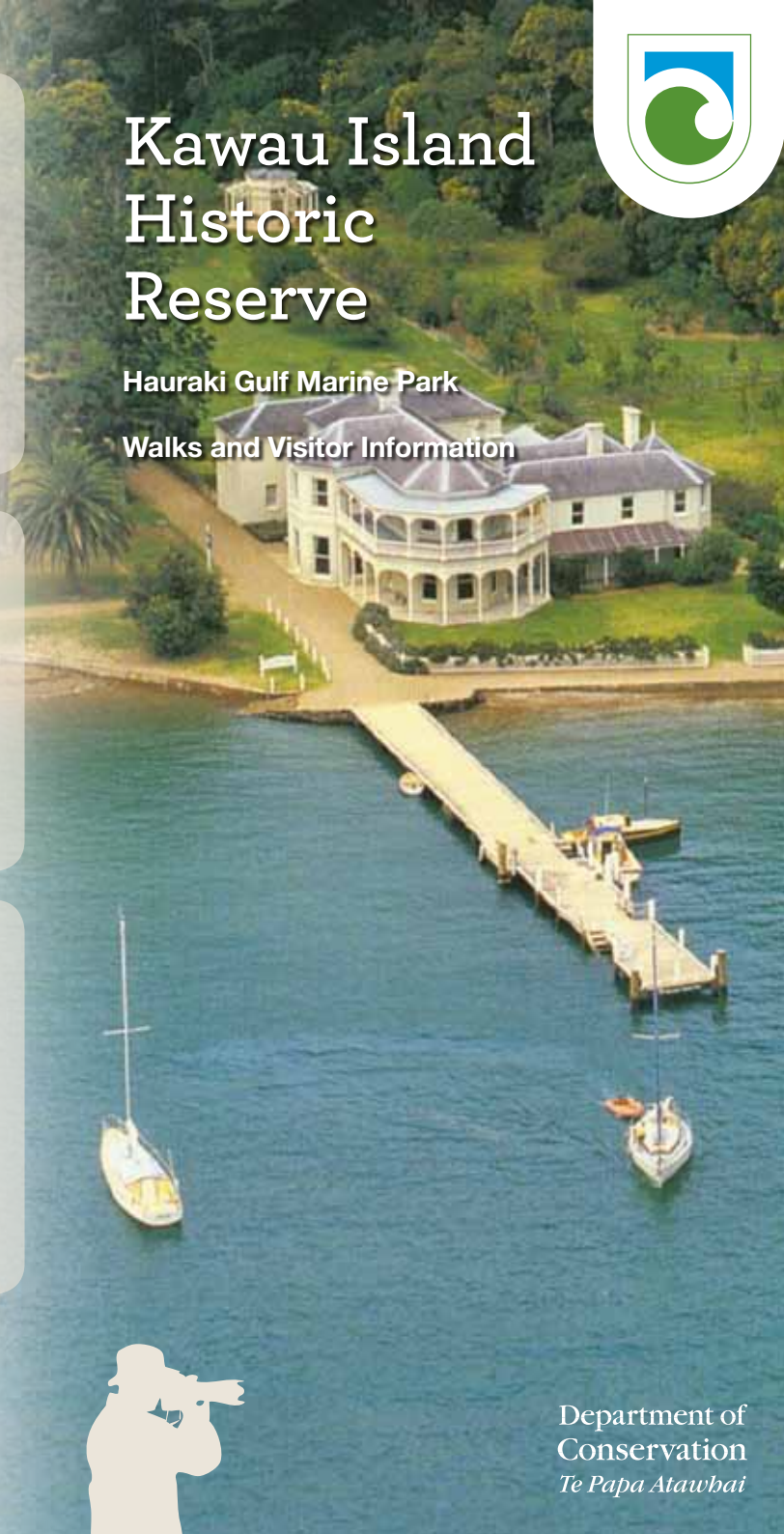
Mansion House Bay
Photo: Craig Potton

DOC HOTline
0800 362 468
Report any safety hazards or
conservation emergencies
For fire and search and rescue call 111

Kawau Island Historic Reserve

Hauraki Gulf Marine Park

Walks and Visitor Information

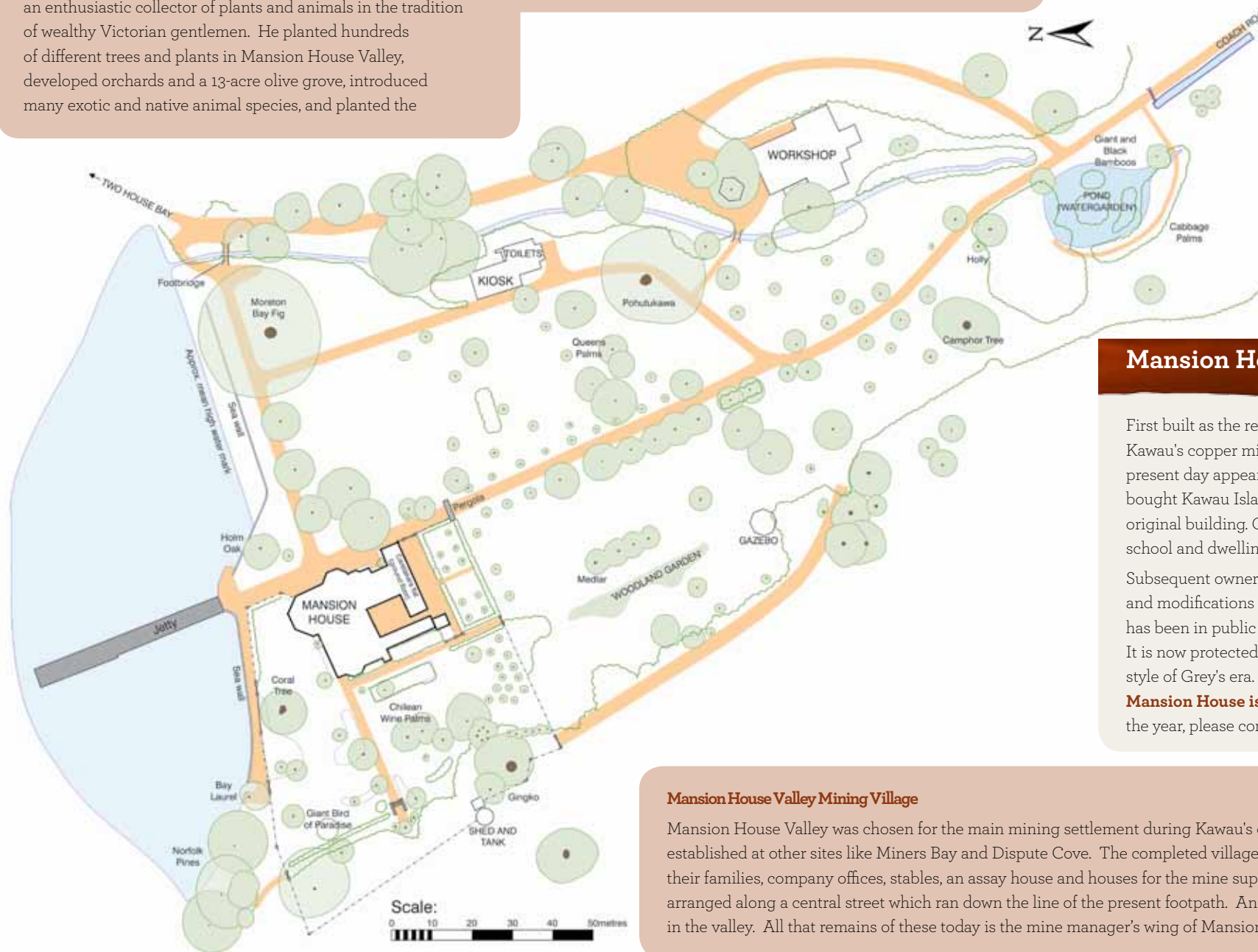


Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Mansion House Valley

Sir George Grey bought Kawau Island in 1862 when he was serving his second term as Governor of New Zealand. He was an enthusiastic collector of plants and animals in the tradition of wealthy Victorian gentlemen. He planted hundreds of different trees and plants in Mansion House Valley, developed orchards and a 13-acre olive grove, introduced many exotic and native animal species, and planted the

slopes with conifers to create a setting for his house and gardens. The pines and other exotic tree species, peacocks, wekas and wallabies seen in Mansion House Valley today are all legacies of Sir George Grey.



Mansion House

First built as the residence of the mine superintendent during Kawau's copper mining days, Mansion House took on its present day appearance after 1862 when Sir George Grey bought Kawau Island. He substantially enlarged and altered the original building. Grey also built a complex of farm buildings, a school and dwellings for his staff and their families.

Subsequent owners of Mansion House made further alterations and modifications over the last century. Since Mansion House has been in public ownership it has been extensively restored. It is now protected as a historic building and is furnished in the style of Grey's era.

Mansion House is open to the public, opening hours vary over the year, please contact DOC staff on the island for information.

Mansion House Valley Mining Village

Mansion House Valley was chosen for the main mining settlement during Kawau's copper mining days. Smaller villages were established at other sites like Miners Bay and Dispute Cove. The completed village included cottages for about 80 miners and their families, company offices, stables, an assay house and houses for the mine superintendent and company surgeon, all neatly arranged along a central street which ran down the line of the present footpath. An 1848 map shows 19 buildings or structures in the valley. All that remains of these today is the mine manager's wing of Mansion House, once the superintendent's house.



Things to see and do on Kawau

Walks through the historic reserve give visitors a chance to explore sites associated with Kawau's copper mining days in the mid 1800s, or with Sir George Grey's ownership of the island towards the end of the century. Grey developed Mansion House and its gardens and surrounding lands in the manner of a grand Victorian estate.

UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE ALL TIMES ARE FOR A ONE - WAY JOURNEY.

Short walks

Ladys Bay

A short stroll to a sandy beach, accessible mid to low tide only, once a swimming spot for "ladies only". Follow the central path up Mansion House Valley and take the signposted track to Ladys Bay.

Mansion House - Ladys Bay, 10 minutes.

Two House Bay

This bay once had two cottages, built during the 1860s for Sir George Grey's estate manager and shepherd. One of the cottages remains today in modified form and is now the ranger's residence. **Caution - this track is steep.**

Mansion House - Two House Bay, 15 minutes.

Ladys Bay/Momona Point

A short one way walk (originally used by guests of Sir George Grey) beginning at Ladys Bay. The track leads to the end of the promontory with a good view of the mainland.

Ladys Bay - Momona Point, 20 minutes.

Coppermine Lookout

An easy stroll to the Lookout, a cleared grassy area which provides good views of the coppermine enginehouse remains, and a panorama that takes in Beehive, Motuketekete, Moturekareka, Motuora and other gulf islands. Take the track from Mansion House to Ladys Bay and continue along

the gradually climbing path to reach the Lookout. The track passes through mature pine trees established during Grey's ownership of Kawau. The Redwood Track provides an alternative return to Mansion House.

Mansion House - Lookout, 25 minutes.


Longer walks

Redwood Track

A shaded track through exotic pine forest and ferns, with a notable large redwood tree planted by Grey in 1864. Take the track to Two House Bay and then head inland up the Redwood Track. Brick house foundations near the top of the track mark the dairy site and remains of two cottages associated with coppermining on the island in the 1840s and 1850s.

Mansion House - Lookout via Redwood Track, 45 minutes.

Dispute Cove Track to Coppermine

 This track follows the original route used by miners to get to work. There were once miners' cottages along the route as well as a village and school at Dispute Cove. Walk to the Lookout via Ladys Bay and follow the Dispute Cove Track to Dispute Cove. Part of the track's coastal section is impassable during very high tides. An alternative inland route back to the Lookout follows an old coach road built for Sir George Grey.

Mansion House - Coppermine, via Dispute Cove Track 50 minutes, via inland route 60 minutes.

Round Trip to Coppermine

Take the track from Mansion House Valley to Ladys Bay and continue on to the Coppermine via the Lookout and Dispute Cove Track. Return to the Lookout via Coach Road, then take the Redwood Track to Two House Bay. Follow the track from Two House Bay back to Mansion House Bay. **Caution - sections of this track are steep.**

Mansion House - Ladys Bay - Lookout - Dispute Cove Track - Coppermine - Redwood Track - Two House Bay - Mansion House, 2 - 2.5 hours.

Schoolhouse Bay Road

A public wharf at Schoolhouse Bay provides an alternative access point to the historic reserve. Sir George Grey had a school built at Schoolhouse Bay for the children of his workers. The old schoolhouse, now much modified, can be seen from the wharf. It is privately owned and not open to the public. From the wharf, follow the road up the hill past private residences. Just beyond the houses is a short side track to a knoll with a small historic cemetery, the resting place of some early Kawau residents including copper miners and their families. Schoolhouse Bay Road continues to a junction near the Lookout, where there are several routes to choose from to return to Mansion House Bay.

Schoolhouse Bay - Lookout, 35 minutes

Boat / ferry access

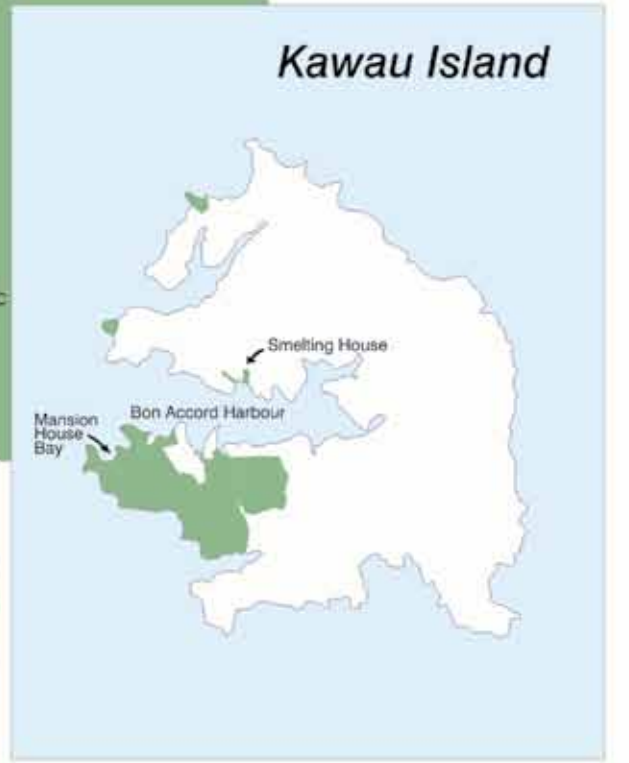
Smelting House Ruins

Ruins of the coppermine Smelting House, one of NZ's oldest industrial sites, can be visited or sighted by boat at a small historic reserve on the north side of Bon Accord Harbour. The copper ore mined on Kawau had to be smelted on the island because its highly combustible nature made it too dangerous to transport by ship to processing facilities in the northern hemisphere. The ruins of the Smelting House and roasting pits (built in 1849) are all that remain of the works.



Coppermine Enginehouse Ruins

Copper was discovered on Kawau in 1844 and a mine opened in the same year. By the end of the decade there were about 300 people on Kawau, all involved with the copper industry. The industry was plagued with problems, including legal disputes, flooding and mismanagement. Flooding forced work to cease in 1851, and several subsequent attempts to reopen the mine were unsuccessful. The enginehouse that survives as a ruin was built during one of these attempts in 1854.



BEWARE!

Old mining areas may contain hazards such as open shafts. Visitors are advised to keep to the formed tracks and to take notice of any visitor safety signs in the reserves.