

Duder Regional Park

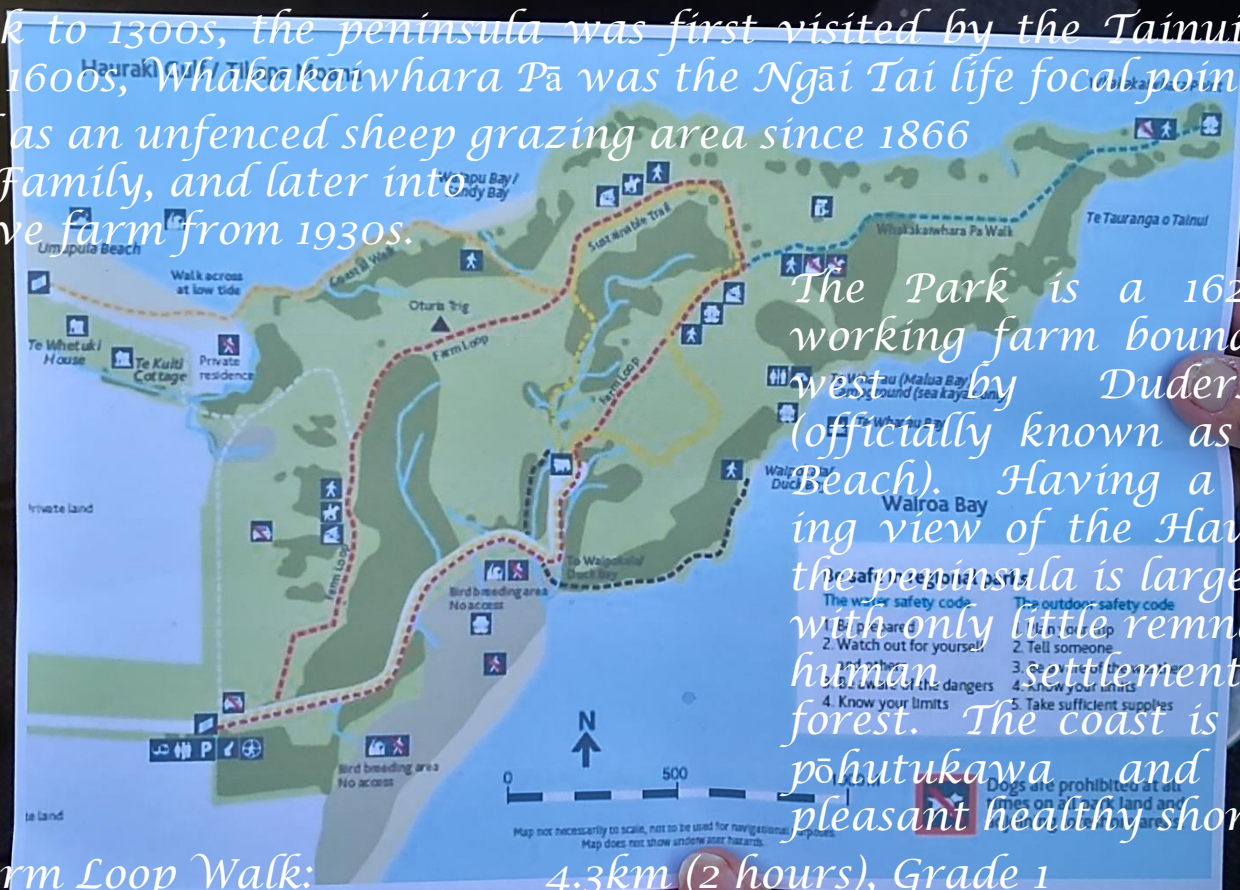
February 26, 2023

Farm Loop Walk

Whakakaíwhara Pā Walk

Situated in southeast Auckland, Duder Regional Park is an easy hiking route on the exposed Whakakaiwhara Peninsula. The park was created with the sale of the land by Duder Family to Auckland City Council.

Dated back to 1300s, the peninsula was first visited by the Tainui ancestral canoe. By 1600s, Whakakaiwhara Pā was the Ngāi Tai life focal point. Developed as an unfenced sheep grazing area since 1866 by Duder Family, and later into a productive farm from 1930s.



The Park is a 162 hectares working farm bounded to the west by Duder's Beach (officially known as Umupuia Beach). Having a commanding view of the Hauraki Gulf, the peninsula is largely grassed with only little remnant of pre-human settlement native forest. The coast is lined with pohutukawa and gives a pleasant healthy shoreline.

Farm Loop Walk: 4.3km (2 hours), Grade 1
Whakakaiwhara Pā Walk: 2.4km (1 hour), Grade 1



*After a long drive, with a bit
of re-routing and directing, we
finally arrive at the
Duder Regional Park Carpark.
A fine summer morning, what
a splendid spanning sky...
This is a re-scheduled walk
owing to the music festival
at Tapapakanga.*





Straight through the gate, the track opens up to the sea.

So calm and peaceful...Let's have a picture...

A surf up in the blue sky? What an "outlandish" white...all over, with different forms of clouds, cirrus, cumulus...high- and low-altitude clouds...so far away...out there!

*Up there, over the slope...
Not the coastal track,
but up to the top, Red Track...*



*It's getting hot.
Let's tidy up...making
things light and refreshing...
Overlooking the shore, the sea retreats,
revealing the geomorphic of costal region at low tide...*



Out in the blue, there comes the farmer

...gathering farm stuff...but with empty trailer.

Hei, here and there...staring at him...What is he doing...

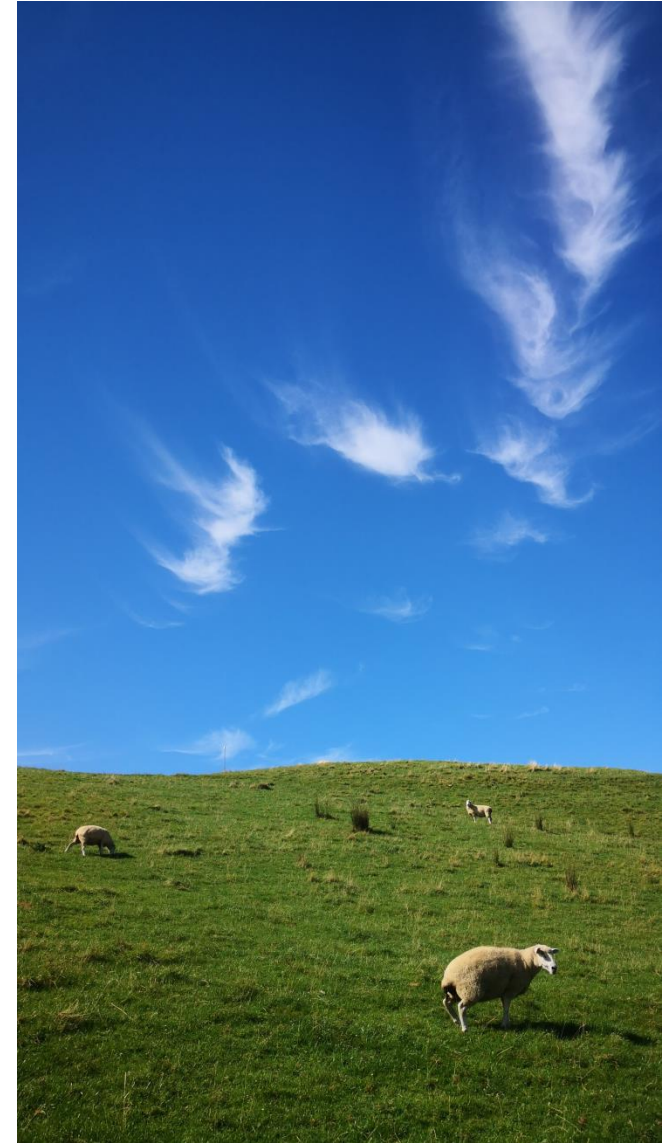
Out in the sun...patrolling the pasture???

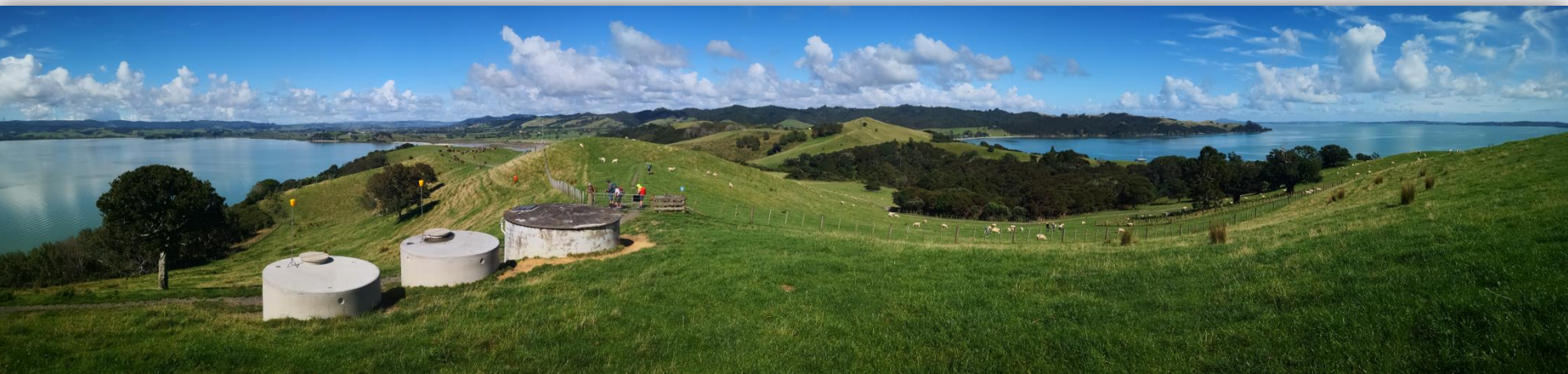
*Never mind, just carry on what
we are doing...chipping the green...
Green, green grass of home...that's the
place...down the slope, not a shade
...not that native but still green all
over...the perpetual pasture green?*

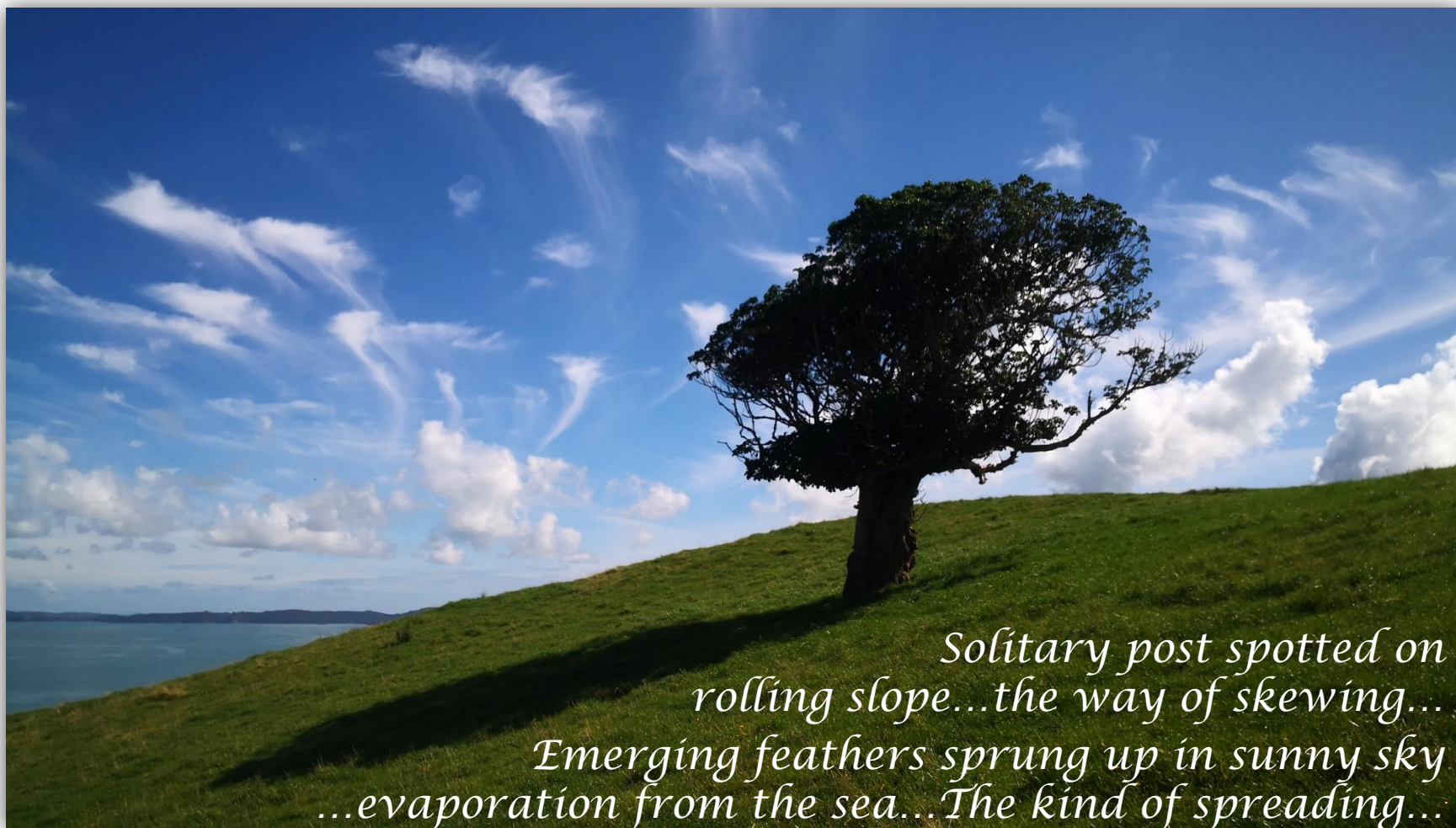
*Up there, dotted with feather... Out
along the Blue Track, feather
clouds...Clouds here and there...in a
chain-like connecting fashion...*

*Not that much, but just sufficient
for a picturesque portrait of the
natural body, of atmospheric moistness
...Angel feather, out long in the
atmosphere...the kind of cirrus
formation, bit by bit...*

*What an endless chain out there in the
blue-green span!*





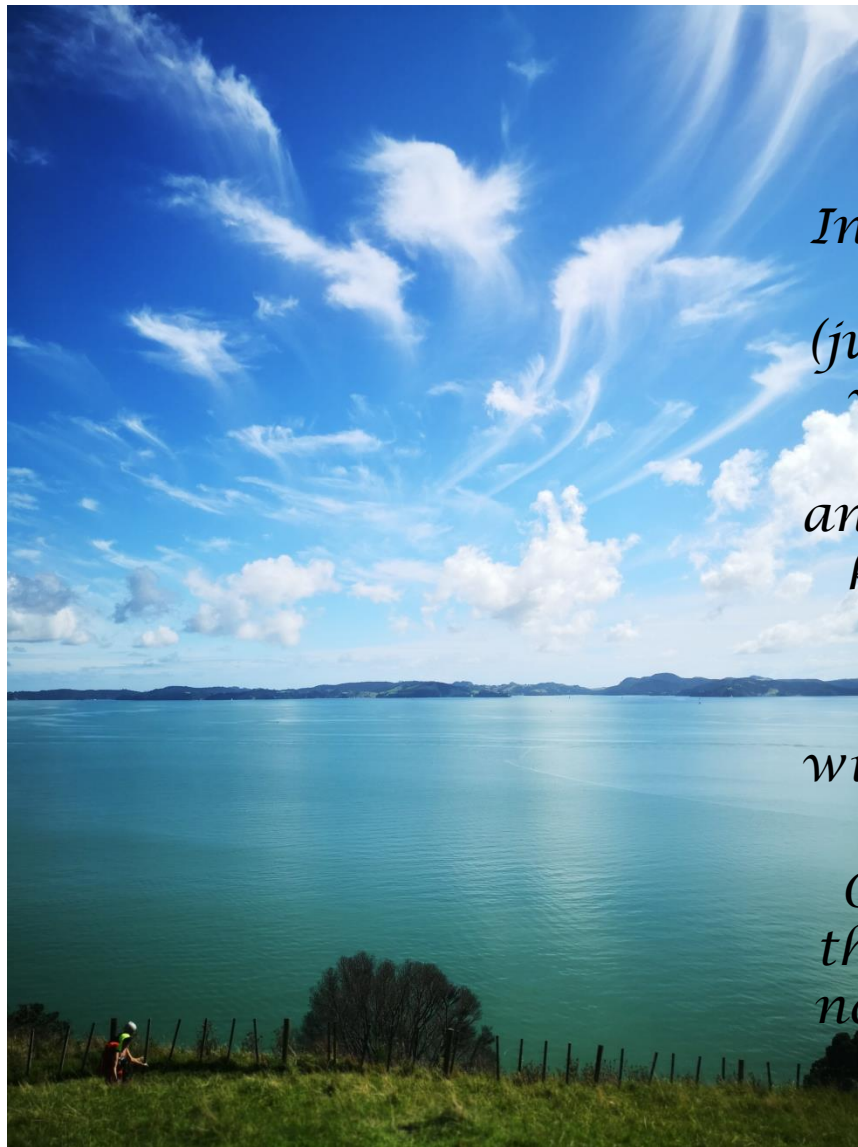


*Solitary post spotted on
rolling slope...the way of skewing...
Emerging feathers sprung up in sunny sky
...evaporation from the sea...The kind of spreading...
that brings about melodramatic sway...giving out the
impressive dynamism in our atmospheric space.
Over the shadow in the blue...What a magnificent sky can be!*



Just round the corner, behind the solitary tree... There we move forward, over the rolling hills with splendid reflections around...





*This's the way to the Pā.
Over the farmland,
sheep are everywhere.
In the Whakakāiwhara Peninsula,
there's water around
(just like being in your own island)
with views of surrounding hills,
the Hunua Ranges
and the Hauraki Gulf islands. The
kind of serenity and vibrancy...
Anyone can name the islands?*

*Swinging here and there
with long-stretching mirror images
over the rippling waters...*

*Overlooking our members, there
they are: a "cross-country" walk...
not so, just over the pasture...with
budding Pōhutukawa trees
lining the shore.*



*Space over space, here over there...
In between branches, over flowers and
seeds, there comes the sea down nearby
and the sky far above...*

*The same heapy cumulus down there
and the swirling cirrus up there...
All over the usual spatial matrix, as
the wind blow, as the earth move...
Hauraki Gulf on the left and
Waïroa Bay on the right...*

*Walking on the narrow track, there is
still plenty of space
on the spreading grass.*

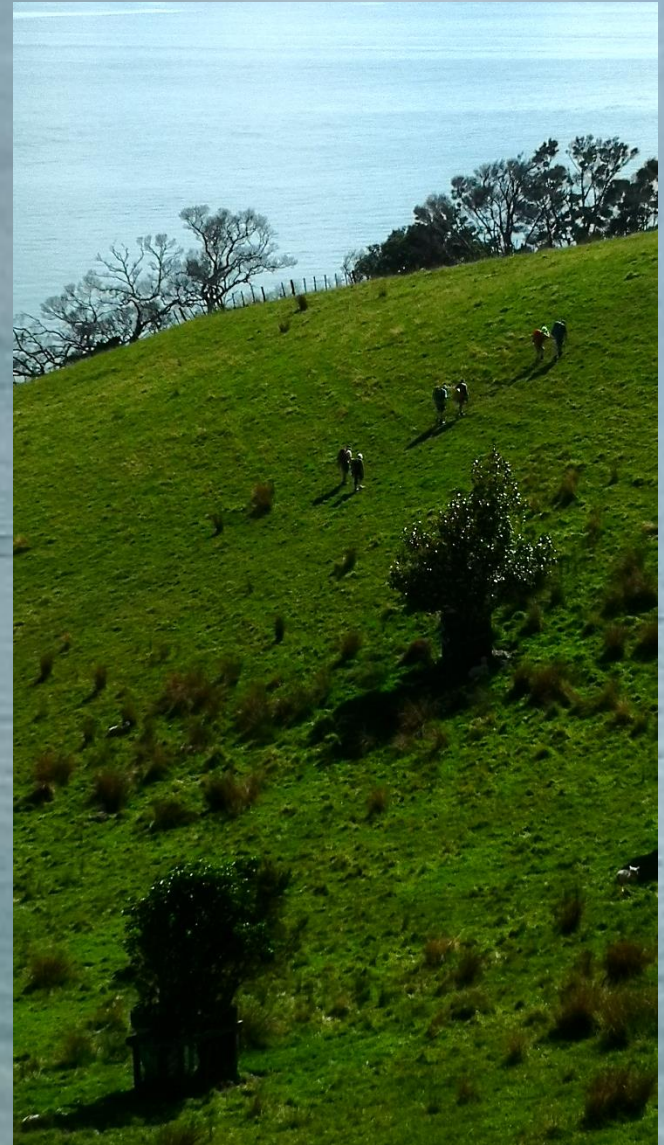
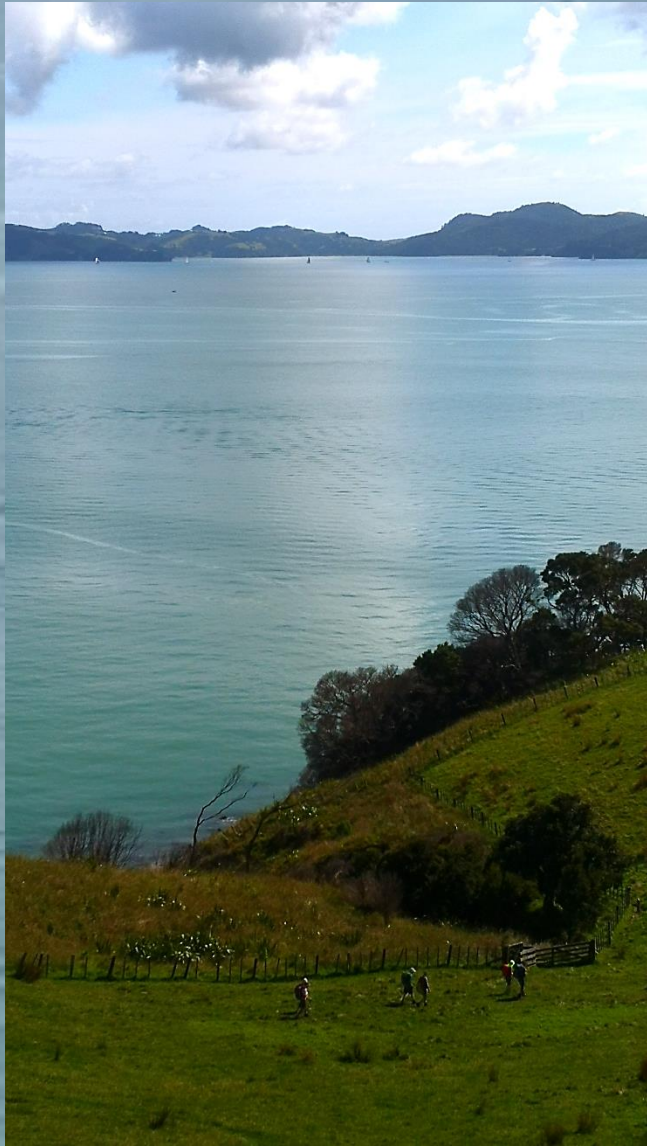
*The way you can wander...on the way
you deserve...*

*Just climb up, further ahead, over and
over...overlooking the deep blue sea...
deep out in the blue...
the crystal clear clouds...*

Wairoa Bay



Hauraki Gulf





*Up in the green, up over the slope,
there is quite a number of sheep grazing over
this Duder meadowland...gazing at what's over this leafy piece.*



*There we are along the fence, walking slowly...
appreciating the surrounding seascapes...so clear and calm...
shadow over shadow...coming up with
unprecedented smoothness that brings up
variegated colours with homogenous pacific wholesome*



The Blue Track runs through Whakakaiwhara Peninsula, and further extends to Whakakaiwhara point which cuts into Tamaki Strait (the spread of water separating Waiheke Island from mainland North Island, on the southern shore of Hauraki Gulf, due east of Auckland City)



*What they are doing out there,
on the Whakakaiwhara Pā?
Overlooking the
Whakakaiwhara point and
further afar on the islands out
in Hauraki Gulf...*

*Here is the earthwork remains
of a fortified Māori settlement.
Quite long time ago in 1600s, as
first Maori visited in
1300s...remains of Mori
settlements are identified with
midden found at this point,
ahu otaota.*

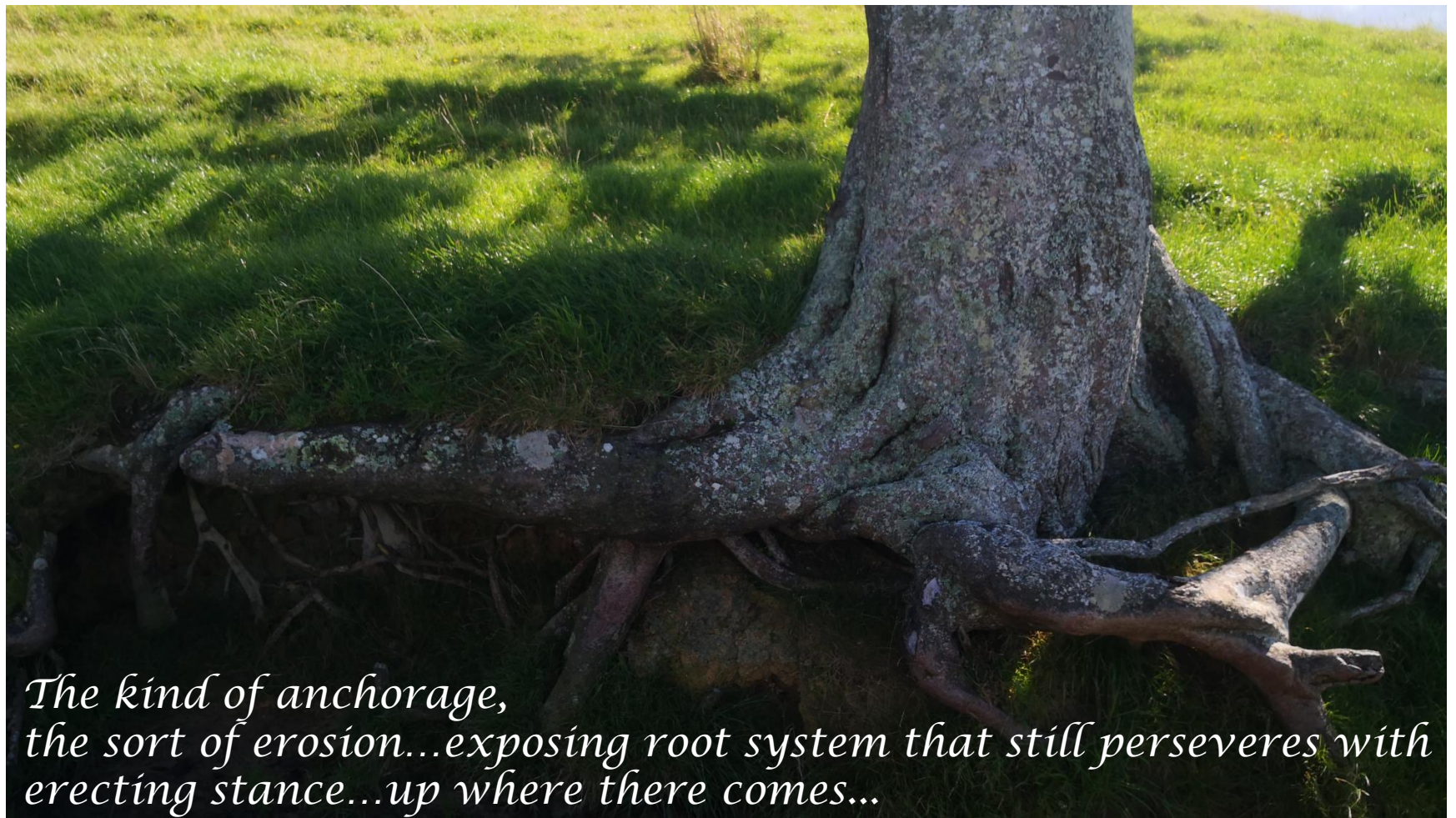
*Except this flat-top hill fort,
there's no other visual
identifiable Maori structures
left...They are still chatting...
Who are they?*

(Midden: a disposal area for food wastes, ash, broken oven stones and other discarded items, giving an indication on size and temporal coverage of the settlement)



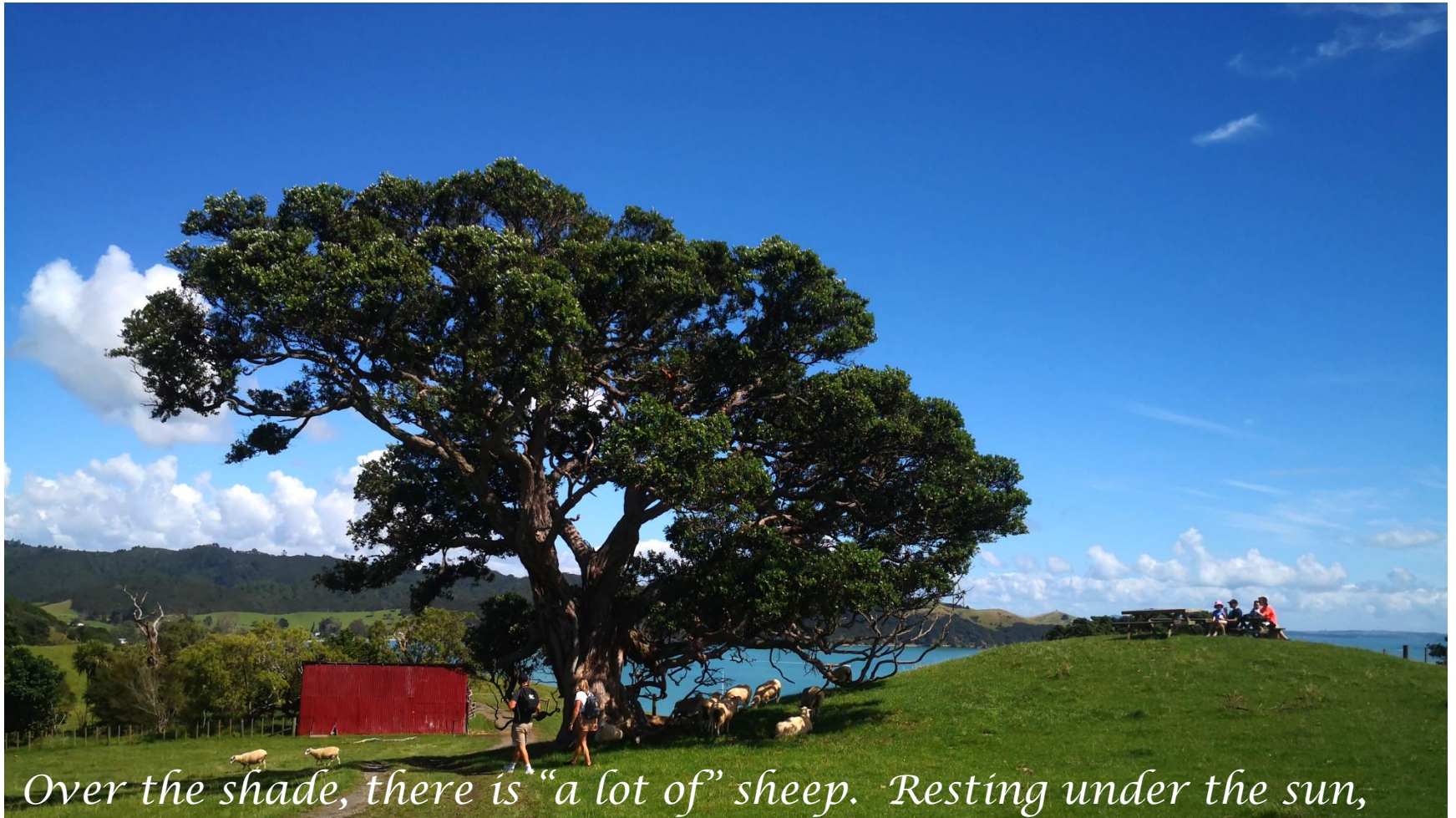
*Probably you know who they are!
Checking on here and there...Over there, Waiheke Island, Ponui...*





*The kind of anchorage,
the sort of erosion...exposing root system that still perseveres with
erecting stance...up where there comes...*

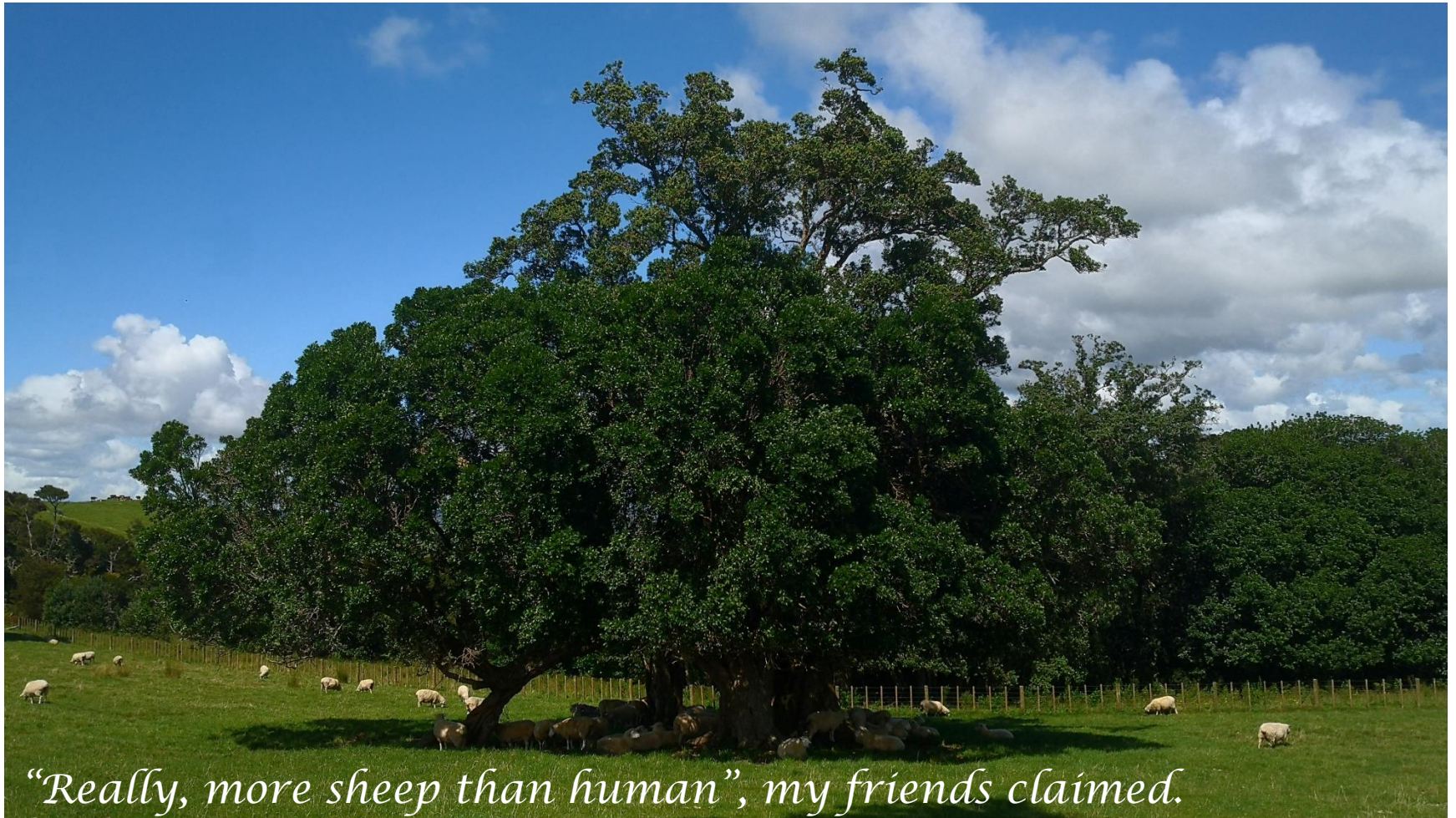
*Track construction and ultimate opening...it sprouts through
time...withstanding adverse environmental conditions...
persisting with never-ending insistence. Root ramifying all over,
above and below, digging to where it belongs...over and over...*



Over the shade, there is “a lot of” sheep. Resting under the sun, panting to certain extent...

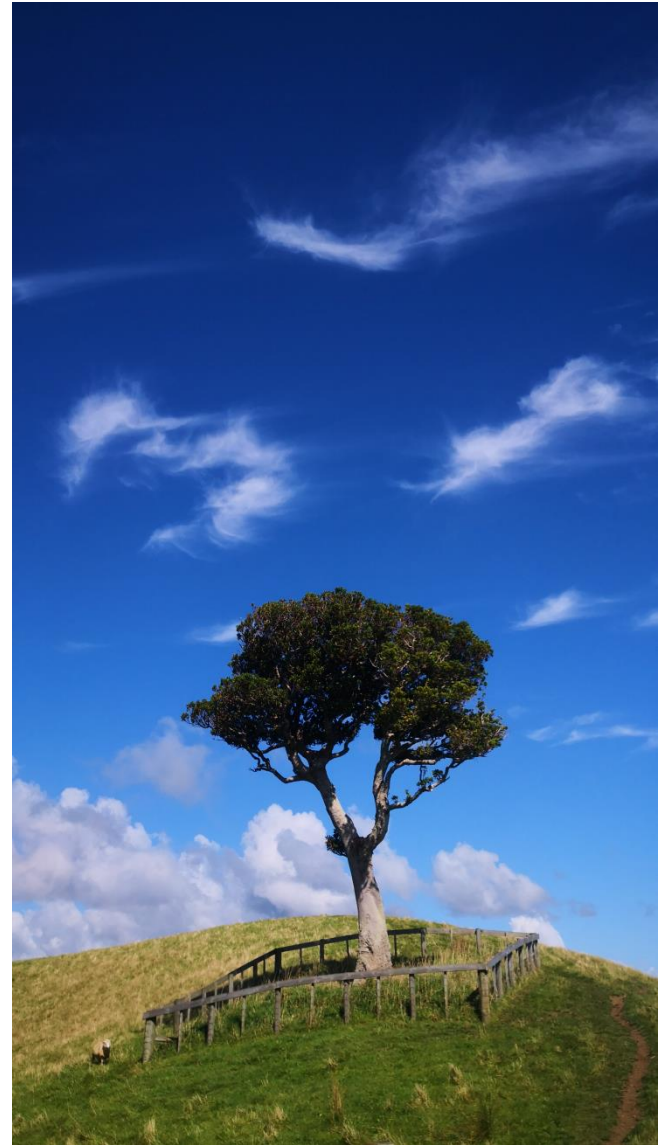
*Table and benches over the dome...but a bit too sunny bright...
How about having lunch here!*

Better under the shade...Strolling over the grass... As we approach, the sheep slips away...to another tree nearby...



“Really, more sheep than human”, my friends claimed.

This is the iconic scene of New Zealand...green pasture dotted with whitish specks... the sort of greenness and whiteness that is unexpected, extraordinary and astonishing in many overseas localities but is the expected, usual and amazing scene here!





*The sun is blazing strong.
With only very light wind in such an open sky,
there is a burning sensation on the skin...
We turn back to Red Track and rejoin the Farm Loop.
Following the undulating hillslope, we can see the Umupuia
Beach further down below.*



There is a side track down to the Beach...

We stick to the Loop Track...

Further below are plots of pasture with flocks of sheep.

The van is in the carpark down the slope.



There is an “argument” on where to stop for an ice-cream... Over and over, trying to stop here and there but with no parking space...this Sunday afternoon...the driver have to moves along...

Just stop at Pokeno to have the less expensive ice-cream, one scope for NZ\$2.50 at Original Pokeno Ice Cream & Coffee Shop!

It takes quite a while to line up for the scope, so many people...Have to eat it fast. It's melting, dripping down to the hand. I have banana split, with maple walnut and apricot whip gone... Can't forget not buying some meat from Pokeno Bacon at Great South Road.