



## BEHIND THE STORY: JAMIE DOUGLAS

The trip to Kāpiti Island to visit the gravesite of Te Rangihira for a story in this issue was "right up there" in terms of the locations and subjects about which Jamie Douglas has written for *Heritage New Zealand* magazine since 2009.

"I drive past Kāpiti Island when heading up the line to visit my mum in Thames, and always

enjoy the stretch of road with Kāpiti Island sitting majestically off the mainland. I used to think to myself that I must visit some day – and it was worth it."

Not a massive fan of sailing, Jamie admits he constantly monitored weather updates a week out from the boat trip to the island, working out survival skills in a worst-case scenario. He needn't have bothered.

"It was a great day for sailing, plus it only took about 20 minutes to get to the island. On the way over I kept thinking what it must have been like for the invading Māori warriors from the mainland in their waka taua as they headed across with the likes of Te Rauparaha and Te Rangihira waiting for them."

Jamie has lived in Wellington for the past 25 years or so, but his heart is forever in Waikato, especially Hamilton, where he grew up. This could explain his aversion to the open sea – navigating Hamilton's shallow lake in pedal boats is a much less daunting prospect. ■

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## FEATURED SUPPORTER

## THREE QUICK QUESTIONS WITH ISAAC DU TOIT

*A prodigious interest in history and heritage has already led 13-year-old Isaac du Toit down some fascinating roads, including blogging for Te Papa Tongarewa, speaking at the Museums Aotearoa 2017 Conference, and helping to create a museum at his school in Pukerua Bay.*

*Isaac's passion is also helping to pique other young people's interest in heritage. After visiting Antrim House in Wellington last year, Isaac and a couple of friends recreated the Category 1 former home of Robert and Hannah Hannah in the video game Minecraft, then published videos on YouTube to showcase their creation.*

### 1 What inspired you to create Antrim House in Minecraft?

It was after I went to Antrim House with one of my friends. When we visited we had someone show us around, so we got to walk around all the rooms and learn about the Hannah family, who originally lived there. I really liked learning about the history of the place, and I was also interested in the fact that at one point the top floor had burnt down.

### 2 How did you go about recreating the building?

I built it with my friends, and it took us quite a lot of time. We found a picture online of the outside of the building, which helped when we were creating it, but mainly we built it from memory.

We also decided to build some of our own things in the Minecraft version of the house, so it has a bat cave underneath it and we each chose a room that we wanted in the house and added our own touches, like the kind of furniture we'd like to have.

### 3 Where does your love of heritage places come from?

All my life I've been really interested in history, so I think that's where it comes from. One day I'd really like to visit some of the heritage and stately homes in England, as well as the Palace of Versailles. I love the Rococo and Baroque art styles – that's something I'm very passionate about – and also anything from the 18th century. ■