

NORTHLAND REGION

DAIRY FACTORIES IN
THIS REGION TODAY:

Kauri, Maungaturoto

START YOUR
RESEARCH
WITH THESE
HISTORIC SITES:

**Paparoa, Hokianga,
Ruawai, Kaitaia,
Moerewa and Kaipara**



HISTORICAL FACTS ABOUT DAIRYING IN THE NORTHLAND REGION

Rawiri Taiwhanga had the country's first dairy farm in around 1840 near Kaikohe. Although much of the north was not ideal for farming, many areas were gradually brought into use for sheep and cattle.

Small dairy factories were established by 1910, but progress was held back by the region's isolation, remoteness, poor

access, infertile soils and the uneconomic size of holdings. In 1920 a launch service began collecting cream from dairy farms on the small islands in the Bay of Islands. Over 30% of the region's cows were milked in herds of less than 50 on small land blocks known as 'billycan farms'.

Improved roads and new technology in

the 1960s led to the closure of many smaller dairy factories, leaving two centralised processing plants at Kaitaia and Moerewa. Dairying expanded on fertile lowlands and by 1960 Northland had 22.6% of the country's dairy cows, making it New Zealand's second-most important dairying area.

Have been sourced from www.teara.govt.nz

Regional museums that might be able to help you with your research: **Anawhata / The Packard and Pioneer Museum, Dargaville Museum and Far North Regional Museum.** For more museums that may be able to assist, visit www.nz museums.co.nz