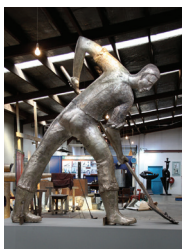


ADDRESS

Pioneer Park,
Hugh Hayward Domain,
Ngātea

Hauraki Plains Pioneer, 2010



DETAILS

Bronze
2450 x 2600 x 960mm
2010
Single edition

ON 6 NOVEMBER 2010, “HAURAKI PLAINS PIONEER” WAS unveiled at Pioneer Park in Ngātea, at an event known as “Settlers’ Day”: the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the land ballots on the Hauraki Plains, where land purchase was determined by a lottery system. The sculpture was commissioned by a group that included members from the local Council, the school, and the historical society.

The figure Dibble produced was of a man shovelling, a representation of the canal diggers who helped create the unique landscape of the Hauraki Plains.

A drain digger may seem an unusual choice of hero. But the settlement of the Plains was an arduous process which involved burning off the peat, which lowered the land and exposed the petrified trees that then had to be removed. Then the constant battle began with the problems of water and flooding. Making the land useable depended on the cutting of canals, often

carried out by Yugoslav immigrants, and the canals were then connected to rivers which led out to the coast.

This history was understood by Dibble. Raised on a farm on Canal Road in Waitakaruru, he was a local who had grown up with these stories. The figure is part caricature and, as stylistically consistent with Dibble’s work, is as if a filled-out drawing – large and massive from the front view, but from the side a narrow, thin shape.