

## Anne Maria Chapman (1791 – 1855)

## Thomas Chapman (1792 – 1876)

Anne Maria Maynard was born on 13 January 1791 at Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, England, the daughter of Sarah Binfield and her husband Thomas Maynard, a butcher. Her future husband Thomas, the third child of Susan Greenwood and her husband William Chapman, a schoolteacher, was born there on 20 June 1792. Anne and Thomas were married at the church of St Mary the Virgin, Henley-on-Thames, on 14 December 1822. Thomas was experienced in seamanship, farming, business and medicine when the couple, approaching middle age, arrived at Paihia, New Zealand, on 1 August 1830, as catechists of the Church Missionary Society. At first they lived with the missionaries already settled there, and Anne assisted with the mission school. At Kerikeri from 1831 to 1833, Thomas ran the mission store and Anne had charge of the female school. A Māori boy, Te Ahu, joined their household and became as a son to the childless couple; in 1841 he was baptised, taking the name Ihaia (Isaiah), and his wife Rangirauaka was baptised Katarina Hapimana (Catherine Chapman). Ihaia accompanied Chapman on many of his mission visits and soon became his principal teacher; he later studied for the Anglican ministry and was ordained in 1861.

The Chapmans moved to Rotorua in 1835 to found the short-lived Te Koutu mission station, which closed in under a year due to tribal warfare. Anne took refuge at Tauranga, and in 1838 returned with Thomas to a new mission on Mokoia Island in Lake Rotorua, until isolation, intolerable demands and unbearable cold drove them to Te Ngae on the eastern shore of the lake in mid-1840. Travellers accepting Anne's hospitality included John Carne Bidwell, Ernst Dieffenbach and William Colenso,

while she continued to teach and tend the needy. At Waimate North in 1844, Thomas studied at St John's College, and with Colenso, Christopher Davies and two others, was ordained deacon on 22 September. There, also, the Chapmans were named godparents at the baptism of the Colensos' daughter Frances.

From the late 1840s until they settled permanently in 1851, the Chapmans wintered in Maketu, where Ihaia Te Ahu and his family had already moved. Thomas helped to build the Wharekahu mission house, and established gardens, orchards and pasture. Visitors were always welcome, and the gratitude of HMS *Pandora* officers surveying Tauranga Harbour in 1852 was mentioned in Captain Drury's notes. Drury had undertaken seaweed collections for William Henry Harvey, but the eight seaweeds from "Maketu, Chapman", including *Gigartina chapmanii* (*Chondracanthus chapmanii*) along with others from Tauranga collected by Davies and Colenso, recorded by Harvey in J D Hooker's *Flora Novae-Zelandiae* (Flowerless Plants, 1855) were probably initiated by David Lyall, surgeon-naturalist on the earlier *Acheron* survey, who collected seaweeds for Kew. Anne Chapman became ill in late 1853 and died on 12 December 1855. Her husband spent most of 1856 on long missionary visits, married Mary Jane Moxon in Auckland in December and continued his missionary work in Maketu, leaving in 1863 to manage St Stephen's School, Auckland, until his retirement in 1868. Mary Jane died on 31 December 1873, aged 58, following a stroke. Three years later Thomas Chapman, aged 85, visited the old mission site on Mokoia Island, and died on 22 December 1876 while bathing in the hot pool. As requested, he was buried beside his first wife Anne at Maketu.



### *Chondracanthus chapmanii*

*Chondracanthus*, a genus of about 20 species, is represented in New Zealand by a single endemic species. *Chondracanthus chapmanii* (was *Gigartina chapmanii*) is a small, semi-prostrate seaweed 5-7 cm high, with a tangled, bushy appearance. The flexible, oval to flattened branches are often at right angles to the main axis, and have pointed tips. Attachment is by fleshy discs on the underside of the branches. The dark red to purple colour bleaches to greenish tones in bright light. The species is low intertidal to subtidal, on rock in sheltered areas on open coasts, or on shells, cobbles or rhodoliths in soft sediment. The type locality is Maketu.

Boulder Bay, Rangitoto : a rich algal habitat, 2015