

# Stained Glass Window – a community effort



One of the features of the wharenui at Parewahawaha, Bulls is the stained glass window on the eastern wall. The building of the wharenui was a community effort and the window depicts that effort and the close ties between Māori and Pākehā. For example the Richardson whānau, descend from the Scottish settlers Duncan & Marjory Fraser, who were one of the original lessees, farming initially on the Parewanui Reserve on the Rangitīkei River. Their daughter Ann Fraser married Thomas Furner Richardson whose parents came from Sussex in England. They had fifteen children. The oldest son of this union was Thomas Fraser Richardson, who was the only child to marry into the local Māori, married Unaiki Keremihana Wairaka, daughter of Keremihana Wairaka who tended his maara kai from Pakapakātea to Matahiwi. Keremihana also had a papakainga at Ohakēā. Thomas Fraser and Unaiki Keremihana had Pita Te Aikiha Richardson who had Pita Fraser Richardson.

The wharenui was open on 15 April 1967 and took 20 years to build. The stained glass window depicts the coming together of the community both Māori and Pākehā. The whole community including the Defence Force - Army and Air Force helped out. Even today the marae is used by various community groups and functions.