

Maori Places, Pa's and Kaenga associated with Upper Hutt district

Te Tekehana was the early Maori name for Upper Hutt

This document is a collection of information about early Maori Pa's, Kaenga (villages), cultivations (gardens), and other places of interest associated by Maori in the Upper Hutt district.

Awa-Kairangi (river)

The original name of the Hutt River was Awa-Kairangi. The people who had formerly lived in Heretaunga (Hastings) later migrated to Wellington and renamed the river Heretaunga after their old home. The name Heretaunga properly belongs to the whole river valley

(Reference Orongomai The Birth of a Marae by Patricia Rainey 1976 Upper Valley Marae Community Centre Committee)

Erretonga (river)

This is an old Maori name for the Hutt River previously known at Heretaunga. In 1862 the Maori's were still referring to the river as Erretonga. (Erretonga was another spelling for Heretaunga).

(Reference Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 04 March 1862 page 3)

Haukaretu Native Reserve

The Native Reserve Section No 175 in the Maoribank was known as "The Haukaretu Native Reserve". Section No 175 fronted the Hutt River below Maoribank in the Totara Park district.

Heretaunga River

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(Reference Orongomai The Birth of a Marae by Patricia Rainey 1976 Upper Valley Marae Community Centre Committee)

Hokowhetu Native Reserve

The Native Reserves Section No 120 and 121 in Upper Hutt was known as "The Hokowhetu Native Reserve". Sections 120 and 121 once fronted Fergusson drive between King Street and Kashmir Avenue. The land is now residential housing and referred to as the Ebdentown district.

Maman Te e Pa (Pa)

On the Upper Hutt survey map it records an area named "MAMAN TE E PA" which is situated on un-surveyed land west opposite Sections 114 & 115. This area is south west of McLaren Road in the Mangaroa Valley.

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington R22824230 AAFV 997 box 120 W19 Upper Hutt District Sections and names of owners, reserves, roads and swamps – scale 20 chains 1 inch [C W D Ligar] C J Lynn year 1865 [sic] Lynly comment try 1845)

Mauihakono Native Reserver

The Native Reserve Section No 98 and 102 in Wallaceville was known as "The Mauihakono Native Reserves". Section 98 and 102 later became part of the Wallaceville Animal Research Station and is now part of the Wallaceville Estate housing development.

Ma-wai-hakona or Mawaihona (stream)

The Trentham area, and still used as the name of the stream which winds through the Heretaunga Golf Course down to Silverstream

(Reference Orongomai The Birth of a Marae by Patricia Rainey 1976 Upper Valley Marae Community Centre Committee)

Mawai Hakona cultural group

I recommend the publication "Orongomai The Birth of a Marae" by Patricia Rainey 1976 Upper Valley Marae Community Centre Committee.

Maunga Waka Roro & double Wharre (whare / dwelling)

On the Upper Hutt survey map it records an area named MAUNGA WAKA RORO (now known as Mount Marua) which is situated east of Sections 170, 171 & 172 between Maoribank and Te

Marua. On Section 171 it mentions a bridge near a double Wharre. There is no name attached to section 171 so perhaps the double wharre was connected to a Maori settlement in the area or a squatter of an early New Zealand Company settler.

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington R22824230 AAFV 997 box 120 W19 Upper Hutt District Sections and names of owners, reserves, roads and swamps – scale 20 chains 1 inch [C W D Ligar] C J Lynn year 1865 [sic] Lynly comment try 1845)

Mungaroa River - The River Mungaroa (river)

On the Upper Hutt survey map it records THE RIVER MUNGAROA. This river still retains the same name and is situated in the Mangaroa Valley.

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington R22824230 AAFV 997 box 120 W19 Upper Hutt District Sections and names of owners, reserves, roads and swamps – scale 20 chains 1 inch [C W D Ligar] C J Lynn year 1865 [sic] Lynly comment try 1845)

Nga Paiaka Swamp (swamp)

On the Upper Hutt survey map it records an area named NGA PAIAKA SWAMP which is situated in Whitemans Valley near Katherine Mansfield estate subdivision

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington R22824230 AAFV 997 box 120 W19 Upper Hutt District Sections and names of owners, reserves, roads and swamps – scale 20 chains 1 inch [C W D Ligar] C J Lynn year 1865 [sic] Lynly comment try 1845)

Orongomai (place)

This is an old Maori name of the area where Upper Hutt is situated. It means the place of Rongomai. Rongomai was the tribal God of the tribes whose ancestor came in the Kurahaupo canoe, who originally occupied most of the area south of the Wanganui River on the west coast and Napier in the east coast.

(Reference Orongomai The Birth of a Marae by Patricia Rainey 1976 Upper Valley Marae Community Centre Committee)

Orongomai Marae

Orongomai Marae is situated on the corner of Park Street and Railway Avenue. The site was purchased in 1972 and the Marae Hall was built in 1977. The meeting house was opened in 1989. The Kahukura carved meeting house was dedicated on 20th May 1989 and his known as Whare whakairo. The carvings were carved by Jock McEwen and others from the local prison under the supervision of Jock. There is further information about the Marae on the Upper Hutt City Library Recollect website which also includes various photographs. I also recommend the publication “Orongomai The Birth of a Marae” by Patricia Rainey 1976 Upper Valley Marae Community Centre Committee.

Pakuratahi Native Reserve

The Native Reserve Sections No 3, 4 and 7 were known as “The Pakuratahi Native Reserves”. They are also noted as the New Zealand Company “Tenths”. Sections No 3, 4 and 7 all front State Highway 2. The land is leased for farming but was once used by the Wallaceville Animal Research station.

Pakuratahi (place near Kaitoke)

Pakuratahi is situated at the north south side of the Remutaka hill. This was the early name for the area which is now more commonly known as Kaitoke. There is various early spelling for the name Pakuratahi in early land documents.

Pa Parihoro

Some believe that Pa Parihoro was once situated on the hill whee St Mary’s Church is now situated in Silverstream.

Pari-horo or Parihoro (slipping cliffs)

The raid of Ngati-Rangi clan against the Mua-upoko tribe of the Otaki district resulted in Te Kopara, chief of Mua-upoko, going to raise a force of the Nga-Rauru and Ngati-Ruanui tribes to avenge the defeat of Mua-upoko at Pukehou, where the chief of fort was slain. Even so came Tamatea-kopiri and Kakataia, who were the chiefs of that armed force raised by Te Kopara. This force did not advance by way of the vale Heretaunga (Hutt Valley) against Te Hau-Karetu, Pa-whakata and Pari-horo, the places (first) occupied by Ngati-Rangi, but stuck off to the Hataitai, Uruhau, Te Aka-tarewa and Te Wai-hirere, so that, these places having fallen, they might be able to attack Te Whetu-kai-rangi, the high-class fortress of the island of Motu-kairangi.

(Massey University Wellington Cultural Impact Report - Appendix V The Land of Tara and they who settled it by Elsdon Best 1919 Settlement in Wellington district page 30)

Puia Rau Manuka (place)

On the Upper Hutt survey map it records and area named PUIA RAU MANUKA which is situated on Sections 105 & 106 where the Prison.

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington R22824230 AAFV 997 box 120 W19 Upper Hutt District Sections and names of owners, reserves, roads and swamps – scale 20 chains 1 inch [C W D Ligar] C J Lynn year 1865 [sic] Lynly comment try 1845)

Pu-rehurehu (hills)

This is the correct name of the hills in the Moonshine area. It means “hollows filled with mist”.

(Reference Orongomai The Birth of a Marae by Patricia Rainey 1976 Upper Valley Marae Community Centre Committee)

Rangihaeota's Stockade

Nothing is known about the stockade only that it was once believed to be situated somewhere in the Moonshine Hills or perhaps near Paremata. Te Rangihaeata (1780s-1855) was a Ngati Toa chief. It was Te Rangihaeata that gave Te Kaeaea the name Taringakuri (dog's ear's).

“In the biograph of Te Rangihaeata it reads “At the time of the Gillespies murders on 02 April 1846 Te Rangihaeata was building a new pa at Pauatahanui on the eastern inlet of Porirua Harbour”.

(Reference Te Ara The Encyclopedia of New Zealand website)

Te Hau-Karetu or Te Haukaretu (place)

This is the area now known as Maoribank. The Hau-Karetu means the scent of the Karetu a sweet-scented water plant

(Reference Orongomai The Birth of a Marae by Patricia Rainey 1976 Upper Valley Marae Community Centre Committee)

Te Tekehana

Te Tekehana was the early Maori name for Upper Hutt.

(Reference correspondence written in te reo Maori amongst the Natives Reserves Sections No 3 4, & 7 Pakuratahi held at Archives NZ in Wellington)

Whakataka pa or Wakataka pa (Pa)

The raid of Ngati-Rangi clan against the Mua-upoko tribe of the Otaki district resulted in Te Kopara, chief of Mua-upoko, going to raise a force of the Nga-Rauru and Ngati-Ruanui tribes to avenge the defeat of Mua-upoko at Pukehou, where the chief of fort was slain. Even so came Tamatea-kopiri and Kakataia, who were the chiefs of that armed force raised by Te Kopara. This force did not advance by way of the vale Heretaunga (Hutt Valley) against Te Hau-Karetu, Pa-whakata and Pari-horo, the places (first) occupied by Ngati-Rangi, but stuck off to the Hataitai, Uruhau, Te Aka-tarewa and Te Wai-hirere, so that, these places having fallen, they might be able to attack Te Whetu-kai-rangi, the high-class fortress of the island of Motu-kairangi.

(Massey University Wellington Cultural Impact Report - Appendix V The Land of Tara and they who settled it by Elsdon Best 1919 Settlement in Wellington district page 30)

This [Whakataka] is an important fortification pa on the right bank of the river opposite its junction with Mangaroa Stream. Signs of earthworks are said to be still evident and palisade posts from the pa were sawn up for firewood in living memory. There is a small outpost pa a little further upstream on property owned by the Te Marua Golf Club on the riverbank opposite the golf course

(Reference Orongomai The Birth of a Marae by Patricia Rainey 1976 Upper Valley Marae Community Centre Committee)

On the Upper Hutt survey map it records “Clear land formerly a Maori Pa called PA WAKATAKA”. A boxed area was drawn on the west boundary of Section 112 which is west of the River Hutt. Historians have mentioned the existence of the Pa and some with different spelling, but this is the earliest proof of the Pa's existence that I have been able to locate. The Pa was in the vicinity of the current Te Marua Golf Course as most historians have stated.

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington R22824230 AAFV 997 box 120 W19 Upper Hutt District Sections and names of owners, reserves, roads and swamps – scale 20 chains 1 inch [C W D Ligar] C J Lynn year 1865 [sic] Lynly comment try 1845)

Whakatiki or Wakatiki (place)

Whakatiki is the name for the area south of the Upper Hutt Township.

Whirinaki Native Reserve

The Native Reserve Section No 84 in Silverstream was known as "The Whirinaki Native Reserve". Whirinaki was sometimes spelt Wirinaki. Section No 84 land is now part of St Patrick College grounds fronting Fergusson Drive between the college Tennis Courts and the Home of Compassion.

Whirinaki Pa and Whirinaki Chapel (also spelt Wirinaki & Warinaki) (church / chapel)

Whirinaki was the early name given to the Silverstream area by the local Maoris. The Whirinaki Chapel known as the Maori Church was situated in Silverstream where St Patrick's college tennis courts are now situated.

Across the road was the Wirinaki Pa where the chief was Te Kaeaea also known as Taringa Kuri and Whitoa Taringakuri (dog's ears). Next to the Pa and north of Thomas's Cotters homestead was a hut known as Te Whare o Turingakuri where the chief resided when he visited the Pa.

Historians have recorded that the Whirinaki chapel was built in 1837. On the Upper Hutt survey map there are no drawings or written words regarding the Whirinaki Chapel or Whirinaki Pa in Silverstream. I believe the chapel was built after 1847.

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington R22824230 AAFV 997 box 120 W19 Upper Hutt District Sections and names of owners, reserves, roads and swamps – scale 20 chains 1 inch [C W D Ligar] C J Lynn year 1865 [sic] Lynly comment try 1845)

The Maori population in the Upper Hutt area in 1857 was 124 souls. I believe the Wharanaki chapel was not built in 1937 but [perhaps built in 1957].

This was the Maori name of Silverstream. It was still used in the early days of Pakeha settlement, but as there were many other places named the same, it was changed to Silverstream. The Whirinaki Stream runs from Pinehaven to its junction with the Hutt River just north of the Silverstream Hospital. The area south of Upper Hutt city, still known by that name.

(Reference Orongomai The Birth of a Marae by Patricia Rainey 1976 Upper Valley Marae Community Centre Committee)

New Zealand Times newspaper 11 June 1894

Wellington Camera Club – The Exhibits - Mr W C Stephens, the energetic secretary of the Club, shows a first-class enlarged photograph of Mr J H Pope (chief inspector of Native schools) seated in smoking cap and dressing-gown in front of his sidereal telescope. It is a speaking likeness. Mr Stephens has also a variety of smaller works, all manifesting careful treatment. The little river study, "Three Men in a Boat" a picturesque sketch of the bush road, Kereru, **the deserted Maori church at Silverstream**, and a skilful reproduction from a steel engraving of Turner's, "Oberwessel on the Rhine," are all deserving of notice.

(Reference Papers past website New Zealand Times newspaper 11 June 1894)

The Accountant and hobby photographer William Cameron STEPHENS born 1861 Otago New Zealand died 1932 Karori New Zealand.

In December 1893 two tribes resided in the same Maori pah and jointly owned 150 acres of Native land.

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington J1 512 u 1893/1956 Inspector Pender Wellington 20 December 1893 Destitute condition of a Native at the Maori Pah Upper Hutt years 1893)

The Whirinaki Pa and Chapel were destroyed by fire in 1900. I have not confirmed this story.

Unknown Pa (Pa)

There was another fortified pa south of Silverstream, probably where the Silverstream Hospital is now situated. The name of this pa is unknown.

(Reference Orongomai The Birth of a Marae by Patricia Rainey 1976 Upper Valley Marae Community Centre Committee)

Native Reserves

On the Upper Hutt survey map it records Native Reserve for sections 98 & 102 which is situated south of Ward Street near the former Wallaceville Research Station and the now Wallaceville Estate subdivision.

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington R22824230 AAFV 997 box 120 W19 Upper Hutt District Sections and names of owners, reserves, roads and swamps – scale 20 chains 1 inch [C W D Ligar] C J Lynn year 1865 [sic] Lynly comment try 1845)

In 1862 Maori were living on section 120 in Upper Hutt now the area between King Street and Henry Street in Upper Hutt.

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington ABXS 19480 LS-W2 11 1862/213 Charles Mabey Upper Hutt 08 July 1862 relative to the right of road claimed by the natives and stating Mr Bell had given him a letter to Mr Brown about it years 1862)

Nine Native Reserves in Upper Hutt district

- Upper Hutt central Native Reserves were Section No 120 and No 121
- Pakuratahi (Kaitoke) Native Reserve were Section No 3, No 4 and No 7
- Wallaceville Natives Reserves were Section No 98 and No 102
- Silverstream Native Reserve was Section No 84
- Maoribank Native Reserve was Section No 175
- New Native Reserve Section No 132 (nothing known)

Items to be researched

Pa Whiranki - Silverstream
Pa at Silverstream – Parihoru (slipping cliffs)
Pa Whakataka or Pa Whakapapa - Te Marua
Pa Whare-Rewai – Maoribank
Pa Maoribank pa - Haukaretu
Te Marua (across Hutt river) - Maori look out

Wirinaki March 1848 – perhaps connection to Wirinaki Silverstream Upper Hutt



Attached is a low resolution reference image for personal use and study only and may not be published in any form including upload to public internet platform. The item is not original but is a photograph of an original watercolour in the British Library collection.

Item IRN: 774821

Item Reference Number: E-143-027

Item Title: [Merrett, Joseph Jenner] 1815-1854 :Wirinaki. March 1848

Collection IRN: 380911

Collection Reference Number: E-143

Collection Title: British Library. Department of Manuscripts: Drawings and sketches illustrative of New Zealand. 1845-1853. [Additional Manuscript 19953. File prints].

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