

Michael Brownie

From: Clark [ijclark@xtra.co.nz]
Sent: Monday, 24 October 2011 11:53 p.m.
To: Michael Brownie
Subject: Name for Slip Road - Te Aro Pa Lane

Attachments: Te Aro Lane WCC Oct2011.docx; ATT00001.txt



Te Aro Lane WCC Oct2011.docx (...
ATT00001.txt (7 KB)

Michael

Here is some background on Te Aro and the area now covered by Wakefield Street and Jervois Quay down to Taranaki Wharf.

This is in support of my proposal to name the slip lane between Taranaki Street and Jervois Quay Te Aro Lane or, even better, Te Aro Pa Lane.

I'd be happy to come and talk to someone if that would be appropriate!

Jenny Clark
0-4-384 4012

Te Aro Pa Lane (or Te Aro Lane)

Proposal for naming of slip road between Taranaki Street and Jervois Quay, Wellington

25 October 2011

Jenny Clark
2/178 Wakefield Street, Te Aro, Wellington
Phone: 0-4-384 4012
Email: ijclark@xtra.co.nz

I understand that the City Council is accepting suggestions for the naming of the slip road that joins Taranaki Street to Jervois Quay.

I would like to propose that the road be called Te Aro Pa Lane, (or Te Aro Lane, for a simpler option), to recognise and preserve the early history of this exact spot.

This is particularly relevant since the proposals for the site are for people once again to live in this area, over 150 years after its earlier inhabitants were forced out by the repercussions of the 1855 earthquake in Wellington, and the flow of migrants from Britain. I have set out some early history to support my proposal.

Te Aro Kainga was built by Ngāti Mutunga of Taranaki in 1824. Later the kainga was split into two parts - the eastern end occupied by about 35 Ngāti Ruanui iwi and the western by about 90 Ngāti Haumia iwi and Ngāti Tupaia hapū from Taranaki. This is why we have Taranaki Street, of course.

The nearby stream Waimāpihi (the "bathing place" of Māpihi", a local rangatira) was an important food source for Te Aro Māori. The stream entered the water at about where the James Smith's car park now stands.

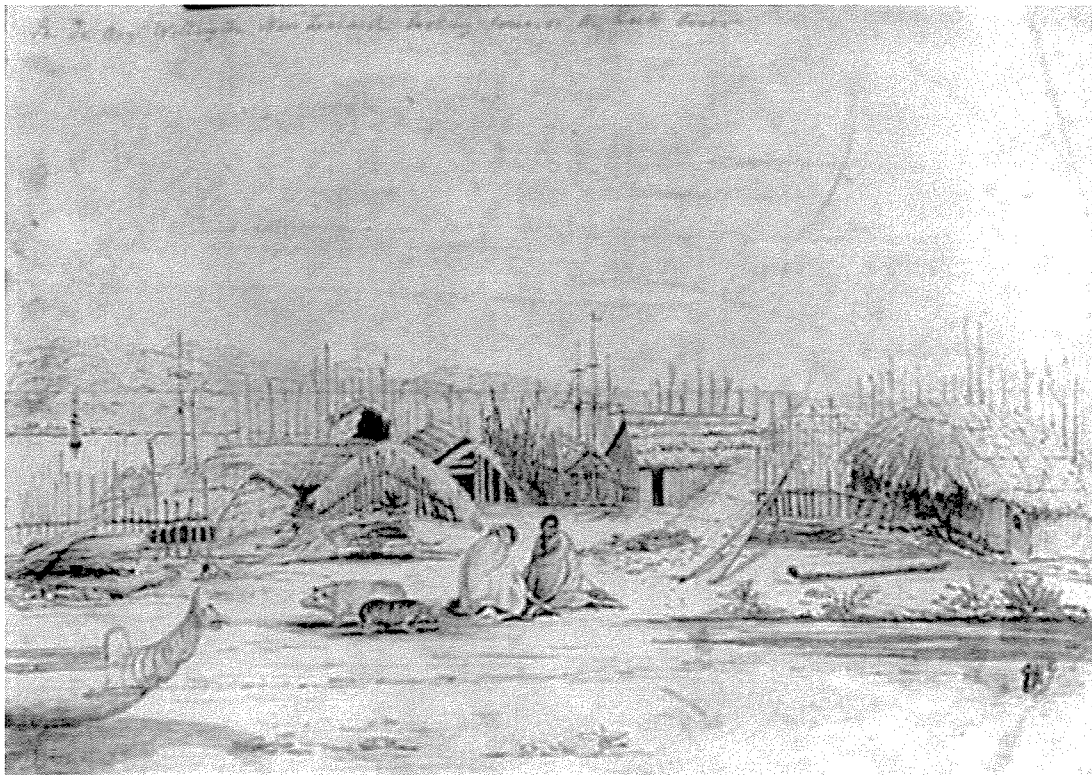
In 1839 the Wesleyan missionaries, Bumby, Hobbs and Minarapa Rangihātuaka, were given land to build a chapel. This is the site of the current Wesley Church in Taranaki Street. The missionaries placed a tapu on the pā and its associated lands against their sale. Until February 1844 Te Aro Māori refused to sell any of their lands to the New Zealand Company. However, in late 1844, six resident rangātira signed the 1844 deed which effectively brought Te Aro into the New Zealand Company purchase of 1839.

An earthquake in 1855 caused a dramatic uplift, which raised low-lying areas of Te Aro enough to be drained, seriously affecting Te Aro flat. These low-lying marshy areas had previously provided both a food source, with

shellfish in the shallows and eels in the swamps, and also large quantities of flax, which was in great demand by the European settlers. This loss of food source and economic trading base, combined with severe illness and the 1860 migration back to Taranaki to settle land disputes, gradually saw the Māori population of Te Aro Pā dwindle. By 1870 most of the remaining land was sold to extend Taranaki Street down to the waterfront.

Since then the land has been used for various commercial enterprises. At one time there was a skating rink (now the site of the Michael Fowler Centre), the Aulsebrook factory produced baked goods in Wakefield Street until the mid 20th century, and there were several motor car companies including Manthel Motors. In recent times the Chambers & Co Building became the site of the Rialto Cinemas, and the Victoria flea market, for many years, occupied the site of a once grand commercial building.

I found the drawing below on the wall of the Whare Waka on the waterfront last weekend. It is attributed to Edmund Norman, and is of Te Aro Pa looking towards the Hutt Valley in 1842. (Courtesy Alexander Turnbull Library)



Another early drawing depicts Maori families on the beach at Te Aro. (Also courtesy of Alexander Turnbull library).



Now that the site of Te Aro Pa is earmarked for residential development, it would be entirely appropriate to recognise its early residents, who lived off the land and the sea, and traded with the early settlers from England at a time when Wellington was turning itself into a city.

Given that we have Te Aro Park further up Taranaki Street, and the Te Aro Pa exhibition in Taranaki Street, it would be a good connection to call the slip road Te Aro Pa Lane.

Jenny Clark

25 October 2011