

## TE ARO PĀ

Te Aro Pā was established by Ngāti Mutunga of Taranaki in 1824. After they left the Wellington area to reside in Wharekauri (Chatham Islands), their whānau (family) and hapū (subtribes) of Ngāti Ruanui, Te Ātiawa and Taranaki iwi, took up residence.

An earthquake in 1855 raised the land and drained the low-lying areas of Te Aro. These marshy areas had provided shellfish and eels, and also the large quantities of flax that were in demand by the European settlers. The population of Te Aro Pā dwindled rapidly from that time due to the complexities wrought by the Taranaki land wars and the impact of colonisation. This is well documented in The Waitangi Tribunal report "Te Whanganui a Tara Me Ona Takiwa" (chapter 13). In 1870 most of the remaining land was sold to extend Taranaki Street down to the waterfront.

Te Aro Pā was one of the largest Māori communities in Wellington until the 1880s.

For more information about *Te Raukura* – Te Wharewaka o Pōneke visit [wharewakaoponeke.co.nz](http://wharewakaoponeke.co.nz)

TE RAUKURA  
TE WHAREWAKA O PONEKE

Absolutely  
POSITIVELY  
ME HEKE KI PŌNEKE  
WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL Wellington

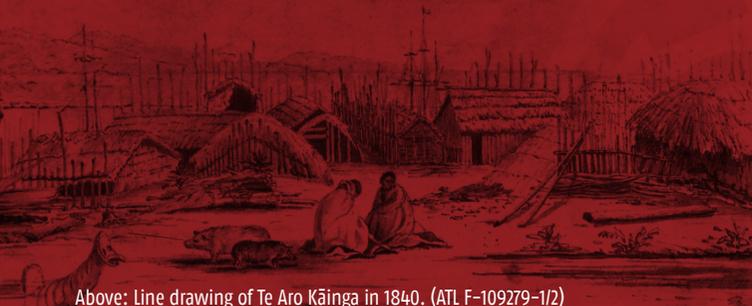


Above: Bellagio-Ātaahua Apartments and Te Aro Pā visitor centre, 39 Taranaki Street

Front cover: Te Aro Pā and foreshore in 1857. (AATL F-2961-1/2)

# TE ARO PĀ

Visitor Centre | 39 Taranaki Street



Above: Line drawing of Te Aro Kāinga in 1840. (ATL F-109279-1/2)





The dawn opening ceremony for Te Aro Pā visitor centre 11 October 2008



In 2005, during construction of a new apartment complex, the remains from Te Aro Pā were uncovered under a two-storey building that had stood in Taranaki Street for 100 years. A visitor centre displays the preserved foundations of two whare ponga (buildings) and other items from the old pā site.

The Te Aro Pā visitor centre is open daily from 9am–5pm and is located at 39 Taranaki Street.

Left: Taranaki Kaumatua Dr. Huirangi Waikerepuru at dawn opening ceremony of Te Aro Pā visitor centre.

## TE RAUKURA

Te Wharewaka O Pōneke

*Te Raukura* – the wharewaka (canoe house) on Wellington's waterfront is not only an elegant home for the city's two waka (canoes), it is the fulfilment of a vision to return a Māori presence to Te Whanganui ā Tara/Wellington Harbour.

The vision belonged to Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika, a collective of people from Taranaki, whose ancestors migrated to Wellington in the 1820s and 1830s. The name of the wharewaka, *Te Raukura* symbolises the peaceful resistance of their tupuna at Parihaka in the 1880s and the white feather (*Te Raukura*) is still worn by the descendants today. Taranaki Whānui includes whānau and hapū from Te Ātiawa, Taranaki, Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Ruanui and Ngāti Mutunga iwi.

The wharewaka design is based on a korowai (cloak), which signifies mana and prestige. The korowai roofline recalls the traditional sails of the waka fleet, and the louvred metal panels symbolise a cloak draped over the sides of the building.

The wharewaka opened in 2011 and was built in partnership with Wellington City Council, acknowledging the past and marking the city's future commitment to Taranaki Whānui. *Te Raukura* is open daily and can be accessed through Karaka Café.

*Te Raukura*, named at the official dawn ceremony on 6 February 2011

