

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.

For more information about *Te Raukura* – Te Wharewaka o Pōneke visit wharewakaoponeke.co.nz and Wellington.govt.nz

TE RAUKURA
TE WHAREWAKA O PONEKE

Absolutely
POSITIVELY
ME HEKE KI PŌNEKE
WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL Wellington

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





KUPE AND THE STAR COMPASS

Wellington's earliest explorers are represented by the Kupe statue group in front of *Te Raukura* and by a traditional Polynesian navigation aid, the star compass or *aronga mana*, inlaid in the *ātea* (forecourt).

The Kupe group shows the legendary Polynesian explorer with wife Hine Te Aparangi and *tohunga* (priest) Pekahourangi. Kupe arrived here about 925AD and camped at the southern end of the harbour. He landed at Seatoun, naming the foreshore *Te Tūranga o Kupe* (the great standing place of Kupe). Many of Wellington's coastal features are named in recognition of Kupe.

The statue was made in plaster by sculptor William Trethewey. In 1999 it was cast in bronze as a Millennium project and unveiled on 4 March 2000 as a tribute to all who have come to these shores.

Taking prominent place on the *ātea* or forecourt of the *wharewaka*, the star compass located the stars and constellations for the early navigators. The 360-degree horizon around the *waka* was divided into sectors and marked on the railings. Navigators would know that the arcs of the sun and other stars cross the sky at different heights depending on the time of year. A *waka* is travelling due north at the spring equinox when the sun rises due east and sets due west. At night the rising and setting of stars were used to align the *waka* in the direction of travel.

This star compass was designed by Eruera Te Whiti Nia of Te Ātiawa and Rarotonga and is based on a *tāniko* pattern (geometric finger weaving) of three colours, black, white and red.

THE KARAKA GROVE

The *karaka* grove outside *Te Raukura* makes a connection to the history of Wellington's early inhabitants. It is said that Māori settlers bought the *karaka* seed with them on *waka* as they travelled to Aotearoa New Zealand, so they could continue to harvest the *karaka* (orange) fruit.

