

TE ARA O NGA TUPUNA HERITAGE TRAIL



Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council

Me Heke Ki Pōneke

WELLINGTON'S TE ARA O NGA TUPUNA HERITAGE TRAIL

The trail can be done in two parts. The first part can be walked from Pipitea Pa to Te Aro Pa and Waitangi Lagoon. The second part is a driving trail from Matairangi/Mt Victoria to the coast and the south.

MAIN FEATURES OF THE TRAIL:

This trail will take about four hours to drive and view at an easy pace. Vantage points are mostly accessible by wheelchair but there are steps at some sites such as Rangitatau and Uruhau pa. A Pou (carved post), a rock or an information panel mark various sites on the trail. These sites have been identified with a symbol.

While the trail participants will appreciate that many of the traditional sites occupied by Māori in the past have either been built over or destroyed, they still have a strong spiritual presence.

ABOUT THE TRAIL:

The trail starts at the Pipitea Marae in Thorndon Quay and finishes at Owhiro Bay on the often wild, southern coast of Wellington. While not all the old pa, kainga, cultivation and burial sites of Wellington have been included in this trail, those that are have been selected for their accessibility to the public, and their viewing interest.



Rock



Pou



Information panel

ATL Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand

Heritage Trail

The Wellington City Council is grateful for the significant contribution made by the original heritage Trails committee to the development of this trail — Oroya Day, Sallie Hill, Ken Scadden and Con Flinkenberg.

Historical research: Matene Love, Miria Pomare, Roger Whelan

Author: Matene Love

This trail was developed as a joint project between Wellington City Council, the Wellington Tenth's Trust and Ngati Toa.

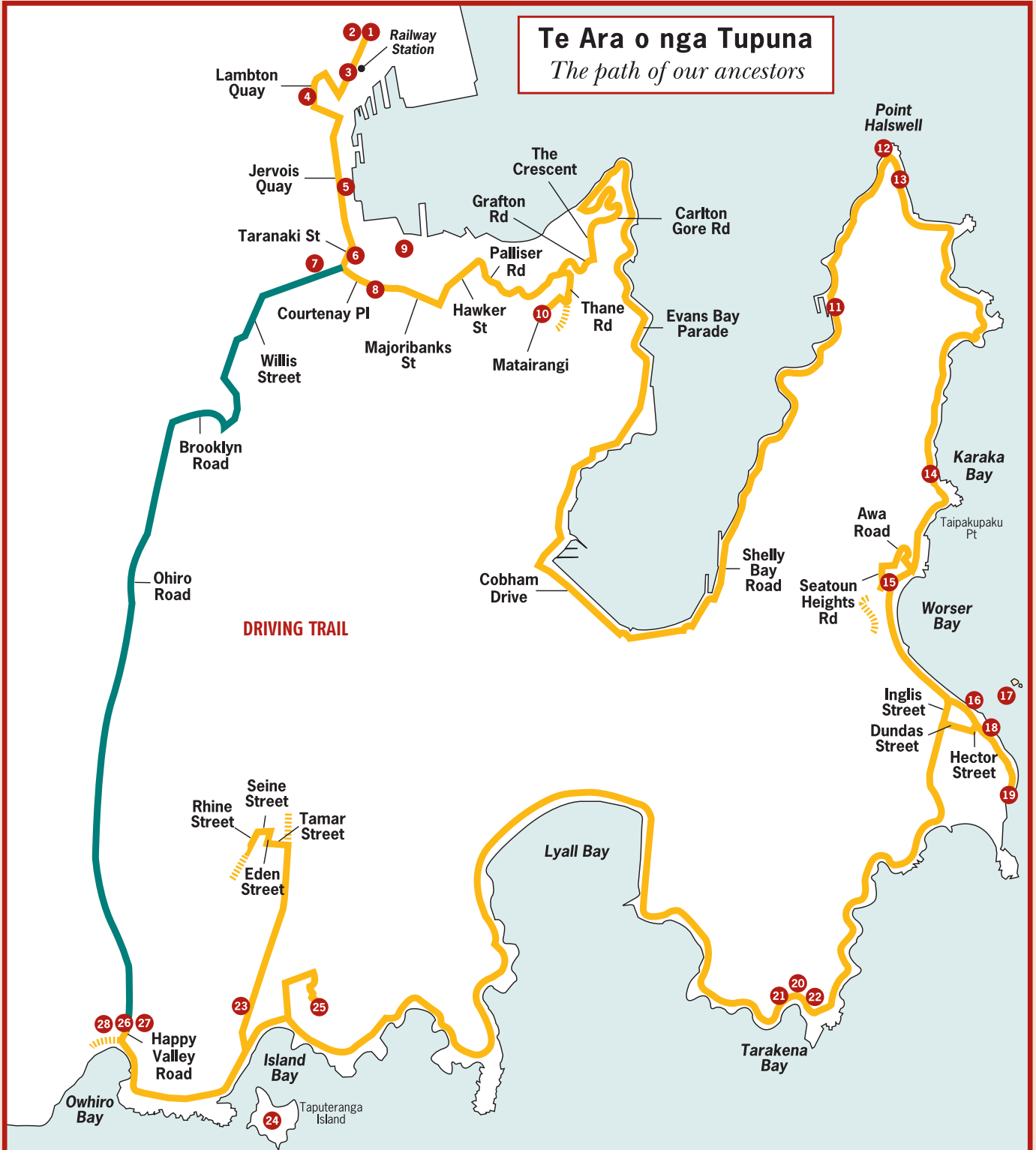
Brochures for other Council walks are available at the Visitor Information Office, 101 Wakefield Street or online at www.Wellington.govt.nz

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Cover image: Pipitea Point, Wellington 1843 (ATL 476001/2)

Te Ara o nga Tupuna

The path of our ancestors



Maori History

The earliest name for Wellington, Te Upoko o te Ika a Maui (the head of Maui's fish), is derived from Maori legend. It refers to the fish caught by the Polynesian navigator, Maui, which became the North Island.

The first Polynesian navigators were Kupe (who figures prominently in this trail) and Ngahue, who camped on the southern end of the harbour at Seatoun in 925 AD.

Later visitors were Tara and Tautoki, the sons of Whatonga from the Mahia Peninsula. Their encouraging reports led Whatonga to establish a settlement around Wellington Harbour, which became known as Te Whanganui-a-Tara (the great harbour of Tara). This is still one of the Maori names for Wellington.

These people built pa in a number of places in Te Whanganui-a-Tara including the Miramar Peninsula, where the fortifications of Te Whetu Kairangi and Rangitatau Pa are located. Rangitatau Pa was particularly important in the 12th century when it was the home of Ngai Tara chief Tuteremoana. His daughter Moeteao married a chief of the Ngati Ira tribe of Hawkes Bay, and this marriage precipitated intermarriage between Ngai Tara and Ngati Ira. This led to the amalgamation of the tribes, so that most Ngai Tara eventually became known as Ngati Ira.

Later Ngati Ira were joined by the people of Ngati Kahungunu, Ngai Tahu and Ngati Mamoe. Each tribe occupied distinct areas of the harbour, until most Ngai Tahu and Ngati Mamoe migrated to the South Island some time in the 16th or 17th centuries.

In 1819 a war party comprising Taranaki, Atiawa, Ngati Toa, Ngapuhi and Ngati Whatua attacked the Wellington area, destroying the main Ngati Ira fortifications. Most Ngati Ira fled to the Wairarapa where they still live today.

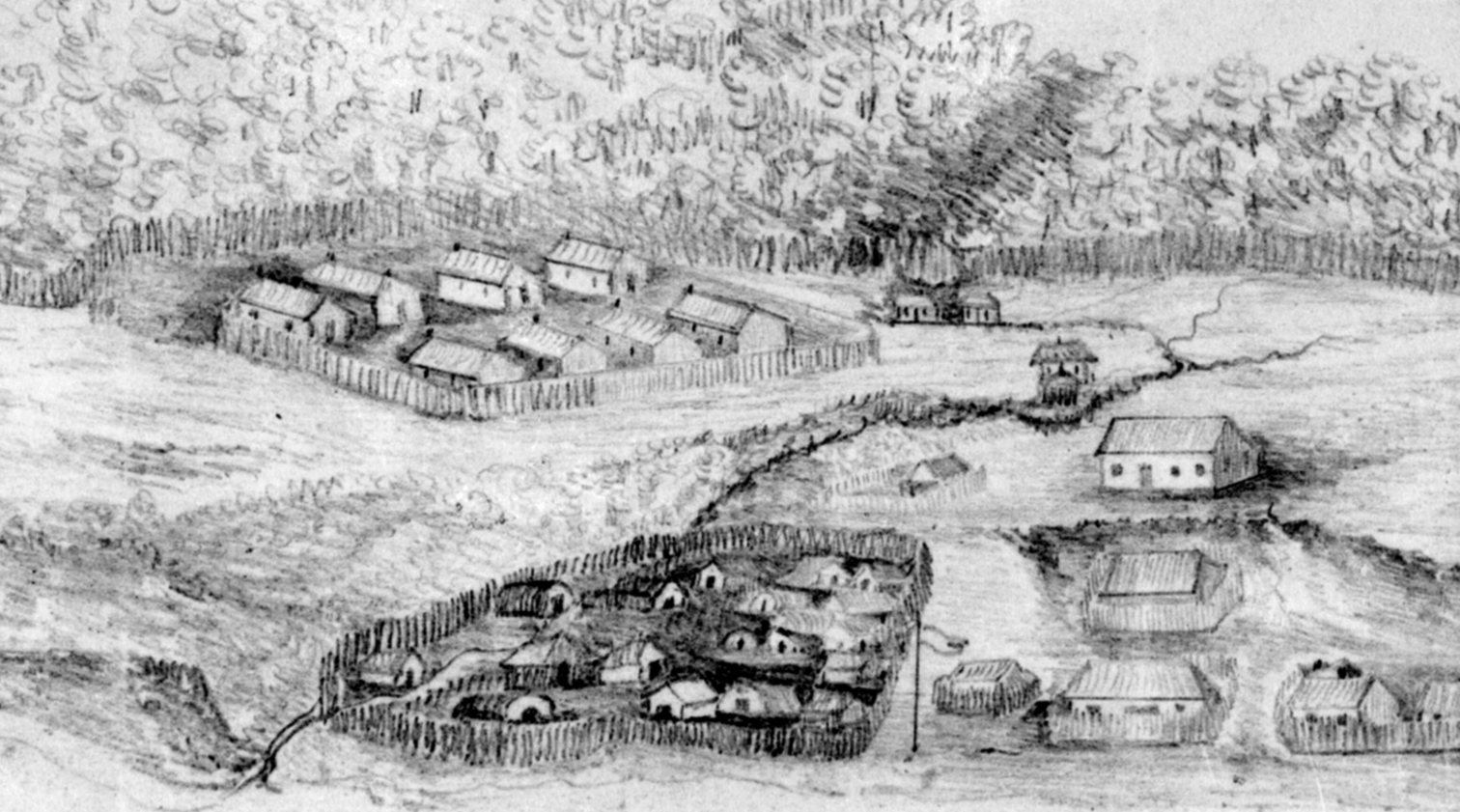
In about 1825-26, Taranaki iwi, particularly Ngati Tama, Ngati Mutunga and Te Atiawa, moved to Te Whanganui-a-Tara, and established settlements throughout the area made up of the present Wellington City, Petone beach and the Hutt Valley.



Honiana Te Puni – a principal chief of the Te Atiawa iwi who occupied part of Wellington when the early settlers arrived. (ATL F-62085-1/2)

The eastern side of the harbour remained mostly in the hands of Ngati Ira and Ngati Kahungunu until they were attacked by Taranaki iwi and driven out to the Wairarapa, leaving control of the harbour and the surrounding land to the Taranaki iwi.

There has also been an influx of other tribal groups since the 1960s, which has resulted in a unique and complex mixture of iwi in the Wellington region.



Pipitea Pa in 1842. A line drawing by William Mein Smith. (ATL F-89318-1/2)

WALKING TRAIL

▶ **The trail begins at the Pipitea Marae in Thorndon Quay. From here you can see the Pipitea Marae, Pipitea Pa (site 2) and the Old Shoreline.**

1 Pipitea Marae

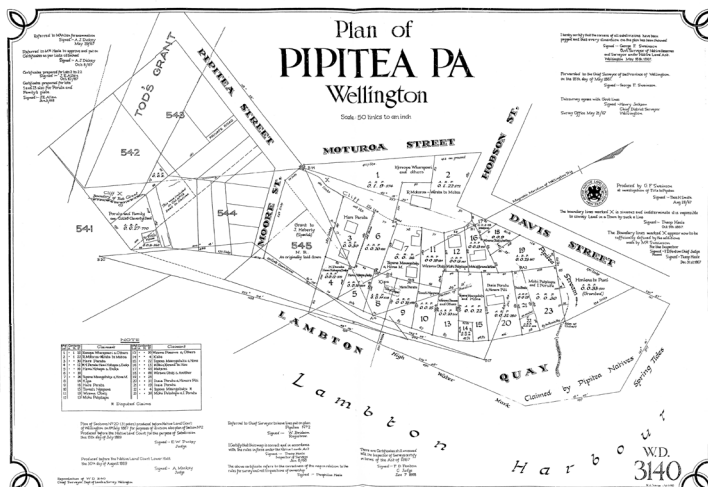
Pipitea Marae, a modern marae by today's standards, was built in the early 1980s to cater for the growing demands of an urban Maori population in the Wellington region. It is a place for people of all iwi and all races to meet, where traditional kawa and protocol are always keenly observed. It is the biggest marae in Wellington and is often hired out as a conference facility and/or entertainment venue.

▶ Across the road from Pipitea Marae in the shopping complex carpark, is a pouwhenua dedicated to Tumatuenga (God of War) and the 28th Maori Battalion.

The land above the marae is the site of Pipitea Pa.

2 Pipitea Pa

Pipitea Pa is a site of huge significance to the Maori of Wellington. Pipitea Pa, a traditional kainga (village), stood proudly overlooking Te Whanganui-a-Tara (Wellington Harbour) close to fresh water supplies and extensive cultivation areas.



Above: 1868 plan of Pipitea Pa.

Below: This photograph showing the intersection of Mulgrave Street and Thorndon Quay in 1866 was taken from where the Railway Station is situated today. Note the original position of the shoreline, the Thistle Inn and the spire of Old Saint Paul's church (on the right). The Thistle Inn was rebuilt in this year and still stands today.



Piptea Pa was established in about 1824–1825 by Ngati Mutunga, Ngati Tama and also Te Atiawa who migrated to the area as part of the Nihoputa expedition. Pipitea Pa was bounded by Davis Street, Pipitea Street and Mulgrave Street, occupying two and a half hectares and housing about 80 people, mostly of Te Atiawa iwi, in the early 1840s.

Old Shoreline

The original shoreline in Wellington City ran along Thorndon Quay, Lambton Quay and down Wakefield Street. Over the years, reclamation has added over 155 hectares to the inner-city area, markedly changing the shape of Wellington Harbour and destroying many traditional Maori kai moana (sea food) beds and food sources.

- ▶ **Continue along Thorndon Quay and turn right into Mulgrave Street. Cross the road and walk along Kate Sheppard Place, pausing to look at the display window of the Ministry for the Environment on the left. At the end turn left and travel down Molesworth Street, crossing the road and stopping at the pou outside the walls of Parliament.**

3 Waititi

These pou mark the site of Waititi, an important tauranga waka (canoe landing site). Inland from here were the cultivation areas of Te Puni.

- ▶ **Continue along Lambton Quay following the old shoreline (note the plaques in the footpath on the western side) to Midland Park. This is the site of Kumutoto Kainga. (Kumutoto Stream which flows under Woodward Street and near this site is now revealed at the harbour's edge which can be seen by following Waring Taylor Street to the harbour).**

i 4 Kumutoto Kainga

The land across the road between Woodward and Bowen Streets was once the home of Taranaki chief Wi Tako Ngatata and his Te Atiawa people, and the site of one of Wellington's most notable kainga. Wi Tako Ngatata settled at Kumutoto following the migration of Pomare Ngatata and most of Ngati Mutunga and Ngati Tama to the Chatham Islands in 1835. Kumutoto kainga was established by Ngati Mutunga and Ngati Tama when they settled at Wellington in 1824–1825.

Kumutoto Kainga was an important flax-collecting area and waka landing site. In March 1831, a flax trader bought 3.5 acres of Kumutoto land from Pomare Ngatata and for three years Kumutoto served as the central flax-collection point in a network of flax stations along the east of the North Island. Because of its strength, flax was sought after by settlers during this period. It was an everyday item, for example, as strapping and ropes for shipping, and for the latching and thatching of houses and roofing.

- ▶ **Travel along Lambton Quay and continue into Willis Street. Turn left into Mercer Street. Cross Victoria Street and enter Civic Square. Outside the Town Hall you will see an anchor stone.**



Above: Pomare Ngatata–Ngati Mutunga Chief who occupied Kumutoto Kainga throughout the early 1830s.

Below: Wi Tako Ngatata, a Te Atiawa chief who occupied Kumutoto Kainga throughout the 1840s and early 1850s. (ATL F-91786-1/2)





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

Below: View of Te Aro in 1857 looking along Manners Street towards Mt Victoria with Te Aro foreshore on the left and Te Aro Kainga behind the houses in the middle of the picture. (ATL F-2961-1/2)



5 Anchor Stone

This stone marks the 100 year anniversary of the Town Hall. It is also symbolic of a large rock that once lay near here marking a traditional fishing area where moki were caught.

- ▶ **Exit the Civic Square onto Wakefield Street and turn left. Continue down Wakefield Street until you reach Taranaki Street. Cross the road and walk up Taranaki Street to visit the building called Bellagio/Atahua, on the left before the intersection with Courtenay Place. Visit the interpretive centre in the building where you can view rediscovered whare ponga (huts) beneath this development.**

6 Whare Ponga

A pa site with three traditional whare was uncovered at 39 Taranaki Street during construction work in 2005. The find is believed to be part of the original Te Aro Pa dating back to the 1840s. The whare are made of ponga logs.

- ▶ **Continue up Taranaki Street to Courtenay Place, cross the road and on your right is Te Aro Park. Look for the stone memorial at the park.**

7 Te Aro Kainga

Te Aro Kainga was built by the Ngati Mutunga tribe of Taranaki in 1824. After their departure, the kainga was split into two parts with about 35 Ngati Tupaia people living at the eastern end and about 93 people of the Ngati Haumia hapu from the Taranaki iwi at the western end.

The stream close by was an important food source for Maori. It was called Waimapihi, "the stream or bathing place" of Mapihi, a local chieftainess.

In 1839, the Wesleyan missionaries, Bumby, Hobbs and Minarapa Rangihatuaka, were welcomed at Te Aro, where they were given land to build a chapel. The missionaries placed a tapu against sale on the pa and its associated lands. Until February 1844, Te Aro Maori refused to sell any of their lands to the New Zealand Company. However, late that year, six resident rangatira (chiefs) signed the deed which effectively brought Te Aro into the New Zealand Company purchase of 1839.

A huge earthquake in 1855 raised the land in and around Wellington substantially. It was sufficient to drain low-lying areas of Te Aro. These low-lying marshy areas had provided both a food source, with shellfish in the shallows and eels in the swamps, and also large quantities of flax, which was in growing 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 population of Te Aro Pa dwindle until 1870, when most of the remaining land was sold to extend Taranaki Street down to the water front.

- ▶ **Travel east down Courtenay Place and stop at the end. Waitangi Lagoon is situated at the Courtenay Place, Cambridge Terrace intersection.**

8 Waitangi Lagoon

Waitangi (crying waters) Lagoon was a traditional food source of the Ngati Ruanui and Ngati Haumia hapu. Legend has it that taniwha (water monster/guardian) occupied this lagoon, but foreseeing the coming of Europeans, left before their arrival. Waitangi Park has been created to the north of this pou towards Oriental Bay.

- ▶ **Go down Kent Terrace towards the harbour and cross to Waitangi Park.**

9 Waitangi Park

Waitangi Park was completed in 2006. The old Waitangi Stream, culverted for most of its length, has been brought to the surface here and various sculptural elements are a reminder of the rich cultural history of this area.

- ▶ **The next part of the trail is a driving trail starting at Mt Victoria.**



*Ngake the Taniwha who lived in Wellington Harbour.
(Drawing by Wi Hapi Love)*