

How did the early Maori use Maungarei/Mt Wellington?

Long after Mount Wellington's volcano became extinct, Maori settled on the site and altered the surface shape by levelling out areas for their settlement. Today, memorials can still be seen throughout the site.

<https://www.myguideauckland.com/things-to-do/mount-wellington-domain>

How Maungarei (or Mt Wellington) got its name is one of the many Ngati Paoa stories which has been passed down through the generations. Maungarei means "the watchful mountain".

Reipae and Reitu were two sisters from Waikato who both fell in love with a chieftain called Ueoneone from the north, Wilson says. "He and his people were hoping he would marry both sisters so he sent a large eagle down to collect them." But Reipei had second thoughts. "She wanted to alight from the bird and asked it to land at Whangarei. There she met another chieftain named Tahuhupotiki who she later married. Whangarei was named after Reipei. Reitu went on to marry Ueoneone and Maungarei makes reference to her name.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/auckland/local-news/69550958/ngati-paoa-ancestral-history-retold>

Maungarei is a site of archaeological importance as it was used in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries as a pa or hill fort.

Evidence of terraces, storage pits and defensive trenches have been uncovered showing that Maori used this area over a considerable period of time.

Other tribes also occupied the area from time to time. Panmure's proud heritage goes back to pre-European times when the Panmure area (or Mokoia as it was known) was home to the Ngati Paoa people, and was the largest Maori community in New Zealand due to the fertile soils and abundant fishing in the Tamaki Estuary and Panmure Basin.



Strategically placed for rapid access by canoe to the Waitematā Harbour, Hauraki Gulf and North Island east coast as well as 4km up the Tamaki Estuary was the portage that provided canoe access to the Manukau Harbour and the west coast. Settlement by the tribes in the area between the Tamaki River and Maungarei (Mokoia and Mauinaina Pa) became well established and was highly valued because of the easy access to good garden land, swamps and lakes, marine resources and many freshwater springs. The inhabitants of the pa were destroyed in 1821, by warriors from the north. Led by the chieftain Hongi Hika, the invaders had the technological advantage of modern weapons acquired through earlier contact with Europeans and decimated the population.

The Ngati Paoa never returned to the area, where a thousand of their number had been slain and the land slowly returned to be covered by fern and manuka.

<https://www.popintopanmure.co.nz/discover-panmure>

https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/sites/default/files/tuhinga.22.2011.pt2_p19-100.davidson.pdf

How do we use Mt Wellington today?

Mount Wellington is volcanic peak situated 12 kilometers, or a short 15-minute drive, from downtown Auckland. Standing at 135 meters, Mt. Wellington is the youngest of Auckland's volcanic peaks having last erupted just over 10,000 years ago.

The volcanic landmark is a popular spot with walkers and joggers who follow the Summit Trail to enjoy the 360° panoramic views of the city and surrounding region.



The deep crater combined with the city skyline in the background provides a beautiful distraction from their exercise while keeping budding photographers busy.

The entrance by car to Mount Wellington is accessed from Mountain Road and leads onto Memorial Drive, a steep drive to a small parking area where the Summit Walkway can be picked up. Those on foot, should head to the entrance/exit on Harding Avenue.

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Maungarei is the fifth maunga to have a pedestrianised tihi (summit). The Tūpuna Maunga Authority announced this in November 2016.

Chairman Paul Majurey said Maungarei was a significant pā in the east of the Tāmaki isthmus and the change recognized the maunga was a site of immense cultural and historical significance. "Important examples of early Māori life in Tāmaki Makaurau still exist in the form of terraces, midden and pits shaped for dwellings, agriculture and defence," Majurey said.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/auckland/108157307/maungareimt-wellington-fifth-auckland-maunga-to-go-carfree>



Mt Wellington is used by dog walkers from across the city - it is an off-leash area and many dogs enjoy the freedom to roam the hill with their owners. Picnickers also enjoy time to relax and share a chat on the many park benches across the mountain. Unlike many other volcanic cones there are no shops or cafes on the mountain so if you go there for a visit – take your own snacks with you!

During the 19th and 20th centuries many of Auckland's volcanoes and lava fields were quarried for stones, walls, roading metal, and kerb edging. By the 1980s it was the country's largest quarry for aggregate (a mixture of crushed rock). Growing concern about the loss of the region's volcanoes led to the quarry's closure the following decade.

Much of the area that was quarried is now the housing area known as Stonefields.

