

TE PŌHUE

Te Pōhue was a Waitaha pā located within the wetlands of the Waiari River that belonged to the Waitaha hapū of Ngāti Te Moemiti and Ngāti Rereāmanu. It encompassed the present-day township of Te Puke. (The name *Te Pōhue* was later replaced by Te Puke in the 19th century because all tracks led to this location.)

The area as a whole was known as ‘*Te Korowai o Waiokehu i te Iwikoroke*’.

The large food cultivations of Te Pōhue pā amounted to some 200 acres and were known as *Te Tūnga o Te Pōhue*.

Te Pōhue was linked to two other nearby settlements, *Te Puke Taweare* on the Waiari River and *Atuaroa*, on the western side of the Ōhineangaanga River. The pā, *Te Poto* and *Te Tapuae*, were located on the western end just outside Te Pōhue block. *Te Aore* pā was another major settlement within the block with substantial cultivations called *Te Tarutarutu*. The old Te Puke town cemetery is now located on the site of the pā.

Ngāi Rangi attacked Te Pōhue and was defeated at a place called *Te Arapaiaka*. The name commemorates the dead who lay strewn along the side of the hill, resembling the roots of a tree protruding from the ground.

Hakaraia named all pā sites along the Waiari in the Native Land Court in a bid to retain the lands within Te Puke.

During the NZ Wars, the Defence Minister, Colonel Haultain ordered a direct assault on Hakaraia’s settlement at Te Puke in 1867. He authorised Gilbert Mair to raise a force of 200 armed men known as the Arawa Flying Column, and destroy homes, food stores and cultivations “as a special punishment” to Hakaraia. This attack was intended specifically to punish Hakaraia as the leader of dissident Waitaha, Ngāti Te Rangi, Pirirākau and Arawa tribes in the district.

In the aftermath, Waitaha again fought with Crown troops.

Te Puke later became a military outpost and was stationed by Ngāti Pehi, who were Crown supporters. Their occupation of the land formed the basis of a claim by conquest, which was supported by Ngāti Whakaue in the Native Land Court.

The the post-war period, Te Pōhue was described as a good sites for Pākehā settlement:

The soil is good, access comparatively easy, the aspect a gradual slope facing the rising sun, shelter from the worst winds is afforded by the ranges (forest clad) lying immediately south westward, whilst the climate is acknowledged to be the best in the North Island

(S. Percy Smith, Surveyor, 1840-1922)

A major road (now SH2) eventually cut through Te Pōhue block, resulting in numerous complaints by Waitaha to the Govt during the 1870s due to issues of title and the lengthy wait for Crown payments for the land.

Te Puke

Te Puke Taweare was a hill on what is now known as Te Puke block. The hill lends its name to the present-day township of Te Puke.

Te Puke block is located near No.1 Road (and not the present location of Te Puke township). Within this area were the pā *Horoauahi*, *Pukerimu*, *Kahikatia*, *Te Tapuae* and *Pātete*.

When the Te Puke block was purchased, 1,500 acres was set aside as reserves for Waitaha. A thousand acres was located at Motungārara, but this name disappeared from common use and was replaced with Manoeka (*mano*, thousand; *eka*, acre) as a reminder of Waitaha's land loss.

The remainder of 500-acres formed the reserve called Te Puke 2 and was intended by Waitaha to be used for cultivations. But Pākehā settlers would often drive their livestock through the block, destroying crops. New gardens were planted on the Waiari riverbank but these were subject to the elements and frequent flooding which destroyed much needed food.

Ōtaraninia

Ōtaraninia was part of the Te Puke township and this land was set aside for Waitaha after the sale of Te Puke block, near the present-day No.1 Road.

Hine Poto

Hine Poto was located within Te Pōhue and covered an area of about 5 hectares, on high ground dissected by small gullies that Waitaha used in its defence of the area. Hine Poto was used to heal the sick. An extensive system of tracks linked Hine Poto to the pā of *Ōhui*, *Takarangi*, *Maungaruahine*, *Te Tapuae* and *Te Pōhue*. In times of war, Waitaha utilised these tracks, sheltered by gullies and ridges, to transport the wounded to Hine Poto.