

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.

Hei Marae at Manoeka was originally a kāinga. With the support of the whānau, the property was designated a marae reservation designated and a complex (wharenuī, wharekai, ablutions, etc.) was built.

The remainder of 500-acres formed the reserve, 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.

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 Iwikorohe*'.

Te Pōhue was linked to *Te Puke Taweare* on the Waiari River and *Atuaroa*, on the western side of the Ōhineangaanga River.

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, Ngāi 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.