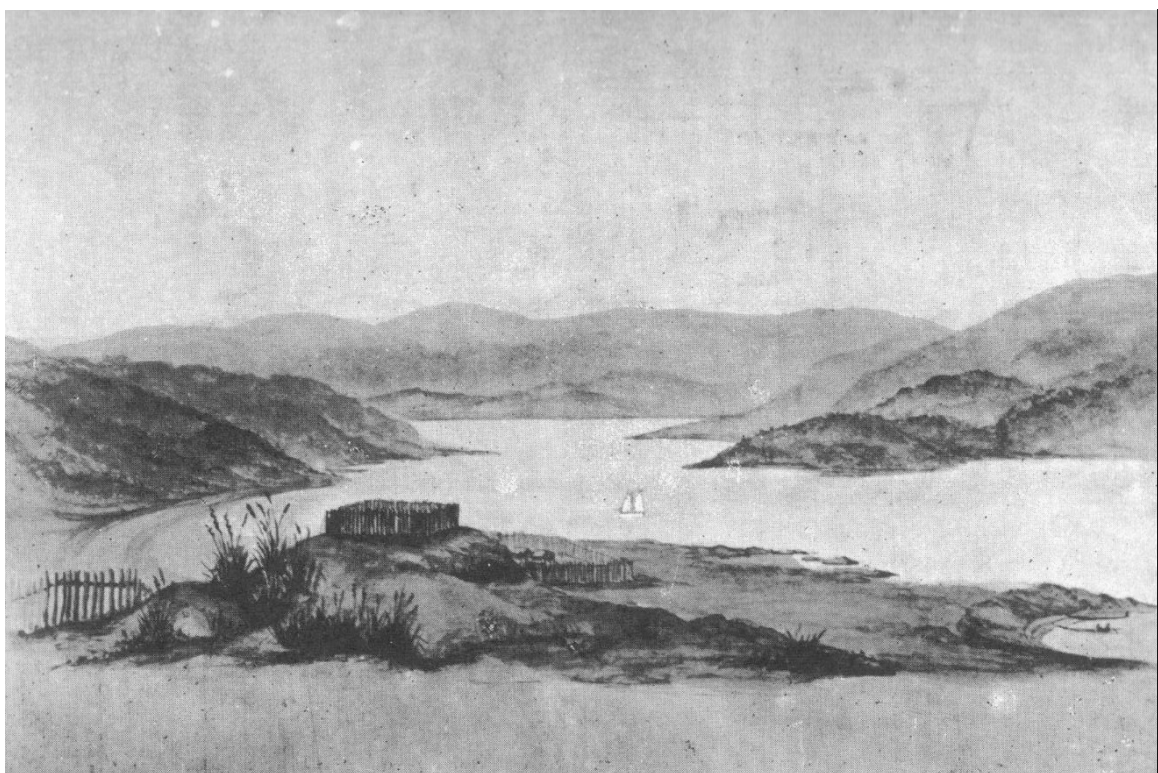




PATAKA EDUCATION
Art • Heritage • Culture

Teacher Notes

The Pa of Porirua 1830 – 1850



Te Hiko's Grave, Porirua, John Giffillan, 1840s

Education resource compiled by Linda Fordyce, Education, Pataka Museum of Arts and Cultures, 2010. Pataka Education programmes are supported by LEOTC (Learning Experiences Outside The Classroom) and funded by the Ministry of Education.

INTRODUCTION

Pa in Porirua

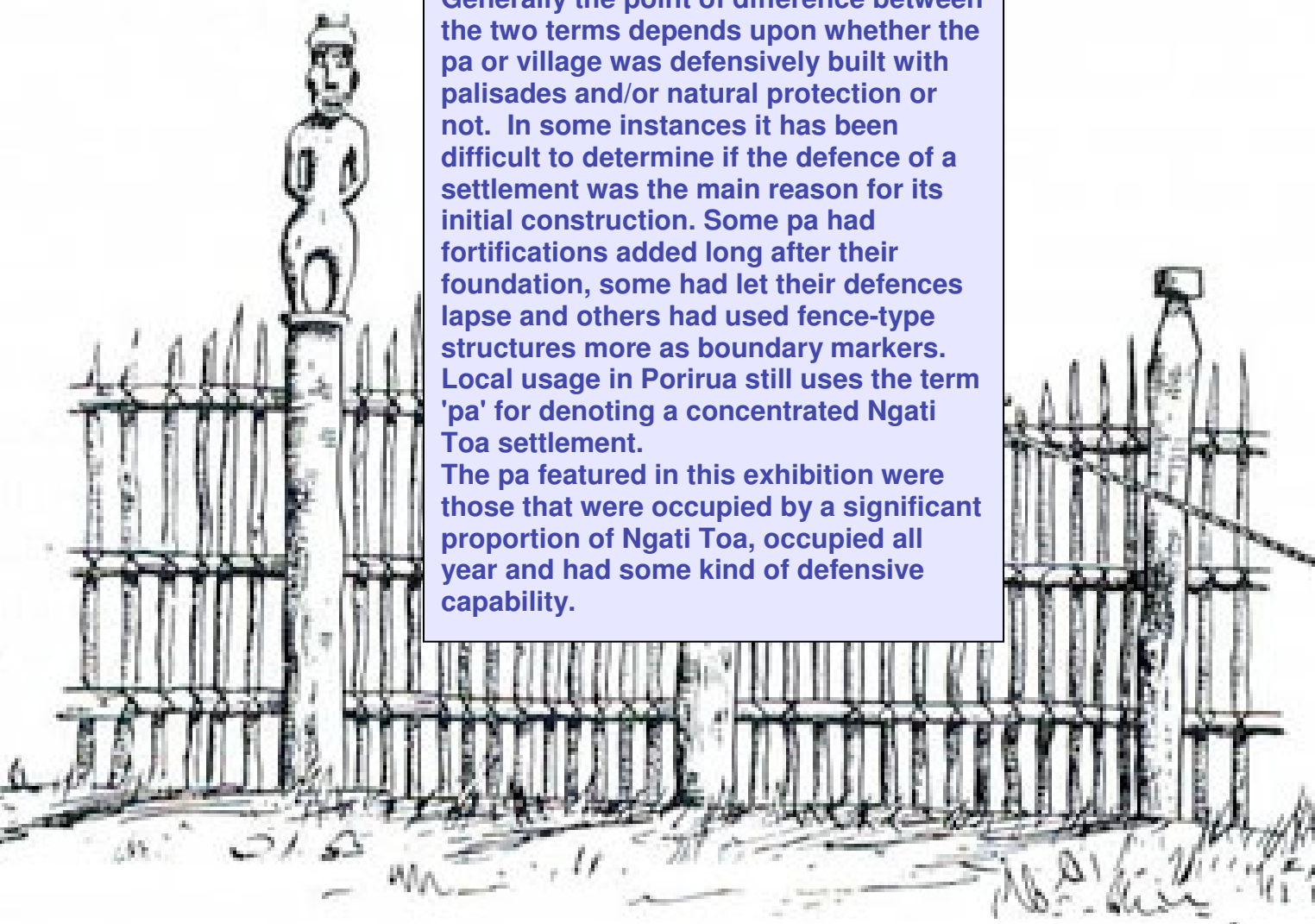
This exhibition takes a closer look at the major pa or kaainga in use during the Ngati Toa occupation of Porirua in the 1830-1850 period. The history of each pa; who built it, why and how it was used are briefly recorded along with paintings, sketches, portraits and maps to help locate the sites and 'people' the settlements that spread out across the current Porirua City district. Today only two settlements have remained in use: Takapuwahia and Hongoeka – both for over 150 years. This exhibition also concerns the concepts of survival, settlement, culture and connection – based around the place Ngati Toa call home.

What is a Pa?

In this exhibition, the term 'pa' is often used interchangeably with the term 'kaainga' [village].

Generally the point of difference between the two terms depends upon whether the pa or village was defensively built with palisades and/or natural protection or not. In some instances it has been difficult to determine if the defence of a settlement was the main reason for its initial construction. Some pa had fortifications added long after their foundation, some had let their defences lapse and others had used fence-type structures more as boundary markers. Local usage in Porirua still uses the term 'pa' for denoting a concentrated Ngati Toa settlement.

The pa featured in this exhibition were those that were occupied by a significant proportion of Ngati Toa, occupied all year and had some kind of defensive capability.



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND NOTES – NGATI TOA

Ngati Toa Rangatira had previously lived for centuries around the shores of Kawhia Harbour (Waikato). However, by the early 19th century, neighbouring tribes were threatening to attack and destroy Ngati Toa. Te Rauparaha, an ambitious Ngati Toa chief had visited the Porirua/Cook Strait region during 1819-1820 with a Nga Puhi taua (war party). Up until this time Porirua was inhabited by Ngati Ira but they were no match against the taua from the north armed with muskets. Te Rauparaha was very impressed with this area with its offshore islands and bountiful harbour, and noted the presence of visiting whalers and traders – people he was keen to trade with for more muskets. After their return to Kawhia and suffering several defeats by Waikato and Ngati Maniapoto; Ngati Toa decided to leave their ancestral home and shift to the Porirua/Cook Strait area that Te Rauparaha so favourably described.



The heke (migration) of over 500 kms began in late 1821 and continued until 1824. Travelling through enemy territory down through the Manawatu and Horowhenua resulted in many deaths and skirmishes. Te Peehi Kupe, the senior chief of Ngati Toa succeeded in leading the attack which drove Muaupoko and Ngati Apa off Kapiti Island. In 1824, the three 'local' tribes of



Ngati Toa on Kapiti Island. The 'Battle of Waiorua' was desperately fought but eventually Ngati Toa claimed the victory. The Battle of Waiorua signalled the end of Ngati Toa's confinement to Kapiti Island and the iwi spread out and invited their relations, Te Ati Awa and Ngati Raukawa, to help them occupy the area they had won by force of arms.

Tamihana, Te Rauparaha's son, described a further dispersal of Ngati Toa and its allies from the Island fortress of Kapiti as happening immediately after the Ngati Toa defeat of Ngai Tahu at Kaiapohia and Onawe in 1831. " The living together on Kapiti was now finished, as it had become too crowded. . . Te Rauparaha stayed on at Kapiti and Otaki. Te Rangihaeata went to live at Mana, among other places. Some went to Porirua; others to Wainui and all along the coast to Pukerua and Wairaka." (Butler 1980:52)

Pukerua Bay

There are the remains of at least two Pa at Pukerua Bay both connected to Ngati Toa. The first Pa was called Waimapihi, a former Muaupoko and Ngati Ira Pa, and was captured by the Nga Puhi-Ngati Toa taua of 1819-20. According to some accounts (Smith 1910: 303) one of the leading chiefs in this action was the Ngati Toa chief Tungia. Tamehana Te Rauparaha describes Tungia as Te Rauparaha's grandson (Butler 1980: 64).

At some later point of time Tungia became chief of a section of Ngati Toa and lived in Pukerua Bay at a second Pa which Ngati Toa built there.

It seems that following Tungia's death his followers left the Pukerua Pa. The 1851 New Zealand Journal records the 'natives' from the late chief's pa at Pukerua joining Puaha at Takapuwahia pa.

Mana Island

In the 1820s Ngati Toa settled in the district and the chief and master carver Te Rangihaeata, nephew of Te Rauparaha, chose Mana Island as his main base up until 1843. The painter George French Angas recorded 'Kai Tangata', Te Rauparaha's carved house, in a painting in 1844.

In 1832 three Europeans; Alexander Davidson, Archibald Mossman and John Bell paid Te Rangihaeata, Te Rauparaha and Nohorua (the three Ngati Toa leaders connected to Mana) goods to the value of £24. What they paid it for is disputed; Ngati Toa said it was rent, the Europeans said it was a sale.

From that time on Mana Island became the haunt of whalers, traders and other Europeans.



Richard Oliver, 1852, ATL

Taupo Village

It is uncertain exactly what year Taupo Village was founded but it was between the years 1838 and 1841 and it was settled by the Ngati Kimihia hapu.

Up until 1846 Taupo was the main kaainga of Te Rauparaha and therefore the centre of Ngati Toa influence. As a domestic kaainga it was, at least initially, unfortified but following the Wairau Affray in 1843 the kaainga was protected by a palisade depicted in a lithograph by the artist George French Angas in 1847 [below].



Taupo Village was also the centre for missionary work in the area. In 1845 the Wesleyan missionaries Watkin and Ironside held a major hui there. It was also from this site that British troops and Armed Constabulary acting under the orders of Governor Grey in June of 1846 seized Te Rauparaha. A chapel was erected there in 1848 at the cost of three pounds but the village was abandoned shortly after this - – perhaps influenced by Te Rauparaha's decision to retire north to Otaki in 1848 upon his release by Governor Grey. After this event the village gradually lost its pre-eminence to the kaainga of Takapuwahia and Te Uru Kohika in the inner Porirua harbour.

Taupo Pa Turi-Karewa

The Wairau Affray in 1843 led to the decision by Te Rangihaeata to move from Mana Island to the mainland at Taupo, along with several hundred of his followers. Wakefield records in early September 1843 he found 200 Maori in a new village at Taupo Bay. Land court records include Rawiri Puaha, Te Hiko and Hohepa as the builders, but it is Te Rangihaeata that the pa is most strongly associated with and he occupied it until early 1846. Some of his hapu remained at the Pa until at least the late 1840s. Above the Pa a wahi tapu was created and remains now as a native reserve and urupa. The placement of the Pa was related not only to defence, it also brought Te Rangihaeata closer to the paramount chief Te Rauparaha at Taupo Village.



George French Angus, 1847

Several European writers and painters, notably George French Angus and Charles Gold, recorded the Pa. These contemporary images depict a Pa with extremely large palisades extending from the edge of the exposed rocky shore back to the bluff behind containing the wahi tapu. Other illustrations show a semi-subterranean house, an elevated Pataka (food store) on a single large post and the interior of a house with carved ridgepoles.



Charles Emiliius Gold, 1848

Paremata

The senior tohunga, Nohorua, founded a Pa at Paremata Point [now Ngati Toa Domain] at the water's edge. A fish fence-trap was set up on the foreshore with the gardens close by. Although pallisaded, the Pa was a village rather than a fighting pa.



George French Angus, 1847

Joseph Thoms first came to Cook Strait to hunt the whale. He established a shore whaling station at Paremata in the mid-1830s becoming the first permanent European to settle in the area. With a mixture of Pakeha and Ngati Toa whalers Thoms hunted the slow Right Whales that migrated through Cook Strait and past Porirua every year.

One of these whalers was Te Ua Torikiriki, daughter of Nohorua. Thoms married Te Ua and linked himself to Ngati Toa. A few years later when Nohorua was asked to sign the Treaty of Waitangi, it is said that he would only sign if his son-in-law Thoms would also sign as a witness - so that the responsibility for the future would be shared.

Some time after 1844,

Thoms moved over to his whaling station in the Tory Channel at the very top of the South Island. It seems likely that, at this time, the pa at Paremata was abandoned.



Samuel Charles Brees, 1847

Kaitawa

There was a small Ngati Toa settlement called Kaitawa at the outer harbour entrance in 1841 in a knoll above the bay opposite Plimmerton. Its position on this knoll was at the end of a spur with cliffs on three sides and palisades on the fourth side. Three postholes for palisades are still visible. Edward Jerminham Wakefield spent a night in the settlement at the base of the spur in 1840. The map made by HMS Acheron in 1850 names 'Kaitawa' and indicates structures on the hill and below it on the beachfront.

Hongoeka

Hongoeka has been occupied since the mid 1820s when Ngati Toa arrived in the district from Kawhia. According to land court depositions by Matene Te Whiwhi, Hongoeka was given to Nohorua and the Haumia hapu of Ngati Toa by Te Rauparaha. Nohorua lived at Hongoeka up until the time of the Wairau Affray in 1843. A hui between government officials and Ngati Toa was held at Hongoeka in 1843 and some 200 Ngati Toa men were present. When Te Rauparaha was seized from Taupo Village in 1846 Hongoeka was also searched. The map made by HMS Acheron in 1850 shows the pa at Hongoeka slightly to the south of the existing settlement.

Today, Hongoeka remains as an active marae with a new Meeting house opened in 1997.

Motuhara

Motuhara is a settlement that originally pre-dates Ngati Toa. When Te Rauparaha was seized from Taupo Village in 1846 Motuhara was also searched and when Te Rauapraha was being taken aboard ship he called out for help from Motuhara. Motuhara was still occupied in the 1890s by the old chief Te Karehana Whakataki . Although permanently occupied, Motuhara appears to have been a small kaainga rather than a pa, almost an annex to the larger Taupo pa and kaainga surrounding it.

Komanga-Rautawhiri

A former Ngati-Ira pa. Komanga Rautawhiri was resettled by Ngati Toa when the near by whaling station of Korohiwa was operating. The missionary Henry Williams landed here in 1839 and named Te Rangi Takarore as its chief. The map made by HMS Acheron in 1850 shows it as "Bridge Pa". By 1851 it was listed as having 45 people residing. In 1880 there was one last Kuia. By 1905 rotting palisades were all that was left standing.

Takapuwahia

In 1850 the village of Takapuwahia had a population of 252 who had come from abandoned Pa at Taupo (now Plimmerton) and Pukerua. Besides houses the Pa included two reed chapels, and a flourmill powered by water from the stream was under construction. Intensive farming of 80 acres included potatoes, maize wheat and kumera.

A few years later in 1889 the other Pa in central Porirua, Urukahika, was abandoned and Takapuwahia became the undisputed primary home of Ngati Toarangatira. In 1901 the meeting house Toa Rangatira was opened, its name is that of the founding ancestor of Ngati Toa. In 1910, a school was built alongside and this was used for church services.



Toa Rangatira, 1903. Porirua Library Coll.

The streets around the Marae are named for prominent leaders of Ngati Toa; Nohorua, Te Hiko, etc. This reflects the fact that Takapuwahia is an old Marae that the city has grown up around rather than a new marae built around a growing population.

Matai Taua

When the wars broke out in the area in 1846 the Ngati Toa chief Te Rangiheata built a strong fighting Pa where St Albans church stands today. The pa was surrounded by two rows of palisades up to five metres high and covered gun pits. It was the most heavily defended pa in Porirua. From here several war parties were despatched – notably to Boulcotts Farm in the Hutt and to skirmish on the Pauatahanui Inlet.

On the 1st August Matai Taua was attacked by a mixed force of native allies, regular British Army and local militia. Troops were also dispatched from Paremata but both forces found Matai-Taua empty. The army took over the pa and used it as a base for their road-building projects in the area.



References:

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Best, Elsdon. 1913[14?]. Porirua and they who settled it. Collected Articles from *The Canterbury Times*.

These notes are largely based on the text panels written by Pat Stodart, curator of The Pa of Porirua Exhibition, Pataka, 2011.

PRE AND POST VISIT IDEAS FOR YOUR CLASSROOM

- **LEARN** how to greet each other in Maori and find out what your name in Maori is, as well as names for colours and numbers.
- **READ** some Maori legends especially those about your local area. Listen to the story about Awarua – the taniwha of Porirua Harbour
- **VISIT** a local marae and learn some of the protocols involved:
[refer to *Te Marae* by Hiwi and Pat Tauroa]
- **CONSTRUCT** a model of a pa in small groups or as a class
- **COMPILE** a glossary of Maori words that they will encounter
- **FIND OUT** more information and stories about Te Rauparaha, Te Rangihaeata and Nohorua etc.
- **VISIT** your local museum and locate where the historic pa sites are in your local area.

USEFUL GLOSSARY

Boulcott's farm..	site of stockade in Hutt Valley attacked 16 May 1846
hapu ..	sub tribe
iwi ..	tribe
kaainga ..	small village of several whanau
Komanga-Rautawhiri ..	legendary landing place of Kupe and pa site
Matai-taua ..	Name of Te Rangihaeata's pa at Pauatahanui
militia ..	settlers who were part time soldiers
Ngati Toa ..	tribe ex Kawhia, now tangata whenua of Porirua
Nohorua ..	tohunga of Ngati Toa, half brother of Te Rauparaha
palisades ...	strong fence made of stakes around a pa for defence
taua ..	war party
Taupo ..	village home of Te Rauparaha (Plimmerton)
Te Ati Awa ..	tribe living around Wellington harbour ex Taranaki
Te Hiko ..	son of Te Peehi Kupe and Ngati Toa chief
Te Korohiwa ..	small whaling station south of Titahi Bay
Te Peehi Kupe ..	senior hereditary chief of Ngati Toa, killed in 1828
Te Rangihaeata ..	fighting chief of Ngati Toa, nephew of Te Rauparaha
Te Rauparaha ..	senior fighting chief of Ngati Toa, born in 1769
Toa Rangatira ..	founding ancestor of Ngati Toa
tohunga ..	priest or spiritual leader
wahi tapu ..	sacred site, usually encompassing a burial ground
whanau ..	family group

N.B. For those in the Porirua Area, classroom teachers can book the services of Linda Fordyce to take a bus tour around the area for half a day visiting some of the pa sites featured in the exhibition. You provide the bus and she will do a pre-visit session as well as conduct the tour. For more information Ph 237 3551 Em:' lfordyce@pcc.govt.nz'