

Te Rūnanga Ōtākou



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The traditional takiwa of Ōtākou was centered on Pukekura (*Taiaroa Head*). The place name Ōtākou originally applied to the main fishing channel on the eastern side of the harbour, early European whalers translocated the name Ōtākou to the land and at a later date the name was adopted, albeit slightly corrupted into the name of the province Otago. Management and decisions were made for the area encompassing the Otago Peninsula south to the Clutha river and inland to the lakes Whakatipu-wai-Maori and beyond to Piopiotahi and including the lakes Wanaka and Hawea.

This included the interests in the Manuhereka and Taieri River catchments, and encompasses Whakari and the Otago Harbour including the site of present day Dunedin. Today the takiwa is a little different from the traditional times, however the cultural center remains Ōtākou Marae.

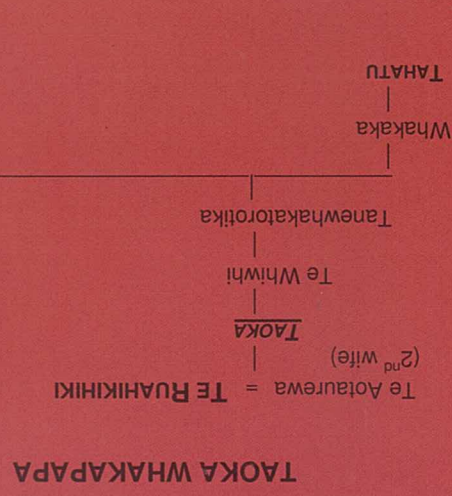
The Kati Mamoe hapu of Kati Hawea is also strongly linked to Ōtākou. Those affiliated to Te Runanga o Ōtākou include Ōtōkia Whanau at Brighton, Moturata Taieri Whanau at Taieri Mouth and South Otago Runaka at Kaka Point.

Pukekura is a place steeped in history. It was a stronghold of both the Kati-Mamoe and Kai-Tahu people in former times.

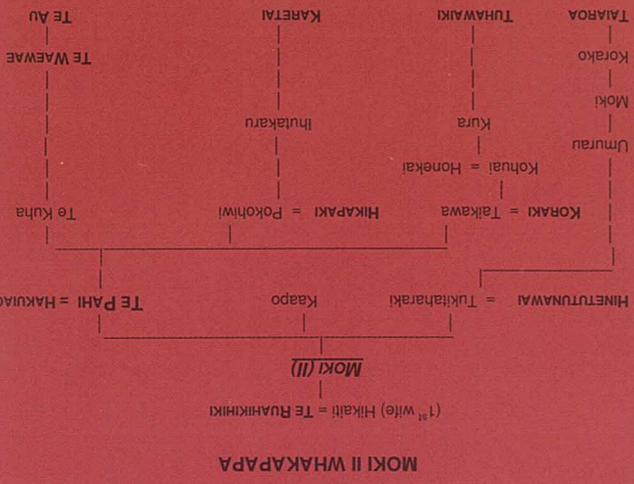
Pukekura is the place where Waitai, the first known Kai-Tahu to venture this far south, first set foot on the Otago Peninsula. Pukekura was the stronghold from where Tarewai conducted his raids on the neighbouring Kati-Mamoe. Pukekura was home at various times to our forbears, Moki II Tukitaharaki, Te Hau Tapu-nui-o-Tu, Taoka, Te Pahi, Tukiauau, Taikawa and in 1840 Karetai. All the former figured prominently in South Island history and deeds. The Kati-Mamoe under Whakatakanewha and Rangiamoa had a nearby Pa called Rangipipikao on the hill crest opposite Pukekura built to defend the peninsula from Kai-Tahu encroachment; the main Kati-Mamoe Pa was at Aurakaurira, a place on the North East Coast of Cape Saunders.

The Waitaha along with Te Rapuui preceded both the Kati-Mamoe and Kai-Tahu people and were familiar with the peninsula for centuries prior to the later arrivals. At the time of the European arrival the tangata whenua were an amalgam of all the former tribes of this part of Te Wai-Pounamu. Prior to 1840, chief Hone Karetai lived at Pukekura with his hapu, Pukekura was their domain. Following the adoption of European farming practices and house building, the headland Pukekura ceased to be lived on by Karetai and his people. The need for a fortified Pa gradually disappeared, so that by 1840 the local maori were playing an important part in the economy of this area.

Pukekura was a wahi-tapu (sacred place), a place valued in former times for its strategic values. It was soon to be seen in that light by the new settlers, the European, who named the headland Taiaroa Head, after chief Taiaroa, First cousin of Karetai.



The new location of Ōtākou Marae was chosen in the late 1850s by the chiefs Karetai, Taiaroa and Koraki, who wanted to establish a church, school, meeting house and burial ground. The first meeting house on the Marae was 'Te Mahi Tamariki' and was built in 1874, so named for the task of pressing for settlement of historic land grievances had by this time passed on to the next generation.



Ōtākou and Vicinity

1. Otakou Marae
2. Omatie
3. Ka tapuae o Tinirau
4. Te Umukuri
5. Te Mateteko
6. Te Ruaone
7. Te Ruatitiko
8. Kopurau
9. Otekihi
10. Te Makahika
11. Pukekura
12. Te Rae o Tupu
13. Papakoko
14. Waiwhakaheke
15. Oterakihiwi
16. Otemunui
17. Kahuaraki
18. Tuakewa
19. Papaahikaiti
20. Onekapua
21. Otirewa
22. Rapuai
23. Rere Wahine au Koraki
24. Ohinematua
25. Omimi
26. Ote unkuukutuku
27. Otewhiu
28. Te Onepoto
29. Wairua
30. Pipikaretu (Bibbigarret)
31. Te Akatapu
32. Te Ana Kati Mamoe
33. te Hapuku
34. Kokomuka
35. Akapatiki
36. Anapakaka
37. Te Rareka o ka Korako
38. Ohinetu

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The map shows most of the 1877 hectares of land on the Otago Peninsula reserved for Kai Tahu vendors from the 1844 sale of the Otakou Block.

PUKEKURA

The Treaty of Waitangi was signed at Purekura on the 13th of June 1840 by local Kai Tahu chiefs.



39. Te Atua o Taiehu
40. Whatiwhaupakuika
41. Hapuataikawa
42. Taupo
43. Te Tihi o Waiari
44. Murihaka
45. Rangipipikau
46. Pakihau
47. Okia
48. Kumukumuwhero
49. Tahakopa