

Puke Ahu: Massey University's place on sacred land

Wondered who has walked through this land before you?

“From the time of first human occupation, it has been a centre of occupation and action”

Massey University Wellington campus sits on a culturally and historically-rich site. Puke Ahu, or “sacred mound” was the name given by Ngai Tara, to what is commonly known as Mt Cook. The area was probably used by Māori as ngakinga/ gardens.



Crawford, James Coutts, 1817-1889. [Crawford, James Coutts] 1817-1889 :Town of Wellington Port Nicholson N. Zealand [1846 or 1847?]. [Crawford, James Coutts] 1817-1889 :[Pencil sketches and watercolours of New Zealand 1839-1850]. Ref: A-229-043. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. <http://natlib.govt.nz/records/22825191>



Alexandra Barracks, Mount Cook, Wellington. Negatives of the Evening Post newspaper. Ref: EP-3276-1/2-G. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. <http://natlib.govt.nz/records/22798442>

Puke Ahu was one of ten per cent of Wellington's town acres set aside for “native reserve” in 1840.

Since European colonisation there have been two prisons, military barracks, and a brickworks on the site.

Tokomaru (Block 10) was originally built as a National Museum and Art Gallery.

There are underground tunnels, built in World War II, connecting Tasman Street and Wallace Street.

Visit our website [here](#) for more information—either for your own interest or for sources for assignments and projects. We are developing an exhibition and pathways around campus noting sites of importance—watch this space.

We would like your input—let us know what you would like to see or if you would like to be involved in the project. For more information contact: Fiona Shearer f.shearer@massey.ac.nz



Memorial to the Parihaka prisoners who were imprisoned on-site. West-side Tokomaru (Block 10) Photo: Stephen FitzHerbert, Puke Ahu Kaitiaki Roopu.