

# Te Kāhui Mātauranga o Puke Ariki

# Post-visit information

## Ngā Kōrero mō Te Maunga, 2021

### All Year/All Levels



Thank you for visiting us. Attached is some information that we hope is useful to you on your return to the classroom.

#### Answered key questions:

##### What is the cultural significance of the mountain to Māori?

The mountain is considered a male ancestor (tūpuna) and from 2020 was given legal status and protection of a person, much like the Whanganui River, as agreed upon by the eight iwi of Taranaki and the Crown. Over 100 sites of cultural significance are known within the national park and as a result a number of tikanga (protocols) are expected when visiting the maunga.

Mount Egmont and in ancient times Pukehaupapa or Pukeonaki are some of the names previously used for Maunga Taranaki.

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**Puke Ariki**



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## **In what year did Maunga Taranaki become a national park?**

In 1863 Maunga Taranaki and the wider ranges were seized by the NZ Government under the powers of the NZ settlements Act 1863 as a means of establishing and maintaining peace during the second Taranaki Land War. The land was first formally protected in 1881 when its slopes (within a 9.6 kilometre radius of the summit) were made a forest reserve. It was then gazetted as a national park (Egmont National Park) named by Captain James Cook in 1900 (2<sup>nd</sup> in New Zealand).

Following Treaty of Waitangi negotiations and the long held wishes of Ngā iwi o Taranaki the Crown changed the names Mt Egmont and Egmont National Park to Maunga Taranaki and Te Papakura o Taranaki respectively.

## **Describe the Taranaki Mouna project *He kawa Ora – Back to life?***

It is a ten year \$24 million project involving pest eradication and reintroduction of species over 34,000ha in Te Papakura o Taranaki including the wider sugar loaf islands. It aims to make Te Papakura o Taranaki the first predator-free national park, creating a haven for native flora and fauna. The project is important to ensure more species do not become extinct and utilizes partnerships to develop innovation so an ecological corridor is created from the mountain to the sea.

## **How are the advances in technology helping in the development of traps to control pest species?**

Large amounts of money and expertise are being put into controlling the pest problem in New Zealand. Trap design effectiveness is constantly advancing and new traps are due to be released on the market in 2021. These new traps will have artificial intelligence incorporated into them and include one or more of the following.

- a) Pests are very attracted to them.
- b) Traps have long life lures.
- c) Traps catch multiple pest species.
- d) Traps catch large numbers of pests without having to be reset.
- e) Traps utilize machine vision to be activated.

Preliminary research funded by the George Mason Charitable Trust using night vision cameras on a variety of traps show that possum behaviour is extremely variable. Some possums are really inquisitive and thus more likely to be trapped and others very trap shy.

As a part of this research GPS collars were attached to a sample of possums to track their movements. The findings showed individual possums behavior varied a lot, some roamed as much as 25 square kilometres and other stayed in a very small area. Typically however younger possums and males travelled further than older and female possums.

## **Name some animals that have been reintroduced into Te Papakura o Taranaki?**

- North Island Robin (Toutouwai) were reintroduced in April 2017.
- North Island Brown Kiwi were first reintroduced in 2004.

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- Whio (Blue Duck) were first reintroduced in 1986 but it wasn't until the start of the trapping programme began in 2002 that further introductions have started to help increase numbers by reducing predators.

## List some of the important conservation projects in the Taranaki region:

- [Mounga Taranaki – He Kawa Ora](#)
- [Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust](#)
- [Experience Pūrangi](#)
- [Taranaki Kiwi Trust](#)
- [Tiaki Te Mauri O Paraninihi Trust](#)

## Weblinks

- [The Taranaki Mounga project is an ambitious conservation project transforming the mountain, ranges and islands of Taranaki.](#)
- [New Zealand bats, Department of Conservation.](#)
- [Taranaki Bats – providing information and resources on New Zealand Bats and on NZ Bats in Taranaki.](#)
- [Toutouwai – Robin's Return Project, North Island robin, Department of Conservation](#)
- ["Toutouwai return to the Taranaki after a 110 year absence," 10 April 2017, Māori Television.](#)
- [The Journey of Mount Taranaki, by Sorrel Hoskin, Taranaki Stories, Puke Ariki.](#)
- [Te Papakura o Taranaki – find out about the park's history and natural features, Department of Conservation.](#)
- ["New Zealand gives Mount Taranaki same legal rights as a person," Eleanor Ainge Roy, 22 December 2017, The Guardian International edition.](#)
- ["The Ambitious Project Taranaki Mounga," The Next Foundation.](#)
- [Funding from the NEXT foundation to project Taranaki Mounga, December 2015, Department of Conservation.](#)
- ["Toutouwai return to the Taranaki after a 110 year absence," 10 April 2017, Māori Television.](#)
- [The AT220 Possum and Rat resetting trap](#)
- [GPS tracking possum study in Te Papakura O Taranaki](#)
- [Traps powered by artificial intelligence](#)

## Puke Ariki Library:

- Hunt, Janet. *A Bird in the Hand: Keeping New Zealand Wildlife Safe* (2003), Random House, Auckland N.Z.
- Crowe, Andrew. *Which New Zealand bird?* (2001), Penguin, Auckland, N.Z.
- Moon, Geoff. *New Zealand forest birds and their world* (2009), New Holland, Auckland, N.Z.
- Gunsen, Dave. *All about New Zealand Birds* (2008), New Holland, Auckland, N.Z.

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