



# *Petone's Artesian Water*



# A History of Petone's Artesian Water Supply

Petone's pure, artesian water has always been a source of pride to residents and the wider community who have actively protected this natural treasure.

In 1839 the New Zealand Company arrived in Te Whanganui a Tara (Wellington Harbour) to purchase land for settlers who were greeted by the local Te Atiawa people. Pito-one (Petone) was the scene of the New Zealand Company's first attempt at colonisation in 1840.

The residents of the area initially sourced water from the Hutt River but soon became aware of the pure artesian water that lay beneath them. Since then the pure artesian (underground pressurised) water situated beneath the Hutt Valley has provided a supply of water to the inhabitants of the region.

The artesian water originates from the waters of the Hutt River which enter the secure artesian aquifer (layers of sand gravels and boulders confined by impermeable layers of silt and clay) at Taita Gorge in the north of the valley. The water is naturally filtered through the alluvial gravels and sands of the Hutt Valley over several years before reaching the Petone Foreshore where it leaks into the sea floor of Wellington Harbour extending as far south as the harbour mouth.

Today, treated artesian water is supplied to residents of the region. However, pure untreated artesian water can now be enjoyed from taps at the new Petone icon, Te Puna Wai Ora (Spring of Life) in Buick Street Petone. The pure artesian water is free from micro-organisms and organic substances and is safe to drink in its natural form because it has been naturally filtered over several years in its journey within the aquifer. The pure artesian water is highly valued throughout the region and consumers travel long distances to collect the water for drinking purposes.

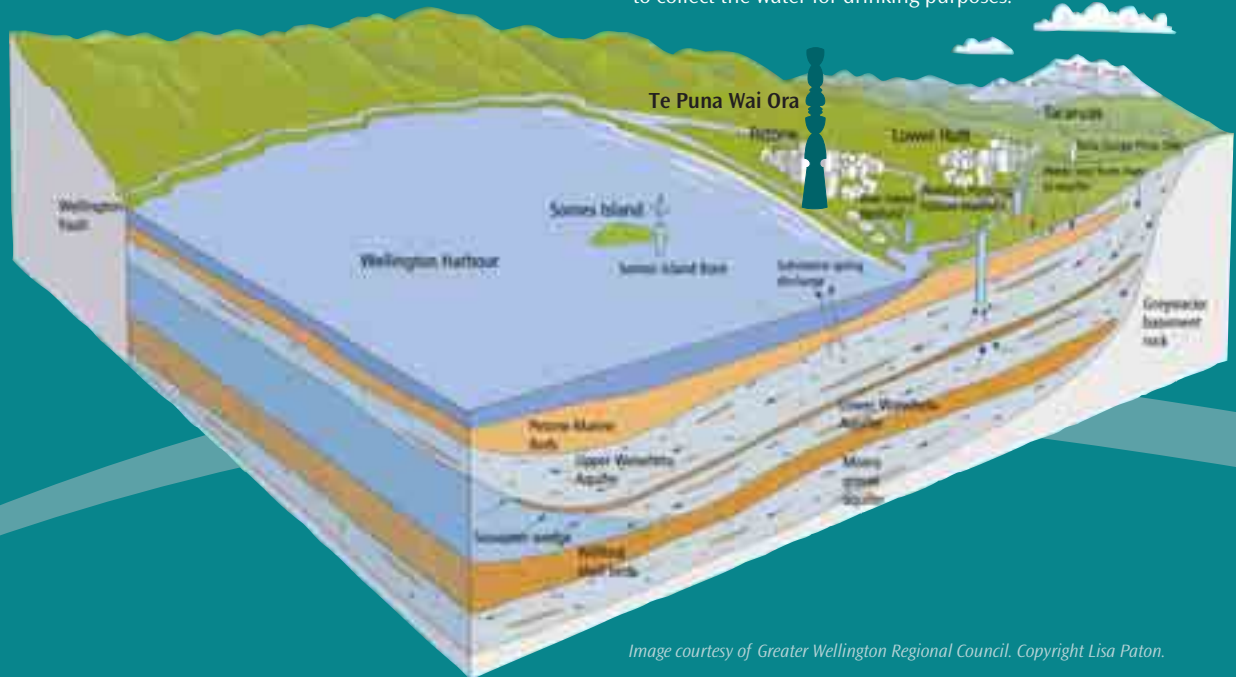


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## *A Timeline of Artesian Water*

- 1880s** Settlers in Petone and Hutt Valley draw water from wells in the valley floor.
- 1903** Borough of Petone introduce a borough water reticulation system supplied from the Korokoro stream.
- 1908** Borough of Lower Hutt introduce the first borough water reticulation system from artesian wells sunk in Williams grove.
- 1932** Borough of Lower Hutt supplies the Borough of Eastbourne with water from artesian wells sunk in Seaview Road.
- 1946** Hutt Park Pumping Station is commissioned supplying artesian water from wells at Hutt Park to Lower Hutt.
- 1963** Borough of Petone commission new Buick Street Pumping Station supplying artesian water to the borough from wells in the Petone recreation grounds.
- 1970s** Wellington Regional Water Board (Greater Wellington — The Regional Council) takes over ownership of wholesale water assets from Petone Borough Council and Lower Hutt City Council supplying treated artesian water to the Councils for distribution.
- 1999** Buick Street Pumping Station decommissioned and Petone supplied with treated artesian water from Waterloo Treatment Plant via new Rahui Reservoir in Korokoro.
- 2003** Te Puna Wai Ora (Spring of Life) commissioned, supplying pure untreated artesian water to Petone residents and visitors from public taps and drinking fountain.



# *Te Puna Wai Ora — Spring of Life*

A vital multi-cultural community steeped in New Zealand history, Petone residents wanted to celebrate the uniqueness of their water in the new millennium by building a civic work that paid tribute to a natural treasure valued by residents throughout the region.

Te Puna Wai Ora was designed by the highly regarded New Zealand artist Louise Purvis and symbolises a water oasis — a place of rest, refreshment and exploration. Pedestrian crossings meander into the site like trickling streams, pavers give a sense of movement, while the seemingly precarious vertical stack of water vessels act like a beacon to the oasis. A birds eye view of Te Puna Wai Ora resembles tidal patterns, exposing tributaries interwoven with sanctuaries of green flora.

The sculpture also serves a practical purpose — the taps and drinking fountain incorporated into the design supply untreated artesian water for Petone's proud residents and admiring visitors.

Hutt City Council commissioned Te Puna Wai Ora with assistance from the Lottery® Grants Board.





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