

Research the internet and give me a comprehensive history of how Upper Hutt in New Zealand was settled. Include details on key early settler families.

Upper Hutt, located in the Wellington Region of New Zealand, has a rich history that dates back to its original Māori inhabitants and its subsequent colonization by European settlers. Here's a comprehensive history of how Upper Hutt was settled:

1. Māori History:

- Upper Hutt was originally known as **Orongomai**, and the river was named **Heretaunga** (which is now the name of a suburb in Upper Hutt).
- The first residents of the area were from the **Ngāi Tara iwi**. Over time, various other iwi controlled the area, and by the time the first colonial settlers arrived, the area was under the control of the **Te Āti Awa rohe**.
- **Orongomai Marae** is located to the south of the modern city center.

2. Colonial Settlement:

- In 1839, the **New Zealand Company**, an English colonizing entity, purchased about 160,000 acres of land in the Wellington region, which included Upper Hutt, from Māori chiefs.
- The Hutt Valley was named after one of the founders of the New Zealand Company.
- There were disputes over land transactions with local Māori, leading to skirmishes and warfare in the Hutt Valley in 1846. Notable figures during this period included Governor George Grey and Māori chiefs like **Te Rauparaha**, **Te Rangihaeata**, **Te Mamaku**, and various iwi such as **Ngāti Toa**, **Ngāti Rangatahi**, **Ngāti Tama**, and **Ngāti Hāua-te-rangi**.

- **Richard Barton** was Upper Hutt's first European settler, who settled in the area in 1841, specifically in what is now known as Trentham Memorial Park. He subdivided his land, setting aside a significant portion for parkland. Another early settler, **James Brown**, settled in the area that later became the Upper Hutt town in 1848.

3. **Development and Urbanization:**

- The railway line reached Upper Hutt on 1 February 1876 and was extended further by 1 January 1878.
- Upper Hutt was primarily a rural service town for many years, supporting the surrounding farming and forestry communities. Significant urbanization began in the 1920s, with a population boom post the 1940s as people moved from Wellington to the Hutt Valley.
- The electrification of the railway line from Wellington to Upper Hutt was completed in July 1955, which greatly improved transportation.
- Upper Hutt was officially recognized as a city within the Wellington metropolitan area on 2 May 1966.

4. **Modern Developments:**

- In the 1970s and 1980s, Upper Hutt saw the construction of a stop bank to prevent flooding from the Hutt River.
- The city has continued to grow and develop, with residential subdivisions expanding in areas like Clouston Park, Maoribank, Tōtara Park, and Kingsley Heights.

This information provides a brief overview of Upper Hutt's settlement history. There are many more details and events that have shaped the city over the years, but these are some of the key highlights.

