

*This is an exercise in walking and looking. Like what you would do on holiday at the beach, rather than a historic tour. The exercise begins on a ridge and moves across a gully and gradually down another ridge to what remains of a headland.*

*Look, here. Poking out of Pukekaroa, the hill in the middle of Auckland Domain, is a lava bomb reminiscent of a large kumara. It has been sitting here since one of the Auckland volcanoes erupted. I take pleasure walking past this particular rock, watching it gradually emerge from the earth.*

*As I walk across the Domain towards the city I look at other rocks that have been put back in to the earth as kerb stones and retaining walls. Pretty much everywhere you walk there is a piece of quarried or colluvial basalt close by. You just have to think about digging in a garden anywhere near one of the mountains. Every time you plunge your spade in to the soil, you are rewarded with a rock.*

*Two of my favourite mountains feature prominently in the city - Maungarei and Maungawhau. Maungarei (Mt Wellington) was quarried by Winstone from 1936 until 2001. During this time the quarry unearthed about 18,000,000 m<sup>3</sup> of rock. According to Winstone, over 50% of the stone being used in Auckland while the quarry was open was from this quarry.*

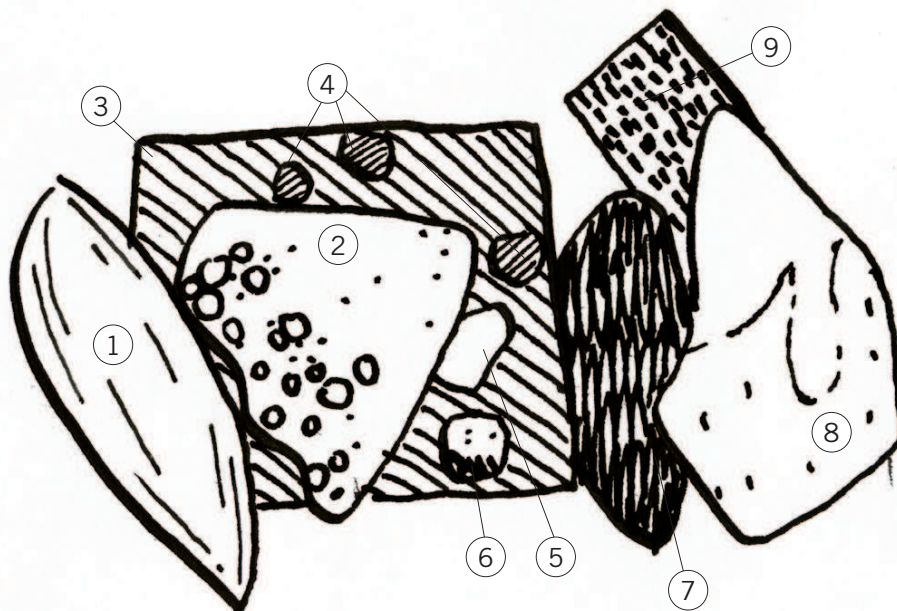
*From where I am I can't quite see Maungarei. However, if I look up, I can see Maungarei re-created in the form of the School of Medicine. On Park Road, more basalt lines the street. These are the same kerb stones you find all over the city - not from Maungarei this time, but Maungawhau*

*(Mt Eden). Standing on the corner of Park Road, you can see Mt Eden sitting above the horizon; and thousands of hand-faceted kerb stones flowing back towards the mountain they came from.*

*Grafton Bridge spans Grafton Gully. Below its tarmacadam footpath and Coromandel Granite kerb stones the bridge is made from shingle collected from the shores of Auckland beaches. If you walk down the steps on the eastern side of the bridge you can see aggregate in the steps. Better still, if you look at the ballast on Bridge Street you see aggregate spilled over 100 years ago during the bridge construction. Halfway down Symonds Street similar crushed red aggregate (know as McCallum Chip, from Karamuramu Island in the Hauraki Gulf) towers above you, on The University of Auckland Science Building. This is a great rocky spot. On the corner are big geological samples, the base of this building made from local scoria, and the kerb stones just here are some of the chunkiest in the city.*

*I have always liked Alfred Street. Probably because you can see the remaining section of the Albert Barracks wall, and the street, with its loose Mt Wellington metal and tussock grass, is very rustic. Down Princes Street you can see residue of the previous asphalt treatments stuck to the kerbstones.*

*And then Emily Place Reserve - from what I can tell, one of the most original parts of central Auckland. A lot of Auckland's historical figures would have walked over this place to survey the landscape. When Beach road was a beach, and Shortland Street was a cliff-top this park was here at the centre, and from it the headland of Point Britomart extended out into the sea.*



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| 1. Volcanic Bomb, Pukekaroa, Auckland Domain        | 2. Waitemata Beach Aggregate, Bridge Street         |
| 3. Chinese Basalt, Symonds Street                   | 4. Mt. Wellington Basalt, Alfred Street             |
| 5. Mt. Wellington Basalt (yellow line), Emily Place | 6. Glass Aggregate (bus lane), Symonds Street       |
| 7. Waitemata Shell Aggregate, Princes Street        | 8. Basalt and Waitemata Shell Cement, Alfred Street |
| 9. Coromandel Granite, Short Street                 |   |