

ŌTARA

The maunga, Ōtara, is short for Te Ūpoko o Taranui (The Head of Taranui). Taranui was a rangatira of Waitaha and his descendants included Te Pōkiha Taranui or Major Fox. Te Pōkiha led Te Arawa troops in support of the government against the Kīngitanga, and subsequently against Hauhau, and Te Kooti and his supporters during the NZ Wars.

The 1868 confiscation line ran through the middle of Ōtara.