

KARANGAUMU

Karangaumu was a Waitaha pā and its name refers to a line of fires that would be lit to warn Waitaha to return to the hills in times of trouble or for celebrations.

This pā, in the Papamoa range (*Te Rae o Papamoa*) was occupied by Ruarangi, a son of Waitaha. Archaeologists believe Karangaumu was probably the earliest pā built in the area and was full of large storage pits, with eight defended units. It may have been rebuilt at least once.

Karangaumu was sometimes referred to as *Hikutawatawa*, which in ancient times was the birthplace of the patupaiarehe.

It's said the patupaiarehe were displaced from Hikutawatawa when Takakōpiri laid the jawbones or *parawhenua* of his ancestor, Atua Matua, here to claim the land. It became known as *Te Ōkere o Atua Matua*. Nearby is *Te Pītaratara o Karikarua*, where Takakōpiri laid the second parawhenua, the cervix of his Atua Matua's wife, Karika.

Another wāhi tapu in this area is *Te Waiū o Waitaha*, a creek with pools that were used by Waitaha for the birthing of children of high rank.

When Waitaha objected to quarrying of the area by Fulton and Hogan, the wāhi tapu and Karangaumu pā were excluded as protected sites, and resource consent was granted by the Environment Court.