

MAUAO – MT MAUNGANUI

1. There is a well known pakiwaitara about the love story between Puwhenua, Otanewainuku and Mauao. It talks about a nameless mountain that was rejected by Puwhenua, then dragged out toward the ocean by the Patupaiarehe. The nameless mountain became known as Mauao (Caught by the Dawn).
2. Mauao was first occupied by Waitaha rangatira, Tutauaroa, the son of Waitaha. Tutauaroa occupied it after the death of Raumati, a chief of Nga Marama, who was killed by Hatu Patu for the burning of the Te Arawa waka. After killing him, Hatu Patu took the head of Raumati up to the area known as Waikorire (at the top of Mauao) to offer up his karakia to Ngatoroirangi and Tia for their assistance. Hatu Patu stated “*koia, koia, koia*” as he held up the head of Raumati.
3. Te Toka a Tirikawa, Nga Kuri a Tarawhata and Te Kuia are 3 rocks near Mauao which are very significant to Te Arawa, Takitimu and Tainui. The waka Takitimu landed at Mauao some time after the waka Te Arawa landed at Maketu. Te Awaiti was the landing place of the waka Takitimu.

Kinomoerua was asked for advice by Apanuimuturinga on battle strategy. Kinomoerua told him to observe a shag that failed time after time to catch any fish; then he told him to observe another bird that dived deeply and came up with a fish. He talked to Apanui about the need to keep up the pressure when attacking his enemy. Kinomoerua also told Apanui to observe the waves crashing on Te Toka a Tirikawa – many times waves would cover the rock but each time it would reappear.

4. Te Paeopara was a Waitaha pa on Mauao, belonging to Tutauaroa, son of Waitaha. This pa overlooked the coast from Mauao to Maketu whilst the pa Te Kawa, was on the opposite side and overlooked Te Papa (Tauranga).
5. Tutauaroa moved eastward, staying at Papamoa then moving to Otamarakau. Ngati Makino are the descendants of Tutauaroa and carry his mana today. When Tutauaroa left for Otamarakau, his son Taiwhanake and mokopuna Kinonui were left in occupation of Mauao where their descendants remained for some 300 years until the Battle of Kokowai. Taiwhanake is the tupuna associated with Mauao, hence the pepeha “*ko Mauao te maunga, ko Taiwhanake te tangata*” as does:

*“Ko Mauao te Maunga
Ko Tutauaroa te tupuna
Ko Taiwhanake te tangata
Ko Te Arawa te waka”*

6. Nga Puhi invaded Te Arawa at Mokoia in 1823. Waitaha were called by their Te Arawa relatives in Rotorua to assist with the defence against Nga Puhi. Nga Puhi had the use of muskets and defeated Te Arawa, then left the district without seeking to occupy it, taking captives with them. Hakaraia was captured while defending Mauao from a Nga Puhi attack and was taken north where he was converted to Christianity.

7. Waitaha have rights to the maunga and still collect kaimoana there. Mauao is ancestrally and culturally significant to Waitaha. It is a national icon to the public of New Zealand and is also known as Mount Maunganui.

(Sourced from Waitaha Treaty Claim Archives)