

## NGĀ IHU

*Ngā Ihu* is the shortened form of *Ngā Ihu o Ruarangi* or *Te Ihu o Ruarangi* (Ruarangi was a son of Waitaha).

The name of the pā was due to its physical formation, a ridge, that resembled a nose. It's also said that because of its location, the people of the pā could 'smell trouble coming'.

This pā held a prominent position to the west of *Te Rae o Pāpāmoa* and was a major stronghold with people from the nearby *Te Houawe* pā joining its forces in battle.

Ngā Ihu was part of a defensive line of pā within *Te Uku o Takakōpiri*. If defences failed, women and children of Ngā Ihu and Te Houawe would retreat to *Pātangata* and *Pātakitahi* in times of an attack.

The safety of young women and girls was particularly important to Waitaha to ensure the survival of the tribe and they would sometimes be sheltered at *Pātangata* which was on higher ground.

Escape routes would also take people through *Ōtawa*, between two springs known as *Te Waiū-o-Waitaha* and *Te Toki-o-Tamaheke*, and on to canoes which would navigate valley streams to safer ground.