

ŌWHĀRO

Ōwhāro was a Waitaha pā and located in the Pāpāmoa Hills or *Te Uku o Takakōpiri* (*puta atu ki Ōwhāro.*)

It was part of a defensive line of pā within *Te Uku o Takakōpiri*. Archaeologists state the oldest was begun some time after 1460 and they were all built by 1700.

Ōwhāro pā covered an area of around 7 hectares and sat on the spine of a ridge with three 'limbs' on side spurs, and nine separate defended units.

Other pā it linked to were *Pāpāmoa*, *Ngā Ihu o Ruarangi* (also known as *Te Ihu o Ruarangi* or *Ngā Ihu*), *Te Houawe*, *Te Kāingapākura*, *Maraeroa*, *Karangaumu*, *Pātakitahi* and *Pātangata*.

Ihuparapara and Iwipupu, the daughters of Ruarangi and grand-daughters of Waitaha, lived at this pā. Both married Tamatea-pōkai-whenua. Iwipupu was the mother of Kahungunu and Ihuparapara was the mother of Ranginui I.

The descendants of Ranginui I came to be known as Ngāti Ranginui-a-Hei and Tauranga was divided between them and Waitaha, with Tauranga harbour and the Waimapu River forming natural boundaries.

(Ranginui II was the eponymous ancestor of the present-day iwi of Ngāti Ranginui in Tauranga.)