

## TE PĪTARATARA O KARIKAROA

*Te Pītaratara o Karikaroa* refers to an area in the Pāpāmoa hill range.

Eight generations on from Hei, his descendant Takakōpiri held the mana of the Tauranga region.

He had returned to Hawaiki to collect the remains or *parawhenua* of his tūpuna, Atua Matua and Karika (the parents of Hei), which were used to claim the land for the people of Waitaha.

The *patupaiarehe* were displaced from *Hikutawatawa*, their ancestral birthplace when Takakōpiri buried.

The remains of his tūpuna kuia, Karika, were buried in an area at Hikutawatawa (displacing the *patupaiarehe* from their ancestral birthplace) and called *Te Pītaratara o Karikaroa*, The cervix of Karika. Waitaha performed ceremonial rites such as *tohi* at this sacred site.

The upper and lower jawbones of Atua Matua were buried by Takakōpiri in two places at the top of a gully at Hikutawatawa called '*Te Ōkere o Tua*' and '*Te Ōkere o Mua*'.

The two areas then became known as *Te Ōkere o Atua Matua*.

### Te Toki o Tamaheke

A large spring near *Te Ōkere o Atua Matua* and *Te Pītaratara o Karikaroa* was called *Te Toki o Tamaheke*. It was a major source of water for the many pā within the Pāpāmoa hills.