

TE RAPARAPA-Ā-HOE STREAM

Te Raparapa-ā-Hoe is an awa sacred to Waitaha. The name relates to the many waterfalls and rock formations along its course. It could only be navigated by waka to a certain point where rapids made it impossible to continue rowing.

Another explanation for its name refers to the splitting of eels for drying (*raparapa*, to split open).

Te Raparapa-ā-Hoe flows both above and below ground and is fed by underground aquifers.

For Waitaha, Te Raparapa-ā-Hoe links the iwi with the maunga Ōtawa, the land on Ōtara that belongs to Waitaha (Te Ūpoko o Taranui), Ōtaua and Tahipūkahu.

Te Raparapa-ā-Hoe flows through the Atuaroa swamp into the Kaituna River then out to the coast. This is one of the eight waterways sacred to Waitaha. Several pā were situated along Te Raparapa-ā-Hoe including Ōnuku, Rangitekapua, Puke Poto, Te Manaro, Te Kōpuru, Mangamatai, Hāpaitataura and Motungārara. Hei Marae is also on the banks of this river.

The river flows through the Atuaroa Stream to Te Hiapo (Collins Lane), to Te Waiwhero, to Motungārara pā, to Te Tūāhu o Te Makawe, to Takapara, to Waikōkōwai swamp, to Te Ara o Kahureremoa, past Hei Marae to Te Taumata urupā, to Haraki Marae, to Ōteao, Ngāhune, and Hāpaitataura pā. It meets Te Kirikiri Stream, flows on to Te Puata pā, to Waikokoi Stream and Te Waikokoi pā. It then travels to Wairapukau Creek, to Hungahungateroa Creek, then to Rāwaru or Muir's Reef on Number 4 Road, to Maungaruahine pā to the settlement of Whataroa, Te Manaroa pā then to Hakoko Creek, Paraiti Creek, Whataroa Stream, Te Patu o Tūpāhau, Waimihia Creek and Waimihia pā.

The Atuaroa River forms where the Raparapa-ā-Hoe is joined by the Kirikiri, but this waterway is still called Te Raparapa-ā-Hoe. At the confluence of these waterways is Te Puata pā. Te Puata – which means the dawn – was occupied by Haraki, the first wife of Te Iwikorokē. His pā, which stood nearby was called Te Ahipuaki because it caught the morning rays of the sun (*ahi*, fire; *puaki*, to emerge). Hence the saying: *Ka titiro atu a te Iwikorokē; ka titiro mai a Haraki*, Te Iwikorokē looked towards Haraki who returned his gaze.

Waikokoi was a Waitaha pā with food gardens that lay at the junction of Te Raparapa-ā-Hoe and Waikokoi streams. The main tracks descending from Ōtawa crossed at Te Tapuae and Te Puke Taweare pā. This part of Te Raparapa-ā-Hoe was known for 'Koroua', giant eels with holes in their tails that didn't migrate to sea and would feed on 'Tūpuna' or smaller eels trapped in the crevices of rocks. Tradition has it that the purpose of the giant eels was to gather food for the river's taniwha or allow the taniwha to nibble on their tails. The eels would only be taken at certain times.

The Wairapukao Stream flows into Te Raparapa-ā-Hoe and is located near Muir's Reef. Above this area was Rāwaru. Hungahungateroa, Popaki, Hakoko and Paraiti Creeks flow into Te Raparapa-ā-Hoe.

Waimihia was a nohoanga kāinga used during the food gathering season for preserving kererū and other forest foosd. It stood on the banks of the Waimihia Stream which also flows into Te Raparapa-ā-Hoe.

Te Taumata is an urupā near Hei Marae on the banks of Te Raparapa-ā-Hoe. Those who were affiliated to Ngāti Rangiwewehi were interred here and the bones were later exhumed and taken back to urupā belonging to Rangiwewehi.

Tahipūkahu was a Waitaha nohoanga with food gardens that stood between Te Raparapa-ā-Hoe and Ōhineangaanga streams.