

TE TAUMATA PĀ

Te Taumata was a Waitaha pā near present day Ōropi with large cultivations.

The pā was occupied by Ngāi Te Rangi for a period but was retaken by Waitaha leaders, Te Kou o Rehua and Te Rauroha, together with Taraia of Marutuahu, Koikoi of Ngāi Tamarāwaho and their combined forces.

Te Taumata, Ōropi, Māene and *Te Akeake* were pā within *Te Rī o Hakaraia* (*rī*, screen, close off), established by Waitaha tūpuna and leader, Hakaraia under the mana of Kingi Tawhiao, during the Crown's Bush Campaign of the NZ Wars.

This *aukati* or boundary prohibited unauthorised movement in an area that started at the mouth of the Waimapu River and extended to Ōtānewainuku.

During the first half of 1867, Crown troops pursued Hakaraia and his supporters in the bush as unsundered rebels and used 'scorched earth' methods – destroying homes, food stores and crops – in their pursuit. (Māene and Te Akeake were burnt to the ground). Hakaraia was never captured, although five women and a boy were taken prisoner at Te Taumata on 4 February 1867.

The Bush Campaign played an important role in enforcing the raupatu of Tauranga land. The end of the campaign marked the end of armed conflict in Tauranga, and of active Maori resistance to confiscation.