

3: STATEMENTS OF ASSOCIATION

Waikari River and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-201-37)

The Waikari River flows south-east from its origin at Maungaharuru out to Tangitū (the sea). Accordingly, the following statements of association relate to this awa (river).

- Peaks of Maungaharuru Range; and
- Rocks and Reefs and Hapū Coastal Marine Area.

This awa lies within the takiwā (traditional area) of the Hapū, Ngāi Tahu, which held ahi-kā-roa along this awa and its tributaries. The eponymous ancestor for Ngāi Tahu is Tahumatua II. Tahu's descendant, Te Keu-o-te-Rangi fathered four children: Toenga, Tukapuarangi, Te Whiunga and Hinekaraka.

The four children were placed by their father on different parts of the Waikari River and its tributaries, both north and south. It is said that Toenga and Tukapuarangi occupied the southern side of the Waikari River, with Toenga occupying the Heru-a-Tureia block stretching south from the Waikari River up onto Maungaharuru. Hinekaraka and Te Whiunga are said to have occupied the northern side of the Waikari River, with Te Whiunga occupying the Anaura valley. Regardless, their territories were not exclusive and each had access to the other's mahinga kai (food gathering areas).

The descendants of these four children were known as Ngāi Tahu and those who maintained their occupation were the tāngata whenua. Various branches of Ngāi Tahu were later known by other names and represented smaller family groups such as Ngāti Hikapii, Ngāti Hineiro, Ngāti Moe, Ngāti Peke, Ngāti Rangitakuao, Ngāti Tataku and Ngāi Te Maaha.

Tīpuna (ancestors) have identified the kāinga (villages) and pā (fortified villages) of Ngāi Tahu in the lower Waikari River area, and as far north as the Waitaha Stream, including Kumarawainui, Tutaekaraka, Hurihanga, Takapuwahia, Tokatea, Pukepiripiri, Puketaiata, Tauwhare and Kaiwaka. They have also identified kāinga and pā in the upper Waikari River and its tributaries including Te Nakunaku, Waipopopo, Tawhitikoko, Patokai and Tiekenui.

The mouth of the Waikari River is known as Te Puta-o-Hinetonga, after Hinetonga, the mother of Te Keu-o-te-Rangi. The river mouth, the Waikari River and its tributaries have long been recognised as important mahinga kai. They provide the habitat for many taonga (treasured) fish species including īnanga (whitebait), mullet, tuna (eels), pātiki (flounder), kahawai and herring. The Waikari River also flows onto Omoko, a fishing reef located at the mouth of the river, which was a site renown for kaimoana (seafood), in particular hāpuku (grouper). The following Hapū whakatauākī (tribal proverb) refers to the sound of the sea lapping up against the river mouth during the day and night, bringing a bounty of kaimoana with each incoming and outgoing tide. This whakatauākī is still recited today in whaikōrero (formal speeches) on Tangoio Marae.

“Pātōtō ki te ata, pātōtō ki te pō” – “the sound of the tide in the morning and at night”

The Hapū have cultural, spiritual, traditional and historic associations with ngā awa, their waters, associated land and flora and fauna and have a responsibility as kaitiaki (guardians) in accordance with their kawa (rules) and tikanga (customs) to restore, protect and manage all those natural and historic resources. This relationship is as important to present day whānau (families) as it was to their tīpuna.