

Maunganui

Ko Maunganui, kia tū rangatira i te ao, i te pō, hō!
*Maunganui, the chief mountain standing strong at
day and night!*

From the journey Maunganui made from Hautere after leaving his quest to obtain the heart of Pūwhenua, he came to stand here at the mouth of Tauranga Moana where he could stand chiefly in his own light as he heralds the light of the dawn each morning. Here he became a beacon of safety, and a symbol of home for all who reside within Tauranga Moana

Upon the arrival of Takitimu waka at Te Awaiti at the base of the maunga, Tamatea-Ariki-Nui planted two mauri stones brought with him from their home lands in Hawaiki. One at the peak of Maunganui, the other under water at Tirikawa. This deed signified the arrival of his people to their new homeland, bringing with them whakapapa and mana of their home and history from Hawaiki.

Te Kuia is a kōhatu, a rock that faces out north-west towards Matakana Island at the entrance to the harbour, where a great sacrifice was made by a kuia to warn her people of an approaching danger, loosing her life. This rock is significant to all that venture from the harbour out to sea where koha is given to the rock to enable a safe journey and fishing take and return in the same manner as Te Kuia me tāna kurī (the elder lady and her dog) enabled her people to remain safe from the dangers that lie seaward.

An acknowledgment of the big mountain, as named by Tamatea and his unwavering strength throughout time.

View the full Mauao (Maunganui) story [here](#), p. 8

View the full Te Kuia story [here](#), p. 53