

Ōtānewainuku

Ōtānewainuku, te pou rangatira ki uta, hō!
Ōtānewainuku, the inland pillar of strength and pride

The chief mountain that marks the original boundary line between Waitaha/Tapuika tribes and Tauranga Moana tribes. The mountain of the parting waters, where the clouds met the land, and the rain leaves the sky.

Ōtanewainuku stands tall in the Hautere forest and marks the boundary of Tapuika on the Te Puke side to the east, Te Arawa in the Rotorua area to the south, and Ngāi Tamarāwaho the hapū of Ngāti Ranginui local to our kura.

He was the chiefly victor in the quest against Maunganui for the hand of Pūwhenua the maiden maunga to the west of where he stands.

Because of his charisma and presence, her heart beat only for him hence the journey Maunganui made from where they are to where he now stands.