

Pūwhenua

Pūwhenua, te rākau tapu o Takitimu, hō!
*Pūwhenua, where the mauri of Takitimu
waka resided*

The site where the sacred tree was selected by Tamatea for
the Takitimu canoe.

In approximately A.D. 1100's a great chief Waitaha gave a great tree so that the sacred Takitimu Waka could be built. The maunga that this rākau came from is called Pūwhenua and still stands in the islands of Samoa. The tree was also named Pūwhenua

Approximately three centuries later around A.D 1350, Tamatea-Ariki-Nui, captained Takitimu Waka to lead a voyage comprising a fleet of sacred waka from the tropical islands of Hawaiki to Aotearoa. Upon seeing Pūwhenua he saw it resembled the maunga in Samoa where the origins of his waka came from and so named the maunga Pūwhenua.

From the peak of Pūwhenua her sight reaches Maunganui to the North and as far as Tongariro to the south.