

*E hika tū ake ki runga rā
Whītiki taua hei tama tū
Kumea ki te uru, uea ki te tonga
Hiki nuku hiki rangi l ara rā
Ka ngarue tōia ki te hau
marangai kia whakarongo e
Taku kiri i te kikini o te rehutai*

*O ngā ngaru whatiwhati e
haruru mai nei
Wiwiwi wawawa horahia
ō mata kia Meretuahiahi e
Hei taki i te ara ki a Tangaroa
he atua hao i te tini ki te pō
E kokoia e ara e*



The Story of Mauao

There was once a hill with no name among the many hills and ravines on the edge of the forests of Hautere. This nameless one was pononga, slave or servant, to the great chief Otānewainuku, the forested peak which stands as a landmark for the tribes of Tauranga Moana. To the south-west was the shapely form of the hill Puwhenua, a woman clothed in all the fine greens of the ferns and shrubs and trees of the forest of Tāne. The nameless one was desperately in love with Puwhenua. Her heart was already won by the majestic form of the chiefly mountain Otānewainuku.

There seemed no hope for the lowly slave with no name to persuade her to become his bride. The nameless one sorrowed. In despair he decided to end it all by drowning himself in the ocean, Te Moananui a Kiwa. He called on the patupaiarehe, the people with magical powers who dwelled in the forests of Hautere. They were his friends and they plaited the ropes with their magic to haul him from the hill country toward the ocean. As they pulled on their ropes, they chanted their magic chant.

The patupaiarehe chanted this song and hauled the nameless one from his place among the hills from Waoku. They gouged out the valley where the river Waimapu now flows. They followed the channel of Tauranga Moana past Hairini, past Maungatapu and Matapihi, past Te Papa. They pulled him to the edge of the great ocean of Kiwa. But it was already close to daybreak. The sun rose. The first rays lit up the summit of the nameless hill and fixed him in that place. The patupaiarehe melted away before the light of the sun. They were people of the night and they flew back to the shady depths of the forests and ravines of Hautere.

The patupaiarehe gave a name to this mountain which marks the entrance to Tauranga Moana. He was called Mauao which means caught by the dawn, or lit up by the first rays of sunrise. In time, he assumed greater mana than his rival Otānewainuku. Later he was also given another name, Maunganui, by which he is now more often known. He is still the symbol of the tribes of Tauranga Moana.

Manaakitanga

Caring for Mauao: Encouraging behaviour and activities that are mana-enhancing toward the mountain and others: including generosity, care, respect and reciprocity.

Please enjoy Mauao for:



Culture



Fitness & Wellbeing



Reflection & Mental Health



Nature

Activities not permitted on Mauao:



Fires



Smoking



Fireworks



Dogs



Camping



Biking



Scattering of Ashes



Rock Climbing



Drones



Horses



Alcohol

Activities requiring permission:



Filming



Commercial Activities

For permissions and enquiries please contact the Tauranga City Council:

✉ info@tauranga.govt.nz
☎ (07) 577 7000
🌐 tauranga.govt.nz



NGĀ POUTIRIAO Ō MAUAO



MAUAO

CAUGHT BY THE DAWN



Map & Guide

Nau mai haere mai
Welcome to Mauao

Walking Mauao

This maunga (mountain) is considered of immense cultural, traditional, historical, and spiritual importance. Please enjoy respectfully.

TE ARA TŪTANGA

Distance: 8.4km

Fitness required: Low

MOTUKAURI TRACK

Distance: 2km

Fitness required: Moderate

WAIKORIRE TRACK

Distance: 1.2km

Fitness required: Moderate to high

ORUAHINE TRACK

Distance: 1.7km

Fitness required: Moderate

CONNECTING TRACKS



Toilets: For cultural reasons there are no toilets located anywhere on Mauao. There are toilets in front of the surf club and opposite the boat ramp at Pilot Bay. Please be sure to use these before enjoying your walk.



Dangers: Parts of Mauao are prone to rock falls and landslips.

Caution is recommended at all times, especially in wet weather or significant storm and swell events.

