

TAURANGA MOANA

KŌIWI TANGATA

APRIL 2009



Tauranga Heads looking out to Mauao/Mount Maunganui. Photo by Frederick Muir 1886.

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1 Introduction

The purpose of this report is to outline the history of the kōiwi tangata currently held in Te Papa's Wāhi Tapu with provenance or partial provenance to the Tauranga Moana rohe. It is hoped that this report, together with iwi and rūnanga discussions, will assist in returning these kōiwi tangata to their final resting places.

2 Background

Te Papa, as the National Museum of New Zealand, has been involved in the repatriation of kōiwi tangata and Toi moko since the early 1980s. The involvement in repatriation began through the work of Sir Māui Pomare, and was supported by the Department of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In May 1999, a meeting held between representatives of Māori, Government agencies and Te Papa considered issues relating to repatriation. This meeting gave overwhelming support for Te Papa's continued involvement in this important work.

In May 2003, Te Papa established the Karanga Aotearoa Repatriation Programme. This formalised Te Papa's repatriation work, and in turn became recognised and mandated as the official repatriation programme supported by the New Zealand Government.

Te Papa's work, as mandated, is governed by these five overarching principles:

- The government's role is one of facilitation – it does not claim ownership of kōiwi tangata;
- Repatriation from overseas institutions and individuals is by mutual agreement only;
- No payment for kōiwi tangata will be made to overseas institutions;
- Kōiwi tangata must be identified as originating from New Zealand; and

- Māori are to be involved in the repatriation of kōiwi tangata, including determining final resting places, where possible.

2.1 International Repatriations

Since 2004, Te Papa has carried out repatriations from 34 institutions in countries including: Great Britain, United States of America, Netherlands, Argentina, Australia and Germany. Te Papa currently holds 100 Toi moko and approximately 500 kōiwi tangata. However, a number of these were repatriated by the former National Museum prior to 1998, and many also came from the collection held by the Dominion Museum.

2.2 Domestic Repatriations

After the kōiwi tangata are returned from overseas, they undergo a period of investigation and research to collect information pertaining to their provenance.

Where provenance is achieved, discussions and negotiations are undertaken to repatriate the kōiwi tangata back to their place of origin or initial point of collection.

A general definition of provenance is the 'point of collection' or 'origin'.¹ The primary purpose of determining the provenance of kōiwi tangata, therefore, is to confirm the original collection point (for example, the burial site) or origin of the person, if that is possible. Information regarding the collector of the kōiwi tangata is also researched, where possible, to assist in confirming provenance. The Karanga Aotearoa Repatriation Programme uses a wide range of primary and secondary sources to research the provenance for kōiwi tangata.

Kōiwi tangata are sometimes removed from their place of origin by collectors, or other mechanisms including natural disturbances (such as earthquakes or flooding), trade, and theft. There are also other contexts in which kōiwi tangata can be removed from their resting places, such as archaeological excavations and commercial developments. Researching the provenance of kōiwi tangata is a very important part of the repatriation process.

¹ Oxford English Dictionary, "The fact of coming from some particular source or quarter; source, derivation."

2.3 Kōiwi Tangata Information

Te Papa records ancestral remains with a kōiwi tangata (KT) number. This numbering system is not an accession record; kōiwi tangata and Toi moko are held and cared for by Te Papa but are not accessioned into the collection. Instead, KT numbers are used to assist in the collation of information regarding particular kōiwi and these numbers help us to identify and track their place in Te Papa.

The circumstances surrounding each kōiwi tangata are very different. The amount of information available for each set of kōiwi tangata also varies greatly. Detailed records have been kept for some kōiwi tangata, while for others there is very little information at all and research has not revealed anything further. In instances where we do not have much available information, or avenues for further research, we have to rely on the accuracy of the details provided with the kōiwi tangata when they arrive at Te Papa. However every effort is made to validate all information.

With most domestic repatriations, discussions occur with an iwi and its related hapū. However, in situations where more than one iwi have an interest in a location or rohe, Te Papa holds discussions with all relevant groups.

Since the early beginnings of the repatriation work undertaken by the National Museum, 76 kōiwi tangata have been successfully domestically repatriated to their region of origin and its related iwi, including Waikaremoana, Te Tairāwhiti, Ngāti Kurī, Whanganui, Rangitāne ki Wairau, Muaūpoko, Moeraki, Ngāti Maniapoto and Ngāti Apa ki Rangitikei.

3 Tauranga Moana Kōiwi Tangata

Te Papa knows of three kōiwi tangata with prima facie links to Tauranga. Two have a definitive provenance, whilst the exact origin of the third is not recorded although the co-presenter resided in the Mātua area, the site of a significant Māori pā. The following is a summary of research compiled to support the return of these tipuna to the Tauranga Moana area.

3.1 KT000257 from Mauao/Mount Maunganui

3.1.1 Description of Skeletal Remains

This kōiwi tangata consists of a one skull which is broken in pieces with the upper and lower jaws intact. There are six teeth missing (4 from the mandible and 2 from the maxilla). PAn 281² is written on all the kōiwi. The kōiwi was earlier described by the Dominion Museum as 'Māori skull'.

3.1.2 Museum Accession Information

The skull was presented to the Dominion Museum on 22nd January 1974 by Mr David R Kent, and acknowledged by the museum on 19th March 1974.

3.1.3 The Collector and Presenter

It is not clear whether Mr Kent was the collector or merely the person who presented the kōiwi to the museum. However, it is apparent that the kōiwi was in Kent's possession for a year before it was presented to the museum.

3.1.4 Details of Collection and Location

This skull was collected in Jan 1973, whilst the collector was bulldozing in the sand dunes area of Mauao/Mount Maunganui. Despite the research efforts listed below no specific location details were found.

I Newspapers

Local newspapers, The Bay of Plenty Mirror and The Bay of Plenty Times, were checked around the collection date (1973) and the date the museum received the

² PAn (physical anthropology) numbers were used prior to register kōiwi tangata prior to the introduction of KT (kōiwi tangata) numbers.

kōiwi (1974) for any news articles pertaining to the finding. Unfortunately no information was attained.

II Archaeological Journals

The *Journal of Tauranga Historical Society* and the *Tauranga Historical Society Newsletter* were checked for any references to archaeological findings in the area. However, again, no references to the kōiwi tangata were found.

III Police Records

There were no police reports regarding this skull.

IV New Zealand Historic Places Maps and Archaeological Sites

Using a map reference of U14 for Tauranga, the archaeological site listings in the area were checked, and references to burial sites/urupā were noted. They included 152; 169; 178; 179; 189; 190; 223; 286; 329; 344; 360; 414; 554; 792; 963; 1092; 1162; 1365; 1496; 1572; 1779; 1862; 2236; 3033. None of the descriptions fitted the details of the discovery of this kōiwi tangata. Copies of the maps are given in the Appendix.

Skull, broken

PAn 281

Mt Maunganui.

1974/19

found during bulldozing in dune area.
skull in 4 pieces ; maxilla + mandible
teeth very worn.

~~8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 | X 2 3 4 5 6 7 8~~
8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

coll Jan 1973
presented DR Kent.

E

Figure 1 Copy of Original PAn Registration Card.

3.2 KT000532 from Bowentown, Tauranga

3.2.1 Description of Skeletal Remains

This kōiwi tangata consists of an incomplete lower mandible (3 teeth in mandible, all worn flat) and 8 loose teeth. There is also evidence of sand in the collection bag.

3.2.2 Details of Collection and Location

This particular kōiwi was repatriated to Te Papa from Museum Victoria (Melbourne, Australia) on 9 September 2005. The kōiwi was formally deaccessioned by the Board of Museum Victoria on 13 July 2005, the remains “being released from the Museum’s collection on 7 September 2005 and repatriated to [Te Papa on behalf of] the traditional owners for the purpose of reburial.”³ Te Papa had undertaken two prior repatriations from Victoria. The first was in 1989 when a Toi moko was returned through Māui Pōmare and the other in September 1990 with the repatriation of kōiwi and a waka tūpāpaku. Victoria Museum kept an open dialogue with Te Papa with a view to repatriating more ancestral remains as they became apparent within its collections, resulting in the repatriation of the Tauranga kōiwi and one other Tamaki Makaurau kōiwi in 2005.

Museum Victoria records document the kōiwi as being from “Bowentown, Bay of Plenty, New Zealand”. The kōiwi was given a registration number by Museum Victoria of “HB 94”. No further details are given and despite research efforts no specific location details were attained.

³ Museum Victoria, Letter of Authorisation, Sep 2005.

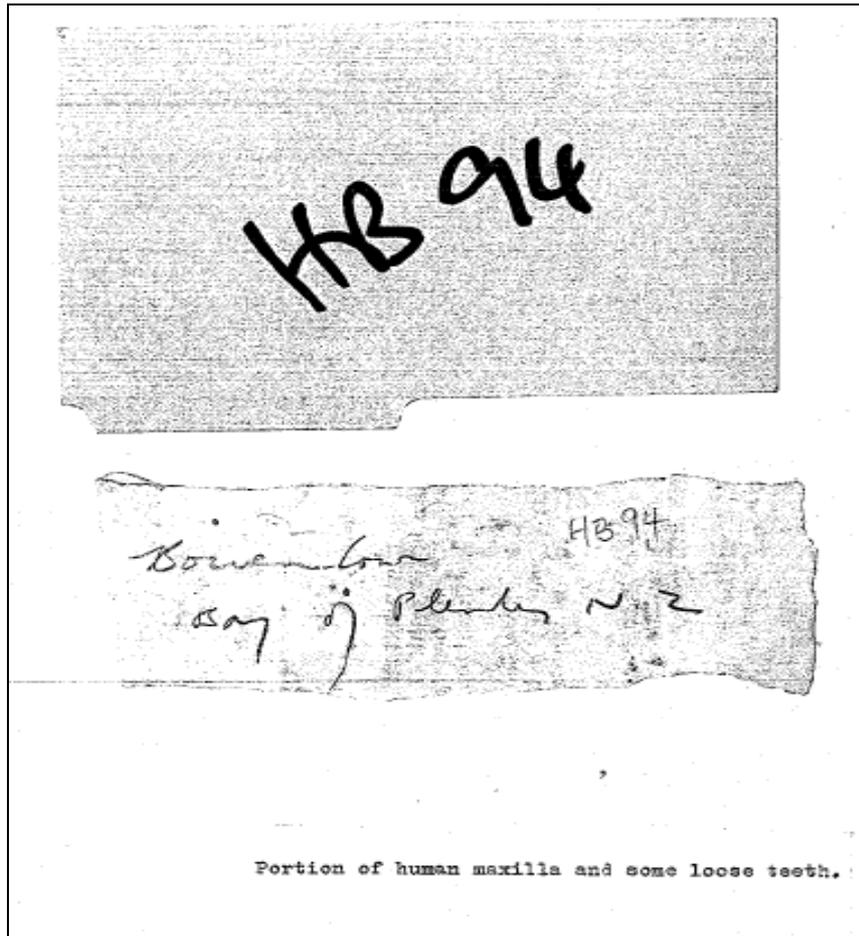


Figure 2 Copies of the Museum Victoria Registration Labels Accompanying the Kōiwi.

3.3 KT000373 possibly from Tauranga

3.3.1 Description of Skeletal Remains

This kōiwi tangata consists of a bag of bone fragments, containing: part of a skull; a lower jaw; leg bone; and other fragments. The bag also contains some loose teeth. The PAn Number is 397 and no file number is listed.

3.3.2 Details of Collection and Location

The bag containing the kōiwi is labeled “Hold till hear from NZHPT.⁴ Brought in Jan 26 1979. Mr and Mrs C Free, 23 Manuwai Drive, Tauranga Bag 4, Wellington 784 119 (business) private 784 687 until Feb 1.”

The kōiwi was therefore presented to the Dominion Museum by Mr and Mrs C. Free on 26 Jan 1979. Although it is not known where Mr and Mrs Free discovered the kōiwi, considering the significance of their residential address, it is likely that the remains were uncovered during excavations of their land, and that they registered finding the kōiwi with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust before handing them to the Museum for interim care.

I Manuwai Drive⁵

Manuwai Drive sits on the foreshore of a very significant pā site known as Mātua Iwi Pā, all other pā being offspring of the eponymous site. Located at the intersection of Matua Road and Manuwai Drive the pā is also known as Totara Pā, with other pā within the locality interpreted as its branches.

The Pā has a history reaching back to the early migrations of the 1350s and has been the site of many significant battles. Early missionary accounts include that of Reverend Henry Williams who stood on the summit of Matua Iwi and witnessed the attack by Ngā Puhi on Otumoetai Pā in 1832.

⁴ NZHPT is an acronym for the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

⁵ The information on Matua Iwi Pā was sourced from Tauranga Historical Journal, www.matua.org.nz.

The first European involvement with the area came with the survey by Lands and Survey of 100 acres, being Lot 102 Parish of Te Papa. Since that time, the land has been extensively subdivided and wāhi tapu unearthed. Over the years many have recorded finding skeleton remains and remnants of fortifications.⁶

It is therefore probable that the presenters, Mr and Mrs Free, were working on their residential land upon discovering the skeletal remains.

4 Mana Whenua: Iwi Related to Tauranga Moana

Te Papa has entered into an agreement to repatriate the aforementioned kōiwi with each of the three main tribes associated with Tauranga Moana. They are Ngāi Te Rangi, Ngāti Ranginui and Ngāti Pukenga.

⁶ See New Zealand Archaeological Association Site Record Forms, Appendix One.

Repatriation Agreement

Tauranga Moana KT 000257, KT 000532, KT 000 373

Date: 18 April 2009

Time: 10am

Location: Whareroa Marae, Tauranga

The representatives below confirm that the **Tauranga Moana Kōiwi Tangata – KT 000257, KT 000532, KT 000 373** were received from the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa on behalf of Ngāi Te Rangi, Ngāti Ranginui and Ngāti Pukenga.

Ingoa:.....

Hainatanga:.....

Michelle Hippolite – Te Kaihautū
Te Papa Tongarewa Representative

Ingoa:.....

Hainatanga:.....

Name:
Ngāi Te Rangi

Ingoa:.....

Hainatanga:.....

Name:
Ngāti Ranginui

Ingoa:.....

Hainatanga:.....

Name

Ngāti Pukenga

Appendix One: New Zealand Historic Places Trust Archaeological Records