

HENARE KING

Tinana Te Waka

The book “The Tail of the Fish” was published in 1968 and written by a Te Aupouri kuia, Matire Kereama (nee: Hoeft) of the far north of Aotearoa, New Zealand. I grew up with this book as my grandmother would read the stories to me at bedtime. Although my comprehension of each story was very vague and unrelatable to my life at that time, today, I find myself totally absorbed by the historical content and knowledge encapsulated in each chapter.

I completed a Masters of Applied Indigenous Knowledge at Te Wananga o Aotearoa in 2017, entitled; Tales of the singing fish: He tangi wairua. I composed twelve waiata (Maori songs) of which ten of the waiata was information extracted from ten chapters of the book. The other two waiata were composed specifically for my people of the Te Rarawa tribe, namely, Ahipara.

This waiata acknowledges the tribal landmarks and boundaries of the Te Rarawa tribe which is located in Ahipara. Tūmoana was the chief of the waka (canoe) Tinana. The prestigious mountain Whanagatauatia stands majestically above our marae, Roma and the famous shoreline of Te Tai o Whāro (the ocean). The whakapapa (genealogy) of the Tinana waka is important to the whānau (families) of Ahipara as it connects the blood lines of the people who reside there.

The chief of the canoe was Tūmoana, his eldest son was Tamahotu whose son was Houpure whose son was Patito whose son was Toakai whose son was Toka whose son was Rotokakahi whose son was Murihara whose son was Kanga who married Taiuru. Tamahotu, Houpure, Patito and Toakai are the names

of the tūpuna (ancestors) carved on the meeting house Te Ohāki
at Roma marae.

Tinana te waka
Tūmoana te tangata
Ko Whangatauatia te māunga e
Ko Roma te marae
Te Tai o Whāro te mōana
Ko Te Rarawa te iwi e