

TAINUI WAKA

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE TAINUI WAKA TO TŪPUNA MĀORI AND TO IWI TODAY .

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Our Tūpuna Māori waka:

How did the waka come to Aotearoa? (In **YOUR OWN WORDS** briefly describe the Pūrākau of Hoturoa and Tainui):

The first ever ancestor to arrive to Aotearoa from Hawaiki was Kupe. He had travelled out of Hawaiki around 950 AD, set sail in a waka called Maataa-hourua and discovered the land he had named Aotearoa. Upon his arrival back to Hawaiki, he had shared stories about the land he had found and that story was passed down which had sparked an interest from the later descendants and inspired them to explore this land named Aotearoa. In 1350AD, Hawaiki was going through a rough time so a leader named Hotorua and his people had decided to set sail for Aotearoa using Kupe's instructions. They built a canoe themselves and it took a long time for the waka to be built. When it was finally finished, it was named Tainui by one of Hoturoa's wives.

Collective Maumaharatanga and the Tainui Waka

Collective maumaharatanga is a concept that relates to the significance of the Tainui waka landings. This concept relates to the commemoration of the arrival of the Tainui waka, its landings, and how that's been shown through how places throughout New Zealand have been named. For example, when the Tainui waka had reached a body of water after using the waka for shelter, the captain of the waka (Hoturoa) was worried that the waka wouldn't be able to go over the treacherous mudflats. This was called Te Manukanuka o Hoturoa, and the Manukau Harbour had inherited its name from this event. Another example of the significance of the Tainui waka is where the name of the suburb Otahuhu came from, where at some point of the journey in New Zealand the Tainui waka was flipped over and used as shelter for the people of the waka. The name 'Tahuhu' comes from the saying 'te tahuhu tanga o te waka Tainui', and the name Otahuhu emerged and was used to name the suburb. These are only a few examples of how collective maumaharatanga is used today to signify the Tainui waka landings in New Zealand.



Image of Manukau Harbour from afar

Collective Maumaharatanga and the Tainui Waka

Another way that collective maumaharatanga has taken place regarding the Tainui waka in New Zealand is through events. An event that is held to commemorate the Tainui waka is the Portage Crossing Event, or, Portage Waka Ama. This event takes place in Tamaki Makaurau and more specifically by the Waterfront Reserve Mangere Bridge. It's a lighthearted event that involves a big race as the main event and has some music and food stalls on the side. The purpose of this event is to commemorate and bring awareness to the arrival of the Tainui waka in New Zealand. As said by the event founder and race coordinator, James Papali'i, in the waatea news article about the Portage Crossing Event, *"educating our community about the discovery of our area and the naming of this place is essential in reminding us of the significance of Tainui waka. It is an important acknowledgement of our history"*. That means this event does the important job of educating people about New Zealand history and the discovery of the names of certain places. This shows how the Tainui waka is commemorated through the concept of collective maumaharatanga.



Image of Portage Waka Ama event in 2020

Tuakiri and the Tainui Waka

One way the arrival of the Tainui Waka shows significance is through the boundaries that were established after its settlement, which relates to the concept of Tuakiri. The concept of Tuakiri relates to the established boundaries of the Tainui waka because it shapes the identity of the Tainui descendants. There are many tribes in the Waikato region that trace their ancestry back to the Tainui waka. In our population of almost 5 million people, in 2018, there were about 70,474 people who identified to be descendants of the Tainui waka. More than 700 years ago, the Tainui waka had made its final destination on the Kaawhia coast where the descendants settled on the land around that area. Much later, tribes were established in places like Waikato, Hauraki, Maniapoto and Raukawa, to name a few. These boundaries that had been established have stayed the same even to the present day. These boundaries have helped shape the identity of the Tainui waka descendants, as they know where their ancestors have come from and when they arrived. This shows how the Tainui waka landings have shaped the identity of their descendants, and the significance of this event to those people.



Image of the Tainui waka boundaries

Tuakiri and the Tainui Waka

Another way that the concept of Tuakiri is related to the significance of the Tainui waka is through how it affirms the identity of their descendants. One way that the Tainui waka landings affirm those identities is through pepeha, and the mention of the Tainui waka in the pepeha of those descendants. A pepeha is a formal greeting used by Maori people to introduce themselves. The things that are mentioned in a pepeha are your name, mothers name, fathers name, name of your mountain, name of your ocean, name of your waka, your tribe/iwi, your marae and it can include much more. A pepeha holds a person's identity, who they are and where they've come from. In the pepeha, the name of your waka is mentioned. The reason why is because knowing which waka you've descended from tells a lot about your identity and your ancestors. For example, those who are descendants of the Tainui waka would use that in their pepeha, and knowing that they're from the Tainui waka gives them insight of who their ancestors were and how they arrived in New Zealand. It also helps with understanding why you call the area you reside in home. The way the Tainui waka helps affirm the identity of its descendants is through pepeha.

Example of a pepeha for someone from the Waikato-Tainui tribe

Waikato-Tainui Pepeha

Ko Tainui te Waka
 Ko Taupiri te Maunga,
 Ko Waikato te Awa
 Ko Potatau Te
 Wherowhero te Tangata.
 Waikato Taniwharau
 He Piko He Taniwha, He
 Piko He Taniwha.