

He Pitopito Kōrero mo tērā whenua i te pūtake o te maunga o Tihīōtonga

The blocks of land that incorporate this area where Ōtonga school is today, are Rotomahana – Parekārangi to the south, Kaitāo –Rotohokahoka to the west, Pukeroa Ōruawhata to the north, and Ngapuna to the east. The Tihīōtonga block is a triangular block within the boundaries of those block I've mentioned before.

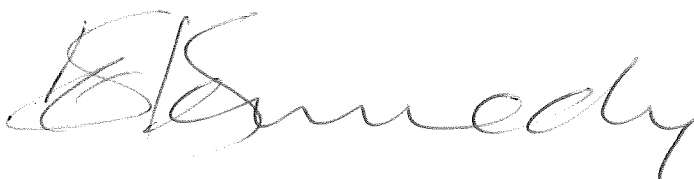
Ōtonga School is situated within the Pukeroa Ōruawhata Block. The river nearest the school is the Utuhina River. Tangatarua is the name of a peak on the Pukeroa Ōruawhata and Tihīōtonga boundaries close to where the Waiāriki Institute of Technology is. Tangatarua the ancestor descends from the Tūhourangi – Ngāti Wāhiāo people. His grandfather was Wāhiāo. He lived on the land where the Tihīōtonga block is today. He was a peacemaker. Before the coming of the European, there were 5 subtribes of Te Ārawa living on the Tihīōtonga block, Ngāti Whakaue, Tūhourangi – Ngāti Wāhiāo, Ngāti Tamaihutoroa, Ngāti Kearoa and Ngāti Tuarā. Behind Tangatarua peak is also another peak near the peak of the ranges called Tihīōtonga, directly behind the Waiāriki Institute of Technology. Another 2 peaks near to Ōtonga School to the west of Tangatarua & Tihīōtonga are call Mōrere and Pukemaire. The old pā sites nearest to Ōtonga School were, Te Hīnau, Hārua and Ngātautara, Ngātautara being the closest to the school, and the names of the blocks of lands within the Tihīōtonga block are Waipapa, Tomokia, Te Paiaka, Whārikiriki, Ngākahu, Te Waimutu and Te Karaka.

Te Hīnau – A pā on a ridge on the east side of the Utuhina River.

Hārua – A fortified pā east of the Utuhina River also. It's original name was Whārua. It was originally occupied by the Ngāti Tamaihutoroa, and was attacked and captured by the descendants of Uenukukōpako. Other pā nearby were also taken by them, Pukehangi and Ngātautara, and subsequently, Hārua was reoccupied by Ngāti Tuarā.

Ngātautara – This pā site marked the south- west point of the original Rotorua township Pukeroa Ōruawhata boundary. This pā belonged to the Ngāti Tamaihutoroa and got its name from a noted chief at that time. It was attacked and taken by the descendants of Uenukukōpao, and was still under construction at the time, there is still evidence of that pā today. Further historically it is said to have been attacked by Ngāti Kearoa, Ngāti Tuarā, and Ngāti Manawa. At that time it was occupied by Te Rangiriwhare, ans unfortunately, Hineuru, Te Rangiriwhare's wife was killed, and two were lucky to escape the battle, Maihi and Pūwhara.

Nākū noa,



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Kaumātua Te Ārawa / Waiāriki Institute of Technology