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Comments Tēna tātau, all lands in Te Whānau Ā Apanui are taonga to us. The mana of all of these lands from Te Taumata A Apanui to Pōtikirua comes through centuries of occupation and guardianship. There are many taura herenga or genealogical links from the lines of Porou Ariki Te Matatara A Whare Te Tuhi Mareikura O Rauru, to Tamatea Arikini right through to Pawa, Hine Hākirirangi and Kiwa, right through to our kuia Muriwai who put the rāhui on Te Moana A Toi Te Huatahi mai i Ngā Kuri A Whārei ki Tihirau. Right through to Mōtatau Mai Tawhiti, Tuariki and Torerenuiarua and more importantly Toi Te Huatahi. All of these lines converges down to us the descendants of Te Whānau A Āpanui. More importantly in the case of Whanarua Bay (A.K.A Te Uruhi) Te Whānau A Rangiiirunga. The handing over of the Whanarua Reserve will enable our whānau to have custodianship and be more involved with the well being of the whenua and the bay itself. The mana of Rangiiirunga comes down to our tīpuna Wīrepa he said "Ko Motuaruhe taku kainga". Motuaruhe being the lands in Whanarua Bay. We are direct descendants of Wīrepa. We say that Motuaruhe, Te Uruhi, Whanarua is our home, is who we are and part of our identity as people of Te Whānau A Rangiiirunga, Te Whānau A Apanui and direct descendants of Wīrepa.
