

Where did the Tamatea name come from?

We know that Dad's father was Te Waati but where did the name "Tamatea" come from?

It most likely came from Te Waati's wife, Ngakaraehe's, side of the family. Although on Dad's birth certificate Ngakaraehe's last name is listed as "Simon" we know (see Taiaroa/Jones connection notes) Ngakaraehe was one of eight children born to Hurangi Huatau(f) and Taimona Tamatea. Ngakaraehe was also known as "Tira Tamatea"...

It is possible, perhaps, that originally the name derived from *Tamatea Ure Haea* who it is believed was the first to explore the Wanganui river.

Tamatea is also credited with naming places on the river.

He is said to have met with Turi (from the Aotea canoe) by the lower reaches of the river. Before going ashore, Tamatea's son *Kahungunu* had his slave tie his hair in a topknot. A type of flax called *whara-nui* was used. Tamatea named the place *Putiki-Whare-Nui-A-Tamatea-Pokai-Whenua* (the place where Tamatea was knotted with flax?)...today Putiki is the site of a famous carved meeting house.

From here Tamatea and his party travelled up the river...and gave names to *Tangarakau* (where he deepened his canoe) and *Tangahoe* (where he stopped to cut paddles). In the upper reaches of the river he named places used to by-pass the rapids...*Tuhoro Matangi* (The Wax and Wane of the Wind) and *Riri a Tau* (after a strong wind that blows at certain times of the year). After reaching the headwaters Tamatea and his party continued their journey, dragging their waka to Taupo.

..Extract from Ngati Apa Manawhenua Report: Wai 265 claim:

"Ngati Tamatea is a sub-group of Ngati Apa located in the Central Rangitikei district....

"Tamatea is also the name for the moon of the sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth nights....

"Tamatea is a descendant of both Ika and Tumoetere...his full name was Tamateanini....

