



Toru Papakāinga

Wairarapa Maunga

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Mehemea koe ka tuoho, meinga ki te maunga teitei

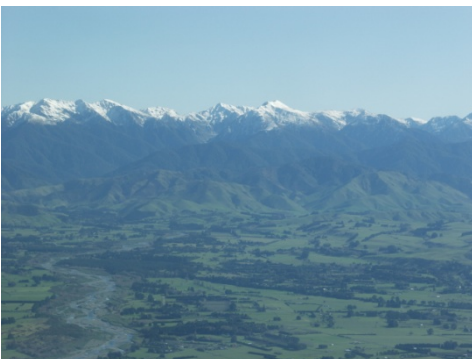
If you should bow to greatness, let it be to a lofty mountain

Rangitūmau

Rangitūmau can be seen from throughout 'Te Kauru', the upper Ruamahanga River valley, from Carterton to Pukaha Mount Bruce. While resting Haunuihanaia saw a mountain in the distance that he thought was holding up the sky and he called this Rangitūmau. It is a symbol of permanence and strength.

Tararua

Tararua is the central mountain range to the west of the Wairarapa valley. There are several versions of how these mountains got their name. The earliest version is that Whatonga, Captain of the Kurahaupo waka, away from home for a long time, imagined that the mountains represented the reclining bodies of his wives.



Tararua maunga (Source: Greater Wellington, unknown date)

Remutaka

At the bottom of the North Island, Remutaka separates Wairarapa from Wellington. Remutaka means “to sit down and rest” as described in the story of Haunuiānaia.

Maungarake

Maungarake maunga is the mountain range to the west of Gladstone. It continues down to the south east of Martinborough. Maungarake can mean ‘bare’ or ‘barren mountain’. As with other maunga many pa and Papakāinga have been built on Maungarake for centuries.

Weraiti

Weraiti maunga are the range of hills directly to the east of Masterton whose southern most point is near Wardells bridge at Te Whiti. Otahua or Bennetts hill with the telecommunications tower atop is the most prominent point.

Aorangi

The Aorangi mountain range is located in the south eastern corner of the Wairarapa. The name Aorangi is an ancient one that was transferred from Polynesia to many mountains within New Zealand. The name means ‘cloud or light of heaven’ and refers to the light that remains on the upper heights of a mountain when the world below is shrouded in shadow.

Puketoi

Puketoi maunga is associated most closely with people in the northern parts of the Wairarapa. Puketoi means ‘fast moving hill’ after the story of Okatia a supernatural being who possessed a giant totara log. Okatia lived in the mountains but made a journey to the western ocean carving out the Manawatu River along the way.