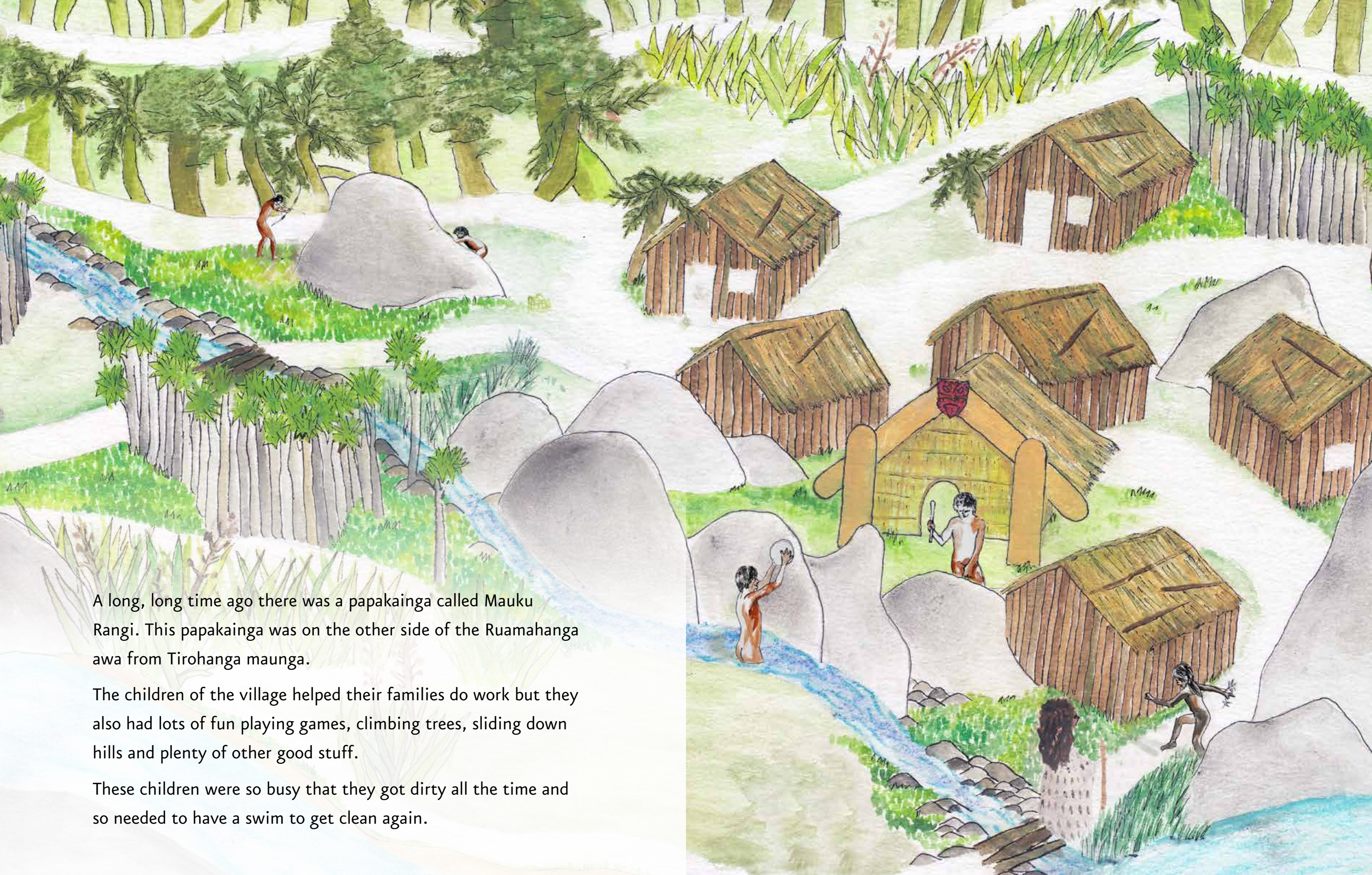




The taniwha of Tirohanga

A story by Joseph Potangaroa
and illustrated by Fleur Laut

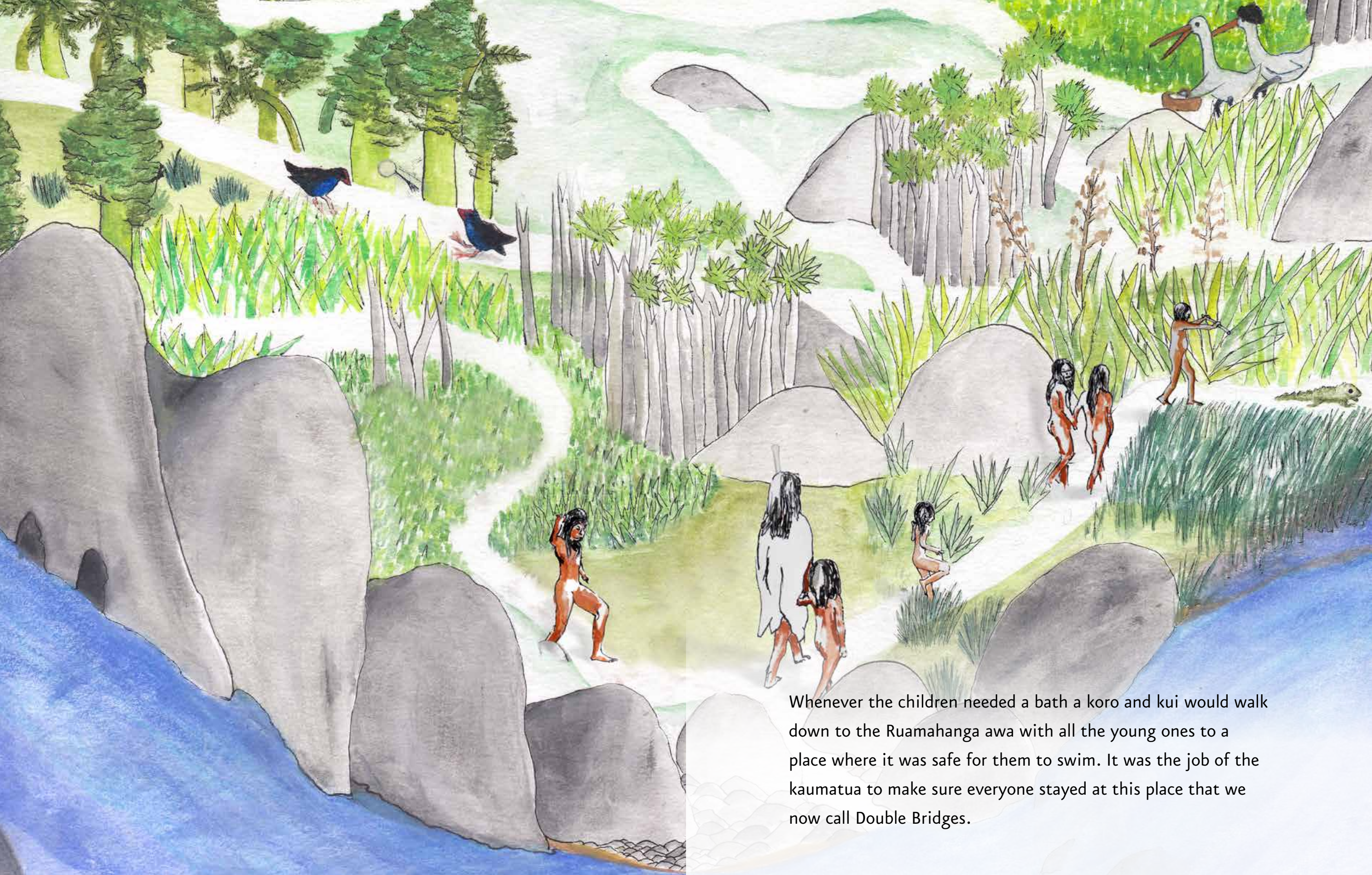




A long, long time ago there was a papakainga called Mauku Rangi. This papakainga was on the other side of the Ruamahanga awa from Tirohanga maunga.

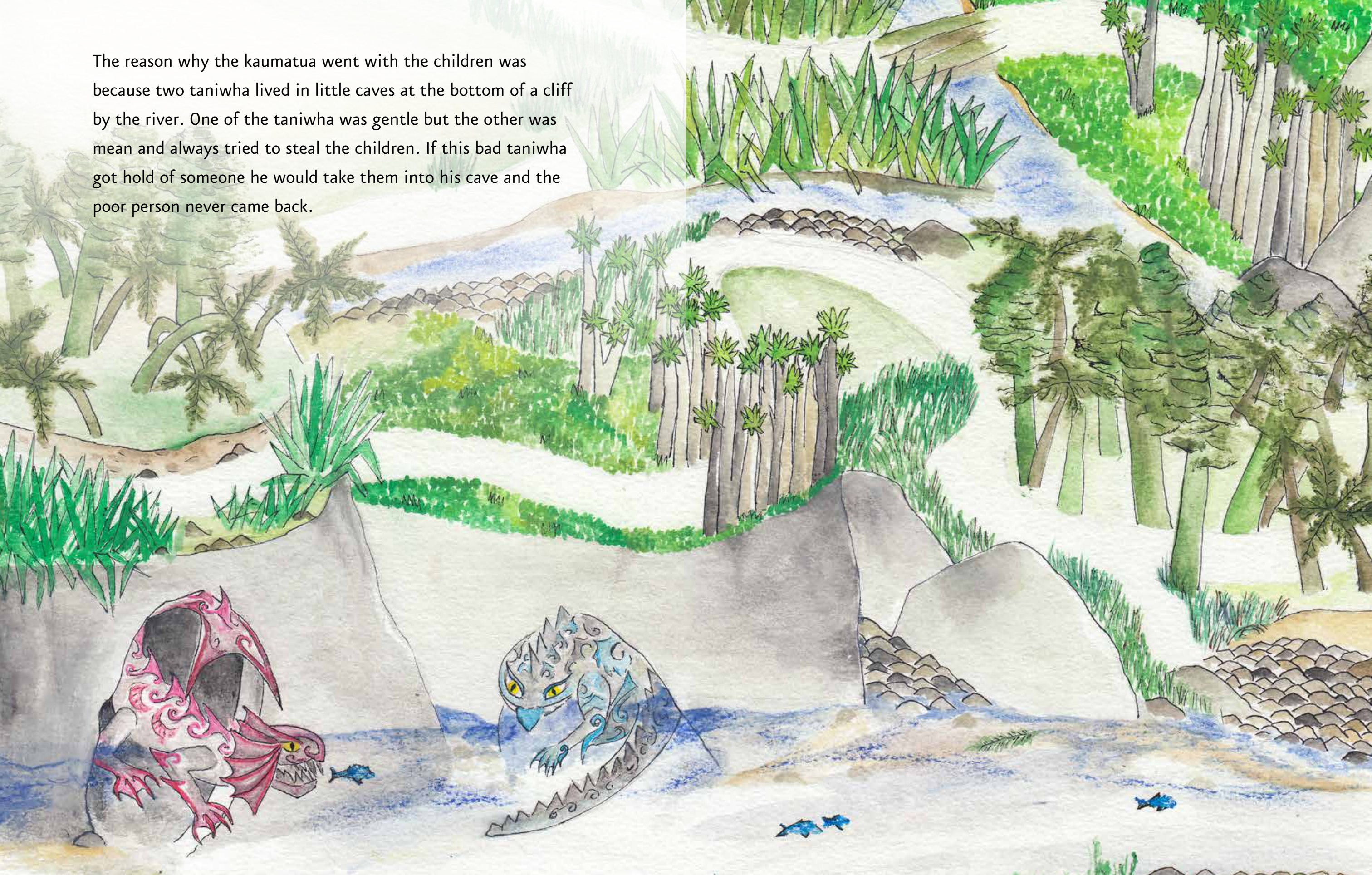
The children of the village helped their families do work but they also had lots of fun playing games, climbing trees, sliding down hills and plenty of other good stuff.

These children were so busy that they got dirty all the time and so needed to have a swim to get clean again.



Whenever the children needed a bath a koro and kui would walk down to the Ruamahanga awa with all the young ones to a place where it was safe for them to swim. It was the job of the kaumatua to make sure everyone stayed at this place that we now call Double Bridges.

The reason why the kaumatua went with the children was because two taniwha lived in little caves at the bottom of a cliff by the river. One of the taniwha was gentle but the other was mean and always tried to steal the children. If this bad taniwha got hold of someone he would take them into his cave and the poor person never came back.



The kaumatua would sit in between the taniwha and the children.

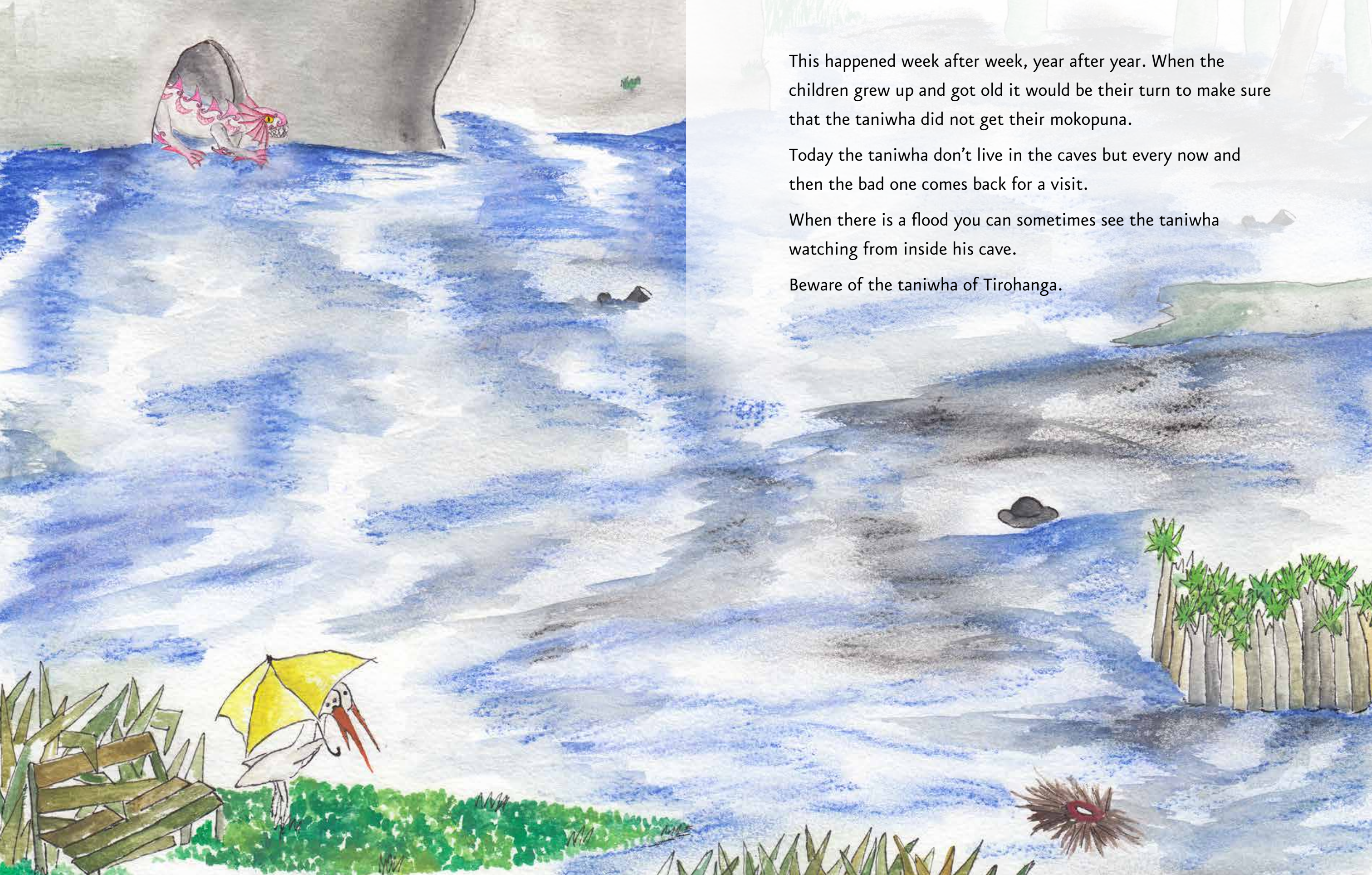




If the wise old man and lady saw the children were getting to close they would tell them to go back. If they saw the taniwha trying to sneak up to grab a child they would shout...



AWAY



This happened week after week, year after year. When the children grew up and got old it would be their turn to make sure that the taniwha did not get their mokopuna.

Today the taniwha don't live in the caves but every now and then the bad one comes back for a visit.

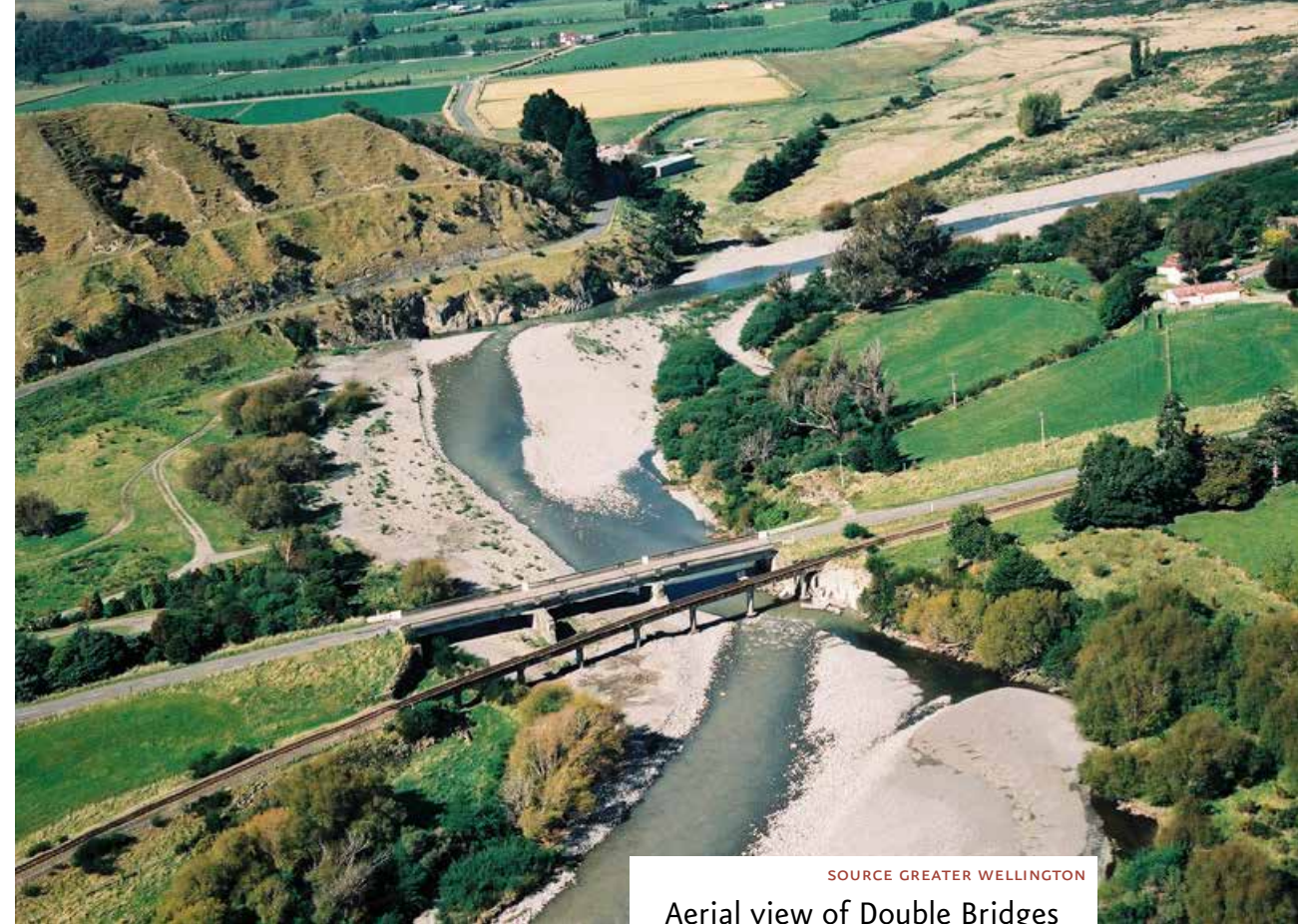
When there is a flood you can sometimes see the taniwha watching from inside his cave.

Beware of the taniwha of Tirohanga.



PHOTO JOSEPH POTANGAROA

THE RUAMAHANGA RIVER WITH A STRONG CURRENT FLOWING INTO THE TANIWHA CAVES



SOURCE GREATER WELLINGTON

Aerial view of Double Bridges

PLACE LOCATIONS

Ruamahanga awa	<i>Main river of the Ruamahanga River valley, Wairarapa</i>
Tirohanga maunga	<i>Days Hill</i>
Mauku Rangi papakainga	<i>On Mokonui hill corner of Opaki Kaiparoro Road and State Highway 2 intersection</i>

GLOSSARY

papakainga	<i>village</i>
awa	<i>river</i>
koro	<i>grandfather aged man</i>
kui	<i>grandmother aged woman</i>
kaumatua	<i>grandparent aged adults</i>
taniwha	<i>supernatural being or reason to be careful at a place</i>
mokopuna	<i>younger relatives</i>



Tirohanga Sign

About this resource

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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This learning resource is one of a series of eight. They have been produced to promote Rangitāne o Wairarapa language, history and tikanga. They have been written for children, mainly for under 5s although the te reo versions especially are suitable for older children and teachers. All eight are written in both English and te reo Māori.

The resources have been written by **Joseph Potangaroa**. Illustrations by **Mikis van Geffen** of Design Unlimited and **Fleur Laut**. Translations by **Astee Karaitiana** and **Mike Kawana**.

Specialist advice was gratefully received from early childhood teachers **Michelle Potangaroa** of PAUA Early Childhood Home Based Care Services, **Susie Wilmshurst** of Masterton Christian Childcare Centre, **Karen Blade** of Una Williams Kindergarten and **Astee Karaitiana**. Special thanks to **Gaye Sutton** storyteller and Wairarapa REAP.

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