

# THE STORY OF NGARARA HUARAU

TEXT PAUL ANDERSEN / JOSEPH POTANGAOA

ILLUSTRATION MIKIS VAN GEFEN



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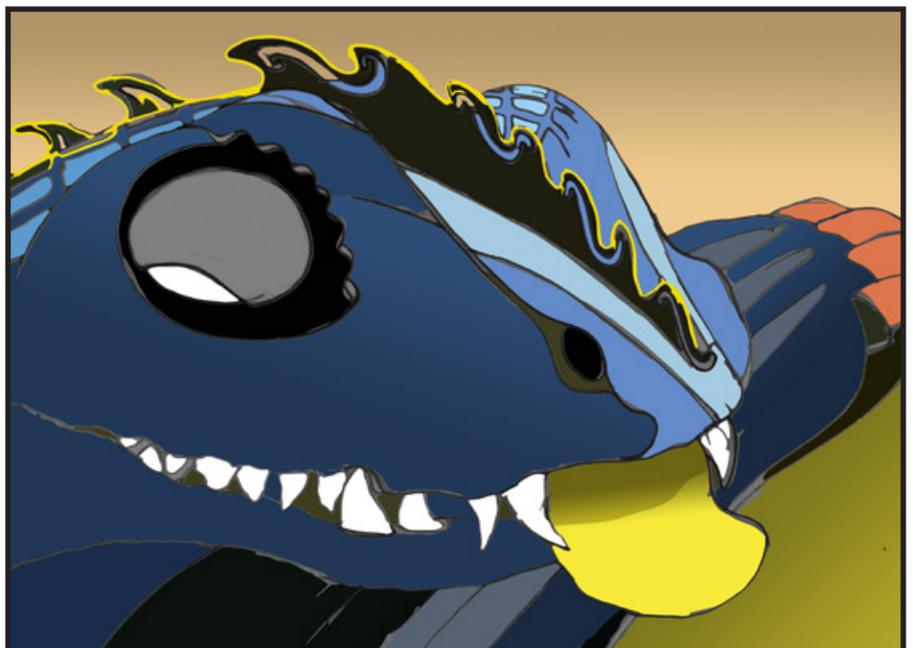
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LONG AGO ALL WAS QUIET ON THE HERETAUNGA\* PLAINS,  
THE PEOPLE LIVE IN PEACE, FOOD IS PLENTIFUL, LIFE IS GOOD

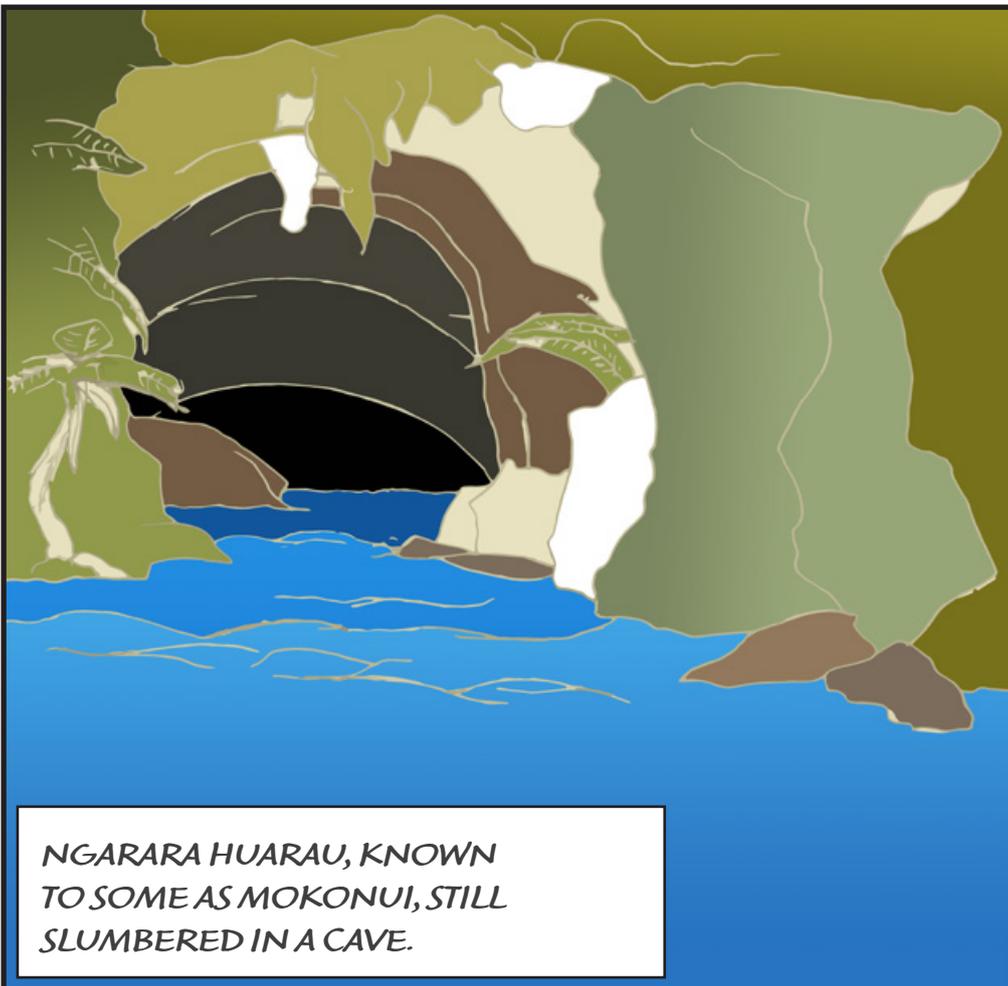
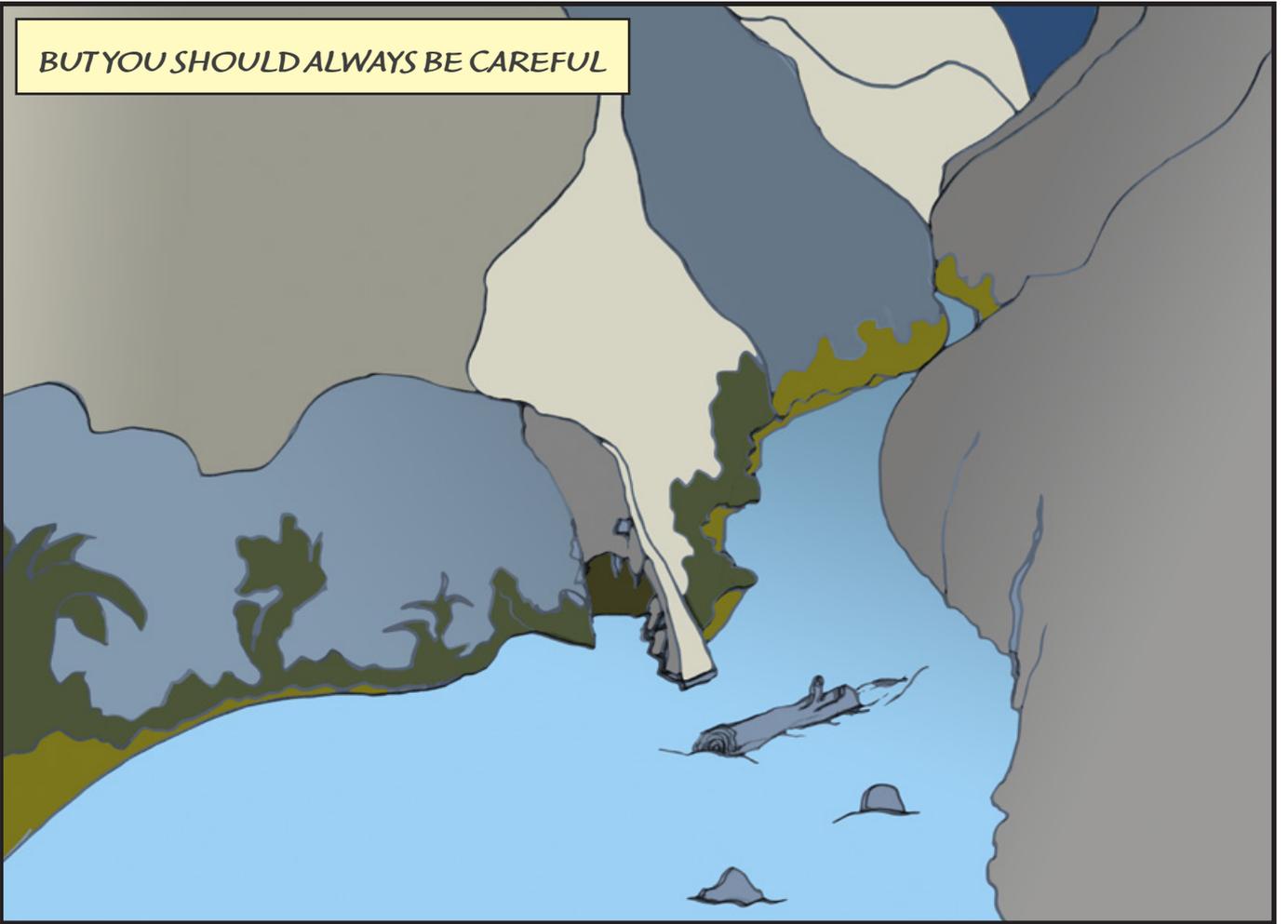
\*TODAY WE SAY HAWKES BAY BUT THAT  
PLACE WAS ONCE CALLED HERETAUNGA.



MOST HAD  
FORGOTTEN  
THE TALES OF  
NGARARA  
HUARAU



BUT YOU SHOULD ALWAYS BE CAREFUL



NGARARA HUARAU, KNOWN TO SOME AS MOKONUI, STILL SLUMBERED IN A CAVE.



YEAR IN AND YEAR OUT WATER RUNNING OVER ROCKS MUFFLED HIS LOUD SNORING.

THE PEOPLE LIVED PEACEFULLY UNAWARE OF THE EVIL LURKING BENEATH THEIR FEET

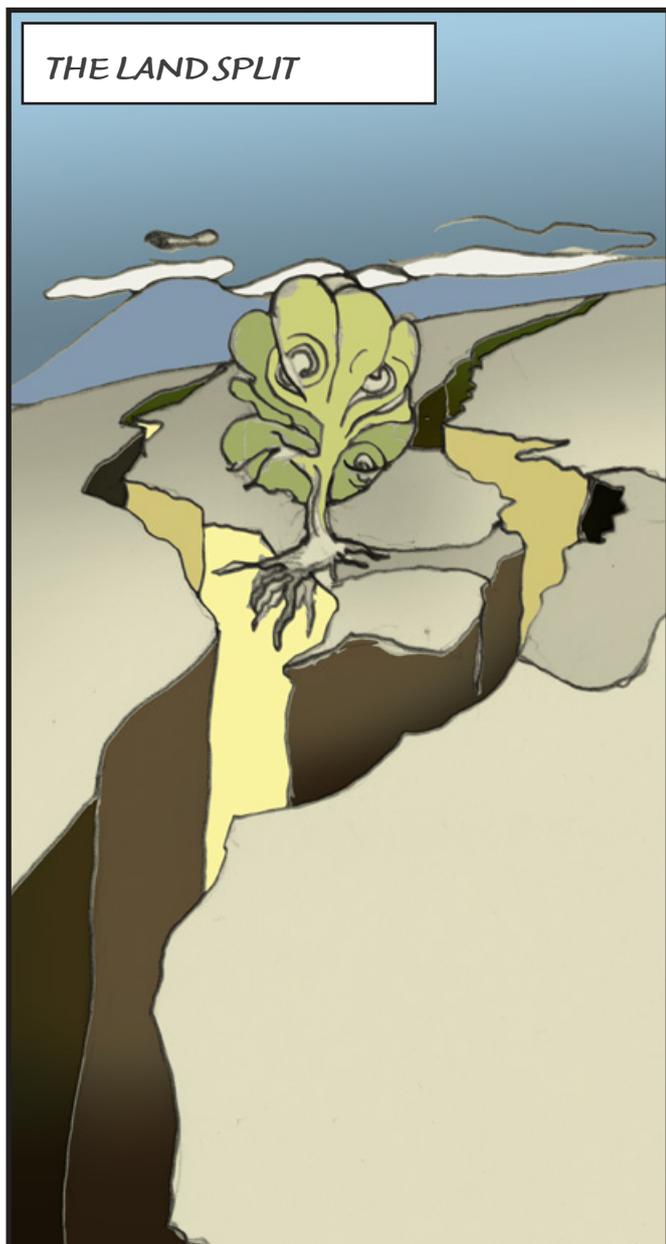


UNTIL...





THE GROUND SHOOK

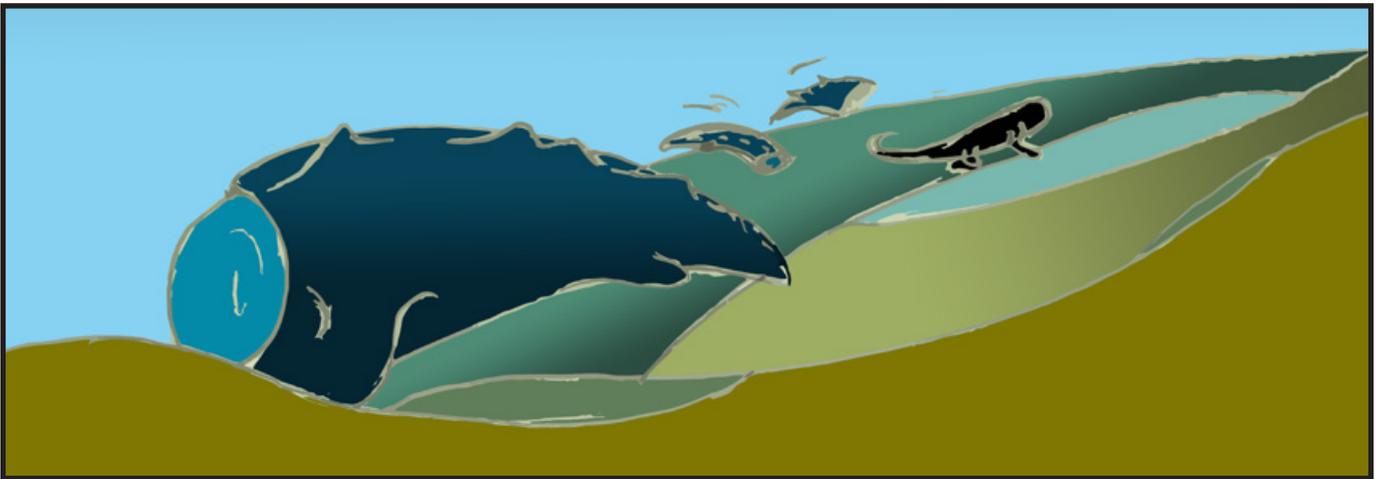
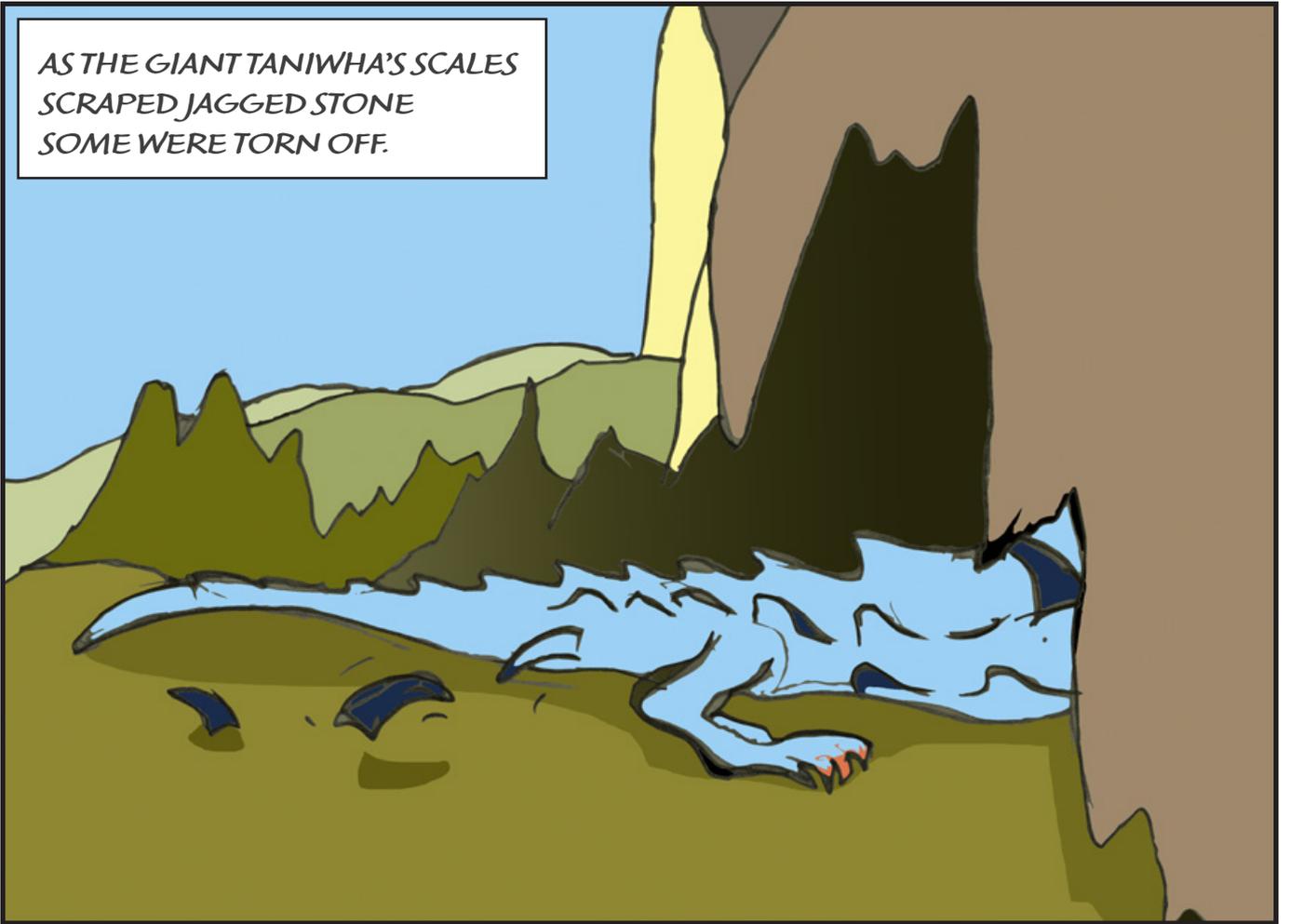


THE LAND SPLIT

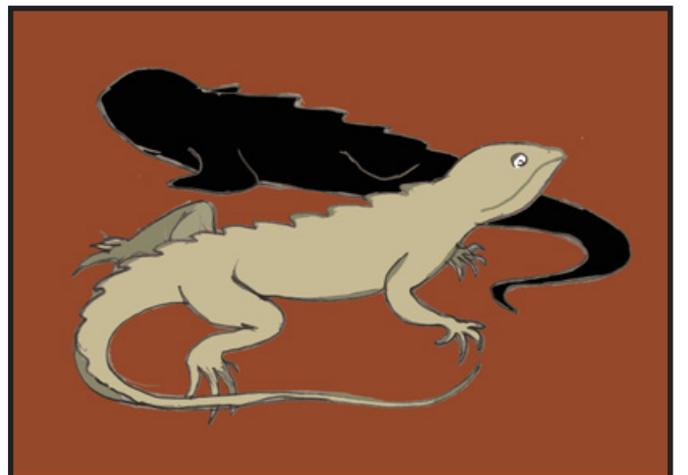
HUGE RAZOR SHARP  
TALONS SHATTERED  
THE EARTH



AS THE GIANT TANIWHA'S SCALES  
SCRAPED JAGGED STONE  
SOME WERE TORN OFF.



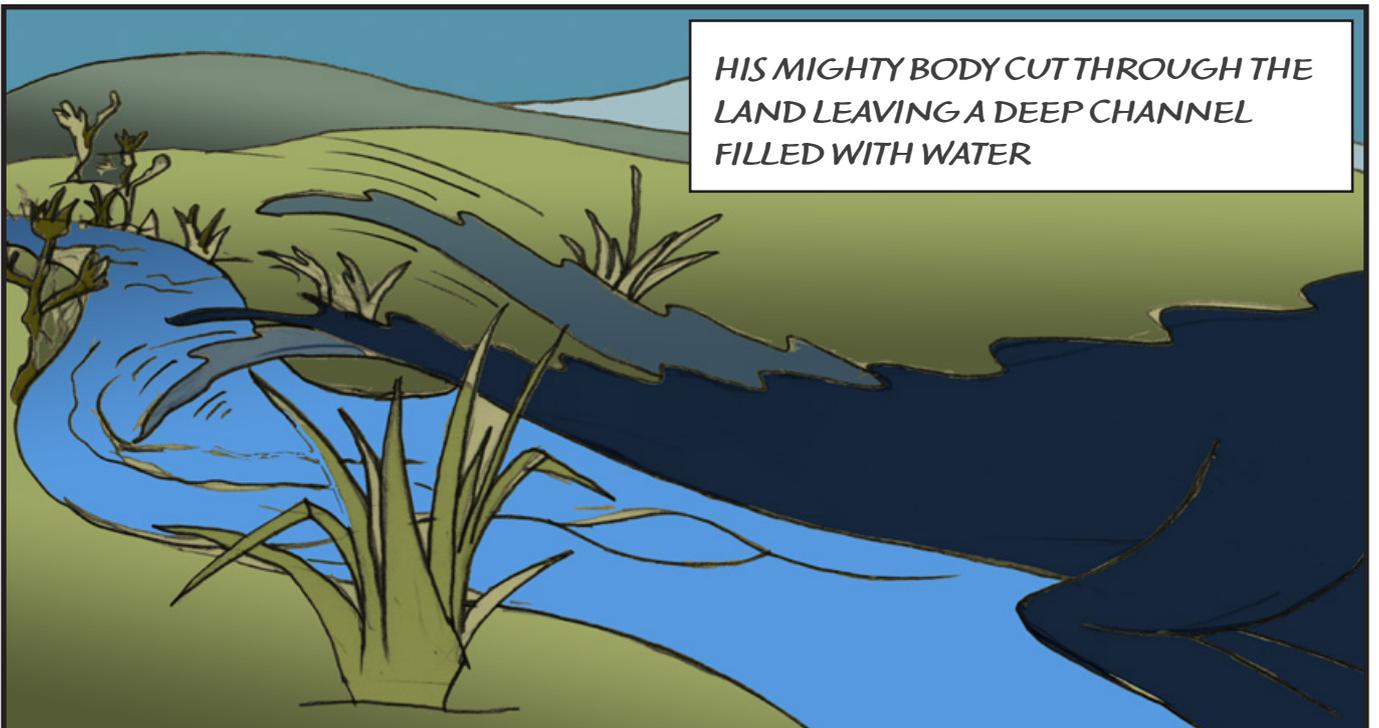
THE FALLEN SCALES TURN INTO  
TUATARA, A NEW SPECIES WAS BORN



FILLED WITH TERROR THE PEOPLE WHO COULD, FLED FROM THEIR HOMES



HIS MIGHTY BODY CUT THROUGH THE LAND LEAVING A DEEP CHANNEL FILLED WITH WATER



NGARARA HUARAU ARRIVED AT THE PACIFIC OCEAN  
- TE MOANA-NUI-A-KIWA.  
HE CAUGHT A FAMILIAR SCENT...



...AND THRUSTED HIS MASSIVE BODY OUT INTO THE WATERS



HIS JOURNEY  
TOOK HIM  
SOUTH  
ALONG THE  
COAST

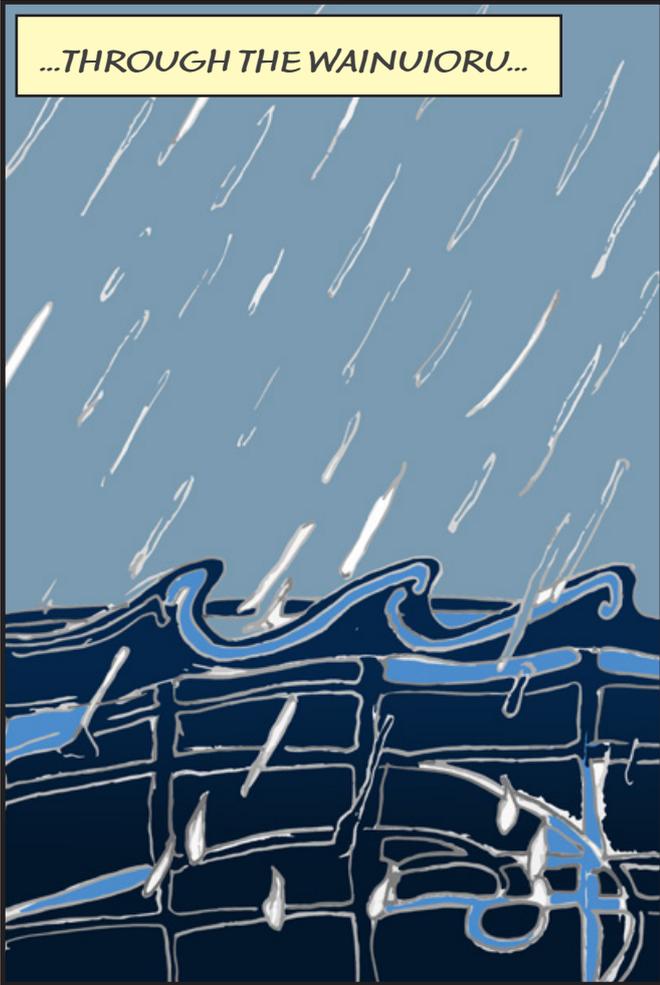


WHERE HE STOPPED AT  
EVERY RIVER MOUTH  
SEARCHING FOR THE  
SCENT OF HIS SISTER  
PARIKAWHITI

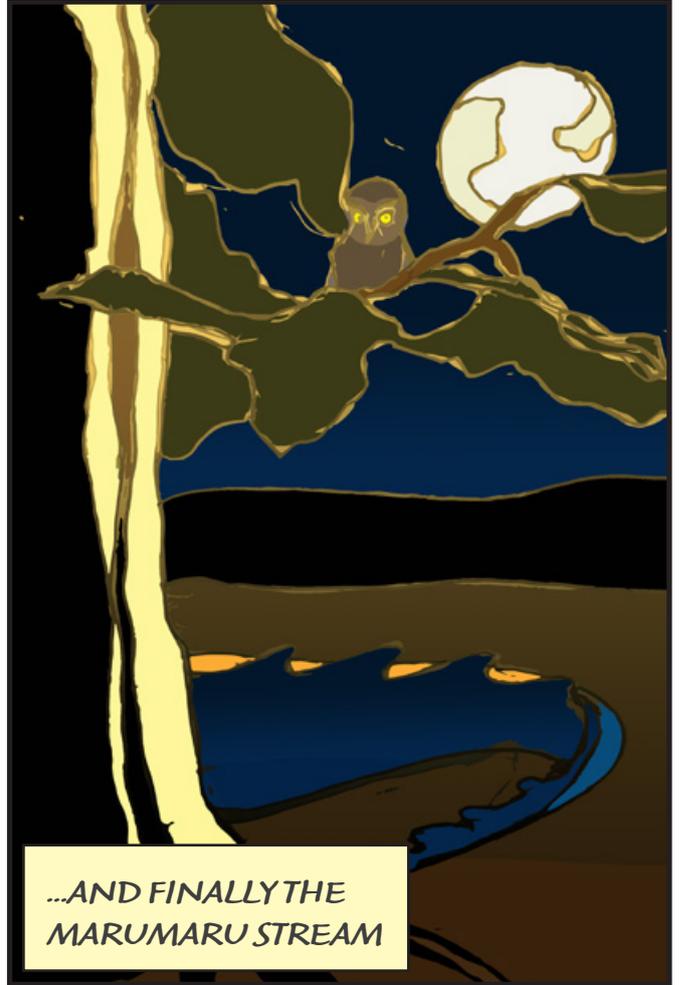
HIS JOURNEY TOOK HIM UP THE PAHAOA RIVER...



...THROUGH THE WAINUIORU...



...AND FINALLY THE  
MARUMARU STREAM



AT THE MAUNGARAKE HILLS HE KNEW  
HIS SISTER WAS NEAR.



HE CLIMBED UP MAUNGARAKE BUT IT WAS STEEP. HE STRUGGLES SO THAT HIS MASSIVE FOOTPRINTS WERE LEFT ON THE GROUND.



AT THE TOP HE RESTED BUT SMELT SOMETHING HE LIKED. HUMAN FLESH.

HE THOUGHT, "I WILL MAKE MY HOME IN THE KOURARAU VALLEY".



FROM THERE HE REACHED HIS SISTER PARIKAWHITI

THIS PLACE IS NOW CALLED TE ANGA O PARIKAWHITI





I MISSED YOU  
SO MUCH SIS

AFTER MAKING  
HIS LAIR IN THE  
KOURARAU VALLEY  
PEOPLE STARTED  
DISAPPEARING



DAD AHHH!!

THE PEOPLE WERE CONSUMED  
WHOLE LEAVING NOTHING BEHIND



WITH NGARARA HUARAU'S UNQUENCHABLE HUNGER IT BECAME OBVIOUS  
TO THE PEOPLE THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO KILL THE TANIWHA BEFORE HE  
DEVOURED THEM ALL



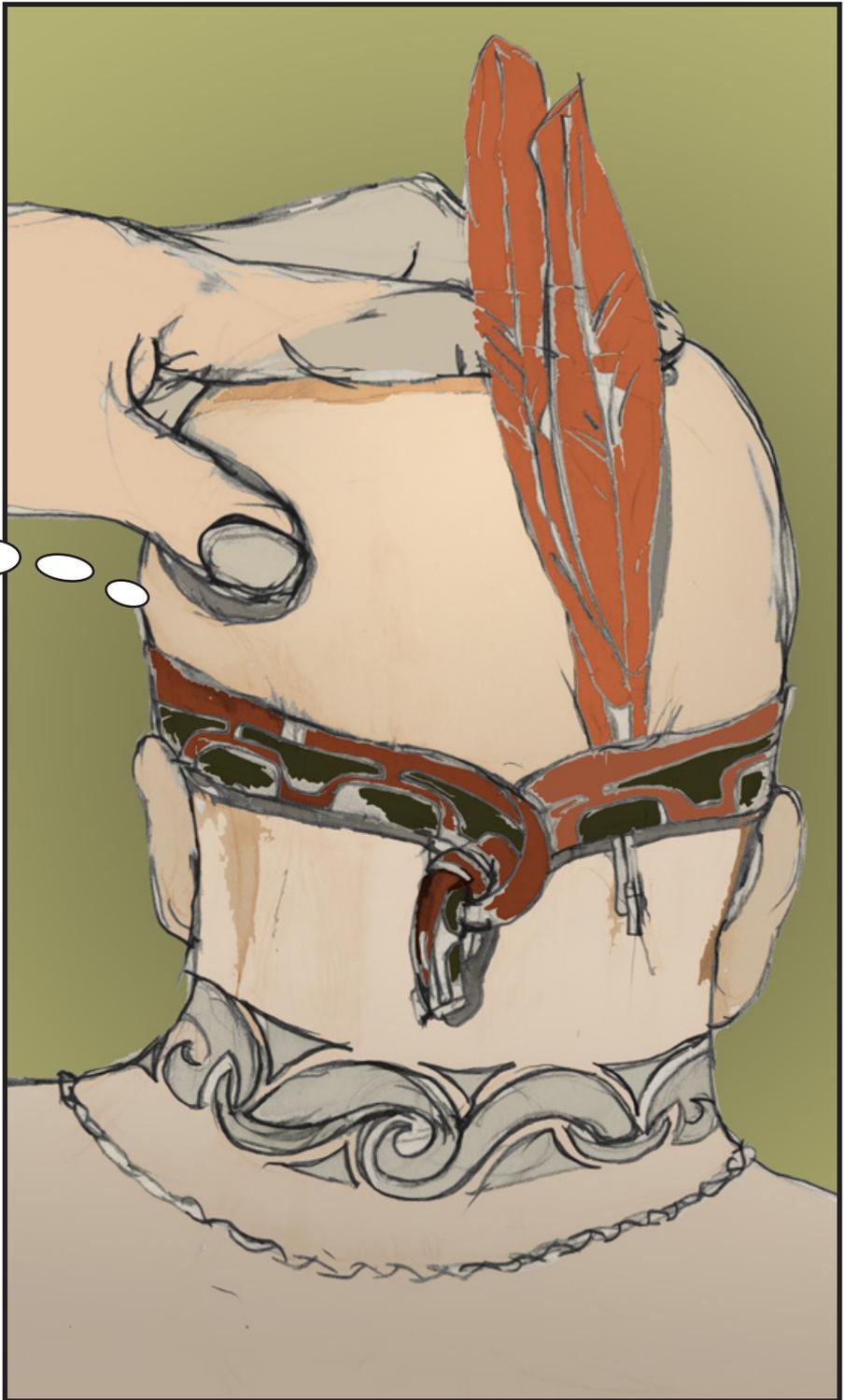




HOW IS THIS MY PROBLEM ?!

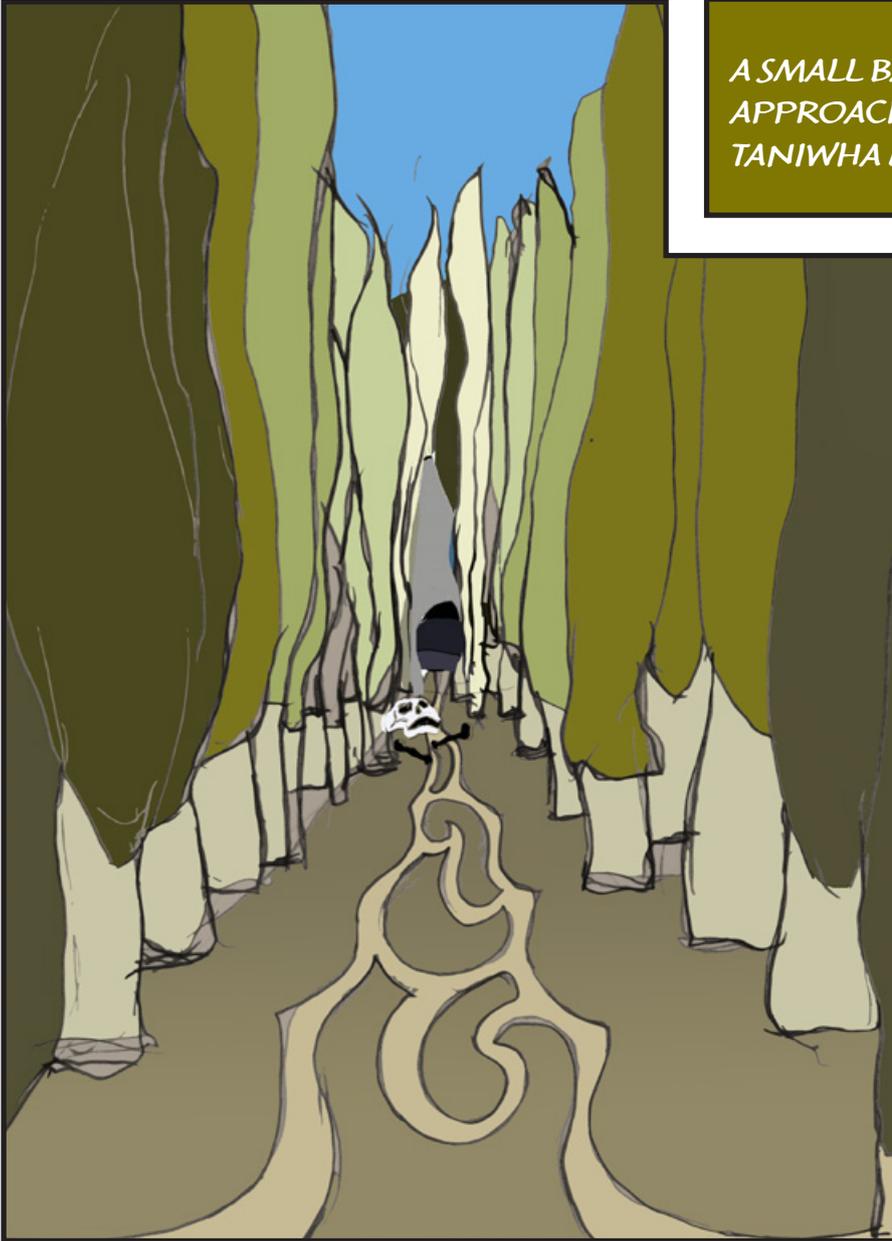
THE PEOPLE CONVINCED TUPURUPURU THAT NGARARA HUARAU WOULD KEEP GOING

AND HE STARTED MAKING A PLAN



OK HE IS TOO BIG TO FIGHT. WE NEED A TRAP

A SMALL BAND OF BRAVE WARRIORS  
APPROACHED THE LAIR WHERE THE  
TANIWHA LIVED IN A CAVE



SHHH BE  
QUIET!

WORKING QUIETLY  
THEY CUT PART WAY  
THROUGH THE TRUNKS  
OF GIANT KAHIKATEA  
TREES

TUPUPURU LEAD HIS  
TRUSTED DOG TO THE  
CAVE ENTRANCE

HE LOOSELY TIED HIS  
COMPANION TO A NEARBY TREE



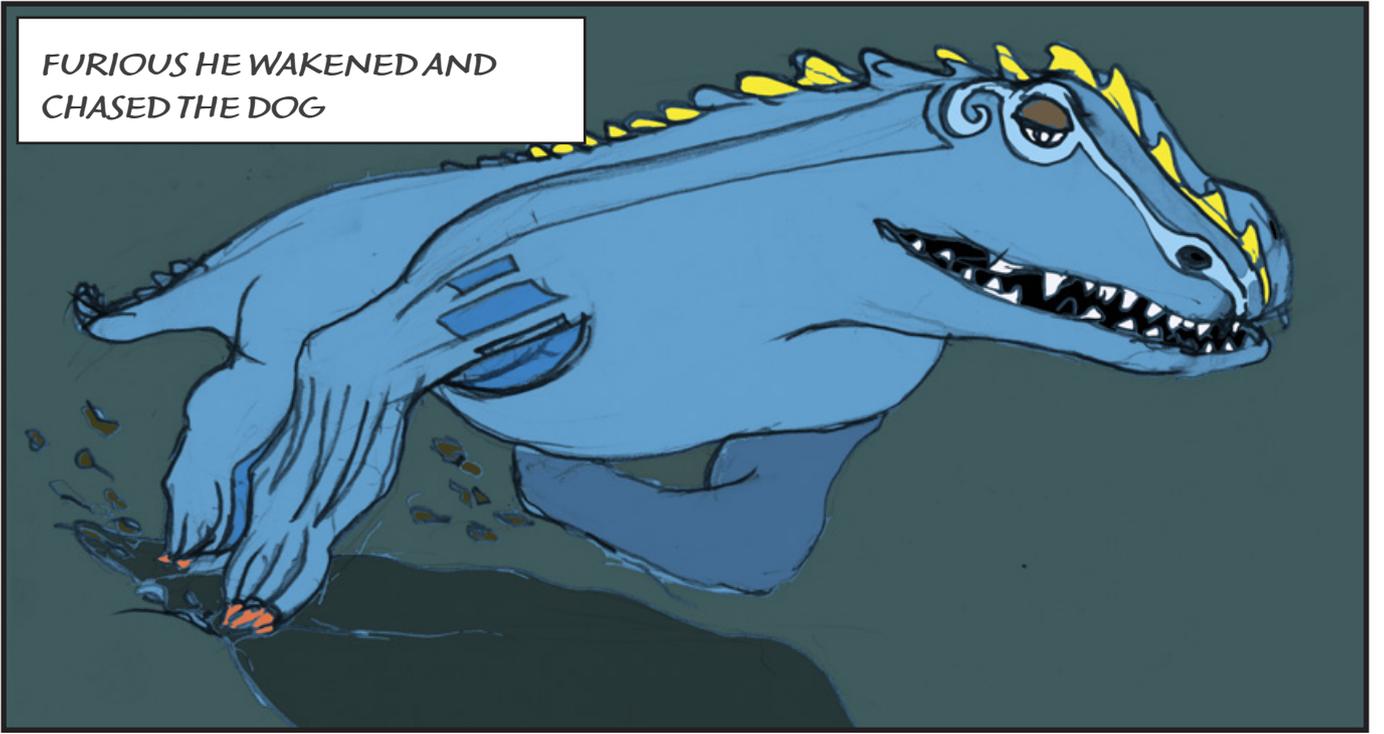
WHEN TUPURUPURU  
TURNED AND RAN  
BACK TOWARDS THE  
OTHER WARRIORS,  
THE DOG BECAME  
DISTRESSED AND  
STARTED BARKING



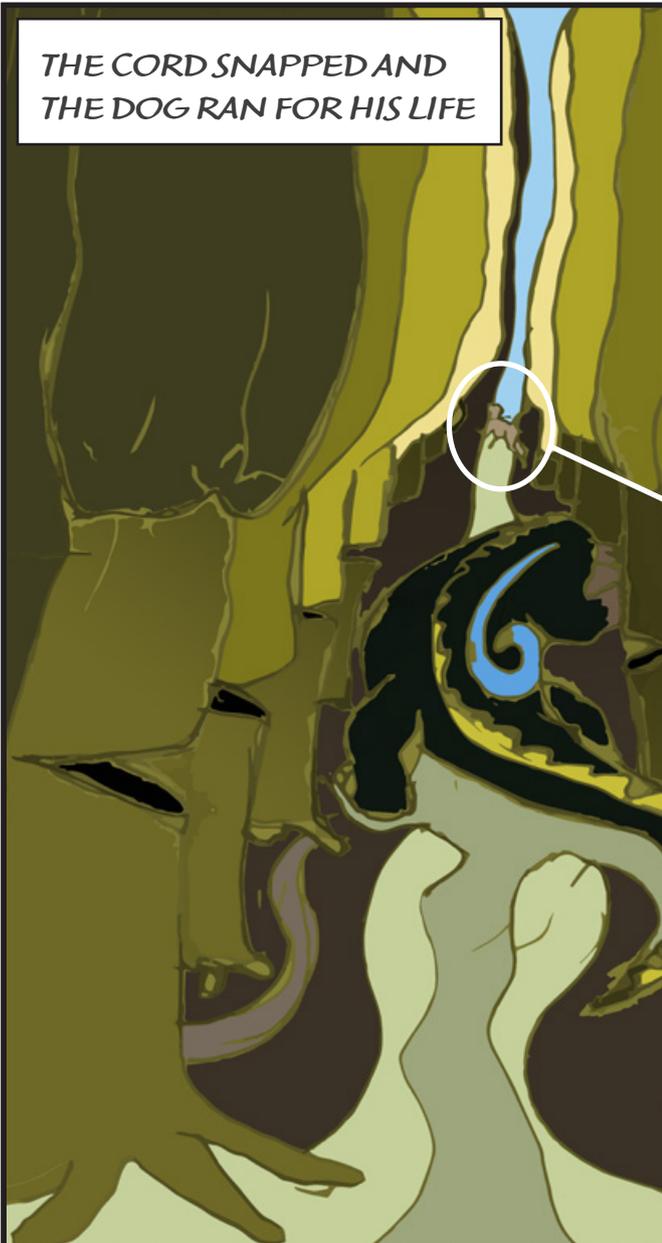
THE LOUD  
NOISE  
DISTURBED  
NGARARA  
HUARAU IN  
HIS SLEEP

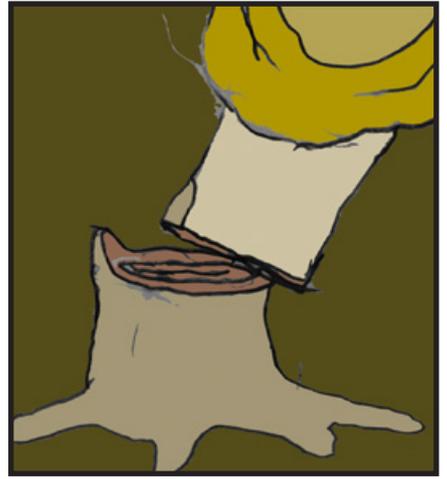
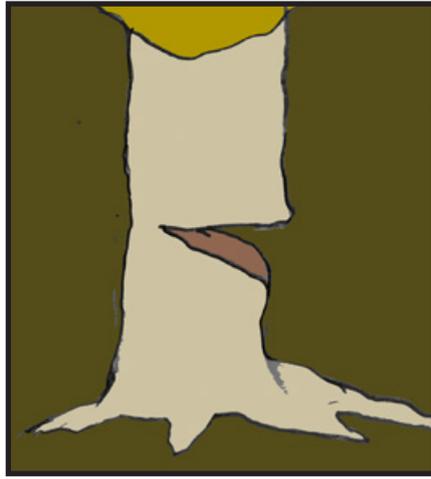
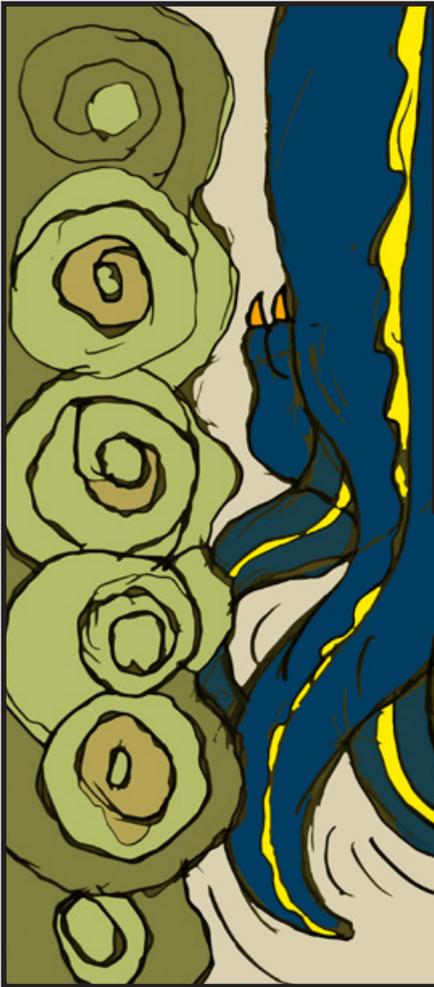


FURIOUS HE WAKENED AND  
CHASED THE DOG

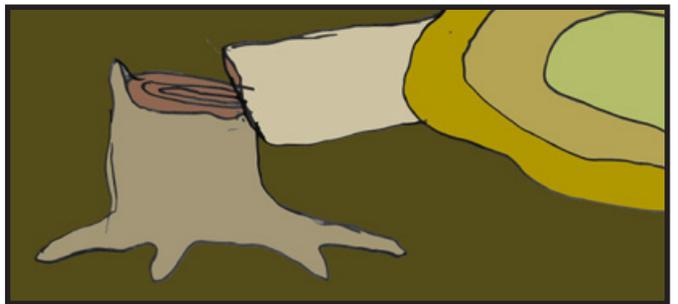


THE CORD SNAPPED AND  
THE DOG RAN FOR HIS LIFE





NGARARA'S SWEEPING TAIL  
HIT THE TREES

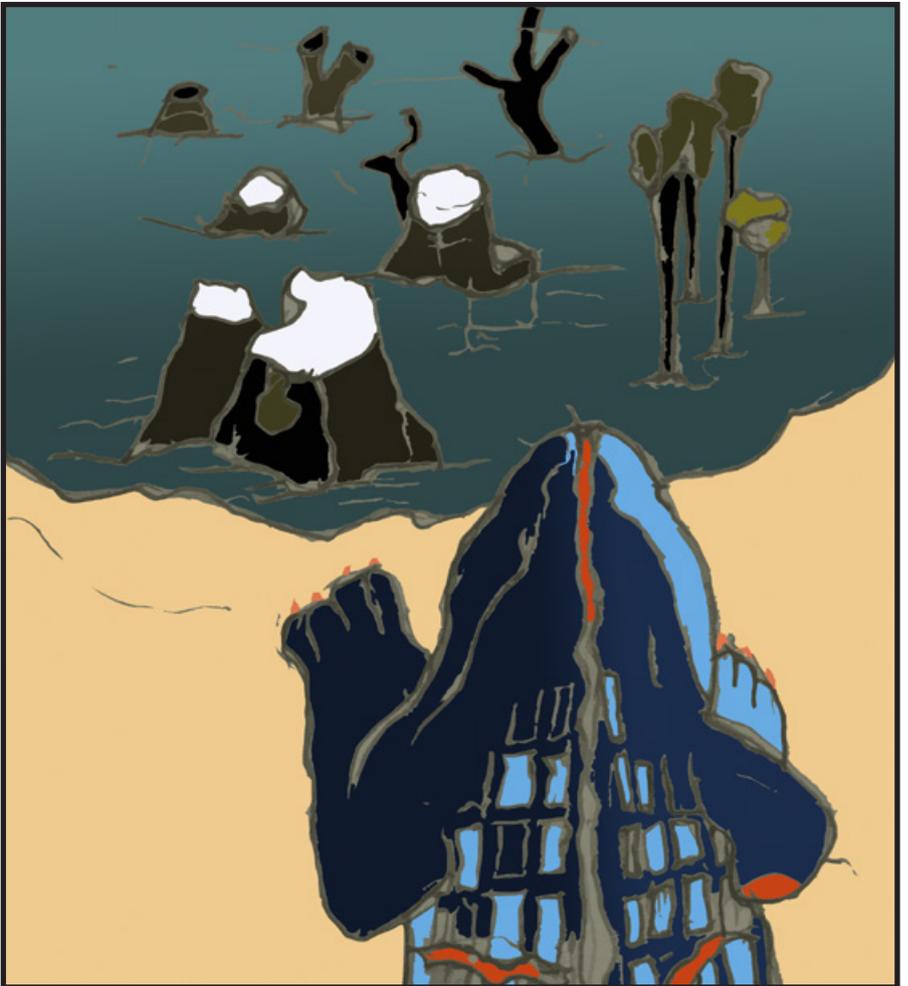




TUPURUPURU AND HIS MEN SWIFTLY SET UPON THE WOUNDED NGARARA HUARAU

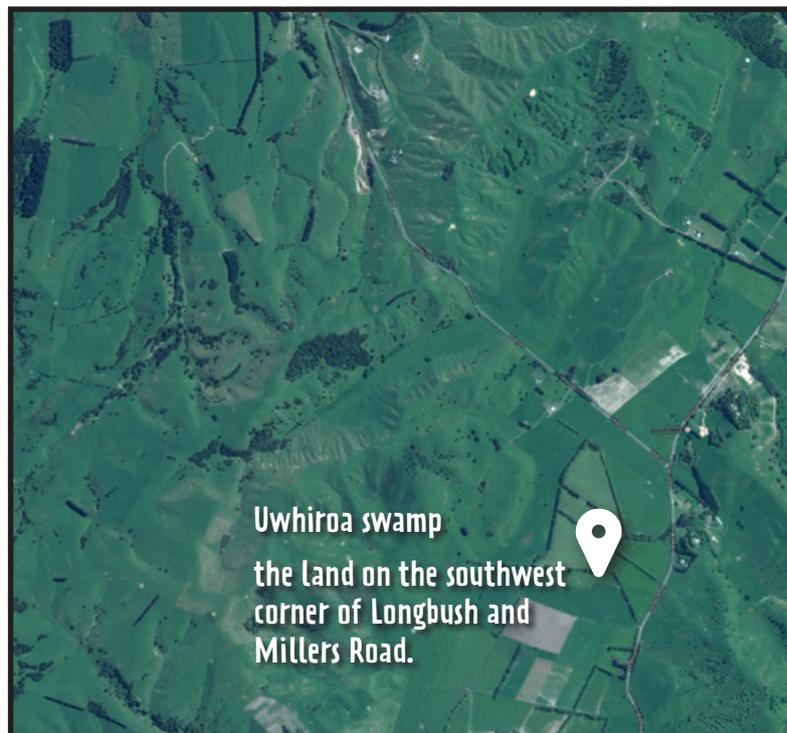
SOME SAY THE ONCE MIGHTY TANIWHA DIED ON THE SPOT AND HIS SKELETON BECAME LIMESTONE

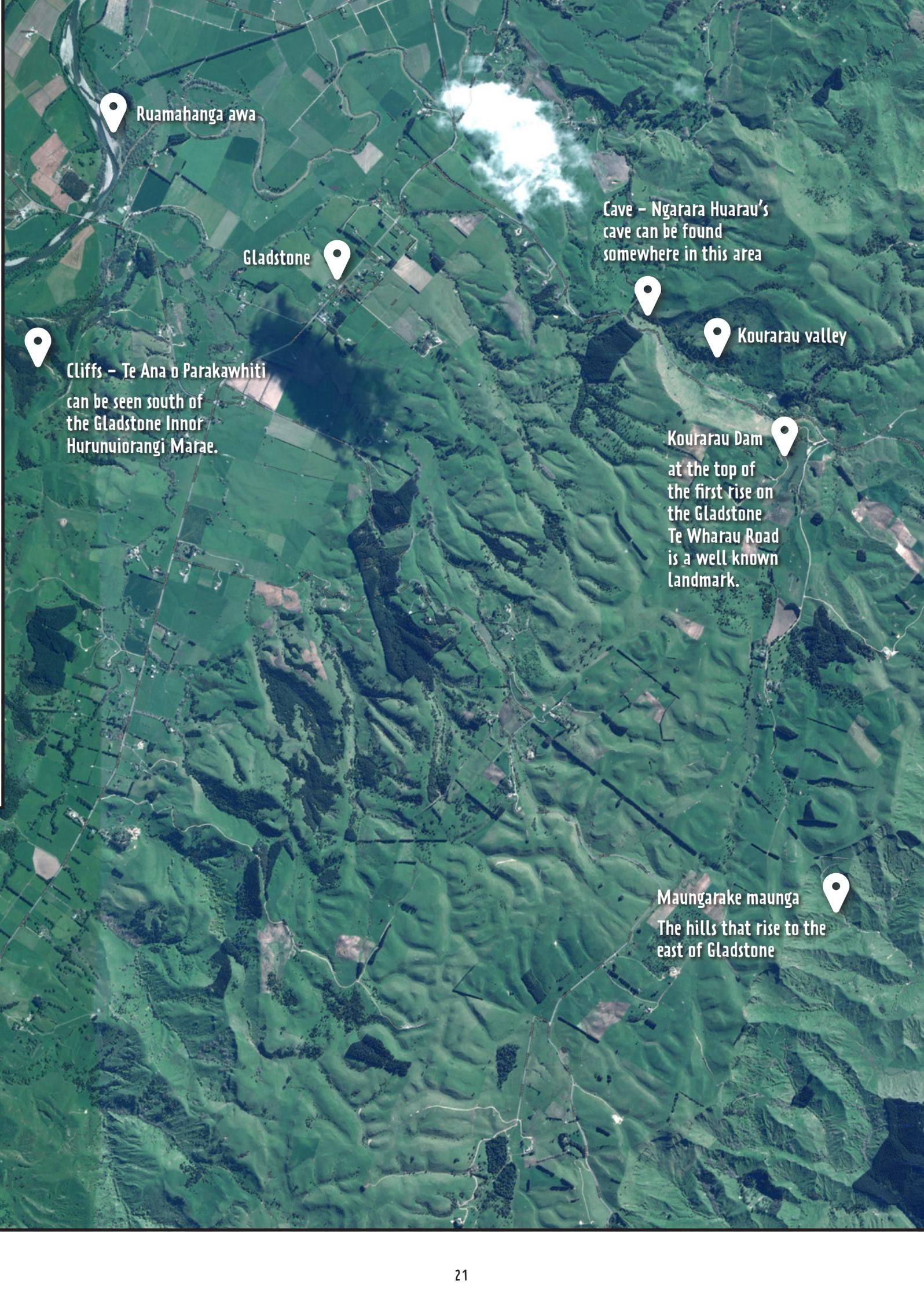
OTHERS SAY THE MORTALLY WOUNDED BEAST CRAWLED TO THE UWHIROA SWAMP...





*...AND SLOWLY SANK  
INTO THE MUD  
WHERE HE REMAINS  
TO THIS DAY.*





Ruamahanga awa

Gladstone

Cave – Ngarara Huarau’s cave can be found somewhere in this area

Cliffs – Te Ana o Parakawhiti can be seen south of the Gladstone Innor Hurunuiorangi Marae.

Kourarau valley

Kourarau Dam at the top of the first rise on the Gladstone Te Wharau Road is a well known landmark.

Maungarake maunga  
The hills that rise to the east of Gladstone

**NGARARA HUARAU IS A TRADITIONAL STORY FROM TE WHITI WHICH IS AN AREA TO THE EAST OF MASTERTON IN THE WAIRARAPA REGION. THE TALE OF THE HOW THE WARRIOR TUPURUPURU TAMED THE MIGHTY TANIWHA NGARARA HUARAU IS A FAVOURITE WITH CHILDREN BUT HAS ENTERTAINED PEOPLE OF ALL AGES FOR CENTURIES.**

**MANY OF THE PLACES MENTIONED IN THIS STORY ARE ABLE TO BE VISITED. SOME ARE ACCESSIBLE ON FOOT, OTHERS CAN BE VIEWED FROM THE ROAD. SEE THE MAP OVER PAGE FOR DETAILS.**

