

## The History of the Waiaua Marae Buildings

The Marae of the Ngati-Patu is at Waiaua and it is situated on a hill about 3 miles inland from the mouth of the Waiaua river. The views from this marae is of rich farmlands, native bush areas and the Waiaua river as it meanders through the valley and out to sea and there in the distance, Turner, enhancing the scene is none other than White Island.

The background of the Ngati Patu is virtually an extension of the story of Ngati Ngahere for they are a division of that hapu and therefore have common Ngai Tu descendants. They acquired their name early in the 19th century. In 1830 a Ngapahui war party overtook at the mouth of the Waioatahi river, a canoe which carried a Ngati Ngahere woman of rank named Hineiahua. She was killed by her pursuers and from this incident her people adopted the name Ngati Patumoaana to commemorate the killing at sea. They are known today by the shortened version Ngati Patu.

Ruamoko. The meeting house derived its name from the Tipuna Ruamoko who was the youngest son of Hau-e-rangi. The eldest was named Tahu, which Ngati Ngahere of Terere claims descent from. Ruamoko rose to prominence in the annals of Whakatahea after he had recovered a part of his fathers remains from a rival war party. Although they were all Ngati Ngahere to begin with, the descendants of Ruamoko eventually settled at Waiaua and Tahu's descendants remained at Terere. The Whaverua which was dedicated in 1899 was lined with ramapo and had a dirt floor. Renovations over the years included relining the walls with timber, a wooden flooring which has only recently been replaced by concrete and interior designs which were added to the existing ones.