

Ōpihi Whanaunga Kore

Ngā Tipuna at Ōpihi Whanaunga Kore

Toroa, Muriwai, Wairaka, Ruāihona, Awanuiārangi II, Taiwhakaea I, Te Kuratapirirangi, Ikapuku, Rangitupukiwaho, Taonatini, Tamawhiro, Morungaiterangi, Huriwainuku and Taiwhakaea II. Other notable Ngati awa ancestors are Te Waiopotanga, Toihau, Te Keepa Toihau, Te Hamaiwaho, his son Apanui Te Hamaiwaho and his son Uaterangi.

More Ngati Awa ancestors from Whakatāne, Rangitaiki and Matata are buried at ancient urupā connected to Ōpihi Whanaunga Kore such as Otaramuturangi, Utairoa, and Ohuirehe.

Opihi-whanaunga-kore (Opihi of no relatives), a famous burial site opposite the township of Whakatane, is an old site rich in history, and it is the resting place of famous chiefs... Opihi-whanaunga-kore meets the criteria that define a wāhi tapu. Its antiquity adds to its significance, and its association with death adds to the tapu nature of the site. According to traditions, the site was so tapu that when burials were carried out no women were allowed to cross the Whakatane River with the men. This is quite different from other urupā in the region where no such restrictions occur. (Hirini Moko Mead, 2003)

In our [Ngati Awa] tribal area the wairua leaves the marae and flies over Opihi-whanungakore, a very tapu and ancient burial ground at Whakatane, alights on a rock at the mouth of the Whakatane River called Turuturu Roimata, and sheds its final tears, hence the name of the rock. Then it flies to Te Paepae-o-Aotea which is about fifty kilometers out to sea and away from Whakatane, and there some say their farewells and depart for Hawaiki (Hirini Moko Mead. 2003).



Some wāhi tapu are extremely tapu, such as the famous Ōpihi, across the Whakatāne River from the township. Many famous rangātira are buried at Ōpihi, and the intensity of the site is marked by the saying 'Ōpihi Whanaunga kore' (Ōpihi of no relatives, or Ōpihi without peer) (WAI 796, 2010).

Source: Whakatane District Plan Hearings 60 and 77 Bunyan Road, 5-8 May 2014, Tabled Documents 4 pp168-253.