

Ohope Marae



1. Ohope marae is nestled between two ancient Pa sites.
2. The hill to the left of Ohope marae is called 'Pakipaki'. This is a Ngati Awa Pa site and is associated with the coming of Pai Marire to the Mataatua region.
3. According to the late Te Hau Tutua of Ngati Awa, the hill that Ohope marae stands upon is the eastern boundary of an ancient Tuhoe Pa site called Mai Totara.
4. Mai Totara Pa is associated with a battle between Tuhoe and Whakatohea. Some of those who died in this battle are buried in an urupa at the top of the hill.
5. All the land in this area was confiscated by the Government from Ngati Awa Hāpu Ngāti Hokopu and Wharepaia as part of their confiscated policies of the 1860s.
6. Gilbert Mair after marrying Elizabeth from Ngati Hokopu lodge application to partition part of the Ohope Reserve.
7. Gilbert Mair sold some of his interests to his lawyers Thomas Wilson James and Leonard Buddle.
8. In 1932 Leonard Buddle sold 4 acres (the current property) to the Presbyterian Church for a Christian Camp.



9. In 1934 the Presbyterian Maori Missions become involved in the Ohope Christian Camp.
10. In 1945 the Presbyterian Maori Synod (Te Hinota) concluded negotiations for the back section of the Ohope property to build a Marae as their Turangawaewae.
11. In 1947 Te Maungarongo I Wharenui is opened.
12. The carvers of Te Maungarongo I are: Te Pairi Tuterangi of Omuriwaka assisted by Tete Te Amoroa.
13. Te Pairi Tuterangi refused payment for carving the Wharenui and says that this is his koha or thank you to the Presbyterian Church for looking after his people and establishing schools for Tuhoe children in the Urewera.
14. The name of the Wharenui 'Te Maungarongo' was suggested by the Very Rev John Loughton CMG and the Rev Kihoro Te Puawhe who was the senior leader of Waimana at that time.
15. Te Maungarongo Wharenui was rebuilt in 1977.
16. The carvers of this Wharenui are: Te Ahinamu Te Hira of Ruatahuna assisted by Clarke Takao and John Rua both of Waimana.
17. The Tukutuku panels in Te Maungarongo are weaved by parishes from throughout Te Hinota that also included kuia from Waimana and Ruatahuna (Mumu, waewae pakura and purapurawhetu panels).
18. As with Maori tradition a Marae must have a Tangata Whenua. The Tangata Whenua of Ohope marae are the parishes of Whakatane, Kawerau and Waimana.