

THE HEAD OF KARU

Told by Joseph Tutaki to A. Taylor – Te Hape Pa, King Country, 1969

THERE were three brothers of Mangapehi Pa: Tumai, Waka and Karu. One day Tumai and Waka were overheard, by Karu, criticising a certain person. That person was Karu. His brothers said he was lazy.

Angry and ashamed, Karu went into the forest and speared many birds – kereru, tui, huia and even ruru. He then caught many eels. After he had filled the village storehouse, he was exhausted; he was dying. As he lay waiting for death, Karu called for his elder brothers who were out hunting.

When Tumai and Waka returned to the village, they asked Karu why he worked so hard. And Karu answered: 'I heard you saying that I was lazy. It is not so. If I have not worked as hard as you, it is because I have been sick'.

Karu then told his two brothers to cut off his head when he died. It was to be

then put in a cave in the Rangitoto Ranges. Later, it was then to be put in a four gallon drum, and almost filled with water from a sacred pool.

Then Karu said: "When the left side of my face turns yellow, it will be good hunting on land. When it is black on the right side, it will be good hunting on water."

Karu's head was used by hunters of Mangapehi Pa for many years. Then it was brought down from the cave in the Rangitoto Ranges, and arguments arose over who owned it. Because of the arguments, the head was hidden away by an old woman, and not used again. That old woman was my great grandmother. Heoi ano ka mutu.

NOTE: Tutaki was about 70-years-old when he told the story of Karu. He was an elder of Ngati Maniapoto tribe.



TE HOKINGA MAI O TE MAORI KI AOTEAROA

After nearly two years of world acclaim, the tangata whenua and tauwiwi of Aotearoa have the chance to see Te Maori.

The taonga of the exhibition will return to Aotearoa in late June. Following that, it will tour the four main centres.

Wellington will hold the first viewing at the National Museum from 16 August to 19 October 1986.

The Otago Museum in Dunedin will show the 174 taonga from 29 November to 1 February 1987.

It will be at the Robert McDougall Art Gallery in Christchurch from 14 March to 17 May 1987 and will end at the Auckland City Art Gallery from 27 June to 10 September 1987.

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PRIVATE STAMP ISSUE TO COMMEMORATE THE CENTENARY OF THE TARAWERA ERUPTION, JUNE 10TH, 1986

This specially commissioned issue and first day cover has been produced by Nga Puna Waihangā (NZ Maori Artists and Writers), Rotorua Branch with assistance from the Local Recreation and Community Development Scheme.

The stamps feature the work of outstanding contemporary Maori artist Ross Hemera of Ngai Tahu descent. Ross is currently course supervisor for the Certificate in Craft Design specialising in contemporary Maori Art at Waiairiki Community College, Rotorua. He considers design the foremost element in any of the media he works in – watercolour/wood/mixed media.

Description of stamps:

Miniature sheet of 4 stamps
Total value: \$2.00

These very attractive stamps depict two stylised views of Mount Tarawera, one from Lake Tarawera and one from Lake Rotomahana Both are in full colour in vivid tones and incorporate a contemporary Maori motif.

Description of first day cover:

Size: DLE (225mm x 115mm)
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