

THE
LEGEND
OF
MAUJAO



ILLUSTRATED BY STUDENTS OF OMANU SCHOOL'S ROOM 2



There was once a hill with no name among the many hills and ravines on the edge of the forests of Hautere.



This nameless one was pononga, slave or servant, to the great chief Ōtānewainuku, the forested peak which stands as a landmark for the tribes of Tauranga Moana



To the southwest was the shapely form of the hill Pūwhenua, a woman clothed in all the fine greens of the ferns and shrubs and trees of the forest of Tāne.



The nameless one was desperately in love with Pūwhenua.



There seemed no hope for the lowly slave with no name to persuade her to become his bride. The nameless one sorrowed.



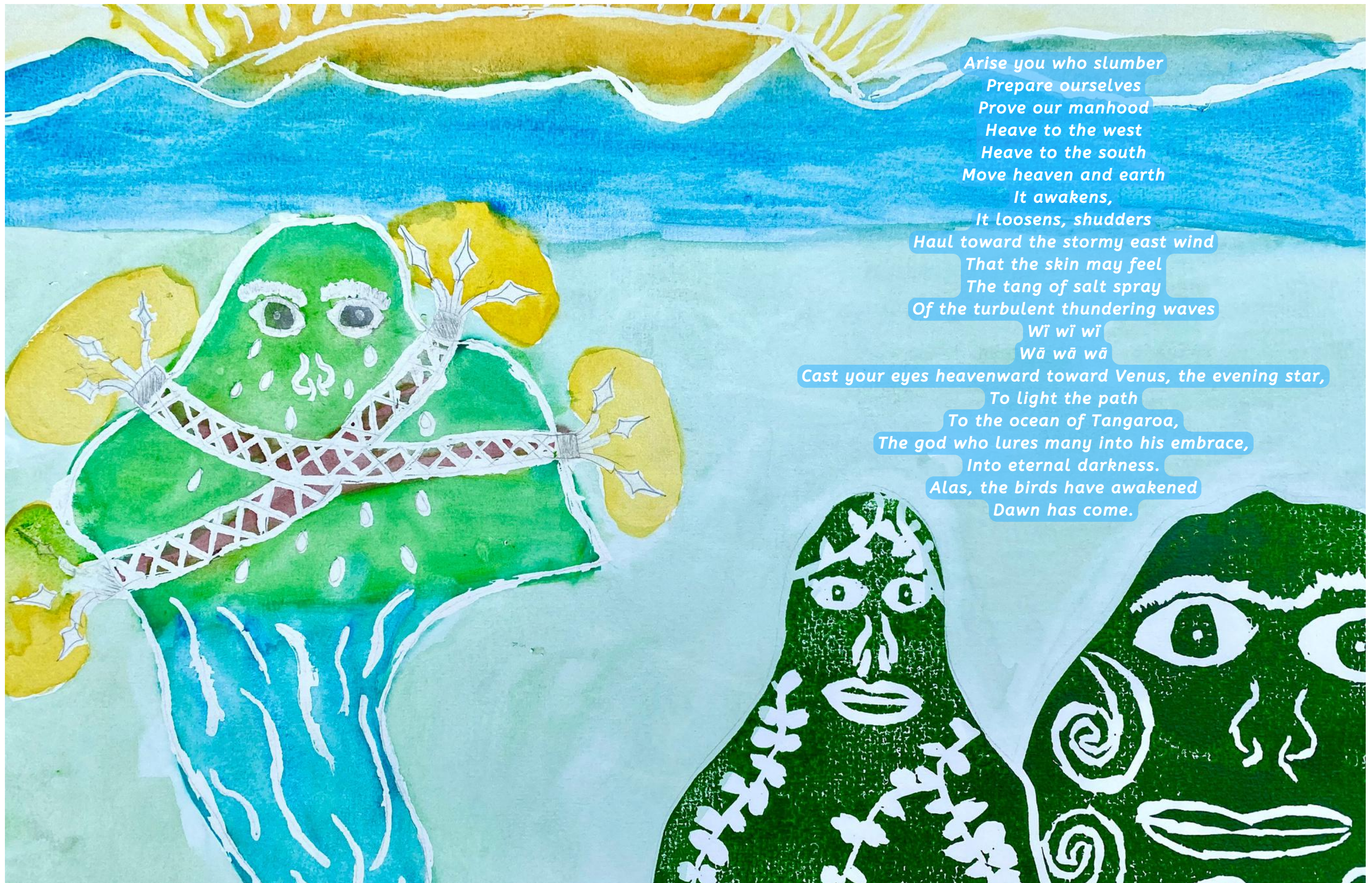
In despair he decided to end it all by drowning himself in the ocean, Te Moananui a Kiwa.



He called on the patupaiarehe, the people with magical powers who dwelled in the forests of Hautere.



They were his friends and they plaited the ropes with their magic
to haul him from the hill country toward the ocean.



Arise you who slumber
Prepare ourselves
Prove our manhood
Heave to the west
Heave to the south
Move heaven and earth
It awakens,

It loosens, shudders
Haul toward the stormy east wind
That the skin may feel
The tang of salt spray
Of the turbulent thundering waves

Wī wī wī

Wā wā wā

Cast your eyes heavenward toward Venus, the evening star,

To light the path

To the ocean of Tangaroa,

The god who lures many into his embrace,
Into eternal darkness.

Alas, the birds have awakened

Dawn has come.

As they pulled on their ropes, they chanted their magic chant.



The patupaiarehe chanted this song and hauled the nameless one from his place among the hills from Waoku.



They gouged out the valley where the river Waimapu now flows.



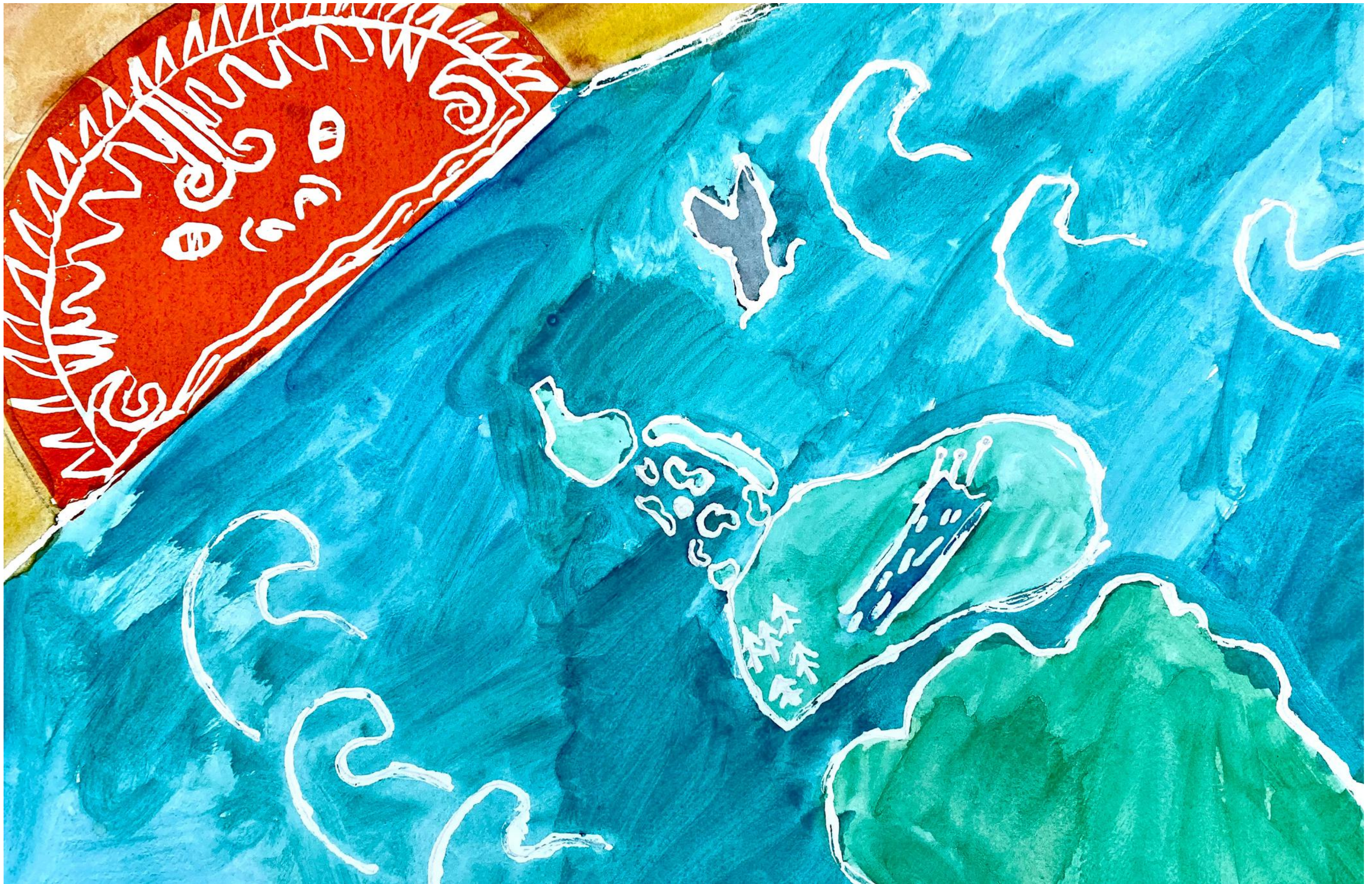
They followed the channel of Tauranga Moana past Hairini,
past Maungatapu and Matapihi, past Te Papa.



They pulled him to the edge of the great ocean of Kiwa.



But it was already close to daybreak!



The sun rose.



The first rays lit up the summit of the nameless hill and fixed him in that place.



The patupaiarehe melted away before the light of the sun.



They were people of the night and they flew back to the shady depths of the forests and ravines of Hautere.



The patupaiarehe gave a name to this mountain which marks the entrance to Tauranga Moana. He was called Mauao which means 'Caught by the dawn', or 'lit up by the first rays of sunrise'.



In time, he assumed greater mana than his rival Ōtānewainuku.



Later he was also given another name, Maunganui, by which he is now more often known. He is still the symbol of the tribes of Tauranga Moana: ***Ko Mauao te maunga, Ko Tauranga te moana.***



Illustrations by:

COVER – Sophie
1 – Braxton
2 – Lucas
3 – Charlie
4 – Bhavan
5 – Hudson
6 – Wetini
7 – Surtr

8 – Madi
9 – Paige
10 – Jessie
11 – Peyton
12 – Lydia
13 – Kaya
14 – Dillon
15 – Wolfe

16 – Lola
17 – Eloi
18 – Chloe
19 – Olive
20 – Luke
21 – Emely

Narrated by: Olive

THANK YOU TO NGĀI TE RANGI FOR SHARING THIS
PAKIWAITARA WITH OMANU SCHOOL.



THANK YOU TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION FOR FUNDING
THE CREATIVES IN SCHOOLS PROGRAMME.



THANK YOU TO THE STAFF AND SENIOR STUDENTS OF OMANU SCHOOL
FOR ENGAGING WITH THIS PROJECT WITH AROHA AND MANA.