



# A FIRE IN THE BELLY OF HINEĀMARU

A Collection of Narratives about Te Tai Tokerau Tūpuna  
MELINDA WEBBER & TE KAPUA O'CONNOR



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# Foreword

This collection of narratives by Melinda Webber and Te Kapua O'Connor about Te Tai Tokerau tūpuna highlights the adaptability and versatility of those who came before us. By understanding their legacy, we also better understand their lasting impact on hapū and iwi, and on the wider social fabric of Aotearoa New Zealand. From the time of early European settlement in the 1800s Te Tai Tokerau was a gateway for new migrants. As such, rangatira had to respond in new ways to these relationships. Indeed, they have also shaped our response to other migrants who have come after. Around one-third of all peoples of the country reside within these Tai Tokerau boundaries.

As a country we have been shaped by these rangatira and their deeds. While histories and narratives are contested, they assist us in deepening our knowledge, our genesis. By making sense of the world in which these leaders acted, we come to appreciate how we might also be influenced in our future actions and decisions. We require peacemakers, entrepreneurs, innovators, political leaders, strategists, discoverers, and navigators. These rangatira are not just historical figures. There are numerous uri of Te Tai Tokerau who continue to lead and use their myriad of skills for the betterment of hapū, iwi, and the whole country.

Kia hora te marino  
Kia whakapapa pounamu te moana  
Kia tere te kārohirohi  
I mua i tō huarahi  
*May peace be widespread  
May the sea glisten like greenstone  
And may the shimmer of light  
Guide you on your way*

*Dame Cindy Kiro (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Kahu)  
February 2022*