

Description and history of the Pou Pou

Nga Tupuna Matua-a-Tumuki (The Ancestors of Tumuki)

Te Tau Ihu O Te Waka A Maui (The Top of the South Island, literally translated as the prow of Maui's canoe)

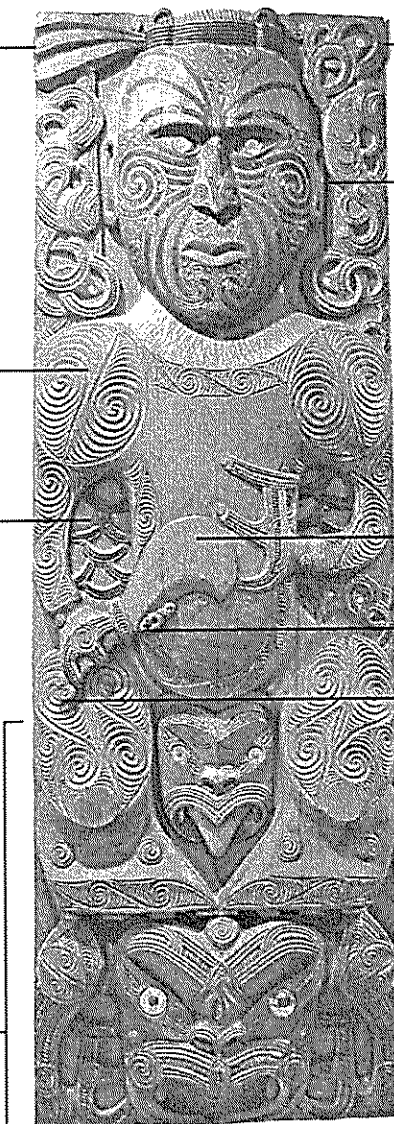
Taha Noa - ordinary side

The three feathers of Pouākai
The Giant Eagle of ancient times. Defeated in myth by Waitaha and Kati Rapuwai Tribes. The feathers represent the status of chief.

Ununahi
Rape-rape design, fish scales and the sea.

Kupe's Matakupenga (net)
Represents the unity of the region's people.

Waitaha, Kati Rapuwai
Below the figure are faces representing the tribes Kati Rapuwai and Waitaha. South Island tribes.



Taha Tapu - sacred side

Manaia Irirangi
Beaked figure, spiritual voice, spiritual guardian and support.

Ta Moko
Contains information regarding who is represented in the carving. From the patterns we can see that he is a chief (forehead) a carver (temples) and a speaker (below lower lip). To identify the lineage of the figure the face is divided into the father's side (right) and mothers side (left).

Patu
Traditionally made from whale bone, and shows that this figure has the status of an orator.

Tumatuenga - God of War

Rongo - God of Peace

These Taonga were presented to the Nelson City Council on July 17 1990, by representatives of the Whakatū Marae. They were carved by the artisans of Whakatū Marae and the master carver was Mark Davis. For more information on these carvings visit www.nelsoncitycouncil.co.nz/thecouncil/council_role/pou-pou.htm