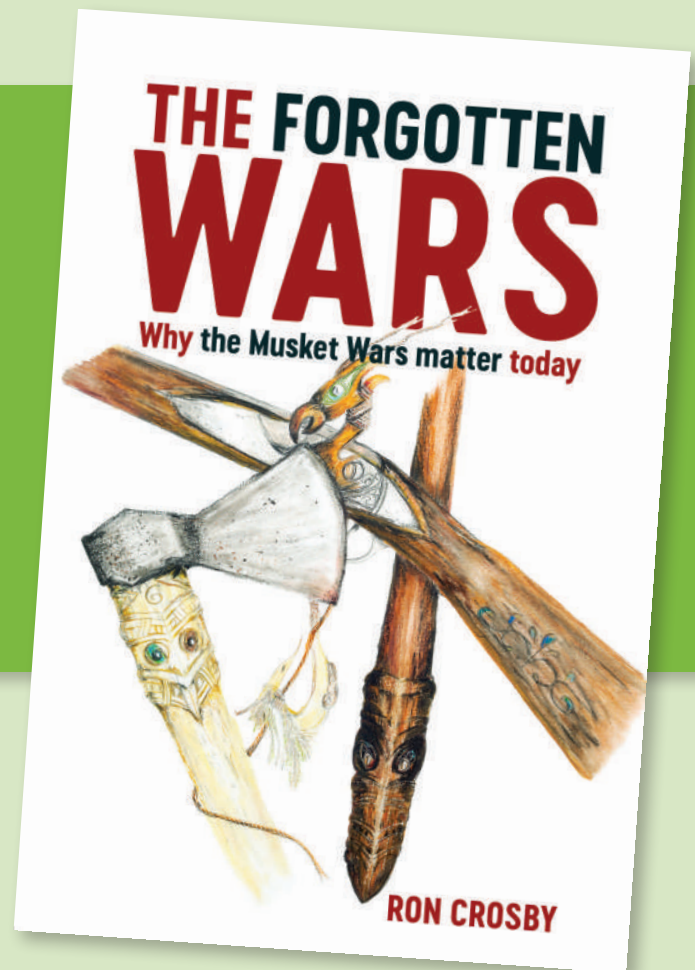


# THE FORGOTTEN WARS

Why the Musket Wars matter today

RON CROSBY



‘With the arrival of muskets en masse, suddenly one side had unstoppable power. The possession of that power enabled taua to be far more wide-reaching, and far more devastating in their impacts.’

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**THE FORGOTTEN WARS** is an account of the era from about 1818 to 1845 when the effects of the musket impacted in devastating form throughout Aotearoa. Every part of the country was affected at some time or other by powerful, wide-ranging musket-armed taua (war parties). In addition to the heavy casualties inflicted by the musket, widespread temporary and permanent migrations and depopulation occurred.

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION

**MUSKETS** predominantly became available first to Māori in the north of Te Ika a Māui (the North Island), particularly at Pēwhairangi (the Bay of Islands), and in the south in Fiordland through trade with whaling vessels. Later, traders for flax and other European sources (including some missionaries) provided a steady supply. Two leading rangatira visiting Great Britain, Hongi Hika and Te Pehi Kupe, brought back two major quantities of muskets respectively for Ngāpuhi and Ngāti Toa.



Hongi Hika.



Te Pehi Kupe.

**THE GENERAL PATTERN OF DEVASTATION** occurred from north to south as first Ngāpuhi and their allies in the north, particularly under Hongi Hika, raided widely down into southern areas such as the Tamaki isthmus at Auckland, Thames, Bay of Plenty, Waikato, Rotorua and East Coast areas.

Ngāti Toa and their allies led by Te Rauparaha were displaced from Kawhia and Taranaki. They migrated to Kāpiti Island from where they attacked iwi in Te Tau Ihu (the Top of the South Island) and Kāi Tahu further south in Canterbury. Kāi Tahu responded with two taua covering the whole length of the South Island to re-establish their mana.

**AFTER INITIAL LOSSES TO NGĀPUHI**, central iwi acquired muskets to resist the northerners. Tainui iwi under Te Wherowhero attacked both north and south Taranaki iwi repetitively, and also Hawkes Bay. Twice they repelled later Ngāpuhi raids and pursued Ngāpuhi back to the Whangarei area. Ngāti Maru under Te Rohu raided heavily into the Bay of Plenty. Ngāti Tūwharetoa under Te Heuheu repetitively raided Ngāti Kahungunu in Hawkes Bay and later southern Taranaki iwi.

Ngāti Kahungunu rangatira Te Pareihe had persuaded his people to pull back from all their lands to defend Mahia Peninsula. They were ironically assisted greatly by the muskets of Te Wera Hauraki of Ngāpuhi, who had brought back some of his captives and stayed on at Mahia.

Finally, sustained warfare broke out between Ngāti Porou and Te Whānau a Apanui in the eastern Bay of Plenty and East Coast areas, and between Te Arawa and Ngāti Hauā and Ngāiterangi in the Rotorua and Tauranga areas.

**DISPLACEMENTS OF A TEMPORARY NATURE** affected areas such as the northern tip of Te Ika a Māui, the Thames/Coromandel Peninsula and Matamata/Cambridge areas, Whakatane and Opotiki areas, north and south Taranaki areas, lower Whanganui, and the Wairarapa and southern Hawkes Bay areas.

**PERMANENT MIGRATIONS** occurred from the Kawhia and north Taranaki areas to the Horowhenua/Wellington/Hutt river areas, throughout coastal Te Tau Ihu, and later even to Rēkohu (the Chatham Islands); and from central Waikato to the Levin/Manawatu areas.

**DEPOPULATIONS** occurred at even more locations, including the isthmus at Auckland, north Taranaki, Whanganui river mouth, Te Papa at Tauranga, and for long lengths of both northern coastlines in Te Waipounamu (the South Island).

**THE OUTCOME OF THESE WARS CHANGED BOUNDARIES OF ROHE (REGIONS) FOREVER** for many hapū and iwi throughout the central and lower North Island, in Te Tau Ihu, and on Rēkohu. Inter-iwi and inter-hapū relationships were impacted to varying degrees in all other areas of the motu (country).

Those impacts still have customary effects today as to who asserts mana in respect of particular areas or activities, and as to how rangatiratanga, mana and kaitiakitanga can be shared in contested areas.

Some depopulated areas had particularly fertile soils and were often located beside safe harbours. Those areas became ripe for early purchase and occupation by Pākehā settlers, leading later to the outbreak of conflicts which have become known as the New Zealand Wars.

## QUESTIONS

- Why did the visit of the *Venus* to Northland in 1806 cause Ngāpuhi to raid into the Bay of Plenty? **SEE MAP A**
- How did Te Wherowhero earn his name for courage and strength against Ngāti Toa and Te Atiawa at the battle of Motunui in north Taranaki in 1821? Do you think his courage played an important role in his selection as the first Māori King in 1858?
- How did Ngāpuhi get their waka from the Tamaki river in Auckland Harbour into the Waikato river system to attack Matakītiki pā in 1822? **SEE MAP B**
- How did Ngāpuhi get their waka so far inland into Lake Rotorua in 1823 to attack Te Arawa at Mokoia island? **SEE MAP C**
- How did Te Rauparaha attack Muaūpoko on their artificial island pā on Lake Horowhenua in 1823? **SEE MAP D**
- Why did Ngāpuhi rangatira Te Wera Hauraki defend Ngāti Kahungunu at Mahia from 1824 onwards, when he had attacked them in 1820?
- How did Te Matakatea of Taranaki and Ngāti Ruanui earn his name when he defended Te Namu and Waimate against Tainui in 1833 and 1834. What does his name mean?
- Do you think you would be fit or strong enough, or tough enough, to do what Kāi Tahu did in 1833 and 1834 and paddle waka from Foveaux Strait to Te Tau Ihu, fight battles there, and paddle back? How would you cope with the bad weather? **SEE MAP E**
- What foods do you think the toa ate on these huge sea or overland taua?

## DISCUSSION POINTS



How would you have felt at Matakītiki pā on the Waipa River when you saw the arrival of massed waka, hearing a haka by about 3000 Ngāpuhi toa, and then facing their muskets?

**SEE MAP F**



Discuss whether Tainui in Matakītiki pā could have reacted in some other way than the panicked exit that occurred leading to hundreds falling into the trench outside and being killed there.



Discuss how Ngawhakawa, the only survivor from Te Puoho's great raid in 1836 to 1837 from Golden Bay to Southland, would have crossed all the rivers on the West Coast as he travelled home with news of the capture of the taua, and what he would have eaten to survive. **SEE MAP G**



Discuss how on portages rangatira and toa managed to drag waka weighing between 10 to 15 tonnes up slopes, and lower them down the other side?



What features in particular do you think made the arrival of Ngāti Tama and Ngāti Mutunga in Rēkohu in 1835 so devastating to Moriori there?



This is one of the only images of massed waka on a taua in 1827 at sea near the Whangarei Heads in Northland. **DRAW AN IMAGE** of what the massed Ngāpuhi waka might have looked like as they swept out on to Lake Rotorua in 1823 and headed for Mokoia Island.

## ACTIVITIES



Look at the image of the massive palisading at the pā at Maketū that was reconstructed in a couple of days by Te Arawa in 1837. **WRITE YOUR VERSION** of a plan to do the same: how would you source the logs for the palisading, how would you transport them to the site, and how would you erect them? Bear in mind that all that work had to occur urgently because Ngāiterangi were only 5–10 kilometres away and could be expected to attack before the palisading was complete.

### ACTIVITIES FOR THE ADVANCED AND MATURE READER



Use your **RESEARCH SKILLS** and the book to discover why Te Rauparaha would want to attack Te Tau Ihu iwi of Rangitane, Ngāti Kuia and Ngāti Apa, and the southern iwi of Kāi Tahu.



With teacher guidance, **DISCUSS** why it is important in today's world for New Zealanders to have a knowledge of the Musket Wars events and their outcomes. You will find the information you need to do this on pages 15–19 of the book.



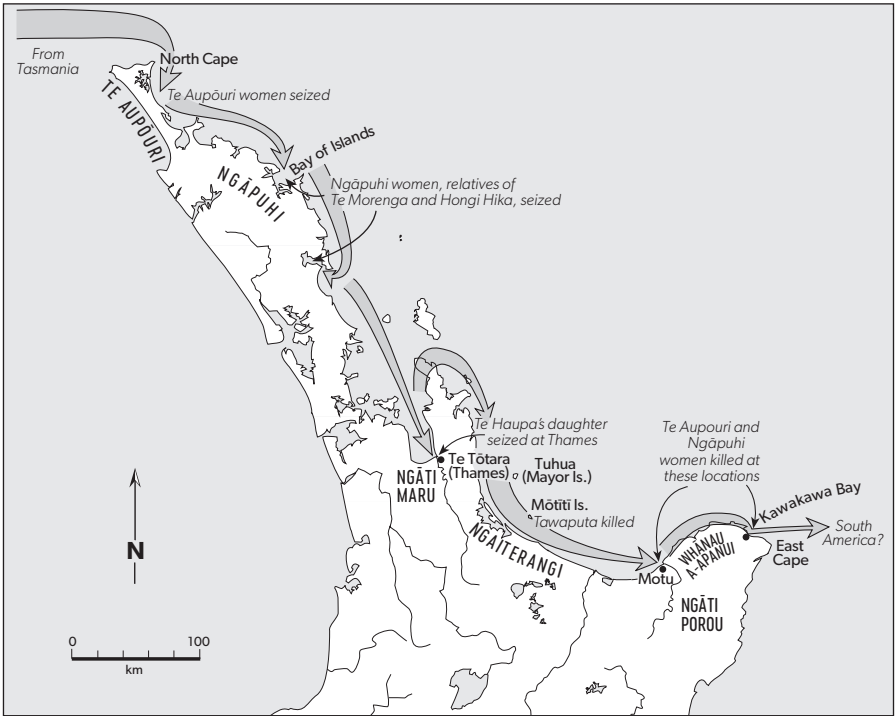
Using the book, **RESEARCH** the Ngāti Toa attack on Takapuneke pā in Akaroa Harbour in 1830 using the British vessel *Elizabeth*. **WRITE A DIARY** as if you are Te Rauparaha and explain why you planned such a complex long-distance raid using a sailing ship, the negotiations with Captain Stewart to engage the *Elizabeth*, how the raid was executed, and the consequences for Te Maiharanui and his whānau. **SEE MAP H**



Write a letter to Ron Crosby, c/- Oratia Books, 783 West Coast Road, Oratia, Auckland 0604, telling him what aspects of the Musket Wars, and their consequences, you found most interesting. Ron will be delighted to read your letters.

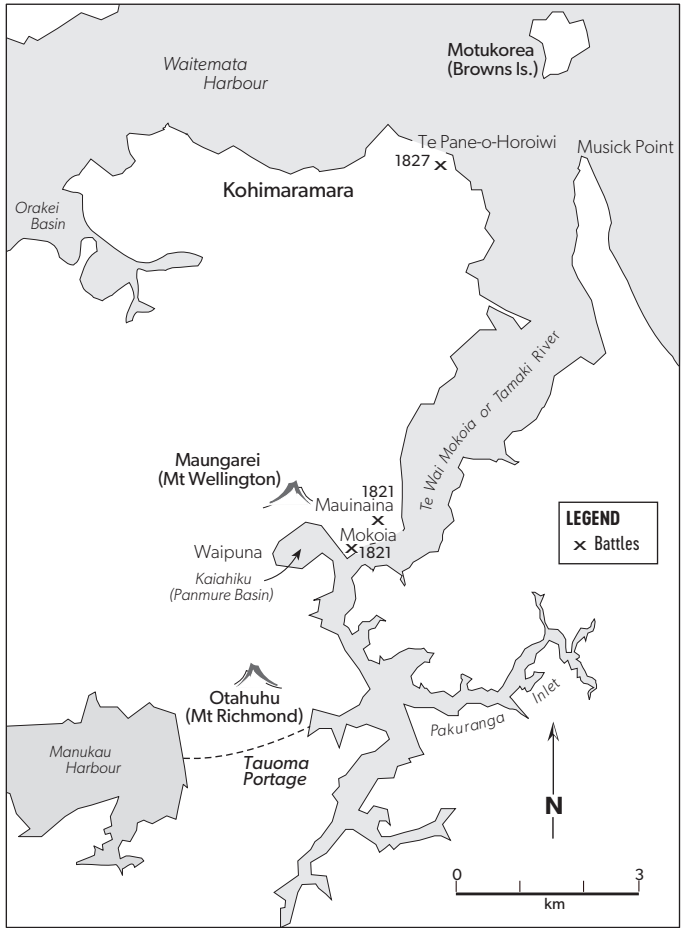
# REFERENCE MAPS

## MAP A



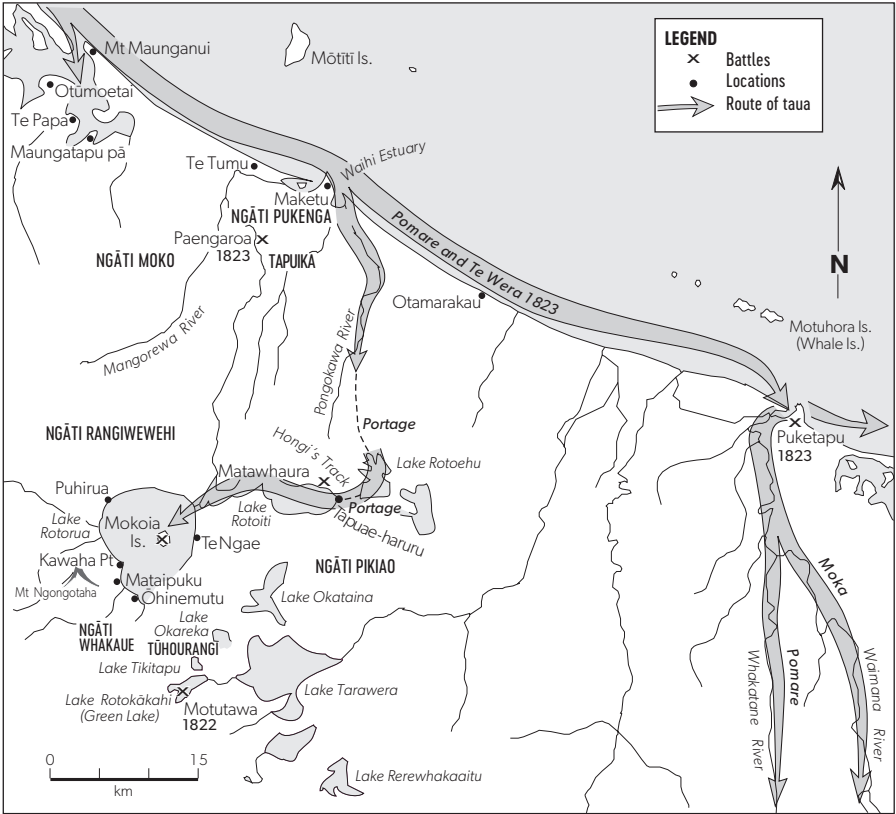
The presumed route of the Venus in 1806.

## MAP B



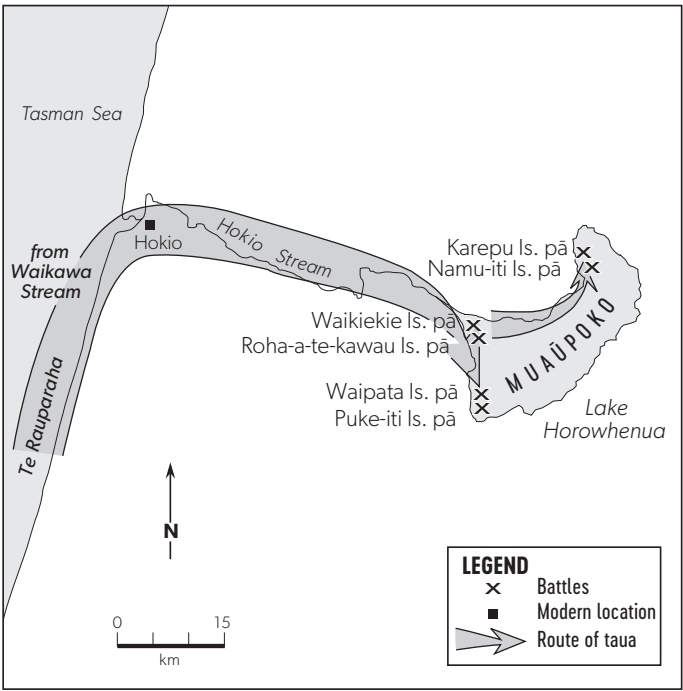
Mokoia/Mauinaina pā locations at Auckland, 1821.

# MAP C



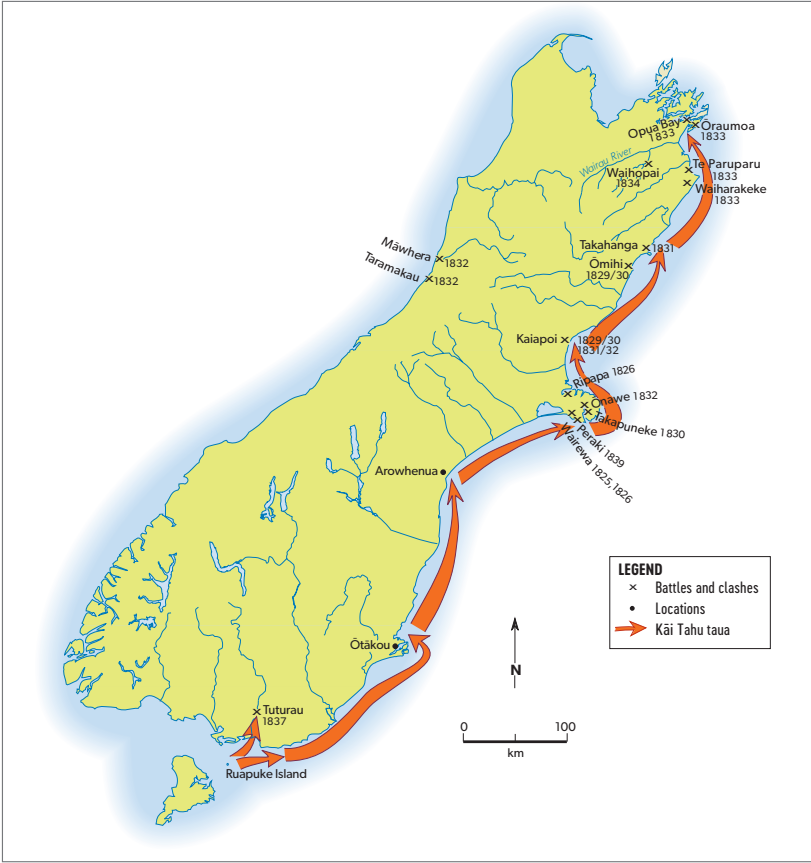
*Ngāpuhi taua to Mokoia Island, 1823.*

# MAP D



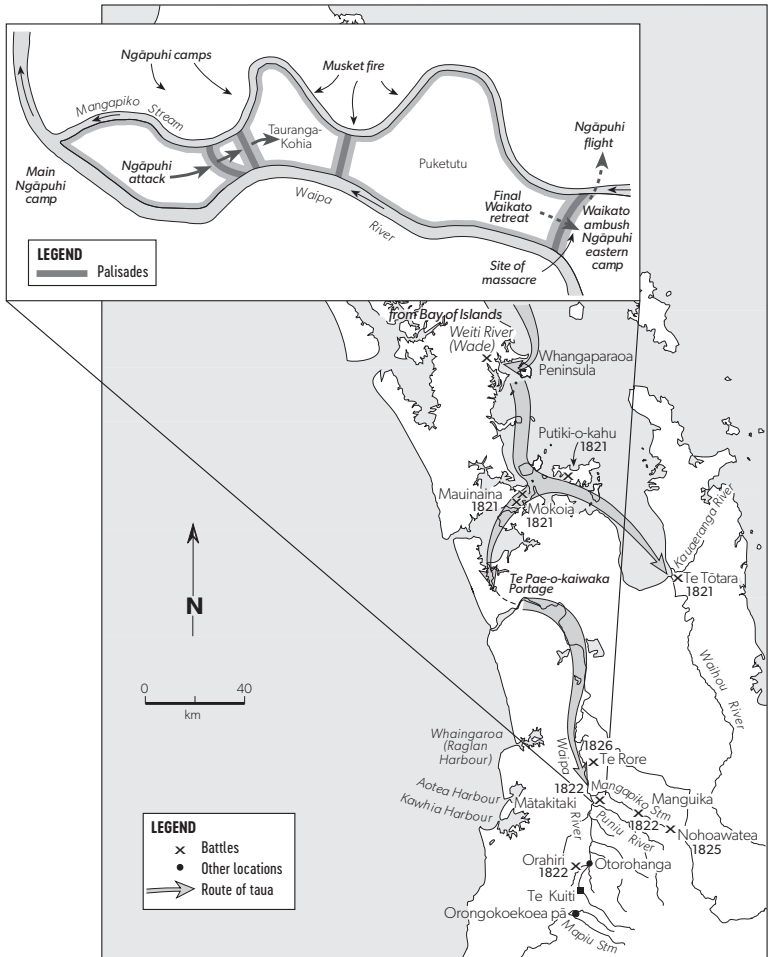
*Te Rauaparaha's attack on the island pā on Lake Horowhenua, 1823.*

# MAP E

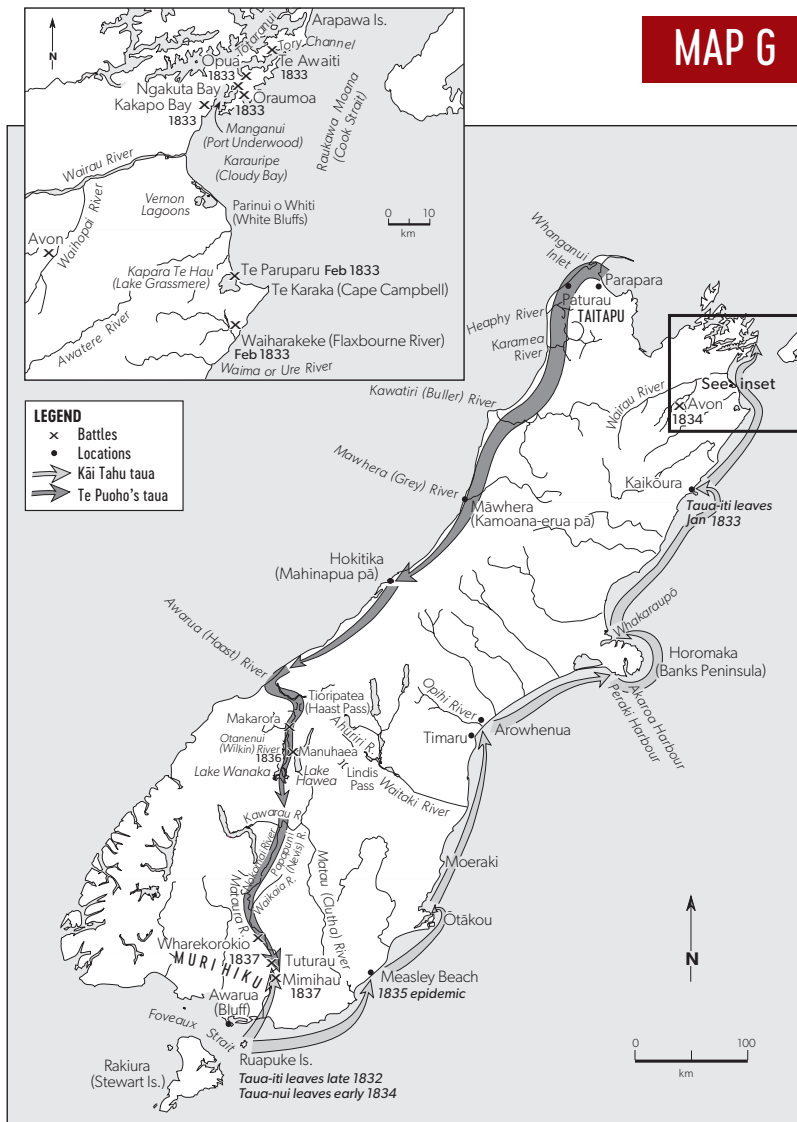


*Kāi Tahu: battle sites and taua movements.*

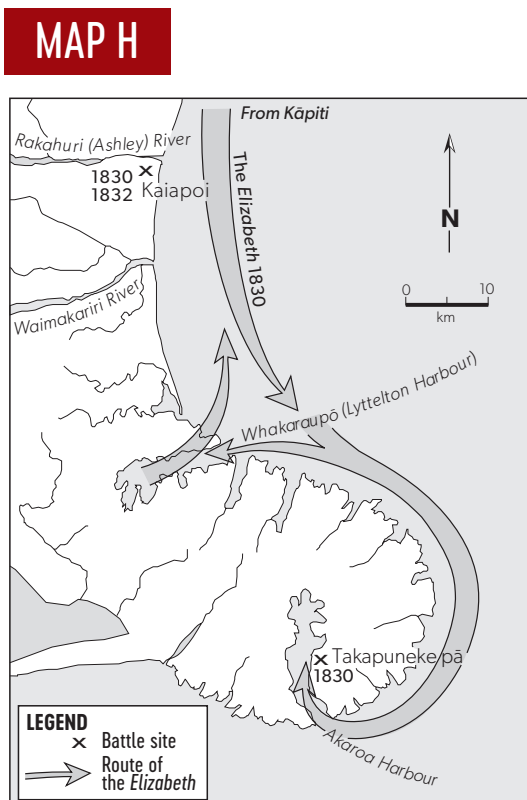
# MAP F



*Ngāpuhi taua to Mokoia, Te Tōtara and Waikato, 1821-26. INSET: Matakītiki pā, 1822.*



*Tana-iti and Tana-nui, east coast of the South Island, 1832-34, and Te Puoho's taura down the West Coast, 1836-37. INSET: Tana-iti and Tana-nui engagements.*



*The capture of Te Maiharanui at Takapuneke, 1830.*