Nau mai, haere mai: Please join us at the Wellington City Libraries, Central Library, Ground Floor in the last week of July as we celebrate Te Wiki o te Reo Māori with two special kōrero by Mana Whenua:

KŌRERO @ TE MATAPIHI KI TE AO NUI

Oruaiti: (Permission of Treaty Relations Unit, Wellington City Council)

A SENSE OF PLACE : THE FORMING OF THE LAND : AN IWI PERSPECTIVE

Tuesday 28 July 12.30-1.30:
Speaker: Kura Moeahu: He kōrero beginning with the story of Ngake and Whātaitai (bilingual)

Thursday 30 July 12.30-1.30:
Speaker: Neavin Broughton: He kōrero beginning with the story of Kupe (bilingual)

Within the oral traditions of Mana Whenua we learn the early stories of significant land and landmarks around the shores of our beautiful harbour – see the memorial above, which marks the site of Oruaiti Pā

From this lookout we may imagine the path of Whātaitai, a taniwha of Te Whanganui-a-Tara who escaped the harbour to the open sea – the tale so lovingly reshaped in the Moira Wairama’s The taniwha of Whanga-nui-a-Tara. Puffin Books, 2011.
Māui


The pūrākau of Māui are many – and there are as many childrens’ books to recount the adventures of this mischievous potiki.

We here, at Te Whanganui-a-Tara inhabit the head of the fish – Te Upoko o te ika a Māu.

But Maui has an everyday presence in our city, if we choose to open our eyes:

See in the Civic Square: Te Aho a Māui: the fishing line of Māui.
The Wharenui at Pipitea Marae:

The crowd gathered around the meeting house at the dawn opening of Pipitea Marae, Thorndon Quay, Wellington


Caption (with photograph of the dawn ceremony) in the original newspaper article:

“As dawn casts it light on Thorndon Quay, Te Ati Awa and other Taranaki peoples assemble with ngā hau e wha – the people of the four winds – for the traditional whakanoa ceremonies to lift the tapu from the Ngāti Poneke Marae and its meeting house, Te Upoko o te ika a Māui (The Head of the Fish) (Wellington)” – Evening Post, 31 May, 1980) (Dominion Post Collection, Alexander Turnbull Library).

At Te Papa the influence of Māui is recorded on level four:

Māui and his four brothers capture the Sun (Tama-nui-te-ra) as it journeys across the sky. This carving sits atop the meeting house Te Hono ki Hawaiki (the link with the ancestral home), at Te Papa, New Zealand.
(Source: http://www.tepapa.govt.nz/education/onlineresources/sgr/pages/rongomaraeroa.aspx)
Kupe:

Kupe and whānau, before the mahau of the Wharewaka
(Image: Treaty Relations, Wellington City Council (2011))

Our tūpuna criss-crossed the Pacific ocean as skilled navigators and one tohunga kaiwhakatere was Kupe, who pursued the wheke of Muturangi to Te Moana o Raukawa.

Within our harbour are the rocks which mark some of the incidents of Kupe’s visit: Te Tūranganui-o-Kupe, Te Ure-o-Kupe, Te Aroaro-o-Kupe. But we must not forget his daughters – forever commemorated in the islands of Matiu and Mākarō of the inner harbour, the ‘sail of Kupe’ in Palliser Bay and areas such as Pari-whero – Red Rocks.

Kupe and the naming the of the land @ Te Moana o Raukawa

Date: 1849-1855  
By: Smith, William Mein, 1799-1869
Ref: Alexander Turnbull Library : E-011-f-004

[Smith, William Mein] 1799-1869 : [Kupe's Sail Rock, Palliser Bay, between 1849 and 1855?]

Here is another link to these early tales:

Date: 1842-1847  
Ref: PUBL-0020-02-3


On the right side is Ngauranga Pa, with the canoe memorial to Wharepouri amongst small houses.  
The waka-taua (canoe) is named “Te Wheke-a-Muturangi” and belonged to Te Wharepouri. It was  
captured at the battle of Waiorua 1824, or Whakapaetai as it also called, and was erected by the Te  
Ati Awa chief Rawiri Te Motutere, grandfather of Mere Ngamai, the wife of Wi Tako
**Tupaia**

The story of a well-known Polynesian navigator is recorded in Joan Druett’s book on the life of Tupaia, and what an amazing man he was. Tupaia joined Cook’s expedition on the Endeavour, in 1769, visiting New Zealand where Māori regarded him as a tohunga – and as whānau, but he died of disease at Batavia/Jakata, 1770

(Source: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/empire_seapower/cook_tupaia_maori_01.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/empire_seapower/cook_tupaia_maori_01.shtml))

“Tupaia, who had been entertained by the busy trade in lobsters, made a sketch of Banks trying to barter a piece of tapa for a particularly large crayfish, held firmly by its Maori owner. It is his most famous work, because of the emotions expressed in the humorous little scene. Both figures have their legs braced, and are glaring into each other’s eyes; the Maori holds the lobster by a string, ready to snatch it back at the first opportunity, while Banks keeps his piece of tapa just out of reach.”


For those of us not usually inclined to gaze out of our windows and dream of times gone by, it is a surprising journey of discovery to find so many tohu embedded in the landscape - signalling the deeds and lives of our tāngata rongonui.

No reira, please come to hear the kōrero of Kura Moeahu and Neavin Broughton at the Central Library, 28 and 30 July, 12.30 pm.

*Whatu ngarongaro he tangata, toitū he whenua*