The tale of the Pahaoa Taniwha

Legend describes how a giant Taniwha from the East, a dragon of immense power came ashore and thrashed her way inland to her spiritual source in the quartz rocks of eastern Aotearoa.

Her giant tail created twisting bends in the bed of the Pahaoa Awa the 2nd longest river in the Wairarapa.

> At a certain spot she created something very rare indeed, her Den, with a tongue shaped isthmus at the entrance.

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That is where we go, to that isthmus, to the entrance of the Taniwha's Den.

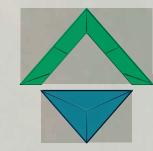
Many indigenous nations recognise these places as a gateway to the pirit world. A place that Shaman and wizards past and present revere as a sanctuary, a place of safety.

Hinakura, a chief amongst Maori, gave her name to this area. It is thought that she was buried here, perhaps even on this Isthmus. Her name loosely translated means to bring togeth

Since 2002 Riverdog has been the Kaitiaki for the Pahaoa Awa, and its Taniwha. The surroundi river banks have been planted out with 50,000 tree Manuka, Harakeke, Totora, Rimu and Matai.

> There are also 6 Kauri trees in remembrance of the 6 Kuri (dogs) that saved this land and the Pahaoa Awa from cattle farming. Their spirits immortalised in the film 'Riverdog'.

It is with this Whakapapa that we 'Return to Source', gathering to dance on the earth, celebrating life and each other.



We bring to the Taniwha's Den our diverse ideas, race, beliefs and respect for one another.

It is a safe place to empty yourself and then be refilled again. A place of renewal.

We ask that you respect the Whenua, the Awa, our Taniwha and each other.

Look after your mates, have fun and smile because you are here to dance at the Taniwha's Den.