



Tarawera volcano – my PhD field locality

- **Te Arawa** people (the first explorers of the land) settled in the area in 14th Century
- Buried their dead on the slopes of their sacred Tarawera mauga (mountain)
- **Rūaumoko** (ancestral god of earthquakes) groaned deep within the earth, reminding people of the volcanic power below
- 1860s: tourism boomed due to Pink and White Terraces
- A difficult time for Māori society as they became dependent on a cash economy
- **Tuhoto Ariki**, a tohunga (priest) of great power, warned the people that disaster could follow: the sighting of a phantom canoe ten days before the eruption was a warning sign
- When the 1886 eruption occurred, three of the Māori villages were destroyed. Death toll: 120
- The grief following the eruption was terrible for the tribes
- Many survivors were relocated