

# 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](http://www.nelsoncitycouncil.co.nz/thecouncil/council_role/pou-pou.htm)

# Description and history of the Pou Pou

## Te Whakakotahitanga-Ate-Rangimārie ki te Whakatū

The unity, harmony and well-being of Nelson

Taha Noa - ordinary side

Taha Tapu - sacred side

Represents Pākehā side of the community

### Kowhai branch

Indicating friendship and unity between the communities of Nelson.

### Pouākai

The Giant Eagle of ancient times. Defeated in myth by Waitaha and Kati Rapuwai Tribes.

**Waitaha, Ngati Mamoe, Kati Rapuwai**  
South Island tribes.



### Manaia Irirangi

Beaked figure, spiritual voice, spiritual guardian and support

### Ta Moko-ma

Contains information regarding who is represented in the carving.

Represents Māori side of the community

Cloak that enfolds all of the iwi, hapu and whanau of Te Whakatu (Nelson).

Children/people gathered together in peace.

### Uenuku

The arch-rainbow represents the north and south links through the whakapapa and Kawa of Tainui.

### Koru pattern

Represents the people walking together.

Pou Pou are the upright slabs that form the solid framework of the walls of a whare (house).

This Pou Pou represents unity between the Māori and Pakeha, as well as representing the the unity of all people in Nelson.

For more information on these carvings visit

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