

## **The day I met Ngararahuarau...**

The sun blazed down on me like a fire. I felt the smooth sand. I saw a big cave. It smelled of rotten bodies. Then a taniwha came out. I wanted to run but he didn't see me. He was slimy and green. He had scales that smelt of the deep sea. He razed his tail and made big clouds of sand. It was like he was trying to hypnotise me. His eyes looked like they wanted to murder me. He took two deep breaths and roared. Just then I knew in a few seconds I would be in his disgusting tummy. He opened his mouth and.....then the west wind began to blow and sure enough the taniwha slowly drifted off to sleep. And that is how I escaped. By Rianna (aged 9)

A taniwha looked down at me. Its eyes were blazing dark red. It had blood dripping from its tail. It had razor sharp teeth. In fact, it looked a bit ugly but at the same time a little lonely. I gave it a hug. A smile appeared upon his face. Wait a second! It wasn't blood dripping from its teeth. It was tomato sauce. I gave it one more hug then I said goodbye and I left and that was the last I saw of the taniwha. By Grace (aged 8)

On one side of me I felt a cool breeze. On the other, an overpowering stench of dried blood and cooking bodies that bothered my senses. First, my legs started wobbling, then the rest of my body. I fainted. What felt like 2 hours later, I woke up. The taniwha had evilness in his eyes. Fear was oozing through my skin like sweat. I closed my eyes hoping it would go away but it didn't. When I flashed open my eyes, I just managed to catch a glimpse of white rolling into the blackness of the cave. I looked up and saw a gaping mouth glaring down on me, threatening to swallow me. Then the taniwha suddenly went calm. He picked me up gently and put me in his mouth. When he opened his mouth I was at the back of the cave. The taniwha stuck out his tongue and I walked down onto the sand. There in front of me were some giant eggs. The taniwha picked me and put me on one of his four eggs. It cracked open. He kept doing this until all his eggs cracked open. Every time he put me on one of his eggs, a baby taniwha came out. Everyday I grew more and more into their family and that's where I've lived ever since. By Joe (aged 8)

The taniwha was studying me while licking his lips. Then he stared down at me and swayed from side to side. He had a hungry look in his eyes. His teeth dripped of red coloured water. Then the hungry look in his eyes vanished leaving an honest look in his eyes. I scratched his belly. He fell over and started to giggle and that is how I am here today. By Denise (aged 9)

I slept on the hot sand. The sun was high in the sky but then happiness fled from my body. A cave glared at me and in that cave was a pile of heads. They seemed to be asking me for help. The cave smelt of dried blood and I heard bones snap. Instantly I knew they were human bones. I was about to run but then I heard footsteps and out came a huge black scaly taniwha. It had blood dripping from its teeth. Then I realised it was going to eat me. This monstrous beast snarled at me and then sniffed the air as if he was deciding to eat me or not. He whipped his tail making a cloud of sand. Now the time came. He whipped his tail again and sharp knives dug into my feelings. But what was this? He just gave me a rub with his head, then ran to the sea and dived into the ocean and that was the last I saw of him. By Killian (aged 9)

I smelt an awful smell. It smelt like dead bodies being cooked up. I could hear someone talking. My body started to shake with fear. The taniwha razed his gigantic paws like I was going to be his dinner. The taniwha gazed at me and shook his paws and sand blew right into my face. I started coughing and I wished the sand would stop. The taniwha opened his large jaws. In his mouth, he had razor sharp teeth. They were not sparkly clean. They were dark orange with a hint of red. I thought that he had been eating people. I was scared. I thought he would sprint out and kill me but he suddenly dropped to the ground and there was no more sound. By Casey (aged 9)

