

## **Abstract**

### **Hine Te Ariki Parata-Walker**

This study of *hahunga* (Māori exhumation) is an attempt to discuss and review the traditional and modern day application of the system of *hahunga koiwi* – exhumation of ancestral remains. The genesis of the study was born out of an opportunity granted to assist with the exhumation of 56 ancestral remains found on a Tolaga Bay Area School building site in 2007.

Te Aitanga-a-Hauiti is the tribal group immediately associated with the Tolaga Bay Area School site and was the first point of consultation for the school Board of Trustees and management when the first *koiwi* (human remains) were discovered. This dissertation will explore the process of consultation and the decision making that resulted in the *koiwi* being exhumed and moved to a public cemetery site as well as explore the histories re-discovered as a result. The outcome is a framework for the application of *tikanga* Māori (Māori processes) in to modern excavations of *koiwi* Māori.