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| **The Legend of Pyes Pa** |
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| **A long time ago, in the Omanawa district, there used to be a Maori village situated on the cliff tops overlooking a gorge with a flowing river far below.  If the village existed today it would probably be in the Taumata Road region.  In this village lived a puhi, a chief's daughter named Taurikura, who was a woman of high rank.  Her village was called Kahakaharoa.  Taurikura was very spoiled, she had grown up expecting everything to be done for her.****One day Taurikura's grandfather asked her to get him some water from the river.  He was far too weak and old to climb down the steep track himself.  Taurikura should have obeyed her grandfather but instead she refused to go, telling her koro she was too tired.****Her grandfather was very thirsty, so, in desperation he decided to fetch the water himself.  He climbed down the steep track to the river carrying his empty gourd.  Eventually he reached the river and was able to quench his thirst.  He then filled his gourd and carried it back up to the pa.****Taurikura, seeing that her grandfather had water in his gourd when he returned to the pa, demanded that she be allowed it for herself.  Her grandfather, unable to believe how cheeky his mokopuna was, became angry with her, telling her that she was selfish and that he was very disappointed in her.  Turning his back on his granddaughter he returned to his whare.****Taurikua was filled with embarrassment and shame, she knew she had behaved badly towards her grandfather.  Feeling that she could no longer face her tribe she left the village carrying a kit of charms with her.****Later that night she crept down to the river and changed herself into a ngarara, a creature resembling a lizard.  She swam downstream towards Tauranga Moana, past the estuary of Waikareao, on past Matarawa ( the old name for Judea), past Motupae and out into Tauranga Moana.  She swam on past the mountain known as Mauao, beyond Matakana, stopping finally, exhausted, on the rocky island of Karewa.****Keeping her lizard form so that no one would ever recognise her, Taurikura stayed on Karewa where she became the ancestor of the tuatara, a special type of lizard who share their nests with mutton birds, found only on Karewa.****Taurikura is especially remembered at Judea where she can be seen in the carved poupou at the meeting house Tamateapokaiwhenua.  There is a carved portrait of Taurikura, the cheeky girl, who is the ancestor of the tuatara of Karewa.** |

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