



SCHOOL JOURNAL

AUGUST 2017



TITLE	READING YEAR LEVEL
The Mysterious Stones of Tonga	4
Score!	4
The Best Team Ever	4
A Gust of Wind	4
Up the Guts!	4

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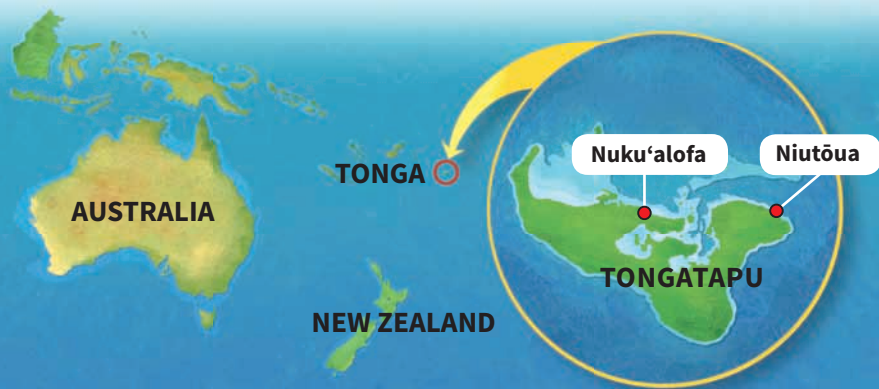
THE MYSTERIOUS STONES OF TONGA

by 'Ana Maui Taufe'ulungaki



Near the small village of Niutōua in Tonga, there are three large stones. Two are standing up. The third stone lies across the top of the other two. This stone **structure** is called the Ha'amonga 'a Maui (the Burden of Maui). It is also known as the trilithon (“tri” means three), and some people call it “the king’s stone clock”.

Many things about the Ha'amonga are a mystery. Nobody knows for sure when it was built, who built it, why it was built, or how it was built.





WHEN WAS IT BUILT?


People have different ideas about when the Ha‘amonga was built.

- Some say it was built about 800 years ago. At that time, Tonga ruled many Pacific islands. The Tongan people sailed between the islands on large **kalia**.
- Some say it was built just over 1,000 years ago. That was when a man named ‘Aho‘eitu became the first king of Tonga.
- Some say it was built nearly 3,000 years ago. That was when the first people arrived in Tonga from the west. (They were called the Lapita, and they are the ancestors of the Polynesian people.)

WHO BUILT IT?

Because the stones are so big, some people believe that the Ha'amonga was built by Maui. "Only a god could do work of this size," they say. This is why the structure is called the Ha'amonga 'a Maui. Others say the Lapita people built it.

However, many people think that the Ha'amonga was built by King Tu'itātui in 1200. There are other stone structures nearby. We know some of these structures were built about the same time, so the idea that King Tu'itātui also built the Ha'amonga makes sense.



Langi Heketā
(the royal
burial tombs)

'Esi Makafa'akinanga
(the king's stone throne)

Paepae 'o Tele'a (stone
platforms for royal houses)

Ha'amonga 'a Maui

This is an artist's impression of what the area looked like in the time of King Tu'itātui. Today some of these stone structures are overgrown.

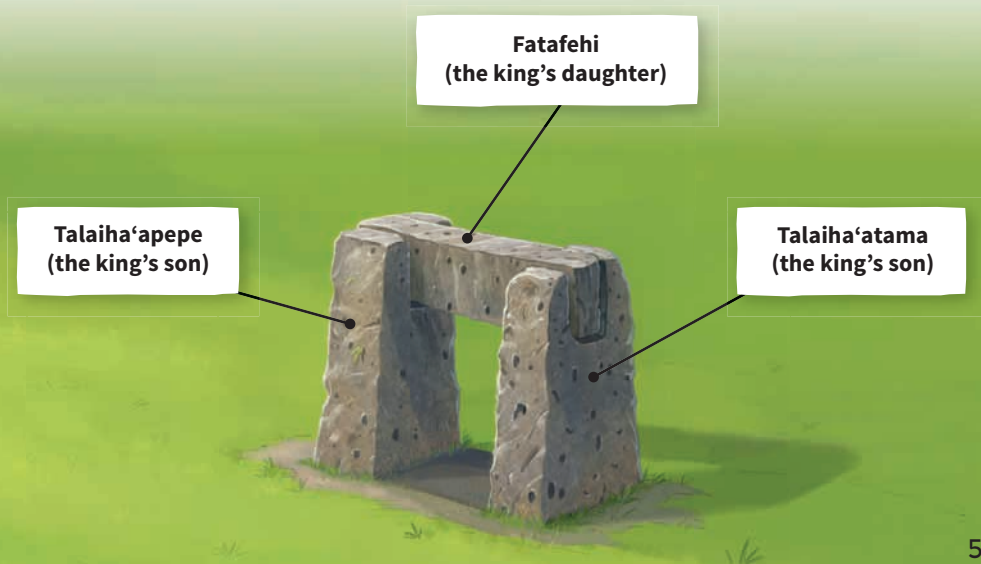
WHY WAS IT BUILT?

Some people think that the Ha'amonga was a gateway to King Tu'itātui's house. Other people say it was built to show the king's power. A lot of people were needed to build the Ha'amonga. King Tu'itātui had to be very powerful to rule that many people.

Tonga has no written history about the things that happened long ago, but it does have an **oral history**. Tamale, the chief of Niutōua, is an oral historian. He says that the king built the Ha'amonga to teach his children some important lessons.

King Tu'itātui had two sons and a daughter. The king said that the two upright stones stood for his sons. He wanted to show his sons that they should work together for the good of Tonga.

The **lintel** stone stood for his daughter. The other two stones hold up the lintel. In the same way, the king wanted his sons to support their sister. This was a way to show the importance of women in Tonga.

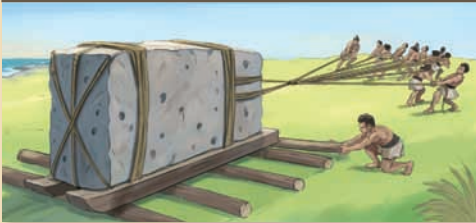


HOW DID THEY BUILD IT?

Tamale says the Ha'amonga was made like this:



People cut big blocks of stone from rocks on the coast.



Then hundreds of people dragged the stones to the building site using strong ropes.



They dug two huge holes for the side stones.



Once the side stones were in place, they used earth to make a ramp.



Then they dragged the lintel stone up the ramp and onto the side stones.



After that, they took away the earth ramp.

KING TAUFA‘AHAU TUPOU IV’S IDEA

In 1967, King Taufa‘ahau Tupou IV suggested another reason why the Ha‘amonga was built. He said that it was a kind of stone clock. There are V-shaped marks on top of the lintel stone. The king said that on the shortest and longest days of the year, when the sun rises, it shines through these marks.

If the Ha‘amonga was a clock, it would have been very important to the Tongan people back then. They could have used it to keep track of the seasons. It would have helped them to work out the right time of the year to leave on their long ocean voyages. It would also have helped them to know when to plant and harvest their crops.

NOT THE ONLY ONE

The Ha‘amonga is similar to ancient stone structures found in other parts of the world. Stonehenge, in England, is one well-known example.



Stonehenge, England

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HA'AMONGA TODAY

The Ha'amonga 'a Maui is very important to the people of Niutōua village. Every year, the children of Niutōua primary school dance a special dance around the stones.

The United Nations is thinking about adding the Ha'amonga to its list of **World Heritage sites**. This makes it important to all of Tonga – and to the whole world as well.



GLOSSARY

kalia: ocean-going canoes

lintel: a piece of timber, stone, concrete, or steel that goes across the top of a door or window frame to make it stronger

oral history: spoken history passed down from generation to generation (people told their children what happened, those children told their children, and so on)

structure: something that is built from several parts

World Heritage site: a place that the United Nations thinks should be protected because it's so important



The Best Team Ever

by Philippa Werry

BROOKLYN

QUINN

ARIANA

SCENE 1: *A school playground.*

BROOKLYN, QUINN, and ARIANA enter.

QUINN. I'm so excited about our wearable arts show.

ARIANA. Me too! I love making stuff and dressing up.

BROOKLYN. Who else is in our group? *(She checks her notice.)*

Jessie, Luca, and Hayley – where are they?

QUINN. There's Jessie. *(He waves.)* Hey, Jessie, over here.

JESSIE *comes over and joins them.*

JESSIE. Is this about the show? I'd rather be playing basketball.

Is it going to take long?

BROOKLYN. Now we're all here except Luca and Hayley.

QUINN. Luca always forgets things.

ARIANA. Who's Hayley?

JESSIE. I think she's new.



BROOKLYN. We're running out of time. Can you all go and look for them?

QUINN, ARIANA, and JESSIE spread out across the stage, yelling for **LUCA** and **HAYLEY**, who come running in.

LUCA (breathlessly). I'm here! Sorry, I forgot we had a meeting.

HAYLEY. And I got lost. Your school is so confusing!

QUINN. Hi, are you Hayley? I'm Quinn, and this is (*pointing*) Ariana and Jessie and Luca and Brooklyn.

HAYLEY. Hi, everyone.

BROOKLYN. Now, first of all, we have to decide on a theme for our costume. There are five categories. (*She reads from the notice.*) Superheroes, In the Garden, Secret Surprise, Oranges and Lemons, and Time Passes.



JESSIE. We should definitely do Superheroes! We can have a superhero whose superpower is shooting hoops!

LUCA. I like Secret Surprise, but I don't know what the surprise could be.

QUINN. We could all eat hundreds of oranges and save the orange peel to make a massive orange monster.

ARIANA. My nan has a big garden. We could ask her if we can pick lots of daffodils and kōwhai flowers for In the Garden! Hayley, what do you think?

HAYLEY. Well, we did wearable arts at my last school, and –

BROOKLYN. OK, **some** of those are good ideas, but we can't sit around and talk all day. I've got a great idea. We can do that.

The bell rings.

JESSIE. Lunchtime – basketball! Yay!

BROOKLYN. Hold it! (*She writes furiously on a piece of paper and then hands it to JESSIE.*) I've drawn up a list of stuff that we'll need for tomorrow. We'll meet up again first thing in the morning.

BROOKLYN *walks off.*

HAYLEY. Is she always like that? She's very ... um ... organised!

JESSIE (*reading*). Wool, clothes pegs, cellophane, a clean white T-shirt ...

QUINN. A roll of bubble wrap, flowers from the garden ...

LUCA. Six different kinds of fabric and a giant-sized pack of coloured card – we have to get all that by tomorrow morning?

The STUDENTS exit.





SCENE 2: *The school playground, next morning. The **STUDENTS** come in again. Nobody has brought anything with them.*

BROOKLYN. Is everyone here? Where's all our stuff?

QUINN. I didn't have time to look for anything. My grandmother came to visit.

ARIANA. Me, neither. I had Guides.

QUINN. Our cat had kittens last night. I had to look after them.

ARIANA. It was too wet to go out into the garden. Anyway, my nan said it's not the right season for spring flowers.

JESSIE. I was at basketball practice.

HAYLEY. All our stuff is still in boxes from our move.

LUCA. I forgot, sorry.

BROOKLYN. This is a disaster! We haven't got anything to use for our costume!



JESSIE. Well, did you bring anything?

BROOKLYN. No, I'm the organiser. I was busy planning how to make it!

HAYLEY. Calm down, we'll just have to go and find some stuff.

BROOKLYN. Find some stuff?

HAYLEY. Sure. When we did wearable arts at my last school, we just looked around and found stuff. Then we thought about what it reminded us of.

JESSIE. That's a great idea.

QUINN. Come on, everyone, let's go.

ARIANA. Hayley, you come with me so you don't get lost again.

BROOKLYN. Where do we find stuff? I can't see anything.



BROOKLYN stands in the middle of the stage while the other **STUDENTS** scatter to all corners, collecting stuff. They meet up again with their discoveries.

ARIANA. Look, Hayley and I got these beautiful leaves from under the trees. They're amazing colours – red, orange, and gold.

HAYLEY. And I found these berries and seed pods as well.

QUINN. I got a pile of cardboard tubes and newspapers from the staffroom.

JESSIE. Mr Jones the caretaker gave us some plastic bottles from the recycling bins.

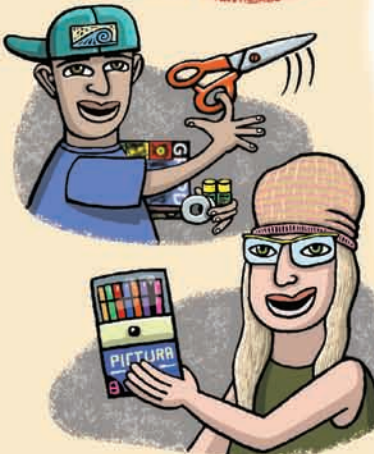
LUCA. Mrs Sua in the office said we could use her scissors, and she gave us some magazines and glue sticks and sticky tape.

BROOKLYN. You've all found such amazing stuff, and I haven't got anything.

ARIANA. That doesn't matter – we're a team. We can share stuff.

BROOKLYN. Wait on – I got a brand-new packet of felt pens for my birthday. Would they be helpful?

QUINN. That would be great – and my friend in that group over there said we could have some glitter that they don't need.



ARIANA. These leaves remind me of the colourful wings of a butterfly.

LUCA. The cardboard tubes make me think of a caterpillar curled up in a chrysalis.

QUINN. Maybe we could combine them into one costume – caterpillar to butterfly!

BROOKLYN. That sounds amazing, but which category does it fit into? Superheroes, In the Garden, Secret Surprise, Oranges and Lemons, or Time Passes?

HAYLEY. Time passes when a caterpillar turns into a butterfly.

JESSIE. Caterpillars are definitely superheroes with a superpower of changing shape!

LUCA. It's a surprise when a butterfly comes out from a chrysalis.

QUINN. Some of the leaves are orange.

ARIANA. And we found them in the garden!

LUCA. Cool! We can enter all five categories!

ARIANA. This is going to be a brilliant costume ... or should that be five brilliant costumes?

JESSIE. OK, guys – let's get to work!



A Gust of Wind

I water the garden with
Grandma's old tea kettle,
pouring water from the spout
into the last pale roses;
I crunch rust leaves, which collect
around my gumboots.



Grey clouds gather, and it rains
in Grandma's cooling garden;
plants become cups of water
as the rain tinkles on leaves
like a pianist tapping
the ivory keys.



One, two, then a chorus of
flowers, singing the same song:
that summer is nearly here,
as the daffodils, pansies, and
tulips bloom and tūi
flit through branches.



When the hedges around us
are full of buzzing, winged things,
Grandad puts on his oldest clothes
and mows the lawns, while dandelion
seeds on a gust of wind sail
over the garden and off.

Sarah Penwarden



SCORE!

by Bronwen Wall

“Go, Tiana!”

Tiana tucks the ball under her arm and races up the field. It’s three tackles down – there’s only one more play left in this set. The other team is waiting for her. Where can she go? Two players try to grab her, but Tiana dodges between them. Suddenly, the field ahead is empty. Can she reach the goal line before they catch her? Run, Tiana, run!





Tiana has been playing rugby league for two years. She started in a school team with friends and enjoyed it so much that she wanted to play more often. Her dad helped her find a club team to join. Now she plays on the weekends as well.

MINIS AND MODS

Tiana plays in mixed teams of boys and girls. You can start playing rugby league at any age. Children under nine years old play in the Mini League, while those between nine and twelve play in the Mod League.

Players are taught the basic rules of rugby league in a fun and safe way. They learn how to pass, catch, and run with the ball. They also learn how to **tackle** so that they don't hurt themselves or other players.

THE RULES OF MINI LEAGUE

1. Each team can have between six and eight players on the field.
2. A game is played over three ten-minute sessions. There is a three-minute break between sessions. Players can swap out at each break.
3. Players score points by placing the ball over the other team's goal line to score a **try**.
4. Players on the defending team can tackle a player, but they can only do that if the player is holding the ball.
5. Once a player has been tackled, they get up and play the ball back (by rolling it back with their foot) to a team-mate behind them, and play carries on.
6. A team can only keep the ball for four tackles. Then they must give the ball to the other team.
7. After a team has scored a try, they get more points if they can kick a **conversion**.



Rugby league is a winter sport. Most games are played between April and September each year. There are Mini and Mod leagues in most places around the country. In 2016, over eight thousand boys and around eight hundred girls signed up to play.

Once she turns thirteen, Tiana will be able to play in competition games. At competition level, she will play in a girls-only team. Maybe one day, she'll be good enough to play for the Kiwi Ferns!

HOW FUN IS THAT?



"I've learnt a lot about teamwork since I started playing league. It's a good way to make new friends."



"It feels awesome when you learn to catch the ball while you're running."



"I can run fast, and it's really fun to zoom past the other players."

NEW ZEALAND WOMEN'S RUGBY LEAGUE

For many years, it was hard for women to get the chance to play rugby league. Men's rugby league started over a hundred years ago, but at that time, a lot of people didn't think women should play the game. They thought it was too rough.

Some women played with their brothers and cousins, but they weren't allowed to play in competitions. In New Zealand, women's rugby league teams only began to play games against each other in the late 1970s.

Today there are lots of women's teams around the country. Since 1995, teams have played each year in a women's national tournament. The best players from the tournament are chosen to play in the New Zealand women's rugby league team, the Kiwi Ferns.

**The Kiwi Ferns playing
Australia during the
2013 World Cup**





The Kiwi Ferns celebrate their win in the 2008 World Cup

THE KIWI FERNS AND THE WORLD CUP

The Kiwi Ferns started in 1995. In 2000, the first Women's Rugby League World Cup tournament was held, and the Kiwi Ferns won. They won the next two tournaments as well, one in 2005 and one in 2008.

In 2013, the Women's Rugby League World Cup was made a regular event. It now takes place every four years. The Kiwi Ferns lost the 2013 World Cup final to Australia, but that just made them want to win the next one even more. The next tournament will be held in Australia in November 2017.

Tiana can hear the other players right behind her – she knows they’re getting closer. She pushes her legs to go faster, and just as she feels someone grabbing at her jersey, she dives for the line!



GLOSSARY

conversion: a way to gain more points by kicking the ball over the other team’s goal posts after scoring a try. In rugby league, a conversion is worth 2 points.*

tackle: holding on to a player to stop them getting to the goal line with the ball. Tackles must be safe. They must be under the arms, and they must not lift the player off the ground.

try: a way of scoring points by touching the ball on the ground (with a hand) behind the other team’s goal line. In rugby league, a try is worth 4 points.*

* Mini and Mod games are not played for competition points.

Up the Guts!

by Paora Tibble



“Come on then! See if you can score another one!”

“Are you for real?”

“You think you’re cool just because you can step around me. Try running straight up the guts!”

Sometimes I feel sorry for my brother. “Can I convert my try first?”

Shane and I play league, one on one. I usually win by sidestepping or just running around him. The added bonus is that I get lots of practice kicking conversions.

We’ve got this willow tree out the front of our house. It’s got a big branch. That’s our goal post. I’ve got the ball in two hands. I look down and then up at where I want the ball to go. Shane’s pulling faces, going cross-eyed, trying to put me off.

I’m focused. The ball drops to the ground, my right leg swings back, my foot follows through. Sweet as, the ball sails between the posts!

Just then Dad pulls up in the ute. Shane calls out, “Hey, Dad, check out my tackling.”

“Well, you better kick off first,” Dad replies.

Our whānau is league crazy. Mum and Dad have been Warriors supporters since day one. That was before Shane and I were even born! So, of course, whenever we play, Shane has to be the Warriors and I’m some other team – any team.

Just before Shane kicks off, he pulls out the same old trick he uses every time I’m ahead. “Hey, Para, last try wins. OK?”

“Yep. I haven’t got all day. Kick the ball.”

“OK, but don’t try to run round me. That doesn’t work in a real game. You need to take it straight up the guts!”

“OK, then,” I think. “If that’s how he wants to play it.”

I catch the ball, and I run straight at him. Next minute ... boof! I’m on my back, and the ball is on the ground. So much for running it up the guts! Shane’s just flattened me with a great tackle. He scoops up the ball and runs towards the goal line in slow motion.



Then he starts talking like a commentator in a cheesy Australian accent. “Shane Waha for the Warriors has just made a tackle on the Eels’ prop forward. He’s also picked up the ball. Amazing!”

Dad comes over and pretends to tackle Shane.

“The last line of defence for the Eels is their koroheke fullback, Henare Waha,” Shane continues. “But no, Shane’s fend is just tumeke! He scores!”

After scoring the winning try, Shane puts two fingers in his mouth to blow the final whistle of the game. Then, just to rub salt into the wound, he acts out an end-of-game interview with Te Arahi Maipi.

“Kia ora, Shane. You got Man of the Match. What made the difference for the Warriors today?”

“Chur, Te Arahi,” he replies to himself. “At the end of the day, it’s all about running the ball straight up the guts, eh!”

What a sad guy!

Dad gives me a hand up.

“You two ready for āpōpō?”





Saturday morning ...

It's the first game of the season – the Tigers (us) versus the Leopards. We play in the under-9 competition, but the Leopards have got this kid who looks about thirteen. His name's Latu. He's huge, but their coach has a copy of his birth certificate, so he's playing.

Latu is causing havoc on the field. When he gets the ball, he just keeps running at our smallest players. It takes three of us to stop him.

With five minutes to go, Latu gets the ball. He runs straight at me. I go for the tackle, but it's like trying to stop a bulldozer – he runs straight over me and carries on to score a try. I'm left face down in the grass.

Now it's almost time up, and the Leopards have the ball again. No points for guessing who they give it to. Latu turns and runs straight at me. Here we go again. As he gets closer, I close my eyes and go for his ankles. Shane comes racing in. He drives his shoulder up under Latu's ball-carrying arm, and together, we bring the big guy down.

The ball goes flying, and one of our players, Tasi, dives onto it. We have the ball!

The ref yells, "Two more minutes!"

I get up and give Shane a hand up. "Nice work, bro!"

He grins. "He wasn't running over my sister twice."

Tasi gets up and rolls the ball back between his legs. Stevie passes it to me. I pass to Shane, who runs it hard up the guts until he's tackled. Mum yells, "Go, Shaney boy!" Shame, Mum!

We do the same thing again in the next play. This time, I pass the ball to Tasi. It's only the second tackle, and we've made some good ground. We're in the Leopards' 20.

Latu is watching. I see him move to make sure he's opposite me. The ball comes to me again. I dummy-pass to my left, but at the same time, I step to the right. I'm aiming to get through the gap on the left of Latu, but it closes real fast! Shane was right – my fancy footwork is no good.



Latu grabs me, but I manage to turn in the tackle. He's still got hold of me, but my hands are free. As I'm falling, I pop the ball up to Shane, who takes it at full speed and flies through the gap between Latu and another Leopard defender. I fall with Latu on top of me – ouch!

I hear our team and supporters cheering. I look up. Shane has scored a try. I run up to congratulate him. He smiles. "You ran straight up the guts, even!"

Then he flicks me the ball. "Here, no pressure. Just kick the conversion."

Thanks, bro.

I'm focused. I imagine the willow tree in our front yard. I take a deep breath, the ball drops to the ground, and my right foot swings back ...



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