Ko KAKATI Te Whare Tupuna ki Whakatu Marae

There are six iwi mutually-recognised as having tangata whenua status in the Nelson region. These iwi come from rather different origins, in regard to their traditions of travel from Hawaiki and their history of occupation of this region. One iwi, Ngati Kuia, derives from the "Kurahaupo" waka, and have been in the Nelson region since that canoe arrived from Hawaiki in the 13th century. Three iwi, Ngati Koata, Ngati Rarua and Ngati Toa derive from the "Tainui" canoe and have been in the region from the late 1820s, and two iwi, Ngati Tama and Te Atiawa, derive from the "Tokomaru", "Aotea" and the "Kurahaupo" (but of a different genealogical line to Ngati Kuia), and have also been in this region since the late 1820s. Some of the interactions between Ngati Kuia and the other iwi were often quite brutal during the 1820s invasions.

Given these origins, it became important in the 1970s and 1980s when Whakatu Marae was being built to ensure that where possible the kaupapa, kawa and tikanga of the Marae be based on those aspects of our histories that join us together. The choice of the name of the house was among the more important decisions which had to be made. After much debate, it was mutually agreed that a common ancestor, KAKATI, should be immortalised in this house. KAKATI lived approximately 20 generations ago – say 1500AD. His whakapapa (genealogical lines) is as follows:

