

Plaque to commemorate Waikaremoana ancestors

A MEMORIAL plaque for Waikaremoana whanau who do not know where their ancestors are buried will be unveiled on Easter Sunday.

Waikaremoana kuia Gladys Colquhoun wanted the commemorative plaque in recognition of all her whanau whose burial sites were not known.

Her niece Sharon Cooper said in the old days, family members sometimes just had a stone to mark where they were buried with no name anywhere.

“Aunty wants us to know that something was left behind of these people buried so many years ago.

“She is the last repository of history for people up here.

“There are three interested tribes

here, Ngai Tuhoe, Ngati Ruapani Mai Waikaremoana and Ngati Kahungunu, and we acknowledge the three of them.”

Miss Cooper said her aunt, who had 10 children, had always been a staunch advocate for Ruapani.

“She was born here in 1933, and raised here, and has seen lots of things that we have never seen — like the real Matariki.”

Miss Cooper said her aunt's mother died when she was four years old and that was one of the reasons she wanted to create a memorial, as she doesn't know where her mother was buried.

The memorial plaque will be unveiled at 11am at Te Whare Kaponga Urupa, Te Kuha Marae.