

On 31 January 1770, at Queen Charlotte Sound, Cook was given the following geographical information by an aged Maori male:

After I had thus prepar'd the way for setting up the post we took it up to the highest part of the Island and after fixing it fast in the ground hoisted thereon the Union flag and I dignified this Inlet with the name of *Queen Charlottes Sound* and took formal possession of it and the adjacent lands in the name and for the use of His Majesty, we then drank Her Majestys hilt in a Bottle of wine and gave the empty bottle to the old man (who had attended us up the hill) with which he was highly pleased. Whilst the post was seting up we asked the old man about the Strait or passage into the Eastern Sea and he very plainly told us that there was a passage and as I had some conjectors that the lands to the sw of this strait (which we are now at) was an Island and not part of a continent we questioned the old man about it who said that it consisted of two *Wannuaes*, that is two lands or Islands that might be circumnavigated in a few days, even in four. This man spoke of three lands, the two above mentioned which he call'd *Tovy-poenammu* which signifies green Talk or stone such as the[y] Make their tools on, oramints &c and for the third he pointed to the land on the East side of the Strait, this he said was a large land and that it would take up a great many moons to sail round it, or some thing to the same purpose—this he called *Aeheino mouwe* a name m[an]y others before had call'd it by, that part which borders on the strait he call'd *Teirawhitte*.¹³

Maoris were able to guide missionaries and surveyors during their travels through New Zealand last century: Colenso over the Huiarau Range in December 1841 and the Ruahine Range in February 1845¹⁴; Selwyn over the Raukumara Range in December 1842¹⁵; Brunner down the Buller River to the West Coast and return via the Grey, Inangahua and Buller Rivers between December 1846 and June 1848¹⁶; Harper over Harper Pass as far as Awarua (Big) Bay and back between October 1857 and January 1858.¹⁷ These are only some of the Europeans who were guided on journeys by Maoris.

Mountain passes in the main divide between the West Coast and Canterbury and Otago were known to the Maoris on both sides of the divide. Wilson recorded geographical information from nine Maoris aged between 32 and 97 who were then living at the Makawhio River, South Westland.¹⁸ Wilson was told that the following mountain passes were known and used: Ada, Harper, Arthur's, Haast, Maori, Hollyford—known but not used were Worsley, Browning and Whitcombe.¹⁹ The Maoris were vague as to the order of discovery of the passes—Wilson records Browning followed by Harper. Wilson states that the Harper, Browning and Whitcombe Passes were known to Canterbury Maoris.²⁰ Browning Pass is shown quite clearly on a Maori map of the Rakaia River system prepared circa 1860 either for J. von Haast or acquired by him.²¹ Haast was also informed of a pass to the West Coast by an aged Maori at Waitemate Bush in January 1863.²² This pass might have been either Haast or Maori Pass. The latter was known to Otago Maoris.^{23, 24, 25}