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In the beginning there was only darkness. Rangi, the Sky father dwelt with Papa the Earth mother. The children of Rangi and Papa were tired of darkness. They decided to separate their parents. It was Tane who rose and placed his shoulders against his mother and his feet against his father and began to push them apart. The sinews that bound them stretched and ripped and bled. And his parents cried out in pain. But Tane kept pushing them apart and eventually there was light.

Maui sneaked aboard his brothers' fishing boat. They travelled further from land than they had ever gone before. Maui used a sacred jawbone for a hook. He whacked his own nose and smeared the blood on his hook for bait. He put his magic hook over the side of the canoe. Soon the water was bubbling and frothing and Maui had to fight to keep control of his huge fish. When he finally managed to pull it up from the sea he found it was an island - the North Island of New Zealand - and he called his fish Te Ika a Maui - the fish of Maui.

The Kowarau tribe lived in the Waitakere Ranges. They had paa sites and villages all along the West Coast of the Ranges. Lion Rock was sacred ground. The whole area was covered with dense forest. There were no Pakeha, no roads, no towns. Often there were wars with neighbouring tribes.

Thomas Henderson bought the first land in this area. He wanted it because it was filled with large areas of magnificent kauri trees. The kauri trees were chopped down, and floated down the river to the Henderson Mill where they were sawn into long planks. From there they were shipped all over the world.

Henderson started off very small. There was a Sawmill, a few rough cabins, and a two - storey hotel known as the Falls. There were about half a dozen houses spread out in the area we now call Henderson township. There were no roads, only rough tracks.

Henderson became an area of farms, orchards and vineyards. People discovered that the land was perfect for growing grapes and there were rows upon rows of vines. There were very few houses. The area was quite rural.

Gradually Henderson became a proper town. Subdivisions and houses replaced farms. Lots of shops were built along Great North Road. Henderson Square was built. There were proper roads and street lights and more traffic and lots more people. It became Henderson as we know it today.