

1.0 My name is Henrietta Dawn Danby. I live at Paeroa, and I am giving evidence in this WAI 970 Claim. I am a researcher and genealogist and have carried out both informal and formal research into the lands of Hauraki and other regions for twenty years. I often help local people piece together whanau and land information.

1.1 The focus of this claim is the ancestor Tamatepo, and the ways in which the Crown has contributed to the minimisation of the mana of this man and his descendants, as the tuakana line of the Marutuahu peoples of Hauraki

1.2 The eldest son of Marutuahu was Tamatepo, who had twin sons. Because they were twins, neither took the father's name, to avoid a split in the mana. His elder son Rauakitua had Rongomai, from whom the hapu Ngati Rongo-u descended. At the time when the grandsons of Marutuahu were undertaking the conquest of Tamaki, the Marutuahu compact consisted of Ngati Maru, Ngati Rongo-u, Ngati Tamatera and Ngati Whanaunga. (Turoa, Nga Iwi o Hauraki Vol 2 p. 12)

1.3 In this claim the hapu of Rongo-U and its own various hapu assert their existence both historically and into the present day, despite the ravages of the early pressured sales of land upon them as a people. Their story is one of strength and resilience as a hapu. Te Uringahau and Te Patutatahi may be considered as descendant hapu of Ngati Rongo-u.

1.4 Beliefs and actions of the Crown and its agents and systems were a major contribution towards rendering the ancestor Tamatepo and his descendants invisible. Their story is one of unfairness and coercion by these agents and systems of the Crown.

1.5 The Native Land Court Minute books from the 1870's record information about Ngati Rongo-u, Te Patutatahi, and Te Uringahau and also people of Tamatepo descent from Ngati Naunau, Ngati Kawe, te Mango and Ngati Tawhaki.

These Tamatepo descendants come to life in these records as groupings of peoples with strong leadership, respected as warriors and as cultivators, and living in highly functional and well-organised communities. They claimed mana whenua over lands chiefly situated in the north of the Coromandel Peninsula.

1.6 In contrast, the Census of Tribes of the North Island recorded in 1870 and 1874 do not include Ngati Rongo-u numbers, as the census takers did not visit their areas. These Crown agents included Te Uringahau as a hapu of Ngati Maru in the census for both years. So by two actions; a "non-count" and a mis-naming, these people were rendered invisible and supposedly assimilated.

1.7 Evidence of their presence as a strong descent line is given in the NLC Minutes. They knew who they were and were acknowledged with respect by the leaders of other hapu from as far away as Ohinemuri, who named and described numerous N'Rongo-u pa, and the numbers of occupants living and cultivating there.

1.8 David Alexander records the obscene haste with which their lands were sold once ownership had been established. Paul Monin p.230 of This is My Place states

"The Native Land Court system was inherently debt-generating."

1.9 The methods of debt creation by Crown agents are evident in transactions on certain land blocks. One method of debt creation used in Hauraki was known as "raihana", meaning "rations", whereby people were encouraged to go into debt with traders for food and other supplies in circumstances which were ambiguous for them. The Crown agents paid the debt to the trader, against the equity of land interests, so the owner was then in debt to the Crown.

Land sale followed debt. Monin on p.236 describes this method of debt-creation as acquisition of land (by the Crown) by stealth. On p 237 Monin quotes the editor of the Thames Advertiser who describes this as a Government trap set with enticing bait.

1.10 Monin also quotes W.H.Oliver "However willing they might appear, Maori sellers cannot be represented as free agents; it would be more generally true to say they were acting under a duress exercised by the agents of government with the sanction of the state.

1.11 A summary of Ngati Rongo-u Block title creation and sales at this time is:

Moehau 1L: Title created 1878. Purchased by the Crown in 1879.

Moehau II: Title created 1878. Purchased by the Crown 1879

Moehau 1J: Title created 1878. Purchased by the Crown 1880.

Moehau 2B: Title created 1879. An area of 200 acres taken by the crown for survey costs, plus a further 340 acres. The remainder sold to Europeans 1913-14.

Repanga: Title created 1879. All sold by 1902.

Karioi: Title created 1875. Purchased by the Crown 1877.

Poihakena: Title created 1872. Sold 1873.

Otautu: Title created 1871. Purchased by Crown after repeated bungs in 1890.

1.12 After the Waikato wars, the Crown demanded raupatu lands. Responsibility for this related to all of the Hauraki hapu who had been involved, including the northern Coromandel hapu. Ngati Tawhaki agreed to give an area stretching from Poihakena to Waiaro, to atone for the involvement of all Hauraki hapu.

The amount of land taken by the Crown far outweighed any actual involvement by Hauraki, so was clearly intended as a punitive measure.

(Historical whanau oral history : Discussion with David Williams. (13.6.02)

2.0 **Watene Whanau Ancestral Lands:**

The original Watene land-holdings around the Kirikiri area and on the Hauraki Plains were bequests from tupuna and acquired by conquest over the earlier tangata whenua peoples, after the killings of Tautukapakapa and Waenganui, and later of Kairangatira. These areas were divided between the various descendant groupings of the tipuna involved, and the boundaries of these became more formalised with the coming of the Native Land Court.

2.1 The tipuna Tamatepo has been paramount in this whanau's history, as there was an intermarriage between a descendant from each of Tamatepo's twin sons, Rauakitua and Rauakitai. These were Kataraina Matene and Mita Watene I. Hineahi, an important tupuna in this line had been killed by Ngapuhi on one of small blocks in the Kopu-Kirikiri area. So when the family held a Whanau reunion in December 1987, it was under the banner of Tamatepo.

(Refer to Appendix 2 of my Research Report.)

2.2 There has been a series of hui for Tamatepo descendants held from 1998 from which this claim arose, decisions and actions from these are detailed in the Appendix 1 to my Research Report.

2.3 The Crown and its agencies have been active in eroding and damaging the Watene estate through the years, chiefly through the Public Works Act. The Catchment Board and later Environment Waikato have meddled with and encroached upon the bed and banks of the Kirikiri Stream, previously an important source of eels, and nowadays excavated into what can best be described as a drain.

2.4 A poorly designed bridge over the Kirikiri Stream, adjoining their house sites produces serious flooding. The Catchment Board's solution several years ago was to encroach onto land and build stopbanks, rather than to deal with the cause of the flooding.

2.5 The researcher was present during the period when the local Catchment Board Manager and its lawyer called a frail elderly Watene woman into the lawyer's office to pressure her into agreeing to their land encroachment. These men would not allow her to take younger family members with her to support her. The lawyer was her own personal solicitor as well as representing the Catchment Board, so she was understandably confused. She gave up and agreed to Catchment Board demands.

2.6 Watene house sites and small land holdings are on a number of small blocks at the junction of what is now SH25A; the Kopu-Hikuai road junction with the Thames-Paeroa Highway (SH26). Land taken under the Public Works Act has drastically eroded their land in this area over the years.

2.6 The Watene family still have holdings in the Taparahi No 3C2 Block. They were defined by the derogatory term "non-sellers" (H39/124) in 1896. When the Kopu-Hikuai road (SH25A) was under construction in 1967, agreement was sought from the Watene whanau to take land for the road from them under the Public Works Act.

2.7 The negotiators would not compensate the family for the land taken, arguing that the family would benefit as "their grandchildren would have access to the land with the road access." The family did not receive written documentation regarding these transactions, although the women had signed documents at the time.

2.8 In 1971 a notice was gazetted to take the land for a limited access road, the only owner with road access simply went ahead and created this himself, without permission. (Oral whanau history: discussion with Mita Watene and Hakaraia Watene-Gurnick 6.6.02)

2.9 This road has been constructed with arguably dishonest negotiations by agents of government. The family now own inaccessible land-locked lands barred from road access, and have received no compensation for the drastic loss of land for the road itself. See Appendix 3 of two maps regarding this area.

3.0 Summary. Land in both the northern areas of Ngati Rongo-u and for the Watene whanau around the Kirikiri area has been lost to them by means which have been pressured, and characterised by dishonest and devious practices by agents of the Crown and government.

3.1 Removal of the land base has fragmented a communal way of life and combined with other social and economic pressures to make basic survival difficult, let alone promote any promise of opportunity to thrive and enjoy continuity and choice.

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