

IN THE MATTER OF The Treaty of
 Waitangi Act
 1975

AND

IN THE MATTER OF Claims by
 HUHURERE
 TUKUKINO and
 OTHERS known
 as the HAURAKI
 CLAIMS

**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF ILTON MIRTH NGAPO
ON BEHALF OF THE CLAIMANTS**

1. My name is Ilton Mirth Ngapo. I am of Ngapuhi/Ngati Poroa/Tainui and Hauraki descent.
2. My education included primary at Kennedy Bay, attendance at Otahuhu High School where I undertook a Commercial course (Secretarial). I qualified with a number of certificates relevant to government employment and industry standards in typing, shorthand and bookkeeping.

3. In the sixth form I was a prefect, Captain of the first hockey team, cricket team and a member of the Softball team.
4. My secondary school education and that of my two brothers and my older sister Kathleen was the result of an edict made by my fathers will. At that time he predicted that education would be the foundation on which the future of his children would be dependent.
5. This in fact is no more than his commitment to education for all of his children.
6. It should be noted that the older children in our family received their education in the following institutions.
7. Rebecca — Auckland Girls Grammar, teachers training at Auckland Training College. Medical training with St. Johns Ambulance, nursed wounded at St. Guys London became personal medical attendant for the Royal House of Saudi Arabia, (passed away in 1998 at the age of 95 years).
8. Isobel - educated at Kennedy's Bay, trained in nursing at Thames Hospital, escorted a patient to Australia, met and married an Australian, died at the age of 70 odd years.
9. Robert - educated at Kennedy's Bay, freezing worker Auckland, KIA overseas.
10. Mary - educated at Kennedy's Bay nursed mental patients at Avondale Mental Home until she married. Died aged 87.
11. Doreen - educated at Kennedy's Bay, trained in nursing at Thames Hospital, retired as Matron of St Helens, and then retired again as Matron of St. Mary's Otahuhu. Managed her own private hospital at Epsom, is now aged 89 years.

12. Gladys - (Te Moananui) husband brother of Eruini. Educated at Kennedy's Bay land girl for the family farm. Died in 1987 aged 74 years.
13. Alma - (Te Moananui) husband Eruini. Educated at Kennedy's Bay, land girl for the family farm. Died 1969, aged 53 years.
14. George - educated at Kennedy's Bay, Otahuhu High School, engaged in local transport, bush felling and sub-contractor, presently 83 years of age.
15. Richard - educated at Kennedy's Bay, provided labour to maintain the farm. KIA aged 22 years.
16. Kathleen - (Kyla) married Walter Te Moananui. Educated at Kennedy's Bay, Otahuhu High School - home science. Captain of hockey and cricket teams. Involved in judging horticultural shows. For a time nursed in private hospitals. Presently aged 78 years.
17. Mirth — (see below).
18. Gordan - educated at Kennedy's Bay, Matriculated at Otahuhu High School, trained at Auckland Training College and retired as Assistant Principal Meadow Bank School. Presently aged 73 years.
19. My employment history includes:
 - Lewis & Wills - indent agents;
 - Taupo Totara Timber, RCA Record Company;
 - Ohinemuri County Council and concluded eventually with a last flurry with Hauraki Maori Trust Board Companies;
 - Local community involvement has included Paeroa College Board of Trustees, Secretary to the Te Pai o Hauraki Marae Committee and Trustees.

Intentions

20. I intend to direct my comments at the lives and activities of the descendants of my grandfather Charles Hovell born in Suffolk England in 1857 died in New Zealand 1952 aged 95 years.
21. Dad, John Thwaites, passed away in 1934 at the age of 74.
22. My mother lived most of her life in Kennedy's Bay, Coromandel. She died in 1975 aged 93 years.

Hovell/Thwaites Whanau

23. While my grandfather Charles Hovell, as an Englishman did not possess te reo, his first wife my grandmother Mere Te Aurere Aperaniko was able to teach her children competence in te reo.
24. Despite this expertise of both my mother and father it was their view that English was the fundamental foundation on which education was based and they declined to teach their family.
25. In our education at our schools we were to observe Maori children speaking te reo being chastised and disciplined for this serious misdemeanour. We did not understand this behaviour since with our own upbringing the occasion to err never arose.
26. In my life the understanding of matters Maori was to take place in the later stages, culminating in my service in various capacities on marae committees.

Lifestyles

27. When we were students in Auckland in 1936 (living with our oldest sister) it was the first time that we heard of and learnt about the Depression.
28. Because we were lucky, we understood only then the impact on others of the Depression because mum and dad were hosts to these strange

men who arrived with their pikau (sugar bag haversacks) and were fed a few meals in return for some menial labour.

29. Our farm land provided all our necessities in abundance. We were experts at preserving fruit and vegetables, we were skilled at storing food and smoking meat. Bacon and pickled pork were available in quantity.
30. Fish and shellfish was gathered with enthusiasm by all members. Unfortunately by some more than others. Gathering frostfish after a cold frosty morning on the beach was a great experience.
31. The use of gelnite to assist in the quantities of fish caught was absolutely necessary because the schools were so large that you could almost cross the water on their backs.
32. Cockles were gathered by the sackful and carted on the backs of our horses.
33. Gathering blackberries for jam was a special event.
34. Picnics with our large extended families were frequent and enjoyable by all. Dances, main events like birthdays, weddings, re-unions and even tangi were major occasions.
35. The arrival of the Navy on the surveying vessel HMS Endeavour was always a memorable event. It had to be said that the role of parents was predominantly negative, they were engaged in prevention, the maintenance of values and to ensure that the locals were left in the same condition as they were first found.
36. Horse riding was always a dangerous activity. My older sister (Kathleen) was invariably the main victim and suffered breaks to both collarbones from the impact with our other sister Alma as they were propelled from the buck jumping steed.

Education and Employment

37. Because of our commitment to education ingrained in our psyche by my parents, my children have been encouraged to pursue the highest levels possible.
38. As a consequence most of my family including those of our brother and sisters are academically qualified professionals or senior managers in a diverse range of industries both in New Zealand and in Australia. Our grandchildren I am pleased to say are performing at a higher level in the pursuit of qualifications.

Land Ownership

39. The family farm it was presumed was purchased from Wallace & Grey, Indent Agents in the early 1900s and has remained in the family ever since.

The State of our Whanau

40. The Thwaites family is always engaged in meetings and family discussions. Email is an often used method of communication.
41. The next major get together will be on Labour weekend in Papatoetoe, Auckland.
42. I am on standby as babysitter for my grandchildren in Australia. The next assignment is due in November.
43. Apart from the concerns that confront every child minder my greatest stress comes from organising my time away around the rules and regulations of WINZ. My six month limit outside New Zealand is always in jeopardy and is the single factor that inhibits my absolute enjoyment of the sedate life I should be leading, befitting my age.

History

44. My grandfather came to New Zealand with his parents. His father was a ships surgeon. His brother Harry was born in the East Coast and his mother was to die as a result of a hunting accident in the East Coast.

45. Reference has already been made to my grandmother Mere Te Aurere Aperaniko. She was the grand daughter of Mere Hemoe who was a captive of Pomare during the Ngapuhi raids down the East Coast in 1820. She was of Ngati Poroa origin.
46. She had been captured with the fall of the Whetumataura Pa in Te Araroa along with many other women. Pomare claimed both Mere and her son whom elements of the war party killed without his knowledge.
47. Mere was taken to Omapere, north of Kaikohe. She bore two children (twin girls).
48. Pirihia Kau Ika Roa, was born in 1825 (one of the twin girls) and raised at Omapere and in 1850 married Aperaniko Waara. He has whakapapa to Hauraki/Tainui.
49. Aperaniko Waara was himself a captive of Ngapuhi and had been taken to the north by Hongi Hika. Of special significance to me is the fact that in the whakapapa of Aperaniko is Perakiwi and Te Karu o Te Rangi the latter one of the navigators of the Tainui Waka.
50. It is also important to me and my family that when Te Pai o Hauraki was disassembled and was taken from Waiara to Colville on the Waka of Tawhiao my mother was lifted from the beach by him and she travelled down the coast with the entourage.
51. My family has through circumstance been a part of the fabric of life in the Hauraki since 1860.
52. We have been beneficiaries of the fecundity of the Hauraki environment.
53. As a family we have endeavoured to acknowledge our appreciation for the quality of life that we have enjoyed in Hauraki.

54. We have made and are still making every effort to demonstrate our sense of responsibility and our wish for involvement in the developments of Hauraki that will take place in the future.
55. My children and my grandchildren join in expressions of that commitment and see their academic and professional attainments as a necessary part of their preparation for any task that might be offered to them or that they might wish to initiate on their own account.

