

IN THE MATTER of the **Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975**

AND

IN THE MATTER of the **Hauraki Inquiry District**

AND

IN THE MATTER of a claim by **Florence Te Paea Watene Gurnick; Mita Eparaima Watene; Billy Wi Te Koha Williams; Bill Wiremu Te Moananui; Ropata Te Wharetoitoi Rare; Harata McCaskill Williams; Toi Te Akeake and Aporo Hikitapua Reedy** on behalf of themselves and all the descendant whanau and hapu and the constituent whanau and hapu of the ancestor **TAMATEPO** of the **MARUTUAHU TRIBAL CONFEDERATION**

**STATEMENT OF MATENGA NOHOTAHU HOHEPA HENARE
IN SUPPORT OF WAI 970 CLAIM
Dated 10 June 2002**

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1. My name is Matenga Nohotahi Hohepa Henare, otherwise known as Martin Henry.
2. My father was Inia Hohepa Henare, I am a descendant of Ngati Rongo-U, my Hapu is Te Patutatahi.
3. I was born in Koputauaki Bay, 5 miles north of Coromandel, with a population of about 30 people, at that time.
4. At five years old I was milking 20 cows with my uncle in Koputauaki. We were milking these by hand and our payment was milk and cream for the day. During the winter season, there was so much ice on the ground, I used to follow the cows into the yard and when one of them did a mess, I would put my feet in it to warm them up.
5. When it was time for me to go to school, I was sent to Colville to live with my grandmother Hera Maraea Tauteka. I lived with my grandmother until I was old enough to go to work with my father. Where ever he went, he took me with him.
6. My first job was working at the Lime works Quarry in Amodeo Bay, south of Colville. We had no transport in those days to travel to work and I had an Aunty living not far from the Quarry so we moved in with her. We worked at this job for 6 months. Then my father got us a job on a farm, milking cows for Colin Goudie back in Colville so we moved back with my grandmother. We worked at that job for 6 months.
7. We moved to my fathers cousins place in Otautu, north of Colville and went to work for Gerald Bridle cutting scrub.
8. From there, we moved to Waiaro and stayed with my fathers sister, Aunty Wairukuruku and worked for Tom Ward, fencing.
9. We then moved further north and went to work for George Watson at the Granite Quarries.

10. From there we moved further north to Fantail Bay to work for John Geards cutting scrub.
11. When we ran out of food, it took us the whole day to walk to Colville and we would stay at Granny Hera's for the night, then walk back to Fantail Bay the next day.
12. All these places we worked on had a lot of meaning for my dad and each place we worked on, he would say "Son, this is your Tipuna land". The significance of my father taking me to all these places, did not sink in until years later.
13. When I turned 18, I decided to move to Auckland to seek employment, I heard there were better paying jobs and living conditions in the city. I began working in a Chocolate factory in Parnell. The city wasn't what I was told it would be, which made me yearn even more for home. I lasted 2 long years working in the Chocolate factory, and finally went home.
14. I managed to get a job in Coromandel with the Post and Telegraph, laying new lines and fixing telephone faults. I worked at this job for 2 years and it was within this time I met my wonderful wife, Miriana Pohau Harrison, of Ngati Porou Ki Harataunga. Together we raised 9 children, 4 from my wife's previous marriage and 5 of our own, all 9 are very close and dear to me.
15. We eventually moved to Thames, and housing was very scarce. The house we were renting at the time was a "Rat Hole". We decided to move to Hamilton, which for us was a God send. We found a nice home and I found a good job at Plastic Products with good wages. I worked there for 18 years, then had a bad accident which caused me to give up that particular job, as I couldn't carry out my normal tasks.
16. I went on to work at NRM Animal feeds for 12 years and Carter Holt for 13 years, until I was made redundant. I am now retired.

17. About ten years ago, I can remember my daughter asking me, "where are you from dad" and to my dismay I couldn't answer her because I had no Knowledge of my whakapapa or history of my Tipuna. My daughter being as determined as she is, wasn't satisfied with the lack of knowledge I had and for over 10 years, she has worked on and researched our whakapapa and history of our Tipuna. Thanks to her, I now know where I descend from, who I am and where I belong. It's taken me 65 years.

18. Today I am honoured to be able to stand here before you all and say:

Ko Matenga Nohotahi Hohepa taku ingoa

Ko Moehau te Maunga

Ko Tikapa Te Moana

Ko Ngati Rongo-U te Iwi

Ko Te Patutatahi te Hapu

Ko Tamatepo te Tipuna.

No reira rena koutou, tena koutou, tena tatou Katoa!

MATENGA NOHOTAHU HOHEPA HENARE

DATED: