

**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 RICHARD RAKENA ON  
BEHALF OF THE CLAIMANTS**

1. My name is Richard Rakena and I live at Te Puru. I am also known as Riki Tuhaiti and Rikiriki Rakena. I am a kaumatua of Ngati Tamatera although I can whakapapa into all of the Marutuahu tribes. You may recall that I have already given evidence before the Tribunal at previous hearings. I gave my whakapapa in the opening week of hearings. I want to talk about the difficulties we had making ends meet when I was young and the things we did to achieve a better life after the war.

2. After the big flu of 1919, my mother's second husband died. She married my father Tuhaiti Rakena Potiki. My mother had a block of land in Paeroa. So, her and dad decided to move down there and build their new home. The land was near the marae Te Pai o Hauraki so we shared about 60 acres with the rest of the hapu. Homes were built on the land. Two of my aunts lived in the wharenui.
3. The remaining land was cultivated. We ploughed, disked and harrowed the land together. We all took turns shared tools and labour especially during harvesting. When we'd finished our garden we moved on and helped the others. We grew all sorts of vegetables including watermelons, potatoes, kumara, maize and kamokamo. If we hadn't helped each other then we wouldn't have survived. I learnt to plough at an early age.
4. Mum also had a couple of cows and from about the age of 8 or 9 I milked them. I use to get a pound and a half of butter fat and I'd get a cheque 19- average per month. I remember at Christmas time mum would use the milk and cream for the xmas pudding etc. I remember being very upset about this.
5. My mother would go down to the Ohinemuri river during xmas holidays and fish for tuna with flexible willow rod. Worms threaded to flax fibre was used for bait. 20 eels would be the average catch for the day.
6. When we left the farm mum took about 30 or 40 ducks with us. The progeny of these ducks used to run wild because of no drains around our new property and when it flooded they had a great time. In the morning there were duck eggs, everywhere in paddocks. Mums grandchildren enjoyed visiting us during this period.



