

**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 TOKO RENATA TE TANIWHA  
ON BEHALF OF THE CLAIMANTS**

1. He korero mo to matau kainga Manaia  
Naku na Toko Renata II  
I whanau au i to matou kainga o Manaia i tupu ake i roto, i waenganui i  
oku koroua, kuia, i runga i to matau marae.  
Na ratou i Whangai au ki o ratou tikanga, o ratou waiata, haka, a nga  
whakapapa hoki.

(Translation)

My name is Toko Renata and I wish to talk today about our lands and places in Manaia. I was born in Manaia, my ancestral land, and grew up and was nurtured amongst the elders and upon our marae. I grew up nourished by our tikanga, waiata, haka and whakapapa.

2. Manaia papakainga is situated about km north of Thames and 13 kms south of Coromandel on State Highway 25. There are 67 homes and 9 batches with a population of about 200.
3. Manaia is serviced by the Manaia marae, Ngati Whanaunga, Ngati Maru and Ngati Pukenga.
4. I would like to talk now about the lands around Manaia. Today we have a population of about 200 in Manaia including about 15 kaumatua. There are about 67 houses in Manaia and 9 batches. There are 6 sheep farms and 14 dairy farms.
5. Our marae is now known as the Manaia marae. It is the centre for Ngati Pukenga, Ngati Whanaunga and Ngati Maru tribes in the area. We also have a small church called Mihingare which is around 90 years old.
6. However, there used to be many wharehenui and family papakainga in Manaia. In particular, I know of:
  - Iwi kai tapu
  - taringaringa
  - Aukati
  - Pokekorahi
  - Kiorekino
  - Parakau
  - "Mikaere" (after the whanau).

7. We have a church which is about 90 years old (Mihingare). The school has been moved from different areas within Manaia, to the present sit. The land was taken from Te Whanau o Te Moanaroa under the Public Works Act.
8. There are 67 children attending the school. 63 Maori and 4 European. Two teachers also. There is also one bilingual unit with 20 children, consisting of 1 kaiako and 1 awhina.
9. Roadway State 25 land was taken under the Public Works Act in 19[  
]. Landlocked blocks in Manaia about 90% of land has no access to State Highway 25.
10. Around the Manaia Harbour our land was taken and proposed designation by Council and the people of Manaia fought the Crown for 6 years before we got it back.

#### **Activities of the Past**

11. Of 6 sheep farms only one remains. Previously there were 14 dairy units but now there are none due to the closure of the cream factory in Paeroa and Ngatea. The workforce found employment with the local councils, forestry and Ministry of Works and Development and the fish factory. Now the only employer is Pacific Marine Farms - Sanford Mussel Factory.
12. When I think of how we survived when I was young, I think of the foods we gathered and grew from around us. When I was young I remember the whole of the Manaia flats was in gardens. Many whanau worked them and we produced many very different varieties of foods and in large amounts. Each season we produced about 7-8,000

kumara, that's about 3.5 tonnes. We grew everything in the gardens but in particular we had kumara, riwai and corn.

13. We all worked on the gardens but the work I dreaded the most was ploughing. When my father thought that we had been too long in one place we would plough new gardens for the next season. As a child I was always frightened that the plough would hit the roots of trees under the surface, and I would be thrown into the air.
14. After we had harvested our kumara the old ones sat and sorted them into groups by size, ones for tuku and some for bartering.
15. We stored our kumara and riwai in pits in the shed. The base of each pit was covered with waikawa vines before the foods were carefully packed inside. The whole lot were then covered with sacks and then soil above. We dug drains around the shed to help keep the whole area dry.
16. We piled corn into heaps and then made kangawai or fermented corn. You dear n't tell anyone where your supply was.
17. We also made bread from the corn, a very simple mixture of meal and water or milk.
18. While the fruit trees were abundant in the area, before my time our people used to send them to the markets in Auckland. Back then the lands on each side of the whole harbour were covered in fruit trees. Quite a few trees are growing round the area still today.
19. After the war one of my relatives brought back seeds for some Egyptian watermelons and these were growing very well all over our garden. One of my aunty's had the biggest watermelons so one night

me and some of the other kids snuck over to see if we could get some. Looking out over the fields in the night all we could see were the vines but we couldn't see any watermelons. So we followed one vine all the way to the end and found that it went underground. It turns out that my aunty had dug them under ground to try and hide them from us kids.

20. We also relied on meat we got from the bush. In particular I was brought up shooting pigs, and other birds.
21. When I was growing up most of our food came from the sea. Everyone fished and gathered kaimoana. If you timed your fishing expedition right you could go out with the river current and come back with the seas tide.
22. While we ate, shared and battered all of the catch. Sometimes large numbers of fish were split and dried. We also bottled kutai (mussels) for later eating.
23. At some times of the year we caught fish in the river using dynamite. It was the children's job to scoop out the fish while they were still floating. The small fish were gutted split, and hung on fences to dry. Around our house all the fences were always covered in fish pawhara. We did this, quite frankly, because we needed the food.
24. While we were generally able to gather plenty of food from the rivers, seas and the bush, and we grew a whole lot in our gardens. My parents never had a lot of money.
25. We were probably very lucky in comparison to other Hauraki Maori, because we had relatively more land in Manaia than many other groups. We still had to use what we had very wisely and efficiently

though. Some of the other groups in Hauraki were very short of land and had to use every square inch of what they did have. It seemed to me that the young ones had to go in search of work to bring in money, but also because there may have been too many months for the gardens to support in their areas.

26. Many left Manaia for work as well. There was some local work through the Public Works Department building roads in the area. My father worked as a foreman building roads through to Kennedy Bay, and the Coromandel 309 Road. We all found the work very tough going. In the early 50's a number of dams such as Karapiro began construction and this provided much work for Maori in our areas.
27. Work was never so easy to find but we needed an income to buy those basic foods we didn't make ourselves, and to pay outgoings such as council rates. It was not easy to get such money and things were always very tight.
28. My parents told me a story of how a flu epidemic hit our people at Manaia. From this single epidemic we have three large burial grounds. My parents generation called this flu the "black plague". We were told that some fishermen came into our harbour after bad weather. They were hungry and tired and were helped by our people. They were offered, food and provisions, and stayed until the weather had calmed. Very soon after they'd left our people started to come down with the flu and we lost large numbers of us. That was one of our darkest times.
29. I hunted throughout the bush in Manaia and walked over all the lands and know them very very well. When I was a child my father told me the names of the blocks when we went hunting. Many of these blocks today are owned by very many owners. This has caused problems in terms of their management. You can never track down all the owners

and consider all their views as to what should happen a block of land. We are slowly setting up various trusts, and the like, to deal with these multiply-owned lands.

30. In Manaia there are many landlocked blocks. Here, I am also referring to those that can only be accessed by rivers or the sea and which have no legal access to roads.

31. A number of the larger initial Maori blocks now contain sections that are landlocked. In the hills above Manaia down to the flats there are:

- Tihiouou
- Taurarahi
- Kakatarahae
- Tihi Konui
- Te Kohe Po
- Paeke Hauraki
- Hauturu
- Tangi Toi
- Te Awa-Wawahi
- Rangatira
- Wai whau
- Turua
- Ngauwaewae
- Pukehinau.

32. There were also a number of coastal blocks with access to the sea but not to roads or, in particular, to the state highway. These include:

- Waitapu
- Takatakaputea
- Hikurangi
- Karaka
- Owari

- Haukawakawa
- Taungatara
- Mataparu
- Paeakaratu.

33. On some of these lands I think the neighbouring land owners simply run their sheep and cattle. It is very hard to monitor. On the whole, we have to access these by crossing other's lands.

34. The mess with the blocks of land around Manaia is just another aspect of the legacy of the Crown's interference in our affairs and breaches of the Treaty of Waitangi.



