

**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 SHANE ASHBY ON  
BEHALF OF NGATI HIKAIRO**

1. My name is Shane Ashby. I am a member of Ngati Hikairo. I am the secretary of Pakararahi No. IB Trust.
2. I continue from where John Hikairo has left off starting with the support of the Whakapapa that he has recited. I would like to first elaborate on our two hapu structures. Ngati Hikairo are only those lines who claim descent from the ancestor Hikairo. Ngati Waikaukau are only those who claim descent from Hikairo and his elder brother, Te Apurangi's son, Onehunga.

Te Apurangi  
Onehunga

Hikairo  
Parehuitao

Te Niho 0 Mokoroa

Uatakaroa	Te Apurangi	Haorangi	Keke
Tuhiata	Ratua	Tarawherawhera	Mohi
Rangitopeata	Te Huiraukura	Hohepa Paraone	Kataraina
			Hohepa Te
			Rata Turuhira
			Harata Shane
			Ashby

*Ngati Waikaukau*

3. Ngati Waikaukau's mana whenua is principally situated at Manaia on the Waitotara, Whakataha and Parawaha blocks (all coastal blocks). These and much of the Manaia lands were taken as a consequence of the murders of two Ngati Maru chiefs called Te Ahumua and Te Ramaroa. They were brothers of Hikairo and Te Apurangi. They were the chiefs and leaders of the Ngati Maru ope that sought utu for their brothers deaths.
4. Ngati Waikaukau have recently lodged a claim to these land blocks and are still awaiting a Wai number. Ngati Waikaukau's mana whenua also extended to parts of Thames township.
5. There is an ancient urupa (Kareponia) and pa site (Parawaha pa) within the boundaries of the Parawaha block and is the reason for our claims to the Tribunal. The current owner, Prince Nawaf ai Saud of Saudi Arabia, has put all the above blocks up for sale. Many of Hikairo's and Onehunga's descendants are buried within the Kareponia urupa.
6. To our knowledge all of Onehunga's descendants have died out leaving only Hikairo's uri to claim Mana Hapu ie. Ngati Waikaukau mana.

*Ngati Hikairo*

7. Ngati Hikairo are specifically those who are descended from Hikairo himself ie. the uri from Parehuitao and Te Niho O Mokoroa. To our knowledge the line of

Parehuitao has died out leaving only her brother, Te Niho's line from whom all Ngati Hikairo today are descended.

8. Hikairo had land of his own at Manaia called, Te Kakati. Two thirds of this land still belongs to the hapu. Most of Hikairo's mana whenua claims lie south of Thames at Te Puriri (Pakirarahi) and at Wharekawa on the east coast of the Peninsula.
9. The above named blocks were seized by Hikairo after the raupatu of the east coast of the Peninsula by the Marutuahu. It is said that these wars were sparked because of the murder of, Waenganui, by Ngati Hako. Waenganui was the wife of Taurukapakapa who himself was the youngest of Martuahu's sons.

*Wharekawa East No. 1&2 and Pakirarahi No. 1C*

10. After the Marutuahu's raupatu, the land was divided by the chiefs and Hikairo's share was (among other smaller blocks in the area) two large blocks named Wharekawa East No. 1 and 2 and Pakirarahi No. 1C. They are the subject of claims to the Waitangi Tribunal by the Ngati Hikairo hapu. In respect of Wharekawa east No. 1 block, it is acknowledged by Ngati Hikairo that the mana whenua is of a shared nature in that our traditions say that the land north of the Wharekawa River was claimed under the mana of Hikairo and those lands south of the river were so claimed under the mana of Te Raka of Ngati Karaua, the hapu being Ngati Ruahuri. The probable reason for not surveying the ancestral boundary between the two being the excessive costs of surveys at the time and the close relationship between the owners.

*Wharekawa Grievances*

11. Our claims in respect of the Wharekawa blocks are against the Crown's use of survey liens and debts to assist in alienating Maori from their land.
12. Along with survey debts there were advances made by certain Pakeha traders (often called raihana) to our ancestors causing them to be heavily indebted. After acquiring

such debts another common tactic used by the Crown was the monopoly it could create over the sale and purchase of Maori land. As a direct result of debt and the Crown monopoly my ancestors were forced to sell their land and settle for a lesser price to what they could easily have achieved on the open market.

13. It can be shown that the Crown's intentions were certainly not in the best interests of the Maori owners, but their own. As well as being heavily forested in native trees, the Wharekawa blocks were thought to be laden with gold and other valuable minerals. As a consequence the Crown decided that those lands must be purchased for the public good and should not, at any cost, fall into the hands of a private purchaser.
14. There is also the fact that there was a very lucrative lease in place between our ancestors and James McKay which would have netted our tupuna approximately £2100 over the period of the 21 year lease. There were also royalties payable for the kauri and other timbers on the block. In addition an agreement was in place whereby the Maori owners would be entitled to royalties from any gold or other minerals found on the block. The Crown totally disregarded this lease and the obvious benefits to the Maori owners when it was learned that the land in question was laden with gold and pursued outright purchase.

*Pakirarahi Grievances*

15. Pakirarahi No. 1C is an area of 3494 acres and situated approximately 15 kms south of Thames.
16. Ngati Hikairo claim that we are prejudicially affected by the decision of the District Land Registrar (Connelly) to remove a caveat placed on the title of Pakirarahi No. 1C block and the registration by the District Land Registrar of a mere timber lease entered into by our ancestors as a transfer of the fee simple of the land.

17. As a consequence of these actions, the land, including very valuable kauri and other timbers and mineral rights, passed out of the hands of the Maori owners without their consent.
  
18. The land was returned to the descendants of the original Maori owners in 1984, however this was achieved only by the efforts of the now Maori owners. There was great legal, financial and personal expense involved in the fight for the return of our ancestral land, for which no compensation has yet been paid to the owners. As a direct consequence of the District Land Registrar's actions in registering the timber lease as a transfer of the fee simple, the great kauri and native forests as well as the gold and silver were lost forever to the Maori owners of the land.
  
19. The timber and minerals that have been removed from our ancestral land could be counted today in the hundreds of millions of dollars.