

WAI-810

**Wai 686 #T6**  
**Wai 810 #A3**

**COPY**

**BRIEF OF EVIDENCE OF  
MOANA TE AIRA TE URI KARAKA TE  
WAERO**

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Wai  
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Te  
Waero  
M  
Evidence  
on behalf  
of Moana  
Te Aira Te  
Uri Karaka  
Te Waero

13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> May 2002

**15 April 2002**

## WHAKATUWHERA

My name is Moana Te Aira Te Uri Karaka Te Waero. I am the great-grand-daughter of Te Uri Karaka Te Waero (who was known locally as Rehutai Te Waero) and Mihi Rawiri Puhata of Waiheke Island. I am of the 11<sup>th</sup> generation from Kaiwhakapae on my great-grandfather's whakapapa from Te Whiringa. My great-grandmother Mihi is also known as Maringinui, who is a descendant of Kaiwhakapae through Kapu. Te Kupenga who signed the Treaty on 9 July 1840 at Tamaki was Rehutai's father. My whanau/hapu are Te Uri Karaka me Ngati Hura o Waiheke ki Ngati Paoa. My grandfather Te Matapo Morehu Te Uri Karaka Te Waero known locally as Tom Clarke and my father Meihana Te Uri Karaka known locally as Mason Clarke were both bora on Waiheke Island. My grandfather was born at Hangaura in 1896 and he delivered my father at Okahu (now known as Surfdale) in 1940, he being the potiki of the family.

My father is now deceased. He died on Waiheke Island in 1999 and is buried at Te Huruhi urupa on Waiheke Island. We have many tupuna buried here. My grandfather Te Matapo Te Uri Karaka Te Waero was one of the original trustees of this urupa. He continued to look after it until he passed away. I am Dad's eldest child. I have been given the approval of Dad's eldest brother, Te Iwingaro Te Uri Karaka (Dave Clarke who resides at Taumarunui) who is our tuakana, to represent our whanau/hapu interests on Waiheke Island. Prior to Dad passing away, Uncle Dave had given his approval to him to represent whanau/hapu interests. This extended into Ngati Paoa Iwi issues concerning both Waiheke and elsewhere. Dad told me in late August 1999 that he was appointed as the Kaitiaki for Waiheke Island while I was away, and was very proud of that fact given his commitment to both the island and Ngati Paoa Iwi.

The descendants of both Rehutai and Mihi continue to hold the ahi kaa roa due to our long association with the land to this present day. I live on Waiheke Island with my whanau.

## **WHANAU AND SPORT**

Grandad played rugby in the 1930s along with his whanaunga George Kawhi and brother-in-law Billie Royal. A photo shows them posing at the Ostend Domain, in uniform, with two members of the Hooks family, (see Attachment 1) Dad and his brothers all played sport on the island until they left home. In 1958 he played for the Marist Brothers Old Boys' Rugby League Football Club, (see Attachment 2) When Dad was 16 he won a trophy for boxing.

When living in Auckland in the 1960's he played rugby league for North Shore as did some of his brothers, (see Attachment 3) We moved to Kawerau in the 1970s. Dad played rugby league there as well. I remember Sunday being family day as well as rugby league day. Games would be held in Kawerau or Rotorua. We always went as a family to watch Dad play. During those days he broke his right leg once and his left leg twice which left him with a steel pin just above Ms ankle. He also broke his nose on two occasions. With his playing days over Dad moved into coaching. By this time we were living in Invercargill.

## **RUGBY LEAGUE IN SOUTHLAND**

By the 1980s rugby league had taken a strong hold in Invercargill. There were about eight clubs. Rugby league had no choice but to play on Sundays as other sports, i.e., rugby, hockey and soccer were given preference for fields. However, that also meant that players could play both rugby and rugby league. Realising that players were doing this, the Southland Rugby Union barred players from doing so. Dad became President of the Southland Rugby Football League in 1984. (see Attachment 4) By this time rugby league was proving more popular as a sport. Senior games were well established and Under 16s and Under 18s were just being promoted. As far as amenities were concerned, they had none. Monthly meetings were first held at Union Hall, then to the lounge bar at the Southland Hotel. That is, to one of the establishments that were supportive of rugby league. By this time I held the position of honorarium secretary alongside Dad. Dad would go to the Invercargill City Council requesting that permanent fields be set aside for rugby league. The same excuses would be given, that is, they had none available and maybe the Southland

Rugby Football League should purchase their own land. After much pressure on the Council, they eventually gave three options: One was a field that constantly flooded as it was situated by a waterway, two fields side by side about 10 kilometres from the outskirts of Invercargill and the third field was 10 kilometres in the opposite direction. The SRFL declined the field that flooded. Conditions that were imposed were that they had to mark them out and mow them. When it came to visiting teams, Dad would approach the Council asking if they could have a venue that had a full-sized playing field with proper amenities for all the players. The Council responded by saying they could hire the A&P Show-grounds for showers and kitchen only. The showers had no hot water and the kitchen was in the "dungeon" with no proper cooking facilities. Eventually Dad negotiated the hiring of the Southland Kew Bowling Hall which was owned by the Southland Cycling Club. This was where after-match functions were held and players could shower. Special licences were granted and tickets for alcohol and food were purchased at the door and taken to the bar to be redeemed. Entertainment was provided and children were permitted until 6:00 pm. Free entry and food was provided for the players while every body else paid a small cover charge with a light supper near the end of the evening.

In the 1985-6 George Rainey and Brett Robinson of the National Rugby League Auckland Board came to the AGM. Their message was that a nation-wide campaign was commencing at primary and intermediate school level. Further that it would be compulsory for clubs to have teams in each grade, i.e., Under 7s, Under 9s, etc. All SRFL dealings were to be transparent and accountable to them. SRFL had a strict code of conduct both on and off the field. Players dressed in reefer jackets and dress pants and coaches had to wear their emblem blazers. The Disciplinary Committee met every Monday following the games. Dad was instrumental in setting all this in place. In 1986 Dad was unable to attend the NRFL's AGM and I went in his place. Unfortunately, today there is no SRFL; it has been replaced and based in Dunedin.

Although Dad had an interest in all sports, his favourite was rugby league. He would purchase season tickets for the Auckland Warriors. Both he and I would go to Auckland and meet up with Uncle Tai and Uncle Huki to watch the game. If I was unable to go, he would take his grandson Thomas, who is my eldest.

## **WAIHEKE SPORTS CLUB, OSTEND DOMAIN, WAIHEKE ISLAND**

Dad's involvement with the Waiheke Sports Club was at both an Iwi level, and as a member of a club that he genuinely cared about. His family, relations and friends had played on the grounds. He knew a lot of the membership both present and past. Some he had gone to school with. When family or friends were visiting the island, he would take them to the Waiheke Sports Club which provided an opportunity to relive the past, watch the big screen, and laugh. Dad loved to laugh. He loved sport. He loved children. Dad was a family man. Dad recognised the struggle that the Waiheke Sports Club was going through, having been there himself almost 20 years before. The last time I saw my father alive was the Sunday before he passed away. He walked in the door asking each of us if we had signed the petition supporting the Waiheke Sports Club in obtaining a lease and if we hadn't to sign now. Thankfully we all had. I rang neighbours and friends to see if they had signed it. Dad looked at me and said, "Dear, why don't you take this petition and see if you can get 20 more signatures". I said, "Doubt it". His reply was "Still wanting to stay in the closet aye dear", and then he left. That was the last time I saw my father alive; that was the last time I spoke to him. Dad died the following Sunday morning, 14 November 1999. He was supposed to be at a Steering Committee meeting that day. The Committee were waiting for him so they could start. Unbeknownst to them, at the time, Dad had passed away suddenly at Whakanewha Regional Park while gathering pipi. The Sea Rescue transported Dad with Mum. Their original intention was to take Dad to Kennedy Point where the vehicular ferry moors. Because the ferry had arrived they changed their destination and brought Dad into Putiki Bay, directly opposite the Waiheke Sports Club. (This was a traditional landing place for waka). When the members found out that Mum and Dad were on the sea rescue boat, they came out to carry mother and my father's stretcher ashore. These same warriors and many more, gave our family so much support at a time when there were only a few of us. They took up a koha, gifted the family a photo of Dad for the casket, transported bedding and organised tents. They asked for nothing and gave so much.

Dad being brought into Putiki Bay opposite the Waiheke Sports Club situated on the Ostend Domain was no accident. It was a silent yet powerful reminder to us all of the significance of this piece of land. This piece of land that was a gathering place for

kaimoana, a gathering place to eat, a traditional canoe landing place, a gathering place for tangata whenua. What's changed? Absolutely nothing. The land still serves the same purpose.

Today, tangata whenua share the values of this piece of land with many Iwi, both Maori and Pakeha as did my tupuna. We came together in whanaungatanga, manaakitanga, kaitiakitanga and wairuatanga. I know this to be true. My father's death showed me.

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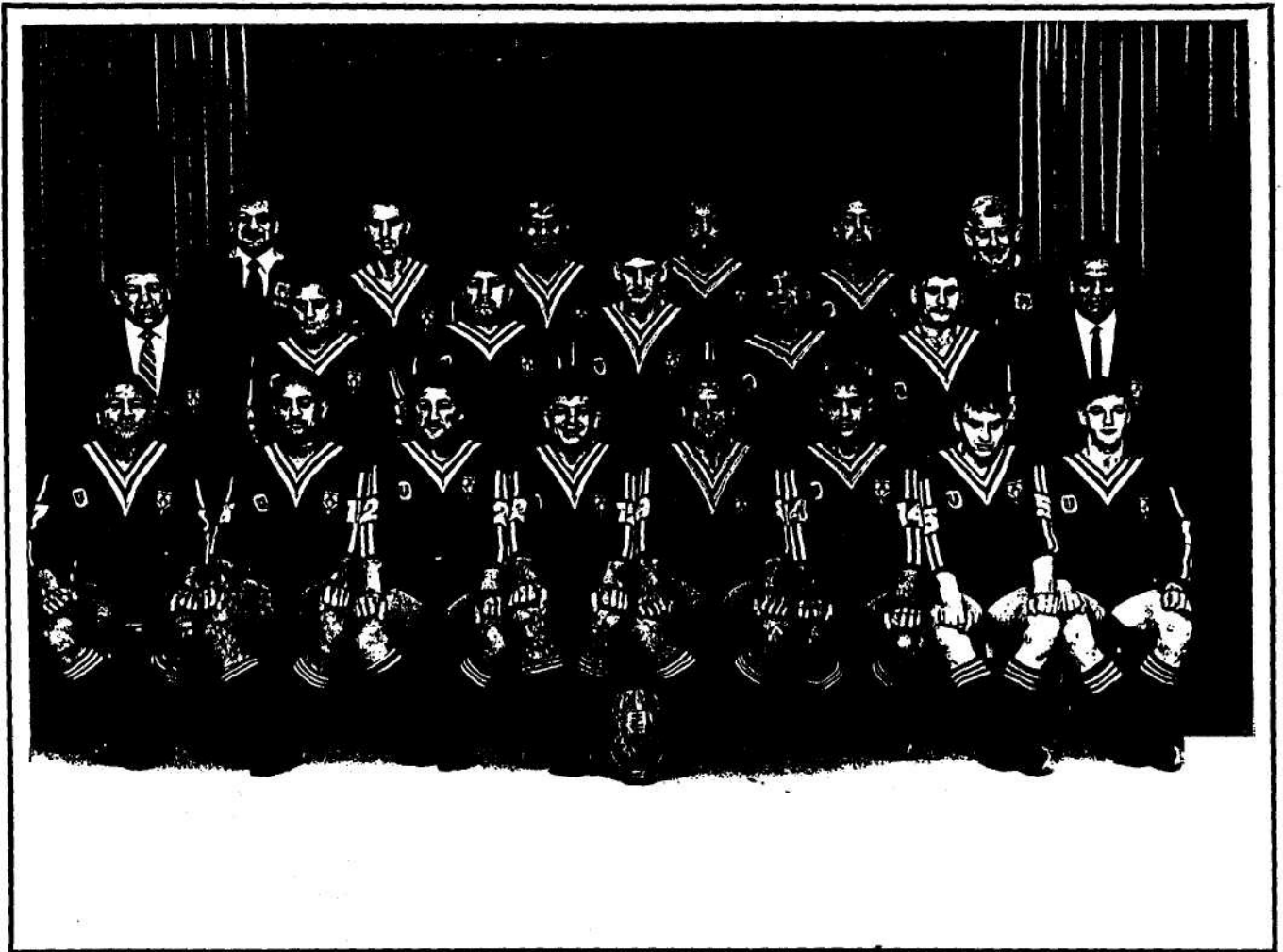
**MARIST BROTHERS OLD BOYS' RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB**  
**SEVENTH GRADE - 1958**



Crichton 6/7a

B. H. Gascoigne	A. J. Hanna	S. J. Lipscombe	A. A. Bacon	T. Maera	
M. E. McNeil	M. C. Clarke	C. E. Bracken	T. F. Sherer	L. R. Marvin	D. A. Bracken
Mr P. J. Anderson (Manager)	E. D. Wiggs (Captain)	Mr P. W. Keenan (Coach)	P. N. Allison (Vice-Captain)	Mr P. A. Frost (Club Delegate)	

## Southland Rugby League Team, 1988



Campbell's Studio,  
Invercargill.

**Back Row:** F. P. RUKI (Manager), W. KATENE, W. L. TEHUIA, S. F. HEKA, B. AUPOURI, K. G. BRAGG (Board Member).

**Middle Row:** M. C. CLARKE (President), D. TAUTARI, K. J. J. MASINI, E. M. GRENNEILL, D. R. T. GILBERT, W. BONNER, G. A. MURRAY (Coach).

**Front Row:** K. B. WILLIAMS, E. J. TURANGA, H. NGAKOTI, B. BARRETT (Captain), C. P. LAMBERT, P. A. DAVIES, D. N. BRAGG, S. D. WHELAN.

**Absent:** S. Rapoti.